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## 1st Quarter 2006 Operation Healthy Heart Report

<b>OHH Report</b>		
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<b>Reporting Period:</b> From: January 1, 2006 To: March 31, 2006	<b>Grant Number:</b> N/A	<b>Project Name and Location:</b> Operation Healthy Heart (OHH) in central provinces from Phu Yen to Nghe An
<b>App. No.:</b> N/A		
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### I. Activities in the Last Quarter:

#### A. General:

Having been around since 1994, Operation Healthy Heart (OHH) has developed quite a reputation for helping indigent patients receive life-saving operations for heart conditions. As the program's renown has increased, so has the number of potential patients who come to EMW for help. In the 1st quarter of 2006 alone, OHH received 349 patients (patients who either came into EMW's office or were referred to EMW by various Committees for Population, Family, & Children (CPFCS) who had heart problems). Of the 349 patients, 278 cases already contained all the necessary documentation to move forward in terms of performing an assessment and eventually scheduling surgery. The remaining 71 patients were referred to Da Nang General Hospital (22 cases, of which 8 patients required more preliminary treatment before they could be ready for surgery while the rest awaiting surgery) and Hue Central Hospital (49 cases, with 15 requiring more treatment, 9 needing immediate surgery, and 25 scheduled to have surgery according to the seriousness of their disease) for free examinations for more tests before a definitive diagnosis