

**The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “Friends of Children of Vietnam - Adoption Process, 1974-1976” of the Shirley Peck Barnes Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIET NAM

600 Gilpin

Denver, Colorado 80218

ADOPTION PART I

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the adoption of a child from Viet Nam. Friends of Children of Viet Nam is a licensed adoption agency with a staff in Saigon. We hope that the enclosed philosophy and policy statement and the following information will be helpful in answering your questions.

The children available for adoption range in age from small infants to children of about eight years of age, both male and female. Occasionally there are twins and sibling groups. The children are all Vietnamese, Black-Vietnamese and Caucasian-Vietnamese. The children almost always look oriental or negroid in appearance.

The children often arrive in poor physical condition with undiagnosed problems. Some have arrived with severe diarrhea, ear infections, worms, lice, intestinal parasites, pneumonia, bronchitis, hepatitis, typhoid, anemia, conjunctivitis, boils, fungus skin infections, scabies, thrush, vaginal infections and primary T.B. Any child over the age of two can be expected to have extensive dental decay. It is possible that damage from early polio could show up only when the child starts to walk after arrival in his new home. Almost all children are behind in both physical and emotional development for their age. This is usually due to malnutrition and lack of stimulation. Love, attention and good nutrition usually produce dramatic results, and in a short time these children "catch up". All of the children speak Vietnamese, some also speak French. It takes anywhere from a few weeks to several months for the children to learn English. Many of the older children have formed no close attachments to adults and can more readily accept other children. It takes much time sometimes before the confidence in the adult can form. As a mutual love between parent and child develops, he blossoms.

Some of the children are handicapped by such conditions as polio damage, napalm burns, missing limbs, partial blindness, partial deafness, cerebral palsy, tuberculosis, congenital heart defects and harelip/cleft palate.

It is very important that parents seriously consider their expectations in adopting a child in light of the above information. They must be prepared for medical expenses. They should check with their medical insurance company to make certain their child is covered as soon as he arrives and to what extent. If insurance will not cover the child, they should have another plan in mind for covering any expenses which may arise. Prospective parents must be sure they are ready to cope with problems and have the determination to stick it out.

The placement of a child with a family after they are approved for adoption can take anywhere from a few weeks to one year depending on the needs of the children. The child usually arrives three or four months after placement. Friends of Children of Viet Nam will arrange transportation to the closest city of the parents, when possible.



## Steps in Vietnamese Adoption

### Home Study

In order for Friends of Children of Viet Nam to assist a family, the family must have an approved home study. The study must be done by an agency licensed in the family's state and meeting that state's requirements.

### Locating a Child in Viet Nam

Most children are located by the staff in Viet Nam and offered to the parents by Friends of Children of Viet Nam through the homestudy agency. Families who are approved by our adoption agency may write directly to an orphanage in Viet Nam to seek a child by complying with the procedure in our policy statement. Our agency will not seek a child for a family during the time they are waiting to hear from an orphanage.

### The Vietnamese Adoption

The Vietnamese law requires a child to be adopted by proxy unless parents can go to Viet Nam themselves. This process takes from six months to one year to complete. Parents send a dossier of eight documents on which their case is based. Vietnamese law requires special dispensation be granted by the President of Viet Nam if the parents are under thirty-five years of age; have been married less than ten years; have natural children from their marriage or if there is less than a twenty year difference in age between adoptive parents and child. This requires another letter in the dossier. At the present time, children being adopted are allowed to leave Viet Nam before the proxy adoption is completed.

### Vietnamese Passport and Exit Visa

These are issued to the child by the Vietnamese government.

### American Visa

This is issued to the child after parents submit a petition (form I600) with the proper supporting documents to the Immigration and Naturalization Service office nearest them. This may take from one to three months, depending on when information on the child is submitted and an interview with the child is completed in Saigon.

### United States Adoption

After arrival in his adoptive home, the child must be legally adopted by his parents through the District Court. The homestudy agency will guide the parents through this procedure.

### Alien Registration

The child is considered an alien until he becomes a naturalized citizen of the United States, and must be registered as such each January. Cards are available for this at the Post Office or office of Immigration and Naturalization. Children may be naturalized two years after their U.S. adoption is final.

## Costs of Vietnamese Adoption

### Homestudy Agency Fee

Public Welfare Agencies charge no fee for their services. The fee for a private agency varies.

### Friends of Children of Viet Nam Application Fee

There is a \$25.00 application fee which is payable upon return of the application. This fee is non-refundable, but is applicable to the child care/processing fee.

#### Child Care/ Processing Fee

The child care/ processing fee is based on income reported on the family's 1040 tax form. It is payable upon acceptance of a child by the family. The schedule is as follows:

<u>Income</u>	<u>Fee</u>
0 through \$9,999	\$200.00
\$10,000 through \$14,999	\$300.00
\$15,000 through \$19,999	\$400.00
\$20,000 through \$24,999	\$500.00
\$25,000 and over	\$600.00

Families adopting twins or siblings will be accessed only one fee. Families adopting two unrelated children will be accessed two fees.

#### Vietnamese Attorney Fee

The fee of the Vietnamese attorney doing the proxy adoption is \$175.00. This fee is the same for two children, related or unrelated as the adoptions will be done on one contract. This is payable on acceptance of a child.

#### Vietnamese Passport and Exit Visa Fee

This fee is \$25 per child and is payable upon acceptance of a child.

#### American Visa Fee

This fee is \$25 per child and is payable to the Immigration and Naturalization Service upon submission of the I600 petition to them.

#### Airfare

At this time the average airfare per child from Saigon to the closest city of the parents is \$350. These fares change periodically. Airfare is payable within 30 days after acceptance of a child.

#### U.S. Adoption Fees

These fees vary according to the state and county in which you reside, and are dependent upon the fees of an attorney, if required, and the District Court filing fee.

If you wish to proceed with the adoption of a child from Viet Nam:

1. Fill out enclosed preliminary form and return. You will then receive either an application form and instructions on how to proceed, or be notified that you are on our application waiting list.

2. Get application for home study from County Welfare Department or private adoption agency. We will request the homestudy from a specific agency, if necessary, although such a request does not guarantee that the study will be done.

3. Get four color photos of your family.

4. Get three copies each of birth certificates for husband and wife and marriage license (certificate). These should be originals from the state in which you were born or married or legible and certified photocopies.

5. Make appointments for physical examinations for the whole family. This is necessary for the home study.

Friends of Children of Viet Nam



FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIET NAM

600 Gilpin

Denver, Colorado 80218

ADOPTION AGENCY PHILOSOPHY AND POLICY STATEMENT

Friends of Children of Viet Nam was founded in 1967 to aid orphaned, sick, injured, abandoned and otherwise needy children of Viet Nam. While our primary goal remains that of ensuring material aid to orphanages and refugee centers, there are some children hopelessly and undeniably abandoned or orphaned for whom adoption seems the best answer. These are the children on which our adoption program will focus. Exactly who are these children- the infant, the older child, the handicapped, the mixed-race child, the full Vietnamese child? This is a question which can't be easily answered. We rely on the judgment of the orphanage, the Vietnamese government and our staff in Viet Nam to make that decision.

Based on this philosophy and with the knowledge that there are many people here in the United States waiting to share their love and resources with these children, Friends of Children of Viet Nam has established the following policies for the adoption of a child from Viet Nam:

1. Friends of Children of Viet Nam will attempt to place in a loving home any orphaned or abandoned child deemed free for adoption by the orphanage and courts of Viet Nam.

2. Friends of Children of Viet Nam will use all of its resources to enlighten prospective adoptive parents on the expectations and procedures for the adoption of a child from Viet Nam, and offer post-placement counseling.

3. Friends of Children of Viet Nam's only requirements for adoptive parents are that they are well informed on the expectations of adopting a child from Viet Nam, and based on this knowledge, they feel able to give this child a loving home. Requirements regarding age, religion, length of marriage, number of children, age of children, ability to have biological children, income, physical limitations, etc. will be determined by the policies and requirements of the agency doing the homestudy, the state in which the couple resides, and the Vietnamese government.

4. Friends of Children of Viet Nam chapters and kindred groups will be encouraged to distribute preliminary information (Adoption Part I) and to conduct workshops in their area. They will be kept abreast of any policy changes, number of adoptions being done, length of time involved in process, and the kinds of children available.

5. All adoption applications and Adoption Part II packets will be mailed from our central office.

6. All families will be required to have a home study by an agency approved in their state. Two copies of this study must be sent to our agency. One copy will be reviewed by our MSW for approval. The purpose of this is to ensure that all areas pertinent to the adoption of a Vietnamese child have been covered in the homestudy. The other copy of the homestudy will be forwarded to Viet Nam to meet the requirements of the Vietnamese government.

7. It will be the responsibility of the agency doing the homestudy

to see that the couple meets all of the requirements of their state.

8. Most children to be offered for adoption through our agency will be located by our staff in Viet Nam. This agency will notify the homestudy agency, who will in turn offer the child to the family.

9. Couples wishing to locate their own child may do so by following this procedure: after being approved by Friends of Children of Viet Nam, they may write to an orphanage and send a carbon copy of the letter to our agency. They should request that the orphanage send the information on the child to our agency, which will offer the child as outlined in #8.

10. The application for the adoption of more than one child concurrently will be considered on the basis of the recommendation of the home study and the needs of the children.

11. Requests concerning the adoption of a third foreign child will be considered on an individual basis, determined by the needs of the children. Only two immediate relative (I600) visas are allowed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (except for sibling groups). A third child must come on a non-preference visa and this takes considerable time.

12. Requests from single people wishing to adopt will be considered on an individual basis, determined by the needs of the children. Single people are at this time unable to obtain the I600 visa.

13. If a child offered through our agency dies or for some other reason becomes unavailable for adoption, the agency will offer the next available child to that family.

14. Friends of Children of Viet Nam will not be responsible for any expenses, including but not limited to those arising from undiagnosed medical, developmental or emotional problems, once the child has arrived in this country.

15. Friends of Children of Viet Nam will arrange transportation to the closest city of the parents, when possible.

16. The homestudy agency will be responsible for a post-placement report to be forwarded to this agency, and for guiding the family through the U.S. adoption.

17. Our agency will take responsibility for the care and replacement of any child relinquished before the U.S. adoption is final. A copy of the final U.S. adoption decree shall be sent to our office.

18. The Vietnamese adoption decree will be forwarded to the parents when received by Friends of Children of Viet Nam.

19. All adoption files, dossiers, and home studies will be housed at our corporate headquarters.

20. The \$25 application fee is non-refundable, but is applicable to the child care/processing fee. **(To be sent with the Regular Application, not the Preliminary Application.)**

21. The adoption agency will be self-supporting both here and in Viet Nam.



FOSTER ORPHANAGE PROGRAM -- KINK SHEET

1) Sponsors who don't pay! I would suggest that we ignore the first time a payment isn't made--just send the monthly letter and hope it will motivate payment. The second time--let's write a note to the tune of "we've not received a payment from you in two months. We would like to guarantee the orphanage a steady amount that they can count on each month, in order that they can plan with feelings of security. This situation requires that we ask if you care to continue in our Program." A polite soft-spoken type of note should bring some response, after the third month drop the sponsor and write a note to that effect to me for Master File.

2) Nuns who don't write! I think you all realize that we do have a few nuns who seem to have an aversion to writing. First of all, Ross (our supply man) should be of great assistance in this area--he'll be able to make personal contact for you. At the present, write and keep writing to her, explain and reexplain the program in the hope that one of your letters will get through (either through the mail or through to the nun!). Also, keep your ears open for someone who know an American who may be in the area of your orphanage--if you find one plead your case and ask that they personally visit the nun for you. I'll also write to a contact I have in USAID and ask for names of advisors in each area that we have orphanages. Keep trying!

3) Master File--please remember to send copies of:

- A. your letters to sponsors
- B. Sponsors names and addresses
- C. Your letters to your orphanage

4) Monthly Payment to Orphanage: A little change in procedures to accomodate our Treasurer.

- A. Use the 20th for cut off date, any payment after that date save for next month.
- B. Use the attached form for our monthly report. Use a carbon and keep a copy for yourself. The colum Assigned Sponsor Payments: list sponsors mane & address & payments you have received, 2) New Sponsors Column: list name, address, and payments of new sponsors who's payment is in national treasury (from cards I've sent you).

Send either the individual checks you've received or one check from your account covering total amount. I prefer the later method, but you know hat's best for you and I respect your right to decide.

Include a letter or note to your orphanage saying in effect "this is your Foster Orphanage Plan money for this month . . . . please, send letter for sponsors soon"---also remember to include in this letter any questions that the sponsors have asked about the orphanage--this might help the directress get started on the letter. (Remember a copy for Master file please). Also, enclose an address envelope to your orphanage with your return address. Please combine all these items--the report, check or checks, letter, a copy, and addressed envelope in the manila envelope I'm sending you and amil it to me as soon as possible after the 20th.

5) Orphanage Description Sheets: I would like each of you who have an orphanage not included on the promotion sheets we have, to please write a brief paragraph to be used for these sheets and send it to me as soon as possible. I hope that the next national newsletter (there's already one to come out in March) will carry another feature about FOP and I'd like a complete list of descriptions.

If you have any questions please feel free to write.

Sincerely,

*Cheryl*





# FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIET NAM

## FOSTER ORPHANAGE PLAN

As an answer to requests of many people for a program that would enable them to aid the children in Viet Nam in a personal manner, on a regular basis, we have established a Foster Orphanage Plan.

We deliberated at length as to what type of program should be initiated. We naturally thought of a "foster child" type of program and ruled this out for the present. We came to the conclusion that the expense involved in operating such a program would be prohibitive, i.e. staff to maintain contact with the child and his foster parents on a one-to-one basis. We also felt that since most of the children that we are in contact with are in an orphanage or center of some type, it would be unfair to single out a small percentage of hundreds to receive aid.

It is our belief that the best possible means to aid the destitute and orphaned children in Viet Nam is to aid the orphanages and centers where they are cared for.

When the American serviceman was in Viet Nam, he provided foster assistance to the orphanages near him. He gave supplies, financial aid, maintenance assistance and security to the children and the people who care for them. The staff of each orphanage had the security of knowing there was always someone there to count on for continued support and aid. The American serviceman is gone and with him he has taken the security he provided; we hope to replace that security.

We would like to establish fifty foster families and/or organizations for each orphanage or center we are in contact with. The families and/or organizations would each provide ten dollars a month for their orphanage, thus giving each a minimum income of five hundred dollars a month (approximately one-third of the monthly operations cost for an orphanage). Sister Mary Hayden stated it well when she said that a regular income would give her "the opportunity to take some risks for the future". Sister Mary is trying to start a pig and poultry farm, but she's unable to buy a pig when the opportunity presents itself, because if she spends the money on a pig, there may be no money for food next week. A regular income would allow for planning and security.

The people who operated the orphanages and centers are giving their all to try and insure a future for a large segment of Viet Nam's next generation; it's a tiring, trying, discouraging, and at times, hopeless task and I'm sure a very lonely one. We would like these people to know that we are standing behind them, ready to support them and thankful that they are there. We want them to know we are joining hands with them to save the lives of children that we, too, care, about.

We realize the charm of personal contact with a starving, deprived child and from our own experience, we can assure you that you will feel that same type of charm and warmth in your contact with orphanages and their children. What we are saying to you is, why limit your help to one child when you can make such a difference in the lives of many?

As a part of our Foster Orphanage Plan, you would receive a letter every four to six weeks from your orphanage telling about their children, their life, problems, and about how your aid is helping. Pictures of the staff, children and orphanage would be included as often as possible. FCVN will provide each group (orphanage

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STATEMENT OF POSITION

Board of Directors of  
Friends of Children of Vietnam  
October 27, 1973

Friends of Children of Vietnam has grown from its inception as a loose confederation of a few adoptive families interested in the welfare of Vietnamese children. Today FCVN is nationwide in concept, if not in organizational fact, and its range of activities has become more comprehensively supportive of the needs in Vietnam.

FCVN's role with respect to adoptions has evolved from informal information exchange among adoptive parents and prospective adoptive parents to the establishment of a formal adoption agency in Colorado and the negotiation of a contractual agreement with the Vietnamese government.

The work related to adoptions has become quite specialized and has come to require a level of volunteer and support activity much beyond that which was comprehended at the inception of the work. The volume of mail and telephone contacts, the complexity and volume of transportation arrangements and the related administrative burdens have become staggering. It has become difficult for the Board to attend simultaneously to the needs of the Adoption Agency and the equally demanding tasks of expanded programs of fund raising, life support, chapter relations and a myriad of related functions.

Thus, after consultation with Rosemary Taylor, FCVN's Director of Overseas Operations, and with Wende Grant, formerly FCVN's Director of Adoptions, the Board has concluded that a legal and administrative separation between the Adoption Agency and the other FCVN activities is desirable in the interest of furthering both kinds of activity.

Accordingly, FCVN will cooperate with the officers and directors of a new corporation, Friends For All Children, in the securing of a license to operate an adoption agency in Colorado, in the orderly transfer of all strictly adoption related functions from FCVN to FFAC, including transportation arrangements, adoption related finances, etc. Moreover, FCVN will work with FFAC to assure the orderly completion of all adoptions presently in progress with FCVN.

FCVN will continue to provide support and assistance to orphanages and halfway houses in Vietnam and will endeavor to expand its support program to include still more institutions and to serve greater numbers of children.

FCVN has no present intention of operating an adoption agency. Requests for adoption assistance will be referred to FFAC or other qualified adoption agencies. The FCVN Board understands that FFAC will not develop fund raising and life support programs, but will refer such requests to FCVN or other qualified child welfare organizations.

NEW OFFICES

In order to better serve the children in Vietnam and co-ordinate the efforts of volunteers all across the country, we have acquired space at 600 Gilpin (Church of the Ascension). For a small donation to the heating and lighting bill, we now have a small room for the office, a large room with cupboards for packing supplies, and future use of a garage area. We are so grateful to the great people at this church for their help and support. Two people will staff the office--Helen Reynolds, a Sister of Loretto,



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Two people will staff the office--Helen Reynolds, a Sister of Loretto, with a degree in both administration and counseling will manage the office with the assistance of Dee Hudson who will serve as secretary. Both are working for very small salaries considering their qualifications. They, too, are caught up in the love we all share for the children. We are hoping to acquire an operational grant or single donation to cover these modest expenses. The donation of a desk, copy machine and office supplies would assure that our dollars would go farther.

The office will facilitate communication and expedite handling of all facets of FCVN. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Supplies may be delivered to the packing room any time the church is open. ALL money donated to FCVN should be addressed to 600 Gilpin, Denver, Colorado, 80218. (Orders and money for calendars, etc., should still be sent to P.O. Box 4583, Boulder, Colorado, 80302.)

June 24, 1976

Dear Sirs:

We have just been sent a copy of an article entitled BABYLIFT VICTIMS - VIETNAMESE PARENTS SEEK THEIR KIDNAPPED CHILDREN, by Martin Guggenheim. We were appalled by the lack of background information that the writer apparently had on the subject and by the one-sided slant of the entire article.

First of all, it should be noted that the majority of the children evacuated via "Operation Babylift" were young infants who had been abandoned at birth and whose parents were unknown; also the majority of the children brought via the "Operation Babylift" were children who were somewhere in the adoption process. The small number of children who were relinquished for adoption in the last months of the government of the Republic of Viet Nam were relinquished by their parents (who had made a decision for the future of their children, which it would seem was their right to do), or children relinquished by orphanages whose staff members knew well the past histories of their children and therefore which children were proper candidates for relinquishment. I would like to comment also that in Viet Nam there were institutions which were orphanages and those which were Day Care Centers. In fact, the last figures released on these institutions, in January, 1975, indicated that there were 134 registered orphanages with 18,777 children in their custody and 326 DAY CARE CENTERS with 44,102 children in daily care. It should also be noted that in the entire time that our agency worked in Viet Nam, never was there an incident in which an orphanage relinquished a child for adoption and then had a claim made against them that they had wrongfully relinquished that child. The orphanage personnel continually exhibited their responsibility and ability to recognize a child's status concerning relinquishment. The directors and directresses of the orphanages with whom we worked would keep a child if there was the slightest possibility that the child might have a relative who might someday come forth and make a home for that child. Many times our agency staff members were told of children who

had been in orphanages for years with never a visitor and yet the child was not considered for relinquishment on the chance that some family member might come forth. I feel it is entirely unfair of the writer to accuse the very people who dedicated their lives to caring for these children of callously relinquishing them to adoption agencies and disregarding the possibility that the children had families who might come forth to claim them. The orphanage directors and directresses were, in most cases, Vietnamese who respected the worth and value of a child's natural family and who believed that, if a child has a chance to remain in Viet Nam and be cared for, that was where the child belonged. I find myself wondering just how many of these people Mr. Guggenheim knew personally, did he know anything of their daily struggle to feed the children in their custody and to ward off death that came so easily to the children who lived in orphanages? Does he know anything of their struggle to overcome for their children the stigma attached to them merely because they were orphans and had no family? How dare he question the behavior of these people without any firsthand knowledge of their lives, struggles, and integrity!

Speaking to the question of biological parents who are now in this country seeking the return of their children: I personally know of no parents who are unable to locate their children (with the exception of one woman in whose case indications are particularly strong that her children may never have left Viet Nam). Is Mr. Guggenheim aware of the cooperation which has been extended by the adoption agencies to biological parents in locating their children? All of the children who were relinquished by their parents and placed by our agency have documents that indicate these circumstances of their relinquishment. We have always been able to notify the adoptive parents of any valid request for the return of a child which we placed. The children have not been hidden behind false identification as is alleged. There are some children who arrived in this country without complete documentation since agency staff members were quite restricted in their travel possibilities during the last months of the war. These staff members then had to make the decision, during the hectic days of



the Airlift, whether to take a child who was legitimately in their custody or to leave the child because of the lack of a piece of paper. This whole hypothesis of false identity comes from the fact that identities were established for abandoned infants and arbitrarily assigned. (This was done in Viet Nam for years with the knowledge of the government in order that children of unknown parentage would have some identity.

Mr. Guggenheim is also apparently unaware of the fact that there are adoptive parents who have decided to voluntarily relinquish their child back to the biological parent(s); our agency has had eleven such children (this accounts for seven mothers) who are now back with their biological parent(s). In each case, in view of the fact of the age of the children and the change of circumstances of the parent, the adoptive parents have willingly made the decision to return the child - this situation is in the majority rather than being an exception. There have been a few cases in which the matter has been litigated, and in these cases there have been extenuating circumstances such as the age of the child, the relationship of the child to the person making the claim, previous treatment of the child, and the circumstances under which the child was relinquished or abandoned: these have been the types of factors present where litigation has been the decision.

The implication that it is unfair to have these cases litigated individually is to say that the child is not entitled to have the full circumstances of his case individually scrutinized by a fair and impartial judge in order that all the evidence may be weighed and a decision be made that is in the best interest of the child. That Mr. Guggenheim can even suggest that these cases can be lumped together and a decision made for all the children regardless of the individual circumstances of the child's case is unthinkable and certainly an injustice to the children involved. Perhaps Mr. Guggenheim is convinced that the children have no right to be protected, perhaps he is convinced that the children should be treated as though they were a piece of property rather than defenseless human beings who are even more entitled to

the protection of our courts than the adults involved in any of these cases. Custody cases (which is certainly what these litigated cases are) are within the jurisdiction of the state courts - at least any custody case involving an American child would be litigated in a state court with very little dispute as to its being the proper forum. Would Mr. Guggenheim, who alludes to racism in his article, be of the mind that because these children are Vietnamese, they do not have the right to this same type of individual forum and protection? Each of these children is an individual, each of their biological parents and adoptive parents are individuals, each case is unique as to the circumstances that surround it and the cases deserve to be treated as separate and individual cases thus allowing for the representation of each party (including the child) before a decision is reached which will affect the future of a small child. What type of justice or juvenile rights are to be found in treating these children as a herd of cattle? The California judge's decision was that this could not be done and I personally applaud his wisdom in making such a just decision in light of all the adverse wailing from parties who do not and will not view these children as individuals. I know of no efforts of the Justice Department or the Immigration and Naturalization Service to oppose the return, to parents, of any children; it has rather been the lack of legal jurisdiction to act or decide the case - something I would think Mr. Guggenheim would be aware of.

In the case of the plaintiff children (who are supposedly representative of all Babylift children), is Mr. Guggenheim aware of the fact that these children have numerous relatives in this country who uniformly speak to the fact that the decision to relinquish these children was made not only by the parents of the children, but by the entire extended family? Is Mr. Guggenheim also aware that these same relatives have received correspondence from their family members who are still in Viet Nam and that there has been no indication that they regret their decision, nor has there been a request to have the children returned to Viet Nam?

Is Mr. Guggenheim also aware of the fact that there has been correspondence from mothers in Viet Nam who relinquished their children for adoption and that not one of these mothers has requested the return of their children? Is Mr. Guggenheim aware of the much-publicized fact that war trials are now commencing in Viet Nam and the stated targets of these trials include those who cooperated with the Imperialist Americans? Does Mr. Guggenheim have any assurances, other than speculation, that the contacting of these relatives in Viet Nam will not result in endangering their lives? I cannot say for certain that it would; but more importantly, I cannot say that it wouldn't - which would make me awesomely aware of the great responsibility and uncertainty involved in making such a decision to disclose identities to anyone.

Mail between the United States and Viet Nam is open and an avenue that could be and has been used by parties seeking information about a child. The International Red Cross is available to anyone in Viet Nam seeking assistance; this I am personally aware of.

We have not heard charges from any of the Vietnamese parents in this country that they wish their child hadn't been brought to the United States.

The inference that the "Operation Babylift" and the subsequent adoptions of these children are motivated by guilt is to slight the adoption agencies and the adoptive parents of these children. All of our applicants for adoption were carefully screened as to motivation and guilt was never considered the proper motivation for adoption. I also feel that it is very insulting to indicate that the parties involved are of the mind that the solution of growing up in America is the best solution for any child. I, as an adoptive parent of three Vietnamese children, feel that the solution of growing up with a family, love and security is the best solution for any child, that the place where the child is raised is not at issue, that the issue is that every child in our world has the right to feel wanted, loved and secure. I feel that we should not look so closely at the question of culture and heritage that we overlook the right and need of a child to be wanted and cared for by a family. This



is not to say that American parents are in any manner better qualified to parent; it is to say that if a parent in Viet Nam or anywhere cannot, for whatever reason, parent or care for his child, then it is the right of that parent to make a decision for his child and it is the right of the child to become a part of a family who can and will nurture and love him, no matter where they live. Must we continually view ourselves as human beings fenced in by the borders of our individual countries, rather than human beings who share one world?

The byline of your article indicates Mr. Guggenheim's uninformed and biased attitude concerning "Operation Babylift" and I ask that he produce one child who was kidnapped. Our agency's staff turned down hundreds of parents who begged them to take their children and they still live with the nightmares of those pleading faces. They pray that the decisions they made were right and that they did not doom any child, as their parents predicted their refusal to take the child would. This is a question that may never be answered, and it is one that is never even considered by the experts such as Mr. Guggenheim. The individuals who participated in "Operation Babylift" did the very best they could under traumatic circumstances; they had to rely on their experience in working with the people and the children in Viet Nam to make the decisions they made. There have been errors; however, there were not any better qualified people to make these decisions than the people (Vietnamese, American, French, Australian, etc.) who had worked night and day for years to save and better the lives of the children of Viet Nam --- the people who had to bury the babies and children who died from malnutrition, measles, and simply from a lack of love. To say that these people had an inhumane attitude about the Vietnamese and their children is not to know of the hours, months and years of struggle and hardship that these people endured in order to try to make a difference in the lives of a few small children and their families. These people, who worked for years in Viet Nam, left behind dear and loved friends, friends whose fate they have not learned to this day. We worked closely with at least twenty orphanages and their staffs; these people communicated with us regularly in the United States prior to the fall of the Republic of Viet Nam. We are

assured that the mail is open and that all is well in Viet Nam and yet we have heard not one word from these friends. Inhumane, war is inhumane, and who is more cognizent of this fact than those who lived and worked with the victims of the Viet Nam war. To say that these people perpetrated inhumanity during the takeover of South Viet Nam is to degrade and smear all of their combined efforts of love and I, for one, greatly resent it. How many starving, dying babies in Viet Nam ever had the concern of Mr. Guggenheim?

In summation I would like to say: (1) that there were no kidnappings perpetrated in Viet Nam by any person I know of who participated in "Operation Babylift"; (2) that at the time of the "Babylift" the majority of the children were already somewhere in the adoption process; (3) that the orphanage staff members sent any child that they could back to their families; (4) that the orphanage staffs knew which children were proper candidates for relinquishment; (5) that for the most part the numbers of children the orphanage staffs kept in their care in the final days of the Government of the Republic of Viet Nam far exceeded the numbers of the children they relinquished; (6) that hundreds of parents begged that their children be taken by the adoption agencies; the vast majority were turned down; (7) that there is no Viet namese parent that I know of who has been unable to locate a child who was relinquished to an adoption agency and brought to this country for adoption; (8) that the agencies have cooperated fully with individuals attempting to locate children or seeking their return; (9) that in the cases where there has been litigation, it has always been felt that there were circumstances which warranted litigation; (10) that it is fair and just that such cases be heard on an individual basis; (11) that the refusal to disclose the children's records for mass scrutiny has been founded on the principle that the children, their biological parents and their adoptive parents have a right to confidentiality and that the situation in Viet Nam is thus far uncertain and therefore it cannot be accurately predicted as to the hazards that might or might not be involved; (12) that the participants of the "Babylift" were not callous individuals who had no experience in working in Viet Nam and with the Vietnamese people; (13) that the time of the fall of the government



was traumatic and the decisions were made in good faith, to the best of the ability of those involved, and certainly not in an inhumane manner; (14) that the necessity for any further litigation on the so-called "behalf" of these children is unwarranted, as there is a solution and legal remedy for any possible situation that might arise concerning an "Airlift" child; in fact, there always has been a legitimate avenue which could handle any situation that might arise. (15) that the "Orphan Airlift" children have all had their futures and their security suspended in mid-air by individuals purporting to be "protecting" them, for over a year now. (16) that it seems to me that a more worthwhile approach and interest the A.C.L.U. to concern itself with would be to protect these children from the further harassment of individuals who, in my opinion, are merely using the children as a forum to vent their anger with the U.S. government and to make radical political statements (one need only read the original complaint filed in Nguyen da Yen vs. Kissinger et al, to come to this conclusion).

Sincerely,

Cheryl L. Markson  
Executive Director  
Friends of Children of Viet Nam

Suggested + written  
by Jim Bumpus -  
a CEO with Colorado  
Public Service CO.

His vietnamese child  
arrived with Tim Buchanan  
+ thus was one of the  
earliest - predating FCUN  
as an adoption vehicle

February 11, 1974

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, FCVN:

Recognizing that FCVN's future hangs in the balance between (1) a continuation of the present irresolute and demoralized trend, and (2) the resignation of several key members of the Board; I have developed a proposal for interim action which is attached for your consideration.

The proposal is based upon my conviction that FCVN has grown beyond the point where effective planning, control and program execution can be carried out under the present working Board of Directors form of organization. Thus I am suggesting a clear division between the policy-making functions of a Board and the program activities of FCVN.

I am proposing in this connection a new group, The Program Council, to carry out the communications and coordination of all program activities. While the Program Council is not a decision-making group in the formal sense, I conceive of it as the group where the real work of FCVN should be done and where many decisions - of a consensus sort - will be routinely made.

The Program Council does not relieve the Board of its ultimate policy responsibility, nor does it diminish in any way the responsibility, authority, and accountability of individual program area directors. It is merely a vehicle for letting the group process work to the benefit of FCVN without the legalistic formalities necessarily involved in the work of the Board. If the Program Council is effective, the Board will have little to do; if the Program Council is ineffective, it won't matter what the Board does -- no sensible program will be possible.

The proposal can be implemented without regard to specific individual assignments and contributions. However, it has been suggested that I make myself available to act in the capacity of President. I have reluctantly agreed to permit my name to be offered. If that should come to pass, you are entitled to know what my intentions are regarding people.

First, the Board. I would structure a small board to be augmented with new people as soon as such people can be identified and recruited. At the outset, a new Board would consist of myself, David Lippincott, Dean Coddington, and two others selected by me from among nominees offered by the present Board.

The officers would include:

Vice President	Cheryl Markson
Secretary	Judy Silverberg
Treasurer	Nancy Hegel

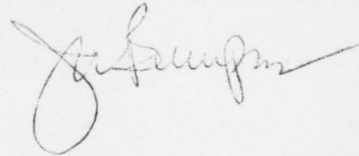
The program council would include:

Executive Director	Le Sanne Buchanan
Office Director	Helen Reynolds
Life Support Director	Cheryl Markson
Medical	Nancy Lippincott
Foster Orphanage	to be designated
Public Relations Dir.	to be designated
Legal & Audit Dir.	to be designated
All Officers	



The arrangements would be in effect only until June, 1974, when a new Board must be elected. Hopefully, by that time many new people will have become involved in FCVN and more suitable long-term arrangements may be made.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. S. [unclear]".



February 11, 1974

PROPOSAL FOR RESTRUCTURING OF FCVN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Elect a new President.
2. New President submits a list of proposed Board members. Those not presently members of the Board are elected to the Board.
3. Board enacts a resolution removing from Board membership all present members, except the President and those elected at his or her request.
4. New Board designates executive director and directors of program areas and elects new officers where vacancies have occurred.
5. Executive director, officers and program area directors constitute FCVN Program Council, which will be responsible for planning and executing all FCVN programs within the framework of policies established by the Board. President is ex-officio member of Program Council. Executive Director is ex-officio chairman of Program Council.
6. Program Council will meet as necessary to coordinate FCVN activities. Program Council is a planning and coordinating group, NOT a formal decision-making body.
7. Decisions, where clearly within existing Board policy are to be coordinated (communicated) within the Program Council and carried-out on the authority of the responsible program area director.

8. Where policy conflicts with proposed action, or where policy is inadequate to cover a proposed situation, the matter should be referred to the President and the Executive Director, who may either render an immediate decision or refer the matter to the Board.
9. Any question of policy may be set for Board action on the request of the President, the Executive Director or any two members of the Program Council.
10. Matters for Board action are to be submitted, except in emergency circumstances, to the Board - in writing - not less than twenty four hours prior to a Board meeting. The President's decision as to what constitutes an emergency will be final.
11. No By-law changes, other than the matter now before the Board to modify the provision concerning officer membership on the Board, will be needed at present.

## FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIET NAM

600 Gilpin  
Denver, Colorado 80218

### PREPARING FOR YOUR CHILD'S ARRIVAL

Dear Friends,

We hope the following information will be helpful to you in preparing for the arrival of your child.

Your child should have a complete physical exam as soon as he arrives. Call to your Doctor's attention the fact that there is some question as to the effectiveness of the vaccines used to immunize the children in the orphanages in Viet Nam. Based on the experiences of other families with children from Viet Nam, we have compiled a list of things we feel each child should be checked for: Hepatitis; T.B.; Typhoid; Sickle-cell Anemia and Trait ( if child is half-Black. Some sources say test is not reliable in infant under 6 months of age.); Vitamin and Mineral Deficiencies; Thrush; Intestinal Parasites; Worms; Lice; Anemia; Eye conditions such as conjunctivitis or corneal infection; Skin conditions such as boils, staph and fungus infections and Scabies; Severe dental decay and gum disease- can lead to premature loss of teeth and bone damage; Ear infections- The change of climate from Viet Nam to airplane to local climate often precipitates ruptured ear drums. They also are often ruptured long before departure and may have been discharging for months. These infections may be chronic, resistant to antibiotics and ultimately require surgery; Pneumonia or bronchitis- If the child has lung congestion or fever when you get him from the airport, take him immediately to a doctor; Muscle damage from early polio- sometimes not able to be confirmed in an infant- becoming evident when the child begins to walk. ( *Pneumocystis Carinni* is a type of pneumonia occasionally found in the infants.)

Diarrhea is very common in these children and can be caused by many things. Some Asian people have an intolerance to the sugars in cow's milk, so a Soy or Meat Base formula may help. Changes in water and diet or a pathological condition may also be the cause. Diarrhea may persist for several months with the child gaining weight and having no problems, or it may cause weight loss, dehydration, and skin irritation and require treatment.

The infant's physical abilities will probably not be as developed as those of a healthy American baby. Love, attention and good nutrition usually produce dramatic results, and in a short time you will see you baby "catching up".

Most children won't have more than two or three of these problems, some won't have any. It is best to expect the worst and then be pleasantly surprised if your child turns out to be exceptionally healthy.

The first few days after your child's arrival can be hectic. We recommend that every parent of a Vietnamese child obtain a copy of Jan de Hartog's book THE CHILDREN. It will help enormously! We offer a few additional hints.

When you meet your child at the airport, keep these things in mind. The child is exhausted. He has been traveling for 30-40 hours. He has lost all sense of where he is and what time of day or night it is. Get him home and to bed as soon as possible. The children are used to sleep-



ing in a room with alot of children. If he must be in a room by himself, perhaps a softly playing radio on a talk station might help. You might also try leaving a light on, as the orphanages are seldom completely dark. The older child may not be used to sleeping in a bed, but on a mat on the floor. Keep the child fairly warmly dressed. It takes awhile for his "thermostat" to adjust.

He is apt to be dehydrated and hungry, and gulp down large quantities of liquids and food, only to vomit. Rice, bread, bananas, vegetables and tea will be the most familiar to the older children; cereal, apples, bananas and formula to the infant. The older infant will be used to holding his own bottle and may insist on it. The older child will be used to eating with a bowl and spoon- not chopsticks.

Most of the children are familiar with only very elementary toys. They enjoy singing games, complete with gestures. Your child may recognise such tunes as Frere Jacques and This Old Man.

The orphanage child is toilet-trained at an early age, but may temporarily "regress" upon his arrival.

The children speak Vietnamese, some also speak French. It takes anywhere from a few weeks to several months for him to learn English. The pre-school child is likely to lose his Vietnamese before he has a grasp of the English language. You will find that there are many ways other than with words of communicating with him. Many of the school age children have entered school shortly after their arrival and have done very well.

You may notice that your child lags behind other children his age in his mental and social development. This may be due to the trauma of the trip and resulting changes, or it may be due to lack of stimulation in Viet Nam. The infant may be very fussy and demanding. The older child may be very quiet and reserved. A few react by becoming hyperactive. REGARDLESS OF AGE, YOUR CHILD WILL BE FRIGHTENED AND INSECURE. He needs to learn that you are a "constant" in his life. He has a whole new world to explore. When he learns what "mine" means, he may become very possessive. Tantrums are a common way of displaying frustration for a child with no verbal power or no relationships to exploit. Many of the children have formed no close attachments to adults and can more readily accept other children. It often takes much time before the confidence in the adult can form. Your child may "test" you. This requires consistent discipline, tempered with lots of love and understanding. As a mutual love develops between you and your child, you will see him blossom.

#### SOME ADDITIONAL REMINDERS-

1. Complete the U.S. adoption. Your local social worker will guide you and supervise this procedure. Send final decree to FCVN. SUBMIT CERTIFIED COPIES OF BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND RELEASE TO THE COURT. KEEP ORIGINALS.
2. Register your child as an alien every January until he becomes a naturalized citizen. Form available at Post Office or Immigration Office.
3. Your child can be naturalized two years after the U.S. adoption is complete. Obtain form from Dept. of Immigration and Naturalization.
4. You will not be issued a new birth certificate for your child. If you wish, you may obtain a Certificate of Birth Data from Immigration Dept.
5. To insure that your child's rights to inherit are protected, check your life insurance policies and will to make sure that the beneficiaries and heirs include your adopted children.

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIET NAM  
600 Gilpin  
Denver, Colorado 80218

CHILD'S REFERRAL SHEET

Child's Vietnamese Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Orphanage Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date found \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Circumstances \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Pictures enclosed? # \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Certificate? \_\_\_\_\_ Adoption Release? \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Height \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Racial Background \_\_\_\_\_

Health \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Development \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

GIẤY CHỨNG NHẬN

-----

This is to certify that . . . . .  
Nay chúng nhận rằng

. . . . . born on . . . . .  
sinh ngày

and . . . . ., his spouse, born on . . . . .  
và , là vợ đương sự, sinh ngày

presently residing at . . . . .  
hiện cư ngụ tại

are permitted by the laws of our country to adopt . . . . . foreign  
được luật pháp quốc gia chúng tôi cho phép nuôi con nuôi ngoại quốc

child(ren)

Done in . . . . . dated . . . . .  
Làm tại ngày

Qualified Authority . . . (1)  
Cơ quan có thẩm quyền

(1) Attorney, consul, congressman etc.....

-----  
Form provided by Law Offices TANG THI THANH TRAI and TA VAN TAI, 9 Công Trường  
Lam Sơn Saigon - Cable: THANH TRAI SAIGON - Telephone: 99561..



ABSTRACT OF HOME STUDY

Prospective Adoptive Family \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Background Information:

HUSBAND

WIFE

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Place \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality \_\_\_\_\_

Religion \_\_\_\_\_

Racial Background \_\_\_\_\_

Health: physical \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Marriage Date \_\_\_\_\_

Other members of household (including children, relatives or others living in home)

Home and neighborhood:

Financial standing:

Reason family wants to adopt:

Agency's comments and recommendations concerning adoption:

Have the pre-adoptive requirements of the State been met? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Submitting Agency in Vietnam

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Agency Completing Home Study

\_\_\_\_\_  
Submitting Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State of Agency

VN-1/75

FCVN-A-004d 3-75

FIRENDS OF THE CHILDREN OF VIET NAM  
600 Gilpin Street  
Denver, Colorado 80218

We hope that the following information will be useful to you as you work with persons who have applied to adopt a child through Friends of the Children of Viet Nam, Inc.

The adoption procedure for a Vietnamese child is intricate, time-consuming and, sometimes, frustrating for the local agency as well as the applicant. The enclosed packet is our attempt at easing this experience for you. It contains:

- (a) Adoption Procedure
- (b) Adoption Agency Philosophy and Policy Statement
- (c) Adoption, Part 1
- (d) Adoption, Part 11
- (e) Preparing for Your Child's Arrival
- (f) Guidelines for the Social Worker.

F.C.V.N. mails items (b) through (e) to the applicants at appropriate times during their contacts with us; items (a) and (f) are for your exclusive use.

We have tried to detail each step for the applicant; however, procedures may vary in individual agencies and states. Please contact us if you have questions or suggestions, but we hope that you will discourage your applicant from calling our Denver office for information which is available to them in this packet.

Please note paragraph #9 under the section Adoption Agency Philosophy and Policy Statement. We cannot guarantee any particular child for anyone prior to the submission of a home study and approval by F.C.V.N. We urge agencies to use their discretion regarding the acceptance of any applicant for adoption. We do not want agencies to feel pressured into doing home studies by people who have already secured a child.

THANK YOU!



**FRIENDS**  
**OF CHILDREN**  
**OF VIET NAM**

## HỘI BẠN THIẾU - NHI VIỆT - NAM

March 24, 1975

Recently our agency requested a home study for \_\_\_\_\_  
of \_\_\_\_\_.

We are writing at this time to ask that you give this request priority consideration.

The situation in Viet Nam is precarious, and we are not sure how much longer we will be able to help the children there.

In view of this, our agency is attempting to secure as many approved applicants as possible who are willing to take the chance with us to give a child a home. We cannot guarantee that all children will arrive, however we are doing everything humanly possible to process each adoption quickly.

We would like all applicants to realistically consider how open they can be as to the sex, racial mixture, age and possible handicap of the child they can accept. This will give us more freedom to immediately place the children we find we can help.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,  
*Carol Westlake*  
Carol Westlake  
Director of Adoption

a non-profit, non-affiliated assistance corporation and licensed child placement agency in the state of colorado

**HEADQUARTERS:** 600 GILPIN ST.  
DENVER, COLO. 80218  
TEL. (303) 321-8251

**SAIGON ADDRESS:** 24-26, BUI-THI-XUAN  
GIA-DINH - S.V.N.  
TEL. 43.162





**FRIENDS  
OF CHILDREN  
OF VIET NAM**

# HỘI BẠN THIẾU - NHI VIỆT - NAM

March 24, 1975

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**FRIENDS  
OF CHILDREN  
OF VIET NAM**

## **HỘI BẠN THIẾU - NHI VIỆT - NAM**

March 24, 1975

Dear Friends:

At this time the situation in Viet Nam is precarious and we are not sure how much longer we will be able to help the children there. We are doing everything humanly possible to process each adoption quickly, however, we cannot guarantee that the children we are placing will all arrive home.

We offer you a child for adoption in the hope that you are willing to take the chance with us to give this little human being a loving home.

Because of the present crisis our need for funds to help the starving and the homeless has increased. Any assistance you can give, such as contacting your local newspapers, church groups, civic and social clubs, friends, relatives, etc. to donate to our organization would be deeply appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carol Westlake  
Director of Adoption

a non-profit, non-affiliated assistance corporation and licensed child placement agency in the state of colorado

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DENVER, COLO. 80218  
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FCVN-A-008c 3-75



# HỘI BẠN THIẾU - NHI VIỆT - NAM

March 24, 1975

To: All Concerned Agencies

Re: Homestudy Requests

We are writing at this time to ask that you give this request priority consideration.

The situation in Viet Nam is precarious, and we are not sure how much longer we will be able to help the children there.

In view of this, our agency is attempting to secure as many approved applicants as possible who are willing to take the chance with us to give a child a home. We cannot guarantee that all children will arrive, however we are doing everything humanly possible to process each adoption quickly.

We would like all applicants to realistically consider how open they can be as to the sex, racial mixture, age and possible handicap of the child they can accept. This will give us more freedom to immediately place the children we find we can help.

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## You can help

Donations to FCVN are used to feed, clothe, and house the children and support the desperately underpaid and overworked orphanage staffs. Tax-deductible donations also buy special equipment and supplies unavailable in Vietnam. Through FCVN donations, some four tons of vitally needed supplies are shipped directly to the orphanages every month.

## We need you

But FCVN needs more than your donations. We need supplies. Cloth and paper diapers, cotton yard goods, light cotton clothing, high protein cereal, dry milk and dry food supplies, dried baby formula, and Phiso-hex.



We also need you. To help us collect, sort and send these items. To help us tell others of our work. And to invite us to speak at your church or at your club.

## Remember the children

We ask for your support in our work for the orphaned children in Vietnam. Remember the children. And they will never forget you.

**Friends of Children of Vietnam**

600 Gilpin Street • Denver, Colorado 80218



## FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIET NAM



# Remember the children and they'll never forget you.

# Vietnamese children, their need

Uprooted by war, desperate and helpless, many families in Vietnam have been forced to abandon children in the tragically mistaken belief that these children will be better cared for. Infants left at orphanages and other institutions do not thrive under present conditions. The mortality rate for these children often runs as high as 80%. A nun in an orphanage in the Mekong Delta writes.

*"The war still causes many victims. For this reason, I am suffering because I am barely able to keep enough necessities for nourishing the children daily. I always have*



*lack of food, clothing, medicine, and especially money for developing our orphanage, which is today very small for its more than 300 children. These urgent necessities above are my real and frequent anxieties. I can do nothing."*

## Our aim

Friends of Children of Vietnam was established to halt this appalling death rate among infants and children in Vietnam by providing food, medications, clothing, educational assistance, as well as trained personnel. And by providing direct financial aid.



## Our origin



Friends of Children of Vietnam is a non-political, non-sectarian volunteer organization. It was founded in 1967 by a

group of Denver-area doctors who gave months of service in civilian hospitals in South Vietnam. One aspect of their work was helping American parents adopt Vietnamese orphans. Many of the adoptive parents are now active in the organization. Along with professionals and merchants who have donated their talents and supplies.

Since its founding, FCVN chapters have been organized throughout the United States.

## Programs

FCVN donations have helped establish an intensive care clinic in Saigon and have refurbished an addition to the Phu My Home in Saigon. They have instituted a Foster Orphanage Plan. Each participant joins with 49 others and pledges \$10 a month to sponsor an individual orphanage or refugee center. Sponsors receive photos and letters on a regular basis. All money collected under this program goes *directly* to the orphanages.





**FRIENDS  
OF CHILDREN  
OF VIET NAM**

# HỘI BẠN THIẾU - NHI VIỆT - NAM

Dear Friend,

Enclosed is our agency's preliminary packet concerning the adoption of a child from Viet Nam.

Our printing, postage and handling costs for this packet are approximately \$5.00.

-----  
I would like to donate \$5.00 so that more money may go directly to the children.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

a non-profit, non-affiliated assistance corporation and licensed child placement agency in the state of colorado

**HEADQUARTERS:** 600 GILPIN ST.  
DENVER, COLO. 80218



FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIET NAM  
600 Gilpin  
Denver, Colorado 80218

ADOPTION PART I

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the adoption of a child from Viet Nam. Friends of Children of Viet Nam is a licensed adoption agency with a staff in Saigon. We hope that the enclosed philosophy and policy statement and the following information will be helpful in answering your questions.

The children available for adoption range in age from small infants to children of about eight years of age, both male and female. Occasionally there are twins and sibling groups. The children are all Vietnamese, Black-Vietnamese and Caucasian-Vietnamese. The children almost always look oriental or negroid in appearance.

The children often arrive in poor physical condition with undiagnosed problems. Some have arrived with severe diarrhea, ear infections, worms, lice, intestinal parasites, pneumonia, bronchitis, hepatitis, typhoid, anemia, conjunctivitis, boils, fungus skin infections, scabies, thrush, vaginal infections and primary T.B. Any child over the age of two can be expected to have extensive dental decay. It is possible that damage from early polio could show up only when the child starts to walk after arrival in his new home. Almost all children are behind in both physical and emotional development for their age. This is usually due to malnutrition and lack of stimulation. Love, attention and good nutrition usually produce dramatic results, and in a short time these children "catch up". All of the children speak Vietnamese, some also speak French. It takes anywhere from a few weeks to several months for the children to learn English. Many of the older children have formed no close attachments to adults and can more readily accept other children. It takes much time sometimes before the confidence in the adult can form. As a mutual love between parent and child develops, he blossoms.

Some of the children are handicapped by such conditions as polio damage, napalm burns, missing limbs, partial blindness, partial deafness, cerebral palsy, tuberculosis, congenital heart defects and harelip/cleft palate.

It is very important that parents seriously consider their expectations in adopting a child in light of the above information. They must be prepared for medical expenses. They should check with their medical insurance company to make certain their child is covered as soon as he arrives and to what extent. If insurance will not cover the child, they should have another plan in mind for covering any expenses which may arise. Prospective parents must be sure they are ready to cope with problems and have the determination to stick it out.

The placement of a child with a family after they are approved for adoption can take anywhere from a few weeks to one year depending on the needs of the children. The child usually arrives three or four months after placement. Friends of Children of Viet Nam will arrange transportation to the closest city of the parents, when possible.

## Steps in Vietnamese Adoption

### Home Study

In order for Friends of Children of Viet Nam to assist a family, the family must have an approved home study. The study must be done by an agency licensed in the family's state and meeting that state's requirements.

### Locating a Child in Viet Nam

Most children are located by the staff in Viet Nam and offered to the parents by Friends of Children of Viet Nam through the homestudy agency. Families who are approved by our adoption agency may write directly to an orphanage in Viet Nam to seek a child by complying with the procedure in our policy statement. Our agency will not seek a child for a family during the time they are waiting to hear from an orphanage.

### The Vietnamese Adoption

The Vietnamese law requires a child to be adopted by proxy unless parents can go to Viet Nam themselves. This process takes from six months to one year to complete. Parents send a dossier of eight documents on which their case is based. Vietnamese law requires special dispensation be granted by the President of Viet Nam if the parents are under thirty-five years of age; have been married less than ten years; have natural children from their marriage or if there is less than a twenty year difference in age between adoptive parents and child. This requires another letter in the dossier. At the present time, children being adopted are allowed to leave Viet Nam before the proxy adoption is completed.

### Vietnamese Passport and Exit Visa

These are issued to the child by the Vietnamese government.

### American Visa

This is issued to the child after parents submit a petition (form I600) with the proper supporting documents to the Immigration and Naturalization Service office nearest them. This may take from one to three months, depending on when information on the child is submitted and an interview with the child is completed in Saigon.

### United States Adoption

After arrival in his adoptive home, the child must be legally adopted by his parents through the District Court. The homestudy agency will guide the parents through this procedure.

### Alien Registration

The child is considered an alien until he becomes a naturalized citizen of the United States, and must be registered as such each January. Cards are available for this at the Post Office or office of Immigration and Naturalization. Children may be naturalized two years after their U.S. adoption is final.

## Costs of Vietnamese Adoption

### Homestudy Agency Fee

Public Welfare Agencies charge no fee for their services. The fee for a private agency varies.

### Friends of Children of Viet Nam Application Fee

There is a \$25.00 application fee which is payable upon return of the application. This fee is non-refundable, but is applicable to the child care/processing fee.

#### Child Care/ Processing Fee

The child care/ processing fee is based on income reported on the family's 1040 tax form. It is payable upon acceptance of a child by the family. The schedule is as follows:

<u>Income</u>	<u>Fee</u>
0 through \$9,999	\$200.00
\$10,000 through \$14,999	\$300.00
\$15,000 through \$19,999	\$400.00
\$20,000 through \$24,999	\$500.00
\$25,000 and over	\$600.00

Families adopting twins or siblings will be assessed only one fee. Families adopting two unrelated children will be assessed two fees.

#### Vietnamese Attorney Fee

The fee of the Vietnamese attorney doing the proxy adoption is \$175.00. This fee is the same for two children, related or unrelated as the adoptions will be done on one contract. This is payable on acceptance of a child.

#### Vietnamese Passport and Exit Visa Fee

This fee is \$25 per child and is payable upon acceptance of a child.

#### American Visa Fee

This fee is \$25 per child and is payable to the Immigration and Naturalization Service upon submission of the I600 petition to them.

#### Airfare

At this time the average airfare per child from Saigon to the closest city of the parents is \$350. These fares change periodically. Airfare is payable within 30 days after acceptance of a child.

#### U.S. Adoption Fees

These fees vary according to the state and county in which you reside, and are dependent upon the fees of an attorney, if required, and the District Court filing fee.

If you wish to proceed with the adoption of a child from Viet Nam:

1. Fill out enclosed preliminary form and return. You will then receive either an application form and instructions on how to proceed, or be notified that you are on our application waiting list.

2. Get application for home study from County Welfare Department or private adoption agency. We will request the homestudy from a specific agency, if necessary, although such a request does not guarantee that the study will be done.

3. Get four color photos of your family.

4. Get three copies each of birth certificates for husband and wife and marriage license (certificate). These should be originals from the state in which you were born or married or legible and certified photocopies.

5. Make appointments for physical examinations for the whole family. This is necessary for the home study.

Friends of Children of Viet Nam



FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIET NAM

600 Gilpin

Denver, Colorado 80218

ADOPTION AGENCY PHILOSOPHY AND POLICY STATEMENT

Friends of Children of Viet Nam was founded in 1967 to aid orphaned, sick, injured, abandoned and otherwise needy children of Viet Nam. While our primary goal remains that of ensuring material aid to orphanages and refugee centers, there are some children hopelessly and undeniably abandoned or orphaned for whom adoption seems the best answer. These are the children on which our adoption program will focus. Exactly who are these children- the infant, the older child, the handicapped, the mixed-race child, the full Vietnamese child? This is a question which can't be easily answered. We rely on the judgment of the orphanage, the Vietnamese government and our staff in Viet Nam to make that decision.

Based on this philosophy and with the knowledge that there are many people here in the United States waiting to share their love and resources with these children, Friends of Children of Viet Nam has established the following policies for the adoption of a child from Viet Nam:

1. Friends of Children of Viet Nam will attempt to place in a loving home any orphaned or abandoned child deemed free for adoption by the orphanage and courts of Viet Nam.
2. Friends of Children of Viet Nam will use all of its resources to enlighten prospective adoptive parents on the expectations and procedures for the adoption of a child from Viet Nam, and offer post-placement counseling.
3. Friends of Children of Viet Nam's only requirements for adoptive parents are that they are well informed on the expectations of adopting a child from Viet Nam, and based on this knowledge, they feel able to give this child a loving home. Requirements regarding age, religion, length of marriage, number of children, age of children, ability to have biological children, income, physical limitations, etc. will be determined by the policies and requirements of the agency doing the homestudy, the state in which the couple resides, and the Vietnamese government.
4. Friends of Children of Viet Nam chapters and kindred groups will be encouraged to distribute preliminary information (Adoption Part I) and to conduct workshops in their area. They will be kept abreast of any policy changes, number of adoptions being done, length of time involved in process, and the kinds of children available.
5. All adoption applications and Adoption Part II packets will be mailed from our central office.
6. All families will be required to have a home study by an agency approved in their state. Two copies of this study must be sent to our agency. One copy will be reviewed by our MSW for approval. The purpose of this is to ensure that all areas pertinent to the adoption of a Vietnamese child have been covered in the homestudy. The other copy of the homestudy will be forwarded to Viet Nam to meet the requirements of the Vietnamese government.
7. It will be the responsibility of the agency doing the homestudy

to see that the couple meets all of the requirements of their state.

8. Most children to be offered for adoption through our agency will be located by our staff in Viet Nam. This agency will notify the homestudy agency, who will in turn offer the child to the family.

9. Couples wishing to locate their own child may do so by following this procedure: after being approved by Friends of Children of Viet Nam, they may write to an orphanage and send a carbon copy of the letter to our agency. They should request that the orphanage send the information on the child to our agency, which will offer the child as outlined in #8.

10. The application for the adoption of more than one child concurrently will be considered on the basis of the recommendation of the home study and the needs of the children.

11. Requests concerning the adoption of a third foreign child will be considered on an individual basis, determined by the needs of the children. Only two immediate relative (I600) visas are allowed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (except for sibling groups). A third child must come on a non-preference visa and this takes considerable time.

12. Requests from single people wishing to adopt will be considered on an individual basis, determined by the needs of the children. Single people are at this time unable to obtain the I600 visa.

13. If a child offered through our agency dies or for some other reason becomes unavailable for adoption, the agency will offer the next available child to that family.

14. Friends of Children of Viet Nam will not be responsible for any expenses, including but not limited to those arising from undiagnosed medical, developmental or emotional problems, once the child has arrived in this country.

15. Friends of Children of Viet Nam will arrange transportation to the closest city of the parents, when possible.

16. The homestudy agency will be responsible for a post-placement report to be forwarded to this agency, and for guiding the family through the U.S. adoption.

17. Our agency will take responsibility for the care and replacement of any child relinquished before the U.S. adoption is final. A copy of the final U.S. adoption decree shall be sent to our office.

18. The Vietnamese adoption decree will be forwarded to the parents when received by Friends of Children of Viet Nam.

19. All adoption files, dossiers, and home studies will be housed at our corporate headquarters.

20. The \$25 application fee is non-refundable, but is applicable to the child care/processing fee. **(To be sent with the Regular Application, not the Preliminary Application.)**

21. The adoption agency will be self-supporting both here and in Viet Nam.

FCVN CHAPTERS  
JANUARY, 1975

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Iancaster, NY 14086

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Mary Lou Robinson  
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WISCONSIN FCVN  
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203 North Lewis Street  
River Falls, WI 54022

WYOMING FCVN  
Denise Ingram  
1900 Kingsboro  
Casper, WY 82601

For further information regarding adoption and orphan aid programs  
administered by Friends of Children of Viet Nam, please contact the  
chapter nearest you.

Revised November 1974

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIET NAM  
600 Gilpin  
Denver, Colorado 80218

PRELIMINARY APPLICATION FORM

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

We are interested in adopting the following child:

Male \_\_\_ Female \_\_\_ Either \_\_\_ Age Range \_\_\_\_\_

Race: Vietnamese or Caucasian/Vietnamese \_\_\_ Black/Vietnamese \_\_\_ Any \_\_\_

Acceptable Handicaps: Polio Damaged \_\_\_ Napalm Burns \_\_\_

Missing Limbs \_\_\_ Partial Blindness \_\_\_ Partial Deafness \_\_\_

Cerebral Palsy \_\_\_ Tuberculosis \_\_\_ Congenital Heart Defect \_\_\_

Harelip/Cleft Palate \_\_\_ Clubbed Feet \_\_\_ Others \_\_\_ None of Above \_\_\_

We are interested in twins or a sibling group. \_\_\_\_.

We are interested in a child over age 5. \_\_\_\_\_

Have you contacted a local agency regarding homestudy? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Agency Name \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Address \_\_\_\_\_

We have read the information contained in Adoption Part I. Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Additional Comments:

( The policies of our agency do not preclude submitting a preliminary application with another agency at the same time as with us. Once you receive a Regular Application from us, we ask that you take your name off of any other agency's waiting list. If you receive an Application from another agency, we ask that you notify us so that we may take your name off of our list.)



## FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIET NAM

600 GILPIN ST.  
DENVER, COLO. 80218  
TEL. (303) 321-8251

# FCU Newsletter

January, 1975

Editor: Iennes M. Lord



### I AM SOMEBODY

I am somebody.  
I am somebody.  
I may be poor  
But I am somebody.  
I may be young  
But I am somebody.  
I may be small  
But I am somebody.  
My clothes are different  
My hair is different  
But I am somebody.....  
I am Black, Brown, White  
I speak a different language  
But I must be respected  
Protected, never rejected  
I am God's child  
I am somebody.

-Used on 'Sesame Street'-

### "I VOWED NEVER TO FORGET THEM"

\*\*Personal interview with  
Gloria Krier taken from  
MABA - FCVN Newsletter.\*\*

The Place: The Handicap Center  
outside of Saigon.  
Population: 100

"The Handicap Center outside of Saigon houses and cares for the desperately ill, mentally retarded, victims of Cerebral Palsy, Polio and Ineumonias plus two blind girls. All innocent victims."

Pausing, Mrs. Krier looked at the pictures of the suffering children before continuing on. "They are cared for by one nurse, two nuns, and four child-care attendants."

"The needs are on a one-to-one basis. The Handicap Center is under-staffed by at least ten child-care attendants. The needs grow more each day as children are brought to the Center."

"The stench is unbearable. It is not something that you can forget or will forget. Close to fifty mentally retarded have to be diapered and hand fed. They range from infants to eighteen years old."

"Their needs are so great!



(Continued from Page 1)

"I felt the penetrating heat, as there are no fans. Fans are desperately needed for the dispensary. The temperature is anywhere from 90° to 100°. The humidity is constantly between 85 and 90."

Gloria's voice seemed to crack a little. She waited and then I saw the distant look in her eyes. "Some of the children," she said, "in cribs will be confined to them forever. Beds are



so small that the children lay doubled up in them. Why? Because there are no other beds. There is no money to purchase the needed cribs or beds. Just as there is not enough help available to attend each and every child's individual needs.

"As I walked by the children, I saw the pleas in their eyes. They reached out to you as if to say: 'Feed Me! Hold Me! Help Me! Love Me!' looking into their sad pleading eyes, I fought to hold back the tears that welled in my eyes. Those helpless little children didn't ask for this! They are the innocent ones! They are the suffering ones! Always the sorrow of those children will be in my heart.

"My heart ached as I was able to touch each child but I could not hold them. I had everything I could do to keep my emotions from running away with me as I touched them. All the while, that silent plea was there in their eyes. I vowed that I would never forget them or what I saw. And I promised myself that I would do everything in my power to raise money to ease their suffering.

"Crippled children that were desperately in need of braces and could not have them because there is no money to buy them. A child who sits and watches others run about, but cannot join them. He or she will be confined to that bed or bench unless money can be made available to help buy those braces.

"I saw insects in their rooms because there are no screens on the windows. Insects crawling on the poor helpless bodies of children who could not slap out at them.

"The kitchen was no more than a hole in the wall. There was one flush toilet for all those people.

"I saw the nuns and workers so willing to help. How much could they endure after working twelve to fourteen hours a day? I felt that some universal spirit gave them a reservoir of strength to go on. A strength to reach out beyond themselves to give comfort to these helpless children.

"At the end of the day I saw a child care attendant sitting exhausted; too tired to go home. I knew the feeling, because my body and my heart ached. I silently vowed again to myself, 'I will never forget you!' "



## FOP

FCVN was established in 1967 to halt the appalling death rate of infants and children in Vietnam by providing food, clothing, and medicine, as well as trained personnel. Our goal is to assist recognized nurseries and orphanages in Vietnam. FCVN established a licensed adoption agency in the State of Colorado in March of 1973, and was registered as a child care organization with the Republic of Vietnam in June of 1973. Since its founding, twenty-six (26) FCVN Chapters have been organized throughout the United States and one in Germany. FCVN has also established, and is supporting, the FCVN Center in Saigon. A Foster Orphanage Plan assists nineteen (19) orphanages and one child care center in Vietnam. We are a non-profit organization of volunteers. All proceeds are used to help the children and all donations are tax-deductible.

-WISCONSIN FCVN NEWSLETTER-

- \$3 feeds a newborn baby for a week.
- \$5 buys enough rice to feed a family for five days.
- \$10 pays a cook's wages for one week.
- \$25 buys a tankful of gas for the adoption home's van.
- \$100 provides a meal a day for fifty (50) nursery children for one month.

PLEASE HELP, AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.



FCVN has a fantastic Foster Orphanage Program some of you are already taking part in. I say it is fantastic because it is the only program of its kind, that I know of, that is getting 100 percent of ALL donations directly to the orphanages. Each sponsor pledges \$10 per month or \$120 a year to a particular orphanage to care for its children. In return, every 4 to 6 weeks you would receive a letter and/or picture of your orphanage. We feel, that because of the severity of the problem in Vietnam and, also, because of the needs of ALL of the children are so great we could not single out only a few individual children to receive aid. We felt that the best way to reach all of the children in Vietnam who need help is to support the orphanages and centers in which they are cared for. We just returned from Vietnam and we saw it working.

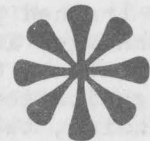
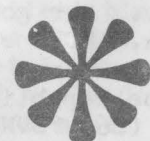
-Gloria Johnson-  
-WISCONSIN FCVN-



# Orphanage News

## A LETTER FROM DOUG GRAY...

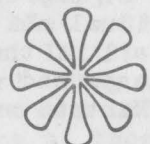
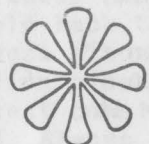
It was a very pleasant surprise to receive your letter and cheque. I am replying immediately to put you in the picture of what we are doing to help the handicapped children of Viet Nam. Our center that over the past two years was put together bit by bit from materials that we that we scrounged from construction workers, the G.I.s and the Embassy and at our peak we were looking after 47 children with polio, cerebral palsy, and six (6) other children who were crippled daily. We took orphans from the following institutions: Go Vap, Sancta Maria, Hoi Duc Anh, Binh Tuy, Cantho Providence Orphanage, Montagnard for village new Dalat, extremely poor families. Go Vap is probably the largest orphanage in Viet Nam and houses 900 children...on Monday another 13 year old boy will be going into the Saigon Hospital to have surgery on a badly malformed hand. Surgery will be done, in part, by Dr. Markally an American Plastic Orthopedic Surgeon. Next week we shall be receiving another 12 orphans with polio from the Delta region of Viet Nam. I will close now but in a week or so I'll pen another letter with more information and the names of children.....Douglas H. Gray, R.N.



TAN MAI..."We think of your kindness very often. We write English very poor. We say nothing but we send you many thanks to you and to the generous benefactors for the wonderful donation, which we have recently received through the kindness of the Mr. and Mrs. Clark in Saigon every month since January, 1974. This is a great help for us in our mission.

"At the present, we have 141 children and still continue to receive the unfortunate children. As you know, the war had destroyed so much of Viet Nam and the result is terrible. We don't know how long this will last. There are so many families in which the parents lost their jobs since the Army left Viet Nam. In addition, the prices of living rise so high especial: milk, rice, soap, material, etc. Many men died by war and the women obliged to abandon their children. Some of them are brought to the orphanage; others, sad to say, are found in the way or in the market place. Most of our children came to us by this way.

"Please be assured of our faithful remembrance of you and our benefactors in our daily humble prayers. God bless you and keep you in his care. Very sincerely yours, Sister Rosalie O.P."



# Chapter News

## Dear Sponsors:

As some of you know, my husband and I just returned from a trip to South Vietnam, where we visited many orphanages, and made the long awaited trip to Sadec to see the children we have been caring for. Words seem very insufficient to describe the feelings that came over us as we drove into the orphanage yard. I felt as if it was all a dream, until Sister Desiree came running out of a building waving her arms at us. I have never felt such emotion in my life. As I got out of the car and we put our arms around each other, the tears that had been welled up inside me for so long came to my eyes; and as I looked at Sister Desiree, I saw that her eyes were filled with them too. I could feel the love and emotion going from one of us to the other. They speak of energy going from one person's body to another and I swear to you that I could feel it. Love is the most overpowering emotion of all, and if you let it take over your entire being without any reservations, the feeling is overwhelming.

We spent that entire day at Sadec--stayed overnight and left the next morning. During that time, Sr. Desiree spoke constantly of her dear sponsors back in the United States and how much she loved them and how grateful she was to them. She told me of the many things that she has been able to do with the money that you have sent. The Sisters and all the children pray for all of their sponsors every day and night and think of you often. It was apparent that this was not just talk, because as she introduced us to the children and the old folks who live at Sadec, each in his or her turn thanked us

for all the help that we had given and asked us to please thank you--their sponsors--for them.

Shortly after we got there, Sister Desiree took us on a tour of the orphanage. What a thrill that was...to meet all those beautiful children and to see with our own eyes all of the grounds. One thing that I noticed was that in all the pictures that I have received I hadn't seen a handicapped child, nor did I notice any children with the typical skin infections that seem so rampant in Vietnam. Obviously these things just do not show up on print as there were so many children with legs so thin that I wondered that they would hold their bodies up, eyes so filled with the starvation for love of a family and thin bodies lacking for so long the food necessary for the strong growth of a healthy body. I saw one girl in particular, about 10 years old, who was completely bald. She had not one hair on her head, and it had not been shaved. I wondered what atrocity had happened to this child that caused this to happen to her. I saw one child who had to have been at least one year old because he had many teeth; his legs were no larger than a newborns and both curved in toward each other. Everything at Sadec was kept spotlessly clean and yet there were the skin infections, on the scalp, and on the bodies. Why should any child have to live with these things? I kept telling myself that we really didn't cause all of this; but in the next moment I know that even though we were not directly responsible, we would be, if we didn't do something about it. Ignorance of the situation is one thing, but when your eyes have seen and your ears have heard and you turn your back, you are committing as great a crime and sin as the one who started it in the first place. Each of us has much we can give and share with others.

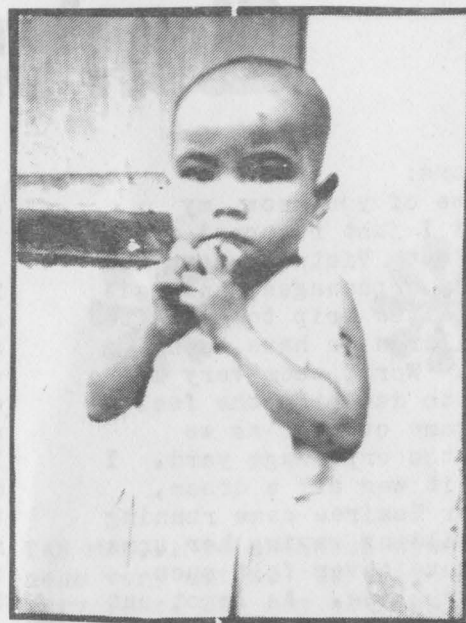
The grounds that the orphanage sits on are quite lovely, with the fruit trees and all the green vegetation.



We were lucky enough to taste some of the fruit ourselves... it might surprise you to know that oranges in Vietnam are green and would put "Sunkist" to shame. None of your money is being wasted. It was evident that the Sisters work very hard to keep the orphanage clean and well kept. They make do with whatever they have and put it to good use. They raise their own chickens and vegetables. All the time that we were there, they worked very hard to show us everything they did. They treated us as if we were visiting royalty, and their genuine delight in seeing us and serving us made me know that in their eyes, at least, that is exactly what we were.

The next morning when we left, the children all came to say good-bye to us. They were all carrying portfolios and on their way to school. Sister Desiree told us that the money that you sponsors sent went to buy these portfolios for the children and now they could go to school. They are so happy. They sang songs for us in the sweetest little voices I've ever heard; and all the while that they were singing, they were looking at us with great wonder and love in their eyes. Before they left, they all spoke to us in Vietnamese. Sister Desiree told us that they said, "Thank you for coming to see us, and for all that you have done for us; but most of all, thank you for being our mommy and daddy." I hope that they understood that the tears in our eyes were tears of joy at their love and heartbreak at our parting. I hope that you will continue to help me so that I may never fail them.

Gloria Johnson  
WISCONSIN FCVN



--Photo by Ross Meador--

Dear Friends,

My husband and I spent over two weeks in Vietnam in September. I hope in this letter that I can convey my thoughts and feelings on our trip and tell you something about Vietnam and FCVN's role in aiding its children. It was the most fantastic experience of our lives, and I want to share it with you. I must admit that putting the things that we saw into words is a task that I fear is too great for me. How can I tell you of the hunger that I saw, the eyes looking up pleading for help, the crippled children with no braces, the rotting teeth, the open sores, the bloated stomachs, and the lonely eyes? Most of the time, it was unbearable to see all of these things and have little or no power to do anything about them. We came back more determined than ever to help in anyway that we can. As long as I live, I will not forget those children. I can only hope that you will help us to relieve some of the misery in their lives.

We arrived in Saigon at 11 a.m., Thursday morning, September 12. We got off the plane and were taken by bus to the airport building used for immigration. We thought that we would have trouble getting through as we didn't know what to do or where to go, but someone must have been watching over us as we got right through with no trouble at all... and there at the end of the line to greet us were several members of the FCVN Saigon staff. Needless to say, we were more than glad to see them.

As soon as we arrived at the FCVN Center, Cheri Clark took us on a tour. She took us to see each section of the entire place and showed us all the babies. She seemed to have a little story to tell us about each one of them.

With love and pride she told how this one and that one had come into the Center and how the entire staff had fought and struggled for this or that one's life. This was one of the things that we noticed immediately--the love and caring for each child. This wasn't just another 8 to 5 job for the staff; they love each one of the children as individuals and that's what is making our Center such a huge success.

We live in such a protected world that it is hard for us here in America to imagine such horrors as we saw while we were in Vietnam. Three children died of the measles while we were there (all three of which were in the hospital at the time they got the measles), a healthy baby one day could be a dead baby the next. I saw at least five mothers give up their babies (something I never want to see again), each mother had tears in her eyes. What is it like to give up a child? What would make a mother do it? I can only believe that they do it in the HOPE that someone somewhere in the world will do something to help their child to a better life than what they are able to give them. Perhaps it could be a nice family who would adopt their child or someone giving money so that their child might eat or sending that child to school. So many people in Vietnam are suffering so greatly from the war; they have NOTHING to give their children except the hope for something better, even if it means they will never see them again.

It wasn't just the children living in institutions that were suffering. Everywhere we looked there were children--hundreds of them--all over the place. It didn't matter what time of the day or night we went out, there they were. One evening, a friend of ours took us out for dinner. As we were coming out of the restaurant, a boy about eight years old came up to us begging for money. He was filthy dirty and around his neck was the



dirtiest sling I've ever seen, and in it, his infant brother. It was 10:30 at night. I wonder where they slept that night and if the money we gave them was enough for a meal? That same night a young woman ran up to us as we were going for a taxi. She had her baby in her arms and she too wanted money. That child looked as near death as I have ever seen. On our way home, as we were going along the streets, we saw a huge pile of garbage...and there in the middle of it was a young girl looking and searching through that rotten stuff for a morsel of food. On every curb, in every alley, on every street, and in every corner, there were the children. All dirty, hungry, sick, and lonely. All needing something; but who would give it to them?

All in all our trip was very worthwhile...there was much sorrow over all the children that we could never reach, but there was also a joy when we saw ALL that FCVN is doing--for we are performing miracles in Vietnam. Even if only one child reaches home, it has all been worth it...but we are doing so much more than that. That is the pay all of us at FCVN get each night...knowing that because of FCVN somebody's life is going to be better.

Gloria Johnson  
WISCONSIN FCVN



### WORK IN VIETNAM

Director, Cherie Clark holds baby "Nam" at the center



### LETTER TO AN UNKNOWN MOTHER

I don't think of you very often. In fact, most of the time I make an effort to keep you out of my thoughts. And yet--sometimes--just before I drift off to sleep or when I look into my daughter's eyes, I think of you ...I don't know you. Are you a woman? A girl of 16. There are so many reasons why you might have chosen to give up your baby (now so very much our baby). Was it the war, hunger, the realization that you could not provide even the most meager of existences for her, your husband's death.....? It must have been a terribly difficult decision and even harder to live through such an experience. I feel so sad for you...because it is sad to create something so lovely and then to be forced to turn your back on it....You must have felt some love too...if not for the baby, perhaps for her father. It is true, you bore my daughter, but I am now her mother. I love her, "mother" her, live with her, care for her...surely you must wonder about me. I'd like you to know how very much we love our daughter and how grateful we are to you for being the life force that brought her into being. Thank you for giving her her big black eyes, her soft skin, her happy beautiful spirit, her bright mind. Thank you for giving us this child who is everything we had ever hoped.... As time goes by we will think of each other less and less. You are starting your life anew--and hopefully you will have another chance to gain happiness. We are finding fulfillment for our lives in our daughter. But...now...while you are still very much on my mind...I want to say "Thank You."

-Diane Nason-



--Photo by B. A. Mantey--





## RELISH THE THOUGHT

Corinth, Miss. \*\*Students at the Montessori Pre-School were busy making Cranberry-Orange Relish to sell on the porch of their school, 1710 Magnolia Road. The kids were making up 100 pounds by themselves to sell for the benefit of the orphans at a Saigon orphanage which is operated by the Friends of Children of Viet Nam, a totally volunteer, non-profit, non-political, non-partisan group. The relish was sold in 1 pound bags at \$1.50 per bag.

-The Daily Corinthian-



--Photo by Ross Meador--

Two nearly new Air Shield Isolettes and a portable incubator were acquired for the FCVN Center through the combined efforts of Humboldt FCVN and Sonoma County FCVN.



## "CHOSEN MOMS" COOKBOOK

The "Chosen Moms" Cookbook is on sale from the FCVN Oregon Chapter. This cookbook is small in size but contains 70 pages of recipes from adoptive moms, grandmothers, and prospective moms. Lots of pictures of kids who have been adopted and of those who wait for help. It sells for \$3.50 (including 50¢ shipping charge). Send your orders to: Mrs. Diane Nason, Oregon FCVN, P.O. Box 674, Ashland, OR 97520.

Lehigh Valley FCVN has 19-inch Raggedy Dolls for sale: Asian, Black, White - boy or girl dolls. They are selling them for \$7.00 plus 50¢ for postage.

WRITE: Lehigh Valley FCVN  
1835 Troxell Street  
Allentown, PA 18103

# FCVN - Viet Nam

Hope has come to the homeless and hopeless children of Viet Nam in the form of the volunteer agencies, one of which is FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIET NAM. FCVN was established in 1967 by a group of Denver area physicians. FCVN's purpose is to aid orphaned, sick, injured, abandoned, and otherwise needy children of Viet Nam. FCVN today is a nation-wide, non-profit and non-affiliated organization of people who have joined hands in an effort to reach these children.

The FCVN Center is located in Gia Dinh, just outside Saigon; it is staffed by American volunteer and Vietnamese child care workers. The Center is the heart of FCVN.

It is from the Center that the supplies are dispersed to the provincial orphanages spread throughout the country. Conditions vary at these gathering places for discarded lives, from poor to unspeakable, with a mortality rate that can reach as high as 80%. FCVN's Overseas Staff visit as often as possible over twenty such orphanages, with them they bring the bare necessities of life sent by FCVN Chapters all over the United States.

A unique program called the Foster Orphanage Program is also administered through the FCVN Staff. This program was established as a means of personal help from families and groups in the U.S., directly to the orphanages, as it is our belief that one of the best possible means to aid the destitute and orphaned children in Viet Nam is to aid the orphanages and centers where they are cared for.

The Child Care Training Program is administered at the FCVN Center. This training program is aimed at the semi-skilled and unskilled workers who are currently the backbone work force of the orphanages. By training these women in the skill of child care, we hope to offer a future to women who might otherwise remain unemployed in a country torn by economic strife.

The FCVN Center is home to children hopelessly and undeniably abandoned for whom adoption seems the best answer. While they wait for the day that they will go home to loving parents in the United States, the children are expertly cared for by the American and Vietnamese staff of FCVN. Their bodies and their spirits are nourished in order that the day may come when they, too, will board a plane like these children bound for home, parents, love, and a future.

The volunteer staff at the FCVN Center sees it, not so much as a place, but a spirit, an effort of hundreds of people coming together to offer assistance, security, love, and a future to thousands of children through the programs that they administer for Friends of Children of Viet Nam from throughout the United States and in Europe. "It isn't the address or the building that counts; it's the concern and giving of those who make this place a reality that will make the difference in the lives of the children as they face tomorrow," says the Director, Cherie Clark.

Much is being done--but much, very much, remains to be done. All of this work requires money, time, and love. The children are waiting--waiting for someone to care. Will we forget them? Will we let them be forgotten? Their future depends on today...tomorrow will be too late. In the words of John Denver, we say, "Come stand beside us, we can find a better way."



## NEVER ABANDON THEM!

**\*\*Editorial by Phyllis A. Carson taken from MABA FCVN Newsletter\*\***

If you are going to adopt or support a child, why not a Vietnamese or an American-Vietnamese child? There are thousands of orphans with a very little hope of their ever finding homes. We, the people, can give them the hope they need.

Questions will enter your mind and you will get all kinds of free advice. Again and again, you will hear, "Why don't you adopt or help an American child?" To me and hundreds of others an answer is very simple. There are hundreds of people concerned about the American children, as there are specialized agencies to find homes for these children. Yet, there are places in the world where abandoned children have almost no hope...and that place is Viet Nam.

To quote Phila Henrietta Case: "Oh! Why does the wind blow upon me so wild? Is it because I'm nobody's child?" Think of those words and then picture in your mind Vietnamese babies waiting to be adopted or helped. Children who had American fathers. Handicapped children and the mentally retarded who will never be adopted. Children of all ages, alone, afraid and longing for love. That is the child you must find, and he or she is there...waiting just for you. You are the hope they never had. Some say there is only a small number of them, but there are thousands...waiting.

The French Government recognized the children of her soldiers and gave them citizenship and

education and, where necessary, financial aid. And it's been said time and time again: "You Americans do nothing for your soldier's children. Why is that?" Only you, the concerned, can answer that.

Children have died in Viet Nam waiting. It's horrifying isn't it to imagine children dying? Yet, it happens. The children need you and you are their hope...NEVER ABANDON THEM!



--Photo by Ross Meador--

## Legislative News

The following bills were not passed by the 93rd Congress. It is vital that they be resubmitted, acted upon, and passed. Please write to your Representatives and Senators urging that these bills be reconsidered by the 94th Congress. Only your interest and concern can give life to the rebirth of these bills.

**BILL H.R. 16159** - Rep. Rarick (Louisiana), Rep. Aspin (Col.), Rep. Heckler (Mass.) introduced a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 to allow a deduction from Gross Income for social, agency, legal, and related expenses incurred with the adoption of a child by a taxpayer.

**BILL H.R. 12315** - Rep. Sisk introduced this Bill to eliminate the limitation of two restrictions that have been placed on immediate relative status visas.

**BILL H.R. 7555** - Rep. Koch (N.Y.) introduced this Bill to grant equal immigrant status of foreign orphans being adopted by single parents as is being granted to orphans being adopted by married couples.

**BILL H.R. 03626** - This Bill was introduced to amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow deductions of medical, legal, and certain other expenses in connection with adoption.

**BILL H.R. 04916** - This Bill spelled out deductions for agency fees, legal fees, and related expenses incurred in an adoption.

**BILL H.R. 05866** - This is another Bill which supports Income Tax Deductions for adoption expense.



--Photo by B. J. Beaird--



# Reading List

## UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION LAWS, PROCEDURES AND IMPEDIMENTS PERTAINING TO INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS.

This recently published article attempts to compile and analyze current United States law, and to review some of the problems caused by official interpretations and regulations. Possible solutions to the more prevalent problems are also discussed. The paper is based upon published laws and treatises and upon the personal experiences of immigration officials and foreign adoption specialists. If you would like a copy of the article, please write to:

THE DENVER JOURNAL OF  
INTERNATIONAL LAW & POLICY  
University of Denver College  
of Law  
200 West Fourteenth Ave.  
Denver, CO 80203

Please enclose \$1.25 to cover  
printing and mailing.

-from Paul K. Driessen,  
Editor, DJIL&P

ALL ABOUT US, by Eva Knox Evans.  
The author's frame of reference  
seems to be that differences in  
people are natural and desirable.  
It offers remarkable insight about  
the way people behave. K thru 6\*\*

BLACK IS BROWN IS TAN, by Arnold  
Adoff. A lovely story-poem  
describing the author's own  
interracial family.  
Pre-school thru 1. \*\*

\*\*from Open Door News, Sept.,  
1974 \*\* are reviews extracted  
from STARTING OUT RIGHT,  
available from the Wisconsin  
Department of Public Instruction.

## HANDBOOK FOR PROSPECTIVE SINGLE PARENTS.

The Handbook costs \$1.75  
prepaid and is available from  
Ms. Hope Marindin, Single Parents  
Committee, 3824 Legation Street, N.W.,  
Washington D.C. 20015. (August-  
September Edition, OURS)



--Photo by Ross Meador--

## COUNT ME IN

- Enclosed is my/our donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help the children.  
Foster Orphanage Plan (\$10 per month commitment)  
I/We would like to join in the support of \_\_\_\_\_ Orphanage.  
I/We will send \$10 per month by the 20th of each month \_\_\_\_\_ or  
\$120 a year \_\_\_\_\_.  
1975 F.C.V.N Membership Fee (\$1.00 per person)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Make check payable to Friends of  
Children of Viet Nam  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ Mail to: F.C.V.N.  
600 Gilpin  
Denver, CO 80218

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

\*\*\*\*\*

FOR SALE: \_\_\_\_\_ FCVN Note Cards - 12 for \$1.75 (includes handling)  
\_\_\_\_\_ "Chosen Moms" Cookbook - \$3.50 (includes handling)

\*\*\*\*\*

Enclosed are names and addresses of friends who are also interested in  
helping the children.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

✻ ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE ✻



# Reading list



**FRIENDS  
OF CHILDREN  
OF VIET NAM**

**HEADQUARTERS:**

600 GILPIN ST.  
DENVER, COLO. 80218  
TEL. (303) 321-8251

Non Profit Org.

Bulk Rate

U.S. Postage

PAID

Littleton, Colo. 80120

Permit No. 206

Robert Link  
710 Sterling Court  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

a non-profit, non-affiliated assistance corporation and licensed child placement agency in the state of colorado



## FRIENDS FOR ALL CHILDREN

Winter 1974-75

Dear Friends:

At this holiday season, we would like to tell the story of our operation in Saigon. Christmas is a special time at our houses and the staff as well as the children put on a festive mood.

There are other important holidays in Viet Nam. Tet, the Vietnamese New Year, is celebrated widely, and we like to have corresponding festivities in the nurseries during that season. In the autumn we celebrate the Moon Festival, often called Children's Tet. This year that was a glorious occasion at TO AM, as one of our electricians arrived with his 15-piece band to entertain the children.

Christmas is, of course, a religious holiday, and at Allambie where the children are old enough to understand, they are taught the religious significance of Christmas and Tet. At all of the nurseries we hope to have one toy for each child, with extras to be shared among all. The staff will dress all of the children up, and have candy and cakes for treat time. At NEWHAVEN and HY VONG all of the red jumpsuits and shirts are put aside in advance so the houses are filled with little Santa Clauses. The staff at all of the houses have even been known to warm hands over imaginary fires and roast non-existent chestnuts.

And so here is the story of our nurseries. We hope you will keep this to refer to, as in the future newsletters we will be adding more about the happenings at the houses.

TO AM. About 100 children live at TO AM. Most are aged between a few months and 18 months, though there are some children up to three years who are either severely mentally handicapped or are being further examined medically.

TO AM is the original nursery in Viet Nam for FFAC. It is located in a pleasant tree-lined lane off one of the main streets of Saigon. The nursery consists of two buildings set amongst tropical trees, plants and a small lawn.

Each child is placed in a nursery room where the children are about his/her age or stage of development. The health of the babies is under the direct supervision of an American registered nurse. Child-care workers are "mothers" to the children, changing, bathing, feeding and playing with the children chosen for them. Each "mother" cares for the same group of children each day, so that the child has a special person to relate to.

Mary Cusack is house administrator. Mary came over on leave from her job in Australia and decided to stay. She brings with her vast administrative experience. Nurses are Sr. Rayneld, who just recently joined us, and Elaine Norris. Jo Russe cares for and evaluates emotionally disturbed children. Tinh is secretary and right hand person. Jo brings the children to TO AM who are not doing well in the orphanages but who will, hopefully, improve with evaluation and stimulation from the remarkable staff at this house whose name means WARM NEST.





ALLAMBIE. From the Australian aborigines, the name ALLAMBIE, loosely translated, means a place where you "put up for a while before you go walk about again." We hope that our children will be here "a while" before going to families of their own. Although we realize that some will never find a home.

In Saigon, ALLAMBIE is situated approximately three miles west of the city. It is run by our dedicated administrator, Sr. Ann Barry. ALLAMBIE comprises a three-story villa with an extensive backyard, swimming pool, bamboo classrooms, shelter shed and play equipment. New pool cleaning equipment has just arrived from friends in California, and the pool will soon be in good shape for every-day, year-round play.

At present there are over 110 children residing at ALLAMBIE. The age range is from two and a half to 13 years. Approximately one-third of the children are handicapped in one way or another. There are blind children, cerebral palsy children and some others suffering from retardation of various kinds, usually due to emotional stress and/or malnutrition. And there are healthy children. All of course are in need of families of their own.

Each child belongs to a room group of about 14. There are eight such groups - each one cared for by three Vietnamese child-care workers during the day, and one for each group at night. Each room bears the name of a country.

A formalized school program with a strong "Vietnamese flavor" progresses during the day for the older children under the capable direction of Miss Nguyet, a trained Vietnamese teacher. Part of this program is the learning of a little English. Six of our handicapped children from ALLAMBIE are enrolled in a special school directed by a psychologist. Each morning at the gate there stand the children in braces on crutches waiting for the taxi to take them to school.

Sr. Paulette (Petey) Peterson from Illinois is now well ensconced as pre-school teacher. She has established a spectacular program of learning games and activities and crafts. Petey designed, and our carpenter made, special puzzles for the children. Debbie Chambers is our new nurse from New York. Debbie was searching for a place to donate her time when she heard of FFAC. We feel lucky to have both Petey and Debbie -- young girls with talent, energy and love to give.



NEWHAVEN. With its pleasant outdoor courtyard and lovely grillwork iron gate NEWHAVEN gives one the feeling of entering a place of contentment and peace. Inside are 40 children under six months, 40 up to two years and a few over two.

There is an open area in front of the nursery where plastic mats are put down on which the children of less than one year play, weather permitting. Benefactors have donated small plastic pools in which the children can play and cool off. The children over one year can play with toys outside at the sandbox under some shade trees or upstairs on the covered porches during the rain.

Each child-care worker is responsible for the same five children every day. The child-care worker prepares

the formula, feeds, changes, bathes, dresses and plays with the children of her group whom she grows to know very well. Children who cannot hold their own bottles are held while being fed; bottles are never propped.

This is the house where the children usually arrive in good condition from intensive care at HY VONG to await the trip "home". Thus when illness and death come here it is a double shock. Some of the "overflow" children from HY VONG have come to NEWHAVEN, and this fall brought more than the usual number of sick children, an outbreak of pneumonia, and many deaths. Because we are understaffed our administrator, Sr. Susan MacDonald, worked long hours, relieved by Christie, Mary Nelle, and anyone who was able to leave her post to help out. With cooler, dry weather NEWHAVEN, as well as the other houses, has begun an upsurge to healthier children.

HY VONG. Our HOUSE OF HOPE is the newest nursery, soon to celebrate its first anniversary. Here is found hope for the little ones, the babies who need intensive care -- over 100 babies from newborn to six months of age. We are now, at last, becoming fully staffed, with nurses Ilse Ewald, Birgit Blank and Julie Chinberg and our experienced administrator Doreen Beckett. Those who visit HY VONG cannot help but be uplifted by the clean, cheerful villa the outward appearance of which bespeaks little of the struggle for survival which goes on within. We are very proud of our staff for the atmosphere which prevails here.



Since HY VONG and the Vietnamese staff of child-care workers are equipped to handle intravenous and oxygen therapy, most of the premature and seriously ill infants are brought first to HY VONG for the intensive care which they require for survival, growth and development. Some of the newborns arriving at HY VONG progress remarkably well and spend just a few months in Saigon before travelling to their new parents. Some of the debilitated and malnourished babies gradually gain their strength and good health and then are transferred to TO AM or NEWHAVEN to await their departure for their new families.

And many die at HY VONG. The beginnings of a laboratory have been established with an excellent microscope donated by friends in France. We are continuing to make improvements but we need so much -- a centrifuge, many more isolettes. Recently Sr. Mary Nelle Gage wrote, "The war continues, the economy deteriorates, and more and more destitute mothers are arriving at each of our houses seeking support for themselves and their children. We try to be of some help, though it is small. All of us here hope to be able to continue to care for the children. But we depend upon you for your encouragement and support. Your assistance is needed for the survival, the growth and development of these children."

We cannot complete our story of FFAC Saigon without mentioning RATHAVEN, which houses the office, where Mary Nelle and Miss Le hold forth; the pharmacy, with Christie Lieberman in charge, when she is not "filling in" at one of the nurseries; the garage, carpenter shop and guest house.

Nor would our story be complete without mentioning our three runaround ladies: Dolly, Lucienne and Lydia. It is upon them that we depend for passports, visas, tickets; foster care for the children; translating and interpreting; meeting escorts and sending off convoys; and they do it all with aplomb.



## THE UNADOPTABLES

We hope that no child is "unadoptable" but we have to face the possibility that some of the severely mentally handicapped children will never find a home. However, these children below are only handicapped in one way: they are blind.

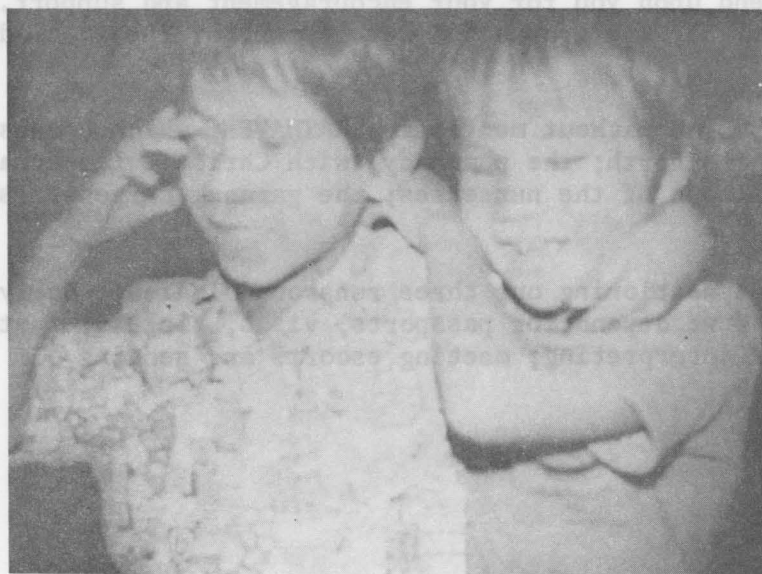
TIRESIAS. Male. Vietnamese, about 6 mo. old. Weight: 13 lb. 12 oz. Height: 68 cm. Head circ: 43.5. Doctor's report reads: "Opaque staphylomatous cornea (leukoma) of both eyes. He probably suffered from Keratomalacia due to intestinal disorders with malnutrition in the past. Nothing can be done now to restore the vision." The boy does respond to light, to some extent. Baby was abandoned in Cantho orphanage a few days before we brought him back to Saigon on July 9. He is weak physically, but is eating and gaining weight. He is cheerful and responsive, and appears to be developing normally except for his blindness.



This is a photograph of PHUNG. Her full name is Le Thanh Phung, and she is 9 years old, an orphan, and totally blind. She lost her eyes a few years ago as the result of an untreated eye disease, but in every other way she is an intelligent, normal, well-balanced little girl, with a love of music and animals, and a longing for affection.

She was found in one of the poorest of the Saigon orphanages, where she gets no special training at all, and if she has to return there she has very little hope for the future - the only work possible for the older handicapped orphan girls is to continue to live in the orphanage for the rest of their lives, looking after the babies. Being blind, Phung cannot do this.

Our agency cannot accept a blind child without a promise of a home, though of course, if we have an offer we can accept her and expedite the adoption. Everyone who has come into contact with this little girl has been greatly impressed by her sweet nature and adaptability. She is already understanding some English, and likes to keep herself immaculately clean and tidy. She has a nice sense of humour and is very warm-hearted and affectionate. Can anyone offer her a home and a future?



We recently received this handwritten note from Rosemary: "Phi TRUONG (l.) and CUONG (r.), both blind. A recent picture -- they are beautiful and intelligent boys -- surely someone wants them!!" She added this about Cuong: "I saw him ride his trike up to the nursery gate, prop it by the gate, and stand up on the seat of the trike so he could reach for the gate latch, which he tried to undo. He speeds around without any fear. He is a great little lad."



Many people have written of Rosemary Taylor and her work. To those of you who have never met her we would like to share some thoughts. Rosemary will probably say the following sounds like an obituary!

Bob Considine calls her "an Australian Saint", and we do not think that is far from the truth. Sydney Fields of the New York Daily News wrote of her, "Rosemary is that rare being who has the gift of giving hope to



the hopeless, walking the earth for others, leaving a part of herself wherever she goes."

And Rosemary herself wrote, not long ago, "Despite a growing anxiety, I cannot help but continue with a certain optimism, hoping that the wherewithall will come to us by some miracle, enabling us to continue caring for these hundreds of destitute and sick children who would otherwise have very little hope of survival."

To come down to earth, Margaret Moses, Rosemary's deputy in Saigon remembers her in snatches:

"I had spoken to Rosemary briefly on one or two occasions since 1955 when I collided into her or was ambushed by her as I walked into my first south Australian School at the age of 15 years 2 days. She was at the time 16 years and 6 weeks old. This made her older than me, as everybody always was, and explains why I did not speak unless spoken to. Rosemary was always very friendly, but communicated this by osmosis. There was never much to say. Her life seemed to be a series of quixotic gestures, which may explain why every time I hear the tune of "The Impossible Dream" from The Man of La Mancha I think of her. I have heard it in the oddest places, with an oddly reassuring effect, made odder by the fact that the times and places were in themselves less and less reassuring ... She wrote a few times between 1963 and 1971 and I saw her I think twice in this time, once during a home leave from Viet Nam. From these encounters I learned that she ate a carrot in Canada, got harrassed by officials in Alaska, painted icons in Belgium, came to Australia dressed in a parka, in the heat of summer; arrived in Paris in dead winter with a bunch of kids and she in a summer dress; was ironing some shirts at an AF BOQ near Truong Quoc Dung in Feb., 1968 when all of her friends got called away by a red alert and she was left alternating between hiding in a cupboard and going up onto the roof to watch the display. She said in a letter written from the cupboard that she wanted to get back to the children. It was quite a while before I knew that she did ... She photographed a lot too, and you would get some postcard featuring a presumed Vietnamese orphan lying beautifully dressed in a bed of flowers. One was led to assume that whatever it was that Rosemary was doing up there in Viet Nam, it had something to do with dressing children, making them smile and arranging them in flowers."

One of our escorts, sponsorship worker Doris Besikof, came home and put her feelings down about her trip. Part of her thoughts of Rosemary follow:

"The work of Rosemary Taylor and her dedicated staff is a medical salvage operation in the truest sense. Vietnamese orphanages have no strong desire to send their children away. Children are their function, however they may perform it by our standards. The outside world, parents, medication to work along with God's will are not obvious to them as better alternatives. So it is that only the most desperate and hopeless, those who would die or be ostracized, come to the half-way houses. Repeatedly in her pleasant manner, Miss Taylor brings help and supplies to the provinces, asking is there anyone who has no one, anyone who needs treatment, anyone who is dying. Often the answer is yes. When it is no, help is still extended. It is for the children. In the U.S., Rosemary Taylor and FFAC are best known for adoption. In the Saigon houses it is obvious that is only a part of the effort. One sees happy but blind, deformed, polio crippled, syphilitic and retarded children being cared for. These are the salvaged, the unplaceable who often come in larger numbers than the unmaimed, adoptable babies. No child is too deformed, too hopeless, to be stimulated by food, washing, caring, a clean bed and bright pictures on the wall."

## NEWS FROM FFAC - COLORADO

Recently we have received many requests from families who wish to share their adoption experiences with others. It is not our policy to give out the names of adoptive parents; however, if you are interested in meeting with others in your area, please let us know and we will compile a list of families in each state. Interested parents may be in any stage of the adoption process, or may just be interested in adopting in the future. Please write to us to have your name added to the list.

We have also had a request from the following organization, which is compiling a Book of Names, to help all Vietnamese know one another. If you wish your child's name to be included please contact: Vietnamese Catholic Students Association in America, PO Box 205, Enfield, Ct. 06082.

We would like to introduce you to the FFAC staff.

Wende Grant, Director, is the mother of seven adopted children. FFAC operates from Duane and Wende's home at 445 South 68th Street in Boulder, Colorado. The office is what was once Duane's "den".

Deanna Carnie, Assistant Director, is the mother of an adopted Vietnamese child, Malia. Her husband, George, is a school principal in the Denver Metropolitan area.



L. to R., first row: Wende, Barbara, Deanna;  
top row: Peg, Sandy, Laurel, Cathy, Mary Jean.

Peg Peters is our veteran adoption worker, having been with us from the early days. Peg and Jerry have five children -- all girls.

Sandy Schneider and her husband, Gary, have two children. Gary is a school psychologist and Sandy is working on her doctorate in the same area.

Barbara Chalian just adopted a Vietnamese child last month. She and Ron live in Evergreen, a mountain community west of Denver.

Cathy Sternberg is the most recent addition to our staff. She and her husband, John, are on the waiting list for the adoption of a Vietnamese child.

Laurel Umile, casework supervisor, reads and approves homestudies. She and her husband, Anthony, live in Longmont with their two children.

Mary Jean Ewing, wife of a Boulder physician, is post-placement supervisor. Mary Jean and Peter have two children.

**SLIDE SHOW:** We have available for loan an eighty-slide show, with a very brief accompanying commentary. If your group would like to borrow a show for presentation in your community, please contact us.

SUPPLIES: Those interested in sending supplies to Viet Nam should contact: Friends of Children, Inc. (Rosemary Taylor Agency), 14 Brookside Rd., Darien, CT 06820. Connie Boll will be able to supply you with a list of drop-off points.

Below are other groups who are supporting the work of Rosemary Taylor:

Long Island Friends of Children of Viet Nam 110 Old Country Rd. Deer Park, NY 11729	Friends of Children, Inc. Willow Ave. Little Compton, RI 02837	Friends of Children of Viet Nam, Inc. 22 Main St. Saugerties, NY 12477
Upstate New York Friends of the Children 1014 Bay Rd. Webster, NY 14580	Vietnamese Children's Fund 1775 Deborah Dr. Florissant, MO 63031	

If you wish to help collect clothing for our nurseries please contact: Mrs. Armand Gervais, ON 451 Prince Crossing, West Chicago, IL 60185.

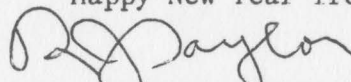
THIS REMINDER. In spite of the relative calm that prevails in Saigon today, abandonment of babies continues at an alarming rate. The men are not there. So the women work. And the jobs are few. If they do find employment they might make 1,000 piastres a month (less than \$2.00). And it costs that for day care.

The cost of milk has almost tripled. And though Viet Nam had the best rice crop this season in years, the price was never higher. At our houses we manage to get food for the older children - fruit and vegetables, though high, are still obtainable. It is the concentration of babies we worry about. We need money to continue to buy sugar and milk and we need sources from which to obtain the items as they become more and more scarce in Viet Nam.

Just a few days ago we received this note from Rosemary, which she asked us to include in the newsletter:

We in Saigon send warmest greetings at this holiday time. We want to extend our thanks for all the help you have given to us. We somehow feel the future will be bright.

Happy New Year from the children,

  
Rosemary J. Taylor





# HỘI BẠN THIẾU - NHI VIỆT - NAM

March 24, 1975

Dear Friends:

At this time the situation in Viet Nam is precarious and we are not sure how much longer we will be able to help the children there.

Your child is safe and we are doing everything humanly possible to process your adoption, however, we can't guarantee that all children will arrive home.

We are in constant contact with our staff in Viet Nam, the American Embassy and U.S. Aid for International Development to formulate an emergency plan should such become necessary.

If you have received your child's birth certificate and release for adoption and have filed with Immigration, please contact them and ask them to expedite your child's visa as soon as possible.

We will notify you when there is anything further you should do to help us in our efforts.

Because of the present crisis, our need for funds to help the starving and the homeless has increased. Any assistance you can give, such as contacting your local newspapers, church groups, civic and social clubs, friends, relatives, etc. to donate to our organization would be deeply appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Carol Westlake*

Carol Westlake  
Director of Adoption

a non-profit, non-affiliated assistance corporation and licensed child placement agency in the state of colorado

HEADQUARTERS: 600 GILPIN ST.  
DENVER, COLO. 80218  
TEL. (303) 321-8251

SAIGON ADDRESS: 24-26, BUI-THI-XUAN  
GIA-DINH - S.V.N.  
TEL. 43.162



Boston, Chicago, Washington

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01803  
(617) 273-0250

January 14, 1975

Mrs. Lee Sanne Buchanan  
400 S. Emerson  
Denver, Colorado 80209

Dear Lee Sanne:

Thank you for your letter of December 29, 1974. It is a pleasant surprise to have representatives of an organization inquire about the status of bills outstanding.

I wrote to Mr. Fitt on November 27, 1974 about the \$603.00 outstanding for list rentals, and he responded with \$50.00. Although there appears to be an intent to pay the obligation, it's coming very slowly. We would appreciate anything you can do to expedite payment.

I'm sorry to hear that there has been a change in leadership. For the sake of the children, I hope the new staff has some of the same dedication that you and Joan possessed. Your concern for the deserving orphans of Vietnam will be remembered by me, and hopefully by others.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen H. Power  
Director, Professional Services

SHP/smp

\_\_\_\_ Waiting List

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Regular Application form sent

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Placed on application list

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Application, Fee, 1040, Photos returned

CHILD \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Adoption Part II sent

\_\_\_\_ Home study request sent to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Dossier received

\_\_\_\_ Dossier checked: \_\_\_\_ Husband B. C.\* \_\_\_\_ Wife B. C.\* \_\_\_\_ M. C.\* \_\_\_\_ Family Cert. (3)

\_\_\_\_ P of A (3)\* \_\_\_\_ Good C. Husband (3) \_\_\_\_ Good C. Wife (3) \_\_\_\_ Fin. Statement (3)\*

\_\_\_\_ Letter of Rec Soc. Worker\* \_\_\_\_ 2 other Letters of Rec\* \_\_\_\_ Letter of Ster.\*(if appl.)

\_\_\_\_ Aff. of Support\* \_\_\_\_ Letter to Pres. (2) \_\_\_\_ N.D. Husb.\* \_\_\_\_ N. D. Wife \* \_\_\_\_ Letter of Intro.

\_\_\_\_ Dossier approved

\_\_\_\_ Homestudy received

\_\_\_\_ Homestudy approved

\_\_\_\_ Family approved by FCVN (or disapproved, if applicable)

\_\_\_\_ Approval/disapproval letter sent to agency in duplicate

\_\_\_\_ Sent: Child # \_\_\_\_ offered, \_\_\_\_ picture \_\_\_\_ referral sheet \_\_\_\_ Accept. \_\_\_\_ C&C (3)

\_\_\_\_ Pass: \_\_\_\_ Processing \_\_\_\_ Legal \_\_\_\_ Exit Visa Fees, \_\_\_\_ Accept. \_\_\_\_ C&C (3)

\_\_\_\_ Child not accepted by family

\_\_\_\_ Documents sent to Viet Nam \_\_\_\_ Homestudy \_\_\_\_ Dossier \_\_\_\_ C&C \_\_\_\_ Permit to adopt

\_\_\_\_ Child's Birth Certificate, INS forms sent to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Release, airfare request to \_\_\_\_\_, Arrival letter \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Date petition filed with INS

\_\_\_\_ Date of INS Approval

\_\_\_\_ Airfare paid to \_\_\_\_\_ (city), In the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Importation agreement signed (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_ Family notified of Child's arrival date and arrangements

\_\_\_\_ CHILD ARRIVED

\_\_\_\_ Post-placement report from homestudy agency

\_\_\_\_ Final U. S. Adoption decree received from family or homestudy agency

\_\_\_\_ Vietnamese adoption decree sent to family



GOOD CITIZENSHIP CERTIFICATE

CHỨNG CHỈ HẠNH KIỂM

This is to certify that . . . . .  
Nay chúng nhận rằng

Born on . . . . . at . . . . .  
Sinh ngày . . . . . tại

presently residing at . . . . .  
cư ngụ tại

has not been sentenced by any Court and is a good citizen .  
chưa hề bị Tòa án xử phạt và có hạnh kiểm tốt.

Qualified Authority . . . (1)  
Cơ quan có thẩm quyền

(1) Police or any administrative or judiciary agency.

-----  
Form provided by Law Offices TANG THI THANH TRAI and TA VAN TAI, 9  
Công Trường Lam Sơn Saigon - Cable: THANH TRAI SAIGON - Telephone 99561.

FRIENDS FOR ALL CHILDREN

Spring 1975

Dear Friends:

We hope that this letter will bring all of you up to date on the events of the past few weeks.

We have received thousands of requests for adoption information. We will not be able to answer each one individually and are sure that if your family has written to us or called recently you will understand the situation we now find ourselves in. FFAC has been placing children from Viet Nam for some time and we have accumulated a very long waiting list of families. Only those who are "active" (have received and returned formal applications and have been contacted by an FFAC adoption worker) will be considered for the placement of a child. Unfortunately, we will not even be able to place children with all of these families. Only those children we have brought from our facilities in Viet Nam will be offered by FFAC. We hope that you will understand and share our joy in knowing that all of the children will be joining their families soon.

We are uncertain as to what the future will hold for FFAC. At this time, we plan to be continuing as a post placement agency for those children who have joined their families and are not yet legally adopted in the United States.

\* \* \* \* \*

If you now feel there is no place to turn for adoption, there are still a few children in our care who are severely handicapped with cerebral palsy and possible mental retardation. If you would like for us to consider your family for possible placement of one of these children please contact us. We have also received a letter from the Adoption Resource Exchange of North America:

"The children of all racial backgrounds waiting throughout North America to be adopted are school-age children, singly and in sibling groups, pre-school children, most of whom have physical and/or mental handicaps, and Black children beyond infancy. If you would like to adopt one of these children you should obtain a homestudy at your local public or private agency and ask to be registered at your State Exchange with ARENA."

There is also an on-going need for foster care in most states. Your local public agency should be contacted for information on licensing of homes for foster care.



There has recently been some conflict regarding the moral decision of removing children from their native country for adoption in the United States and Europe. We feel, as Rosemary Taylor does, that "Mankind is one family and in our interdependence we share responsibility for each other. These precious creatures must have the chance to grow up as normal children."

"HOME GOING" Drawn by one of the boys at ALLAMBIE Nursery, Saigon.

On Friday morning, April 4th, a C-5A cargo plane carrying 220 children from our nurseries in Viet Nam crashed. Over 100 children and escorts were killed. Many of the escorts were Americans living in Saigon who were assisting us by helping take orphans home to America. To those of you whose children did not survive we extend our deepest sympathy and join with you in the loss of those to whom we all felt so close, adults and children alike . . . The desire of FFAC was that safe arrival be assured for the remaining children. Authorities had informed us that Saigon could fall at any time and that we must evacuate immediately. That is why we felt it necessary to charter a Pan Am 747, which left Saigon on April 5th with 324 children aboard. Most of these children are now in their homes. Last week the remaining children from our nurseries arrived safely in the United States.

The extra cost of travel within this country for children and staff, unusual office expenses, foster care for children not ready to be placed and the necessity for legal representation leaves us with an urgent need for money. Now that the children have arrived the interest in financing that arrival has, understandably, lulled. But our bills must be paid and we can only ask help from our friends to meet the cost of assuring a new life to hundreds of children. Tax deductible donations may be sent to FFAC, 445 South 68th Street, Boulder, CO 80303.

# THANK YOU

Volunteers have arrived at our Boulder office daily ready to help in any way. These offers have been accepted gratefully. To those of you who have written asking to help we regret that we have not even had time to acknowledge your kindness. We do so now, with the hope that you will understand the necessity to thank you all -- in one newsletter.

\* \* \* \* \*

We have just had word that Rosemary (along with Ilse Ewald and Doreen Beckett) is aboard the USS Blue Ridge headed for Guam. We hope that she will be in Colorado soon. Our newsletter at Christmastime explained Rosemary's nursery operation and the dedicated volunteers who have helped her through the years and who, through their work, have enabled us to function as an adoption agency. Seven volunteers were killed in the crash. This newsletter goes out in their names: Birgit Blank, Dolly and Tina Bui, Sr. Ursula, Lee Mack, Laurie Stark, and Margaret Moses.

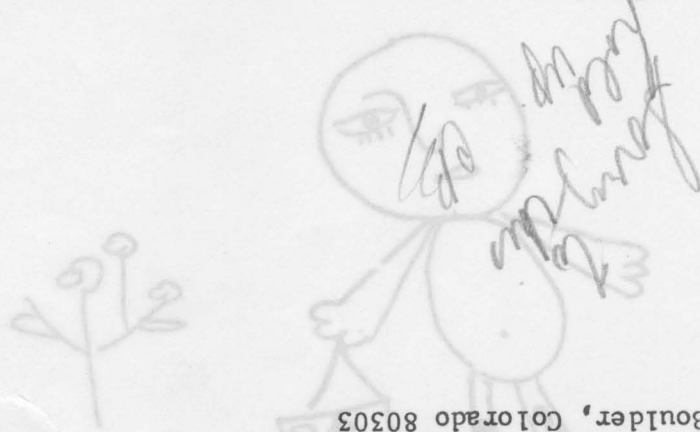


Margaret

*Don't forget to send your donation to 345 1/2 South Colorado Blvd. Denver, Colo. 80222*

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FRIENDS FOR ALL CHILDREN  
445 South 68th Street  
Boulder, Colorado 80303





FCVN CHAPTERS  
JANUARY, 1975

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Gloria Krier, President  
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Wantagh, NY 11793

NEBRASKA FCVN  
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4213 Bray Drive  
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Ronald S. Shores  
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Las Vegas, NV 89109

OREGON FCVN  
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QUAD CITIES FCVN  
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Polly Drumgool  
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Healdsburg, CA 95448

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c/o Sp. 5 Ted E. Stretmoyer  
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APO New York 09107

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Ephrata, WA 98823

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS FCVN  
Mary Lou Robinson  
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Florence, MA 01060

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Gloria Johnson  
203 North Lewis Street  
River Falls, WI 54022

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Denise Ingram  
1900 Kingsboro  
Casper, WY 82601

NEW CHAPTERS  
JANUARY, 1975

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Las Vegas, NV 89102

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M.A.S.A. FCV  
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Cortaca, MS 38824

MASSACHUSETTS FCV  
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Mary Coonce  
4313 Bray Drive  
Columbus, NE 68601



**FRIENDS  
OF CHILDREN  
OF VIET NAM**

# HỘI BẠN THIẾU - NHI VIỆT - NAM

September 5, 1975

Dear Friends,

Enclosed you will find a letter of invitation from the Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus, and the London House Restaurant. This invitation is for your Vietnamese child, parents are not included in the invitation. It is our understanding that some volunteers will be needed to accompany the children, so if you wish to offer your services, please make this known to Mr. Lusky or Mr. Ross when you call to make the arrangements for your child to attend.

Friends of Children of Viet Nam is not in any manner connected with this promotion. We are sending this invitation to you as it is not within our policies to provide any person, group, or organization with our list of adoptive families. We did agree to distribute the invitation as we felt that many of you might wish to take advantage of this offer. All further arrangements should be handled through the persons mentioned in the invitation.

Best wishes,

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIET NAM

a non-profit, non-affiliated assistance corporation and licensed child placement agency in the state of colorado

**HEADQUARTERS:** 600 GILPIN ST.  
DENVER, COLO. 80218  
TEL. (303) 321-8251

**SAIGON ADDRESS:** 24-26, BUI-THI-XUAN  
GIA-DINH - S.V.N.  
TEL. 43.162



AFFIDAVIT OF CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIETNAM has been authorized and licensed in Vietnam and in the state of Colorado as a charitable organization and child-placement agency with all powers of guardianship and providing consent to adoption for the purposes of the reception and guardianship of abandoned children. or children relinquished by their natural parents for adoption.

I, Carol Westlake, Director of Friends of Children of Vietnam, 600 Gilpin Street, Denver, Colorado 80218 certify that \_\_\_\_\_, born \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_, Vietnam, was in the guardianship and custody of Friends of Children of Vietnam, South Vietnam that said child was evacuated from Vietnam and placed into the home of

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
Name Address  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
City for the purposes of legal adoption.

The emergency evacuation of Friends of Children of Vietnam, Vietnam, due to conditions of war, prevents the providing of customary documentation of custody and guardianship.

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIETNAM, a licensed child-placement agency in the state of Colorado, has guardianship and custody of said child, including the rights to consent to medical treatment, authority to place said child in an adoptive home, and the authority to grant consent for the adoption of said child.

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Sworn and subscribed before me  
this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1975

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Westlake, Director  
Friends of Children of Vietnam  
600 Gilpin  
Denver, Colorado 80218

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, \_\_\_\_\_, Colorado

My Commission Expires \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_

FCVN CHAPTERS  
JANUARY, 1975

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Jackie Peters  
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Kirkwood, MO 63122

SANTA BARBARA FCVN  
Mary Palmer  
7551 San Cassino Way  
Goleta, CA 93017

Folly Drumgool  
215 Calle Palo Colorado  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

SONOMA COUNTY FCVN  
Marcy Clausen  
11012 Old Redwood Hwy.  
Healdsburg, CA 95448

STUTTGART FCVN  
Patricia Stretmoyer, Ch.  
c/o Sp. 5 Ted E. Stretmoyer  
421 Medical Company  
APO New York 09107

WASHINGTON FCVN  
Linda Witte  
142 'D' Street, S.E.  
Ephrata, WA 98823

MISSISSIPPI FCVN  
Jennifer Shaalan  
Route 6  
Oak Forest Estates  
Corinth, MS 38834

NASSAU/SUFFOLK FCVN  
298 Red Maple Drive  
Wantagh, NY 11793

NEBRASKA FCVN  
Mary Coonce  
4213 Bray Drive  
Columbus, NB 68601

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS FCVN  
Mary Lou Robinson  
96 Rick Drive  
Florence, MA 01060

WISCONSIN FCVN  
Gloria Johnson  
203 North Lewis Street  
River Falls, WI 54022

WYOMING FCVN  
Denise Ingram  
1900 Kingsboro  
Casper, WY 82601

For further information regarding adoption and orphan aid programs  
administered by Friends of Children of Viet Nam, please contact the  
chapter nearest you.



# Lamm, Young, DiManna & Eklund

*Attorneys at Law*

TOM W. LAMM  
JOHN W. YOUNG  
MICHAEL F. DIMANNA  
CARL A. EKLUND  
ROBERT J. STEMWEDEL, JR.  
DREW A. REIMER

1742 PEARL STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO 80203  
(303) 861-1631

OFFICE LOCATIONS:

DENVER  
BOULDER  
VAIL

July 7, 1975

Dear Adoptive Parent:

This letter is to briefly set forth the nature of the litigation which is currently pending in the United States District Court in San Francisco concerning "Operation Babylift".

Friends of Children of Viet Nam have retained our law firm to represent them concerning this action and they have instructed us to take all legal steps to protect the confidentiality of FCVN's files and to protect the status of the Viet Nam orphans presently in the United States.

At this point in the case, the Court has stated it will review the Immigration and Naturalization Service records concerning these orphans in order to make a determination, if any of these orphans cannot qualify as orphans under federal statutes. The Court has also instructed Immigration and Naturalization Service to personally contact each adoptive family and, if possible depending on the age of the orphan, to interview the child. We anticipate that if you have not, you will be contacted in the near future by Immigration and Naturalization Service concerning these interviews.

As I have stated, Friends of Children of Viet Nam have instructed us in the strongest possible way to take all legal action to protect the current status of the orphans in your home, whether it be by further Court action or by initiating legislation. Hopefully we will be able to advise you as to the status of this law suit and any collateral matters as they develop. Until that time, you should rest assured that we are definitely on top of this matter and will take every possible step to insure the safety of these children in your homes.

Sincerely,

  
Carl A. Eklund

# Lamm, Young, DiManna & Eklund

*Attorneys at Law*

1742 PEARL STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202  
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July 7, 1975

Dear Adoptive Parent:

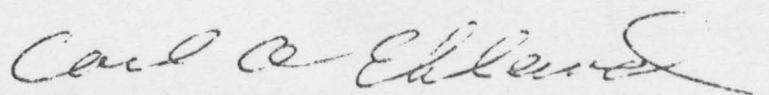
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Sincerely,

  
Carl A. Eklund

# OF CHILDREN OF VIET NAM

United State Immigration and Naturalization Service  
United States Department of Justice  
17027 Federal Office Building  
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Sirs:

Friends of Children of Viet Nam does hereby entrust to Mr. Michael Ryan, Immigration Investigator, a copy of an affidavit that contains information relevant to infants, abandoned at birth, entrusted to the care and custody of Friends of Children of Viet Nam by orphanages licensed by the Republic of Viet Nam, and brought to the United States during April, 1975, by Friends of Children of Viet Nam. Relative to this affidavit, we entrust to Mr. Ryan a list of names of infants to which this affidavit applies and the names and addresses of the adoptive families with which these infants reside.

We wish to inform the Immigration and Naturalization Service that the above mentioned affidavit will be forwarded to the adoptive families concerned, through their Homestudy Agencies, as soon as possible. We ask, therefore, that when the appropriate Offices are contacted with regard to this new information, they also be asked to wait an appropriate length of time to allow the Homestudy Agencies to notify the families of the affidavit. We ask this in order to insure that the information be presented to the families in the least alarming manner possible.

Friends of Children of Viet Nam has undertaken the task of clarifying the status of the infants in an effort to assist the Immigration and Naturalization Service in their investigations relative to the status of children brought to this country by our agency. We feel that this information is vital to these investigations and we are committed to doing all within our power to assure that the records of our children shall be as complete as possible.

Please feel free to contact our agency with regard to further information that may be needed to complete your investigations and files with regard to the children who are the responsibility of Friends of Children of Viet Nam.

Sincerely,

*Cheryl Markson*  
Cheryl Markson  
Executive Director

Enclosures

CM/ms

a non-profit, non-affiliated assistance corporation and licensed child placement agency in the state of colorado

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TEL. (303) 321-8251

SAIGON ADDRESS: 24-26, BUI-THI-XUAN  
GIA-DINH - S.V.N.  
TEL. 43.162

visit orphanages, provided that the circumstances of war did not prohibit travel.

The purpose of these trips were - first, to deliver desperately needed food, medical supplies, and contributions to the orphanages; second, to evacuate children, mostly infants, who were in dire need of medical care which was



OF CHILDREN  
OF VIET NAM

CHILD:  
ADOPTIVE FAMILY:  
ADDRESS:

Dear

Enclosed please find an affidavit that has been prepared by Friends of Children of Viet Nam to clarify the documents of the above-named child. As you can see, this affidavit explains the conditions, procedures and philosophy used in assigning documents to infants who were brought out of Viet Nam by Friends of Children of Viet Nam during Operation Babylift. This affidavit is to help people understand how documents were perceived in Viet Nam, an economically depressed, war-torn country.

We realize this information may prove disturbing to families of Vietnamese children; however, we feel that this clarification of how documents were assigned should not affect the child's standing with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, nor their adoptability in the State Courts. All children evacuated and placed for adoption by Friends of Children of Viet Nam were abandoned children in need of adoptive families.

Please advise the families that Friends of Children of Viet Nam remains committed to helping these children and is working toward clarifying the orphan status and adoptability of these children. We are continuing to participate in litigation presently pending in the Federal Court in San Francisco concerning "Operation Babylift" and have been granted permission to intervene to protect the interests of the children brought to this country by our agency.

Hopefully, this affidavit will provide a more complete picture concerning the documentation of the above infant brought to the United States by Friends of Children of Viet Nam during Operation Babylift.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Markson  
Executive Director

Enclosures

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## HỘI BẠN THIẾU - NHI VIỆT - NAM

Dear

Approximately thirty children adopted by FCVN families were from Gheng Rang Orphanage in Qui Nhon, Viet Nam, where your child is from. Many of these children were older and formed strong attachments with others from Gheng Rang, or knew well the infants and toddlers from that orphanage.

We have received several letters from families whose children wish to regain touch with their Gheng Rang friends who are now in the United States. We'd like to know if you would like your child to become a part of this communication. We plan to make a list of the participating families' addresses, the names of the Gheng Rang children and their ages, and then distribute the list to all families involved.

To include your names, we need your permission. Please let us know by return mail as soon as possible whether or not you'd like to be included, so this project can get underway.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Markson  
Executive Director

CLM:ckw

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**FRIENDS  
OF CHILDREN  
OF VIET NAM**

**HỘI BẠN THIẾU - NHI VIỆT - NAM**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, Cheryl Markson, Executive Director of Friends of Children of Viet Nam, 600 Gilpin Street, Denver, Colorado, certify that \_\_\_\_\_, born \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_, Viet Nam, was in the guardianship and custody of Friends of Children of Viet Nam, Republic of Viet Nam and that said child was placed in the home of \_\_\_\_\_ for the purpose of legal adoption.

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIET NAM, a licensed child-placing agency in the State of Colorado, has guardianship and custody of said child, including rights to consent to medical treatment, authority to place said child in an adoptive home, and the authority to grant consent for the adoption of said child.

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIET NAM does hereby consent to the adoption of

\_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cheryl Markson, Executive Director

County of Denver )  
                          ) ss.  
State of Colorado )

On this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, personally known to me as the \_\_\_\_\_ of Friends of Children of Viet Nam, did appear before me and affirm to the above statement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, State of Colorado

My Commission expires:

a non-profit, non-affiliated assistance corporation and licensed child placement agency in the state of colorado  
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GIA-DINH - S.V.N.  
TEL. 43.162



THE BOAT CHILDREN

Shirley Barnes

8/25/86: All chaps to be rewritten by author; contains also 3500 handwritten sigs-those who cared for the children in a Child Care Ctr

# Lamm, Young, DiManna, Eklund & Ciancio

*Attorneys at Law*

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CARL A. EKLUND  
GENE A. CIANCIO  
ROBERT J. STEMWEDEL, JR.  
DREW A. REIMER

December 9, 1975

Dear Parents

I have just returned from San Francisco where we had a Hearing on December 5, 1975 at which time our Motion for full intervention was granted. This was an extremely important and necessary step in our participation in this case. The next Hearing is set for December 17, 1975 at which time the Court will hear proposed Tracing Plans from all parties. The Tracing Plan will be the overseas investigation to determine if there are any biological mothers, who want their children back and wish to contest the Releases.

Realistically I believe the thrust of the Plaintiffs attorneys case will be in the area of the toddlers and older children released by biological mothers in the last days of the war. They are alleging that due to the chaos and hysteria existing in Viet Nam during the last few weeks a biological mother could not make a rational decision concerning the relinquishment of her child. The Plaintiffs attorneys are, also, contesting all orphanage releases, but in the entire time Friends of Children of Viet Nam was functioning in Viet Nam, not one biological mother has asked for the return of a child she released to an orphanage.

This case is a unique case as stated by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and therefore it is difficult to project the outcome as it will effect the approximately 1,900 children brought in by seven adoption agencies. At this time we are very much in the case and are actively putting forth Friends of Children of Viet Nam's position concerning the children brought to the United States by our agency. I know many of you, if not all, have been contacted by the Immigration and Naturalization Service and we are receiving many conflicting reports as to their determinations. This is an area in which we are continuing to

December 10, 1975  
Page -2-

work in so that the confusion that now appears to exist can be resolved.

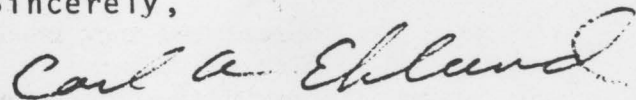
As far as INS is concerned at this time it would appear that you should follow the instructions set out in the letters sent to you by the INS after consultation with your attorney. I would certainly hope that all of you have retained attorneys to handle your adoptions and to follow the developments in the lawsuit which most certainly will effect all of you in one way or the other. If your attorney wishes to receive the pleadings and important orders in the San Francisco lawsuit as well as up dates he merely needs to write me and I will return the needed documents by return mail.

At this time the agencies are drafting a protective order to insure information not needed by the Court is not made available to persons who have no need for this information. We shall continue to monitor this problem.

Many important questions are yet to be decided by the Court such as jurisdiction in this case, the role of the Masters if any, the Tracing Plan, the Plan for repatriation if any and many more subtle but important legal issues.

We will continue to attempt to keep you up to date on the developments in this lawsuit as new events occur but I would certainly hope that you discuss my update letters with your attorneys as my time is definitely taken up totally by the immense load of this lawsuit.

Sincerely,



Carl A. Eklund

CAE:gn



# Lamm, Young, DiManna, Eklund & Ciano

*Attorneys at Law*

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DENVER, COLORADO 80203  
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GENE A. CIANCIO  
ROBERT J. STEMWEDEL, JR.  
DREW A. REIMER

Dear

This letter is written to hopefully bring adoptive parents of Vietnamese orphans up to date as to the current status of the Federal Lawsuit now pending in San Francisco.

A lawsuit was filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California alleging that children were brought to the United States from Viet Nam in "Operation Babylift" against their will. This case is being pursued by attorneys from an organization in New York known as Center for Constitutional Rights. The lawsuit is a class action and the plaintiffs have requested an injunction to halt adoptions in the state courts as well a declaratory judgment, that the children are in this Country illegally. In the plaintiff's complaint they requested that if children are found to be in this Country illegally and their parents or relatives are located in Viet Nam these children should be reunified with their parents or relatives.

The Judge did not grant the plaintiff's request for relief for an injunction against state adoptions, but a letter by the Immigration and Naturalization Service to adoptive families has urged that no action be initiated to adopt these children until the investigation by the Immigration and Naturalization Service has been completed. Friends of Children of Viet Nam is fully cooperating with the Immigration and Naturalization Service and has recently provided that agency with an indepth affidavit explaining the conditions, circumstances and procedures effecting the documents of approximately 140 infants brought to this Country during "Operation Babylift."

The plaintiff's have appealed Judge Williams Order denying the injunction against state adoptions and this matter

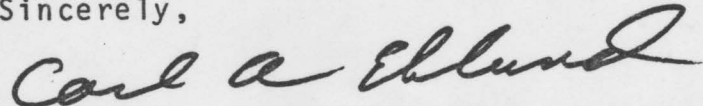
Page -2-

has been heard before the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Friends of Children of Viet Nam filed an amicus curiae brief with the Court of Appeals setting forth its concern about confidentiality of adoptive records. The Court of Appeals affirmed the trial courts decision and no injunction has been granted.

Friends of Children of Viet Nam has been granted permission by the Court to intervene in this lawsuit in order to protect the interest of the children brought to the United States by our agency. The Immigration and Naturalization Service has been instructed to provide the Court with its findings concerning the children's eligibility to remain in this Country under United States immigration law. This report should be made to the Court in the early part of November. At that time we should have a ruling from the Court as to the size of the class which could possibly be effected by this litigation.

Friends of Children of Viet Nam is actively pursuing this litigation to preserve the rights of the children we have brought to this Country and will continue to advise the adoptive parents concerning significant occurrences.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carl A. Eklund". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Carl A. Eklund



## HỘI BẠN THIẾU - NHI VIỆT - NAM

December 9, 1975

Dear Parents,

Enclosed you will find a letter from Mr. Carl Eklund, the attorney retained to represent Friends of Children of Viet Nam in the law suit that has been filed in Federal Court in San Francisco. Mr. Eklund's letter, the third he has written to you, outlines the latest developments in the litigation and is an integral part of our agency's attempt to keep you informed with regard to the suit. We realize how disturbing the circulating rumors have been and feel that you have a right and a responsibility to be informed as to the actual happenings as they occur.

Friends of Children of Viet Nam has been aware of and participating in this suit to the full extent that we have been allowed since early May. We have real concerns relative to the suit and the issues that have been raised. We would like you to know that we have been working full time to satisfy all the requirements that have been placed upon our agency as a result of this case. Our overseas staff members have put in long hours on each child's file in order that we might present all pertinent information on the children to assist the Immigration and Naturalization Service in making their determinations. We have cooperated with all requests for information from INS offices and investigators throughout the country; at times these have been very repetitious and time-consuming. (We have a healthy respect for the almost overwhelming task with which the INS people have been charged.) We have sent attorneys and staff members to San Francisco to attend each and every hearing pertaining to the suit. Our attorneys have prepared and filed an Amicus Curiae brief to the Court. We have spent countless hours and dollars seeking and obtaining information from persons who might assist us in presenting the facts of this case. We prepared countless affidavits seeking to bring to light information concerning the children and relevant circumstances. We have retained local counsel in San Francisco to assist in our representation in the suit.

We have felt keenly the frustrations of not being allowed to be parties to this suit and to present testimony that we feel is relevant to the circumstances of the children coming to the United States and to their best interests. This frustration was eliminated at the December 5, 1975, hearing when our motion for full intervention was granted. We now feel that our agency is in a position

a non-profit, non-affiliated assistance corporation and licensed child placement agency in the state of Colorado

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GIA-DINH - S.V.N.  
TEL. 43.162



December 9, 1975

page two

to offer information which we believe might assist the court in making the decisions with which it is faced.

We want to assure you that our agency is committed to your children and will do all that we are able to protect them and their best interests. We have expended hundreds of staff hours and thousands of dollars to do all that is within our power to protect the interests of the children that we brought to this country during the "Orphan Airlift". We stand ready, as always, to assist you with whatever questions or problems that you may encounter with your adoption. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of assistance to you; and, as Mr. Eklund suggests, have your attorney write to him for information regarding the suit if they so desire.

We shall be sending another letter to you after the next court hearing which is scheduled for December 17, 1975. We appreciate the support that you have given to us during these trying months since April of this year. We greatly enjoy the letters and children's pictures which you have sent to us and we hope that you will continue this practice.

Sincerely,

*Cheryl Markson*

Cheryl Markson  
Executive Director  
Friends of Children of Viet Nam



## AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

Staff:  
KAY JOHNSON, Administrative Secretary  
JUDY DANIELSON, Peace Education  
PAM SOLO, Peace Education  
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Colorado Area  
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KAREN MOORE  
LARRY NAVES  
ROSINA OLSON  
ROY SMITH  
TONY UMILE  
MARCIA WARNER  
PAUL WEHR  
GLENN WILLIAMS

COLORADO AREA OFFICE  
2801 E. COLFAX AVE., #304  
DENVER, COLORADO 80206  
(303) 388-5896

April 24, 1975

Dear Lee Sanne and John,

I appreciated getting your letter about the AFSC position on adoption of Vietnamese children. It starts to get at the issues of saving the lives of individuals versus (although it shouldn't really be versus, I agree) working on a political solution which would hopefully save the lives of many.

From what I understand, and feel myself, the position is not against the adoption of individual children to save their lives (as has been done for the past several years) but the political use of a massive airlift of children in an atmosphere of hysteria which the Ford administration projected. I'm enclosing a few articles which illustrate the political manipulation that I think Lou Schneider was talking about. It's been said that Ford tried to use the orphans just as Nixon used the POW's -- to try to show his concern for life while at the same time pursuing a policy which would destroy more lives.

The political aspect is also shown in the article which quotes a woman as saying she wanted to save the children from "Godless communism." There has been a terribly strong message of anti-communism which has accompanied the airlift, even if it wasn't always directly stated. To me the irony of the situation is that the U.S. wasn't able to win militarily or politically, so we bring children to America to raise them in our way of life.

The emphasis on the racism of the Vietnamese also tended to downgrade the type of life the children faced under the PRG. I don't know much about the racism of Vietnamese society, but I am very aware of its strength here in the U.S. And it's hard for me to hear without embarrassment the assertion that the children face a less bigoted society in America. Also, although I have no way of knowing if this will be true, I tend to feel that the political perspective of the PRG and the North Vietnamese will help educate people against racism more forcefully than our own government educates us and our children against it.

In any case, I think it would be valuable for the local executive board to discuss the whole issue as well as to talk about how decisions are made in AFSC, particularly when responding to a crisis which demands immediate action. I hope that you sent your paper to some people in Philadelphia and Des Moines. If not, I'm sure Kay would be glad to do it.

Page 2

I hope we have a chance to talk about this more. I do feel strongly that there are responsible ways to carry out inter-country adoption and irresponsible ways; and this latest airlift was, or at least appeared to be closer to the irresponsible. Jane Barton's interview with a young boy in San Francisco comes to mind. He told her he was in a refugee column with his mother, was separated from her and placed in an orphanage. A few days later he was on an airplane to the U.S. Or her other story about two children whose parents were destitute and encouraged to place them temporarily in an orphanage. They also arrived in San Francisco to be adopted. These stories are just horrifying to me.

d Hope to see you soon and get a chance to talk about this more.

Sincerely,

*Urrain*



4 copies

Dear Lee Sanne:

It was good talking to you the other day, and we had so many plans for the new group. Unfortunately some very grave letters have come to us and others about how precarious Rosemary's position is right now, particularly after the tragedy to the orphanage outside of Saigon. She has written that she can not help one more person and can have NO publicity at all, and only hopes she can get the children out of the country that are already in process.

We have stopped all publicity that even mentioned an individual in Saigon. We have changed one appeal for ~~one~~ money to read a group of concerned people in Vietnam and will not give out her name to anyone, even if they say they know about her. There is no point, since she was so emphatic that she can help no new people. If you have not gotten a letter from her by this time, please pass the word. Evidently the N. Y. Times publicity and the coverage at the airport have caused problems to her. I am glad I was not involved in anything to do with those things. In case you didn't hear about the airport scene in N. Y., Air France leaked the story and 35 reporters mobbed the children, parents and the place was chaos. Of course many stories were written as a result.

Until we decide how to proceed, and if we should proceed with a new chapter of Friends of Children, we will either mail any money we receive directly to Rosemary or forward it to you to send to her. Since more children are coming in next week, I'm sure we'll get news from either Barbara Baden or one of the parents about the actual situation in Vietnam. We know how much she needs money, yet her position is so tenuous that I'm sure the money isn't worth causing any increased tension. If you hear from her please pass on what she says.

Sincerely,  
Manny Krivit

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Sincerely,  
Mancy Krivt



**FRIENDS  
OF CHILDREN  
OF VIET NAM**

# HỘI BẠN THIẾU - NHI VIỆT - NAM

Page 2

In short, several years ago we were presented the opportunity of a lifetime to help in Viet Nam. Because we cared, we grasped it and made the best we could of it, affecting a great many lives. F.C.V.N. has shown itself to be a great asset to humanity.

We do have a problem, however, we feel we ought to share with you because it is slowing us down. There are a number of people being solicited throughout the United States to complain about the U.S. government and the agencies involved in the airlift. (Some here in Colorado misrepresented themselves as the Governor's Office.) This will affect our general reputation and discredit the entire orphan airlift.

We are being accused of many things. The most serious of these are: not taking proper care of the children here or in Viet Nam, charging excessive fees and absconding with the funds. In April, we had 419 children to care for. You can't imagine the problems we experienced. However, we have received much praise by well-qualified doctors on our care of the children. As to the question of fees, any agency would be totally financially irresponsible for not paying its bills; immediate (hospital, escort, salaries, staff expenses, postage, printing, telephone) and for not projecting our expenses to protect the children until their U.S. adoptions are final (12 to 18 months). This involves maintaining an office staff and being prepared to assume post-placement and re-placement costs. Abscond with what funds?!! We'll be fortunate to meet our bills. If we spend much time and money answering false charges, we will be in serious trouble with State Social Services Department and U.S. Immigration. Also, our projected budget doesn't stand our dragging out our jobs. We don't exactly know the object of all of this or who is being used. We do know that our hard earned reputation is being unjustly and severely damaged and must be repaired for the sake of the children's future in the United States, the families who adopted them, and those who supported these children to keep them alive before they were adopted. Our legal staff is working very hard to do just that.

a non-profit, non-affiliated assistance corporation and licensed child placement agency in the state of colorado

**HEADQUARTERS:** 600 GILPIN ST.  
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**SAIGON ADDRESS:** 24-26, BUI-THI-XUAN  
GIA-DINH - S.V.N.  
TEL. 43.162



I, CHERIE CLARK, Overseas Director of Adoption for Friends of Children of Viet Nam, being first duly sworn upon her oath, deposes and states the following:

CHILD:  
AKA :  
SEX :  
ADOPTIVE PARENTS:  
ADOPTIVE ADDRESS:

In order to facilitate the investigation being conducted by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service and to further clarify the status of the infants brought to the United States by Friends of Children of Viet Nam, I state the following:

The above identified child is an infant who traveled to the United States during April of 1975, under the auspices of Friends of Children of Viet Nam. Friends of Children of Viet Nam was a charitable organization which engaged in Vietnamese adoptions by contract with the Republic of Viet Nam, and is a licensed child placement agency in the State of Colorado.

Friends of Children of Viet Nam's primary role was that of life support. As a secondary program we facilitated the adoption of hopelessly and undeniably abandoned children. Children assisted by Friends of Children of Viet Nam were, to a large degree, malnourished new-born infants abandoned at maternity hospitals and orphanages. These infants were entrusted to the custody of orphanages without identity, usually in a very marginal state of health.

The normal procedure that occurred in the adoption process, as followed by our agency, was directly related to the philosophy of our organization which was to assist the child most in need, i.e. the premature, the malnourished, the debilitated, the handicapped, or by other definition - the high risk child.

As part of our routine we would travel to the Mekong Delta once a week to visit orphanages, provided that the circumstances of war did not prohibit travel. The purpose of these trips were - first, to deliver desperately needed food, medical supplies, and contributions to the orphanages; second, to evacuate children, mostly infants, who were in dire need of medical care which was

abandoned children greatly taxed and overwhelmed them.

We would return to Saigon from these weekly trips to the orphanages with fifteen to twenty critically ill infants, often losing a child on the way. These infants had no identity - they were abandoned as newborns and background information was simply unknown child, born of unknown parents, and abandoned. A death certificate for such an infant would read - anonymous. At our center, our medical staff would admit these abandoned infants with a complete medical examination and at this time they would be assigned a "nursery name." To us, the giving of this name symbolized for the first time the individuality of this child.

It was at this time our struggle for the infant's life began - a struggle too often lost. Lost because at times, even in Saigon, there was a shortage of medical equipment and supplies. Lost because of the times we were turned away at the hospital's door with a critically ill infant in our arms. Lost because of lack of medicines, when we had tons of supplies hopelessly tied up in Customs. Lost because of Pneumocystis Carini, a disease rarely seen in the United States but a prime killer of the babies Viet Nam bore. Lost because in 1975, even though we had the medical knowledge, we were forced to use 1945 medical techniques. Lost because of poverty so severe that the newborn child was critically underweight and lacking almost any natural immunity. Lost because American-conquered diseases such as measles were killers of epidemic proportion in Viet Nam. Perhaps saddest of all were those children who were lost because they simply lacked the will to live.

An epidemic of measles ravaged the Friends of Children of Viet Nam Nursery in October and November of 1974, claiming the lives of forty of our babies, one-third of our nursery. The psychological impact of this loss was severe for our Vietnamese and American staff, yet we knew, that in spite of this tragic loss, our babies faced a better chance of survival in our center than in the orphanages where the infant mortality rate was often as high as eighty per cent.

If our initial struggle for life was won, the infant would be placed in the care of one of our Vietnamese foster mothers, thus isolating the baby from massive exposure to communicable diseases, which was ever present in our

...to our agency in the United States. The information transmitted presented the infant by "nursery name", approximate age, general health, racial background, sex, and included any information pertinent to the infant. The infant was then offered to a family approved by our agency. When the infant was accepted by the family, the family's dossier was forwarded to the staff in Viet Nam.

During the interim, the Delta Orphanages would give us birth certificates they had secured for groups of infants that they had entrusted to our custody. The method used to obtain these birth certificates was for the orphanage to randomly select names for a group of infants who were born at approximately the same time; in some instances, fictitious mothers' names were also furnished. This information was then filed with the Provincial Court by the orphanages and after varying lengths of time certificates would be issued. We would then bring these birth certificates to our office in Saigon.

In the case of abandoned infants entrusted to our care and custody in the Saigon region, the method of obtaining birth data was for us to fill out an application for a Birth Judgment (substitute for a birth certificate). The information listed would coincide with the number, sex, and approximate age of the group of children whom we had been given. This application was then signed by the director of the orphanage and submitted to the court in Gia Dinh. In six to eight weeks the paper known as a Birth Judgment was issued. It stated a name, sex, month and year of birth, and read "parents unknown." These papers were then given to us.

The difficulties in obtaining these types of birth papers varied throughout Viet Nam. In some areas it took but a few days, in others it took precious months for issuance.

Upon receipt of a family's acceptance of the child, a birth certificate or birth judgment was then selected for the child from the birth papers provided to us by orphanages. An orphanage release was then prepared by us listing the name and address of the adopting family, and the name, age, and sex of the child to be adopted. Once the release was prepared, it was taken to the orphanage where it was signed by the Director or Directress and legalized. The legalized release was then added to the child's dossier, which was necessary to begin the proxy adoption and emigration process.



initiated.

At times during this process, our struggle for a child's life was lost. When this occurred, another infant was selected and sent to the adoptive home using these completed papers. Since these papers had been arbitrarily assigned, had made it through the system, and had often contributed to a child's death (due to the length and involvement of their process), they were used to provide a future for another human being.

In March of 1975, Friends of Children of Viet Nam had in its care and custody approximately one hundred infants residing in our Vietnamese foster homes and approximately thirty infants in the intensive care unit at the Friends of Children of Viet Nam Center in Gia Dinh. As the war escalated, we continued to receive custody of abandoned infants from orphanages with whom we had worked closely in the past.

Throughout the entire time of our association with these orphanages we never had any reason to question or distrust them in their relinquishment of children to our agency for the purpose of adoption. Never did a mother nor a relative contact our agency seeking the return of a child relinquished to us by one of these orphanages. Further, we were never aware of a single incident in which a mother or a relative appeared at one of the orphanages to reclaim a relinquished child.

The orphanages continuously exhibited their ability to us to distinguish between adoptable and unadoptable children, i.e. the abandoned or irreversibly released child versus the child placed in the orphanage by its family for custodial care. The directors of these orphanages were very reluctant to release any older children for adoption, even though these children had lived there for many years and had had no family contact.

During March and April, 1975, the routine adoption procedures were completely disrupted due to the escalation of the war. There were circumstances present prior to the final evacuation of our children which prevented us from obtaining orphanage releases for our children. These obstacles included our inability to return to the North as provinces fell, conditions of war prohibited our travel to the Delta, orphanage directors refused to sign papers for them

had been abandoned at birth, the costly delays in paperwork processed through the Vietnamese government and the worsening wartime conditions, the orphanage release paper seemed of little importance since the infant had already been entrusted to our care and custody for purposes of adoption and emigration.

Both the Vietnamese and U. S. government representatives stated to me that children within our agency's care and custody would be eligible for evacuation.

When we received notification of the pending evacuation to the United States (for the first time on the very day of the first flight), we inquired of the Ministry of Social Welfare as to procedures to be followed. We were instructed to prepare a list of names of our children. Our inquiry as to what to do concerning some of our infants, not yet placed, who had only "nursery names," was answered by the instruction to "choose Vietnamese names." We did this to coincide with the number of un-named infants in our custody. The prepared list was then turned over to the proper Ministry of Social Welfare authorities, where it was approved, signed, and sealed. A copy of this list was then used to prepare arm bands in duplicate, listing the name and our agency identification. The sole purpose of these arm bands was to identify the infants as belonging to our agency, for we had no time for further identification.

In just forty-eight hours we had to physically bring one hundred infants from foster homes scattered throughout Saigon to our center, with travel constantly impeded by hordes of panicked people. We were working under a limited timetable and were further handicapped by an imposed curfew. We, with our child care and nursing staff accustomed to caring for thirty infants and now inundated with the care of one hundred-eighty children during a two-day period, had to prepare for the impending flight. This meant we had to gather medical supplies necessary to sustain the lives of the critically ill infants, and to prepare gallons of formula as well as vast amounts of clothing and diapers.

Once these infants arrived in the United States and were placed with approved adoptive families, we provided them with a paper. Papers were assigned to provide the infant with an identity; this was thus done as it had been

1. Providence Orphanage Can Tho
2. Providence Orphanage Soc Trang
3. Vung Tau Christian Home Vung Tau
4. Sancta Maria Orphanage Gia Dinh
5. St. Paul's Orphanage Vinh Long
6. Good Shepherd Orphanage Vinh Long
7. Rose de Lima Orphanage Hoc Mon
8. La Pension de la Notre Dame Gia Dinh

Over three-fourths of the infants brought by Friends of Children of Viet Nam on the orphan airlift came from Providence Orphanage located in Can Tho, or Providence Orphanage located in Soc Trang, or Sancta Maria Orphanage located in Gia Dinh, or Vung Tau Christian Home located in Vung Tau.

The statements and facts presented in this affidavit relate to a particular class of orphans: namely, infants abandoned at birth and relinquished to our custody. These infants were a part of the total number of children evacuated under the auspices of Friends of Children of Viet Nam. The above-named child is a member of this class of orphans.

The statements made in this affidavit pertain to Friends of Children of Viet Nam, their staff, and their actions alone.

Further, affiant sayeth not.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1975

My commission expires:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, State of Colorado



#### ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Erik H. Erikson (1963), The Eight Ages of Man in Childhood and Society, W.W. Norton and Company, Inc. New York.  
Twentyeight pages of concentrated material describing the development of personality structure from birth to infancy. Erikson is a noted psychoanalyst with a reasonable, understandable approach. Difficult reading, but well worth the trouble.
2. Goldstein, J., Freud, Anna, Solnit, Albert J. (1973), Beyond the best Interests of the Child, The Free Press, New York.  
Authoritative, well reasearched treatise on adoptive and foster child placement. Children's rights and needs are emphasized.
3. Haim G. Ginott, (1969) Between Parent and Child, Avon Books, New York.  
You may have already read this. Cited here as typical of many books on parenting. The themes of open communication, positive rewards, and understanding of the child's behavior run through many similar works.
4. T. Berry Brazelton, (1972) Infants and Mothers, Delacorte Press/  
Seymour Lawrence, New York.  
Well written book emphasizing normal differences between babies, both from a physical as well as temperamental standpoint.
5. T. Berry Brazelton (1974), Toddlers and Parents, Delacorte Press/  
Seymour Lawrence, New York.  
By the same author as above. Just as delightful reading, deal with normal developmental issues of toddlers.

#### Also pertinent:

1. Selma H. Fraiberg (1959) The Magic Years, Charles Scribners and Sons, New York.  
Excellent reading. Gives the child's viewpoint of growing up.  
Writings based on psychoanalytic theory.
2. Gerald R. Patterson (1974) Families: Applications of Social Learning to Family Life, Research Press Company, Champaign, Illinois.  
Practical book on the usefulness and application of behavior modification techniques in child rearing.



## HỘI BẠN THIẾU - NHI VIỆT - NAM

Re:

Dear

( ) Enclosed is the I-94 for the \_\_\_\_\_ child.

( ) The I-94 traveled with the child.

If the I-94 is not enclosed and the family does not have the I-94, it is lost. The family should notify the nearest Immigration and Naturalization Service Office of this fact.

Enclosed find the documents for the child being adopted by the above named family.

In order to establish the permanent alien status of this child, please have the family contact the nearest Immigration and Naturalization Service Office and inform them of the child's arrival. Immigration and Naturalization Service will assist the family in completing the immigration process. Please notify Friends of Children of Viet Nam of the child's alien registration number when it is issued.

Please begin to assist the family with the United States adoption process. Our agency requests quarterly post placement reports until the U.S. adoption is finalized. Please send a copy of the final U.S. adoption decree to the Friends of Children of Viet Nam office.

If there is no definite birth date for the child, please ask the court to establish one.

We thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Carol Westlake, Director of Adoption

a non-profit, non-affiliated assistance corporation and licensed child placement agency in the state of colorado

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AFFIDAVIT OF CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIETNAM has been authorized and licensed in Vietnam and in the state of Colorado as a charitable organization and child-placement agency with all powers of guardianship and providing consent to adoption for the purposes of the reception and guardianship of abandoned children. or children relinquished by their natural parents for adoption.

I, Carol Westlake, Director of Friends of Children of Vietnam, 600 Gilpin Street, Denver, Colorado 80218 certify that \_\_\_\_\_, born \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_, Vietnam, was in the guardianship and custody of Friends of Children of Vietnam, South Vietnam that said child was evacuated from Vietnam and placed into the home of

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
Name Address  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
City for the purposes of legal adoption.

The emergency evacuation of Friends of Children of Vietnam, Vietnam, due to conditions of war, prevents the providing of customary documentation of custody and guardianship.

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIETNAM, a licensed child-placement agency in the state of Colorado, has guardianship and custody of said child, including the rights to consent to medical treatment, authority to place said child in an adoptive home, and the authority to grant consent for the adoption of said child.

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Sworn and subscribed before me  
this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1975

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Westlake, Director  
Friends of Children of Vietnam  
600 Gilpin  
Denver, Colorado 80218

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, \_\_\_\_\_, Colorado

My Commission Expires \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_





**FRIENDS  
OF CHILDREN  
OF VIET NAM**

## HỘI BẠN THIẾU - NHI VIỆT - NAM

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's I.D. Number \_\_\_\_\_

is hereby released for travel to \_\_\_\_\_

Adoptive Parents \_\_\_\_\_

Adoptive Parents' Address \_\_\_\_\_

Adoptive Parents' Phone \_\_\_\_\_

On \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Time \_\_\_\_\_

the child left the Continental Care Center in Denver, Colorado.

### TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Airline \_\_\_\_\_

Flight Number \_\_\_\_\_

Arriving \_\_\_\_\_

Destination \_\_\_\_\_

at \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Arrival \_\_\_\_\_

### \*IF APPLICABLE

Child was picked up by \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

on \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### FAMILY NOTIFIED

By Whom \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**FRIENDS  
OF CHILDREN  
OF VIET NAM**

# HỘI BẠN THIẾU - NHI VIỆT - NAM

July 1975

Dear Sponsors,

Please excuse the tardiness of this letter. In the past two months, life has been hectic and very traumatic for all of those involved in Friends of Children of Viet Nam.

Together with all of the Chapter co-ordinators, who gave so much of themselves to operate the program, we at the F.C.V.N. Headquarters extend to you our deepest gratitude.

During the operation of "Orphan's Airlift", each member of the F.C.V.N. Overseas Staff made two trips to the United States escorting children. Upon their return to Viet Nam, they carried with them donations that had been contributed in response to our pleas for help. Until four days before the surrender of Viet Nam, our Overseas Staff remained, doing all that they could to aid the children to whom they'd dedicated all their energies and hard work. The task was overwhelming, the need had never been greater, but, because of your help, they were able to help.

At this time, we do not know that the situation is for the staff members and the children of the orphanages on the Foster Orphanage Program. While we may never know their fate, we do know that you made a great difference in their lives for all the months that you have lent your support to the Foster Orphanage Program.

Friends of Children of Viet Nam is in the process of preparing a final newsletter on Viet Nam. We hope that it will become a keepsake for all of you who cared enough to help children in need. We hope to have a copy of this newsletter on the way to you next month.

With our best wishes and much gratitude,

The staff, chapters, and volunteers of Friends of Children of Viet Nam

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## FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIET NAM

# HỘI BẠN THIẾU - NHI VIỆT - NAM

Dear Friend,

On behalf of the FCVN staff, volunteers and children, we would like to extend to you our heartfelt gratitude for your assistance. We can not emphasize how very much we appreciate the help and love that you contributed during a time of great need.

The main objectives of this operation were the care, placement and travel of the children to their new homes. We have had little time until now to express our gratitude. All our time and energies have had to be directed to getting the children home in order that they could begin their adjustments and new lives.

Never before had adoption agencies been faced with the task of housing, clothing, feeding, and medically and emotionally caring for Vietnamese children in the United States. The prospects of this task allowed us little warning or preparation time. Some very good doctors put their heads together and devised an operational plan and structure. People, like the owners of the Continental Care Center, came forward with offers so generous that we were overwhelmed. The Army, Red Cross and Jaycees lent expertise to fulfill crucial areas of need. Sunstrand (thanks to the Hegel family) provided security, which off-duty sheriffs supplemented. Doctors and nurses came forward and offered their services to medically care for the children. Busy people, most of whom had been involved with Vietnamese children in the past, stepped forward and volunteered to shoulder the responsibility of co-ordinating the Center's operation. Suddenly we had the operational plan, a place, security, equipment, medical and supervisory personnel. All of this would have been to no avail had not you, and many others like you, come forward and said, "Count me in". You were the shelter in the storm for weary, confused little ones. We hope that your experience with the children brought to your hearts the warmth, satisfaction, and knowledge that the part you played was so needed and so worthwhile.

In the process of helping at the Center, many of you inquired about the possibility of adoption. Those of us who are adoptive parents, realize that many times the thought of adoption begins through simple exposure to adoptable or adopted children. This exposure is one of the greatest assets that waiting adoptable children have.

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To those of you who have seriously opened your hearts and minds to the possibility of adoption, we would like to offer the names of a few sources available to give you adoption information.

Your local County Child Services Department and any of the private agencies in Colorado can be of great assistance to you. Catholic Charities, Christian Family Services and Lutheran Social Services are a few private agencies that you could contact.

Colorado Parents for All Children is another excellent source of information. Their name tells their story. This group of adoptive parents can provide information regarding adoption procedures, children available for adoption in this country and abroad, plus opportunities for social activities, parent and professionals panel discussions and receipt of their informative newsletter. Foreign Adoption Center in Boulder, is a licensed adoption agency that assists in the adoption of children from various countries. To those of you who decide to pursue the idea of adoption, you have our sincere best wishes.

Where do we (FCVN) go from here? We are primarily an assistance agency dedicated to aiding needy children by means of providing food, medicine, clothing and financial assistance. At present we are discussing and re-searching the question of where we should focus this aid in the future.

We shall continue to aid Vietnamese children now in this country. The means of which include: 1. The continuation of post-placement services by our adoption agency. 2. The establishment of a Vietnamese Cultural Resource Center, co-ordinated by our Vietnamese Social Worker for the benefit of adopted children, their families and Vietnamese adults now in this country. 3. The planning of social events for adoptive families & our friends, we hope this will include you.

In spite of the problems that were always there to be coped with, we feel proud of the Center and the need that it served. We feel that the children's best interests were served and through your involvement, they were served with an added measure of LOVE. On behalf of the children whose lives you touched, and whose journeys you made easier, we sincerely thank you and your family.

Most gratefully,

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIET NAM

P.S. If you have any questions that we might help you with, please feel free to contact us.

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**FRIENDS  
OF CHILDREN  
OF VIET NAM**

# HỘI BẠN THIẾU - NHI VIỆT - NAM

May 1975

Dear Friends,

Congratulations on the arrival of your child! Since April 2, 1975, 419 children arrived under the auspices of F.C.V.N. Placing these children in your permanent and loving homes was our first priority. Now we are beginning the task of processing the legal documents so you may complete the permanent alien status and U.S. adoption of your child. Also, our medical staff is preparing an information packet pertinent to the physical and emotional development relative to Vietnamese children. In addition, you will be sent another packet of information describing the orphanages in Viet Nam where many of the children lived. The packet on Viet Nam is being prepared by the developer of our Vietnamese Cultural Resources Center, Le Thi Bach Thuy. Thuy was our Associate Director of Adoption in Viet Nam and is now part of our Denver staff. We feel the Center is important to assist you in the adjustment of your child in his new environment, to preserve his heritage, and to expose each family and community to some of the beautiful customs of the people of Viet Nam.

For those of you who are new to F.C.V.N., we would like to welcome you to our group and tell you a little bit about ourselves. (See enclosed brochure.) F.C.V.N. is a non-profit, non-affiliated Colorado corporation founded to help orphaned, abandoned, sick, and otherwise needy children of Viet Nam. F.C.V.N. has grown in some three odd years with 100,000 volunteer hours to an internationally recognized corporation. We have helped a number of people; the children, our members, and ourselves. The children were helped because they received food, medicine, and a chance. The members (10,000 people) were helped because they were needed and wanted. We were helped because we reached a level of accomplishment. Our key people averaged 10,000 hours a piece over the last three years, with no pay, to build F.C.V.N. Our management techniques in Viet Nam were being studied by other agencies before the crisis because our children were so healthy and our death rate so low.

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**FRIENDS  
OF CHILDREN  
OF VIET NAM**

## **HỘI BẠN THIẾU - NHI VIỆT - NAM**

Page 3

We want to sincerely thank you for joining with F.C.V.N. to give these children a permanent, loving home and the chance for the future they deserve. We ask for your continued support. In the words of one of the orphanage directors in Viet Nam, "Thank you for what you have done, are doing, and will do for these children in the future".

If any of you have questions regarding any aspect of your adoption, please let us know. Your local adoption agency and F.C.V.N. are here to help you in every way we can.

Friends of Children of  
Viet Nam

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# HỘI BẠN THIẾU - NHI VIỆT - NAM

July 1975

Dear Friends,

Our agency now has the documents on the children we brought during the orphan airlift in order. We have begun mailing them, as we always have, to the proper state or local agency as requested by the state in which you live. They will then be channeled to you. We have also submitted to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) a list of the adoptive parents and children.

In some instances you will notice a name difference. This is due to the fact that some children were called by more than one name. They had an orphanage or nursery name and a legal name. Also, the tagging was done hurriedly by several people and errors were made. Our overseas staff identified the children with their documents.

As you may or may not know, a lawsuit was filed in California against the U.S. Government. The plaintiffs contended that some of the children on the airlift were not properly released for adoption. The judge who has jurisdiction over the case has ordered the U.S. Immigration Service to complete their investigation of the children. (See attached letter from our attorney.)

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the steps necessary to complete the adoption process. First is the determination by the U.S. Immigration Service of the alien status of your child. This has always been done; however, in the past it was determined prior to the child's arrival in the United States. Due to the circumstances of the airlift, the children who arrived in the U.S. since April 2, 1975 were issued an indefinite parole visa to enter this country. A parole is the granting of temporary admission to our country, pending a routine investigation to establish permanent alien status.

In order to expedite the clarification of the alien status of the some 2,300 children who arrived on the airlift, the Immigration Service on June 19th set up in their Washington D.C. headquarters, a centralized control for the orphan investigation and have given these investigations the highest priority. They are to be completed within ninety days. Directives have been sent by the INS in Washington to the regional INS offices explaining the procedures to be used. These instructions are then to be channeled to the District INS offices who will be handling the investigations. The procedures include the following:

1. Identification of child and adoptive parents.
2. Visit with the family during which time the child will be photographed and fingerprinted or footprinted. All children who are old enough will be interviewed to ascertain date and place of birth, last address in Viet Nam, if parents are alive or deceased.
3. Review of copies of all pertinent documents substantiating identity, age or date of birth, abandonment, desertion or irrevocable release.

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GIA-DINH - S.V.N.  
TEL. 43.162

F.C.V.N. C-1

4. Interviews with appropriate social agency if necessary.

You will be receiving a letter from INS explaining this procedure to you. The letter is addressed "to each foster family". This is an error due to a misunderstanding of terminology on the part of INS, and was to have been corrected to read "to each family with a Vietnamese orphan".

When you have received the documents for your child, contact the Immigration Office closest to you so this investigation may begin.

When the permanent alien status of your child has been established, you will be notified and receive an alien registration card for him or her. This card serves as proof of your child's right to be in this country. Keep it in a safe place.

At this time you should then initiate adoption proceedings in the appropriate adoption court in your state. Your local adoption agency will guide you and supervise this part of the procedure. In most states the time involved from initiation of the petition to the finalization of the U.S. adoption is six months to one year.

Once your child has been classified as a permanent alien you will need to register his location with INS every January. This card can be obtained from INS or any post office.

Two years after the U.S. adoption is final, you may apply to the Immigration Service to have your child naturalized as a U.S. citizen.

Check your will and insurance policies to make sure that your adopted child is protected properly. Don't take this for granted.

Your child will not be issued a new birth certificate. The proof of his legal existence will be the documents from our agency and the U.S. adoption decree. It is also possible to obtain a statement of verification of birth date from INS.

There are three things our agency asks of you at this time:

1. A picture of your child as soon as possible. This is necessary to complete our files. Please use enclosed envelope.
2. Your child's alien registration number when it is granted.
3. A copy of the final U.S. adoption decree.

The airlift of these children is unprecedented in U.S. history. The humanitarian efforts of the Immigration Service in paroling these children to the U.S. and of the social agencies in making responsible placements of these children into capable, loving, permanent homes is overwhelming. The fact that you opened your heart to a child in need will never be forgotten. It is now time to finalize the legal status of these children. With all of us working together as a team, this can be accomplished quickly.

-3-

To those of you who have already contacted us and sent pictures, a very grateful thank you. To all of you, keep those letters and pictures coming. We love 'em.

We urge you to contact your local agency or FCVN if you have any questions. We are also here to share your joy, lend support, and suggest sources of help when needed.

We thank you for your cooperation.

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIET NAM





# HỘI BẠN THIẾU - NHI VIỆT - NAM

July 1975

Dear Friends,

Our agency now has the documents on the children we brought during the orphan airlift in order. We have begun mailing them, as we always have, to the proper state or local agency as requested by the state in which you live. They will then be channeled to you. We have also submitted to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) a list of the adoptive parents and children.

In some instances you will notice a name difference. This is due to the fact that some children were called by more than one name. They had an orphanage or nursery name and a legal name. Also, the tagging was done hurriedly by several people and errors were made. Our overseas staff identified the children with their documents.

As you may or may not know, a lawsuit was filed in California against the U.S. Government. The plaintiffs contended that some of the children on the airlift were not properly released for adoption. The judge who has jurisdiction over the case has ordered the U.S. Immigration Service to complete their investigation of the children. (See attached letter from our attorney.)

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the steps necessary to complete the adoption process. First is the determination by the U.S. Immigration Service of the alien status of your child. This has always been done; however, in the past it was determined prior to the child's arrival in the United States. Due to the circumstances of the airlift, the children who arrived in the U.S. since April 2, 1975 were issued an indefinite parole visa to enter this country. A parole is the granting of temporary admission to our country, pending a routine investigation to establish permanent alien status.

In order to expedite the clarification of the alien status of the some 2,300 children who arrived on the airlift, the Immigration Service on June 19th set up in their Washington D.C. headquarters, a centralized control for the orphan investigation and have given these investigations the highest priority. They are to be completed within ninety days. Directives have been sent by the INS in Washington to the regional INS offices explaining the procedures to be used. These instructions are then to be channeled to the District INS offices who will be handling the investigations. The procedures include the following:

1. Identification of child and adoptive parents.
2. Visit with the family during which time the child will be photographed and fingerprinted or footprinted. All children who are old enough will be interviewed to ascertain date and place of birth, last address in Viet Nam, if parents are alive or deceased.
3. Review of copies of all pertinent documents substantiating identity, age or date of birth, abandonment, desertion or irrevocable release.

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**FRIENDS  
OF CHILDREN  
OF VIET NAM**

# HỘI BẠN THIẾU - NHI VIỆT - NAM

June 6, 1975

Dear Parents:

It is often my privilege, as a Pediatrician specializing in Child Development, to deal with adoptive families. Recently, while overseeing the medical care of your child in the Denver FCVN facility, I did come into indirect contact with your family. My commitment to your child prompts me to share some information and a few thoughts with you. I hope you will find them helpful.

The past few years have brought us many good books on child rearing and parenting practices (see annotated bibliography), each with its own theoretical background. The underlying themes, however, are identical: children and parents contribute to the atmosphere of intrafamilial interactions, consistency and predictability of response generate the least amount of anxiety, each must respect the other's rights and differences, and good communication is essential.

No two children (people) are identical: sex, physical and mental abilities, birth order, appearance, all contribute to the differences. Being an adopted, as opposed to a biological child, is another obvious difference which cannot be erased through avoidance any more than one can change a newborn baby's sex by just wishing. Basic needs of all children do not differ; the issue of "where did I come from" will exist, and must be dealt with many times along the way.

In addition to the usual questions dealing with where babies come from in general, the adopted child will ask himself questions about his own previous background. The trustful, confident child will not be reluctant to bring up these questions to his parents, at times that he feels are appropriate. Frank, open, nonjudgemental discussions of these issues will prevent their getting mixed up with feelings of guilt, shame, and abandonment. Classical statements like "you are special to us because we chose you" won't do the trick because the child will eventually question their truthfulness, and the natural siblings may wonder why they were not chosen, but just happened.

Older children come with a lifetime rich in experiences and emotional commitments, into homes filled with their own traditions and memories. Is it reasonable for any adult or child to try to forget everything up to the moment of adoption and start at zero?

Unfortunately, some children will feel that they do have to forget. They will have to give up and mourn old identities and emotional ties

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before they can identify with new models, in a new life style. These feelings of mourning are in direct contradiction with the promised instant happiness implied in the adoptive process. These children may then feel guilty for being sad when they should be radiating and spreading happiness, and resent having to give up lifelong identities and affections. Their problems are compounded by two factors: the only people usually available to them are the very ones whom they feel they are disappointing and initially resent; accurate expression of feelings will remain difficult from a language standpoint long after they have gained a working knowledge of English.

Many will adjust quickly and well, and soon demonstrate the ever changing moods and behaviors of normal children. The right mixtures of happiness and sadness, obedience and mischief, kindness and selfishness are signs that things are going well.

Others may be screaming for help in several different ways: withdrawn behavior as a predominant mood, especially if precipitated by minor crises, constant hostility and aggression, frequent temper outbursts, and exemplary, overcompliant behavior. These are common adaptive mechanisms utilized by children faced by what they perceive as an overwhelming situation. For example, the child who is "too good to be true" may have reached the conclusion that he has no option in life but to succeed with his "benevolent captors" because the alternatives are unthinkable.

Expressing feelings honestly is all important because all else will depend on the development of mutually trusting relationships. Love given out of exasperation or with controlled patience, carries a strong, interfering double message.

What should you do if you recognize any of the above problems? First, congratulate yourselves for not having denied their existence, for they would emerge again later in many ways. Next, contact a helping person such as your social worker, or private physician, to get the feelings out in the open, where they can be dealt with. Lastly, keep in mind that they are a direct consequence of the swift, dramatic changes that your child's life has undergone, and not necessarily due to your own abilities to love and be loved.

You may contact me through F.C.V.N. if you wish more information, or more specifics on when and how to seek outside help.



Roger V. Cadol, M.D.

Director, Developmental Evaluation Center  
Denver Department of Health and Hospitals  
646 Delaware  
Denver, Colorado 80204





## HỘI BẠN THIẾU - NHI VIỆT - NAM

June 6, 1975

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The importance of the first months of life cannot be overemphasized. It is during this initial period of helplessness that a child develops an awareness of the relationships between discomfort, well being, and parental intervention. The child who senses that he is able to bring about positive consequences through appropriate expression of his discomfort will gain a sense of trust in his own abilities to communicate, and trust in the parents he associates with comfort.

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How a child works through any particular stage has a profoundly lasting effect on subsequent developmental adjustments. For example, a child who has learned to mistrust, will have difficulties asserting his own independence and self control during toilet training time because he cannot accurately predict his own performance, nor his parents' responses to his efforts. Later in life, relationships to spouses, friends, employers, and even the Internal Revenue Service, depend on how developmental tasks such as trust, self control, and identity, were conquered.

By virtue of the fact that your child did not come straight from the nursery to you, he has had to reestablish contacts with "constant" parenting figures several times already. Thus, he will once again have to retest issues previously dealt with. This is usually done through a period of regression in which these developmental tasks are again faced. Babies can only express their distress through bodily functions such as crying, feeding, and sleeping difficulties. In addition, toddlers have more mechanisms of expression available to them: temper tantrums, negative oppositional behavior, toilet training problems, separation anxiety, and clinging.

So, do expect and accept some regressive behavior for a while. Only time can give the child the assurance that another move will not occur. While he waits, he may be initially reluctant to become emotionally invested, and when he does, he may feel the need to test the commitment of his new parents.

It is extremely likely that your anxiety could be communicated to your infant or toddler, and heighten his. So, if these problems cause you some distress, or seem unusually severe to you, contact a helping person such as your social worker or private physician.

You may contact me through F.C.V.N. if you wish more information, or more specifics on when and how to seek outside help.



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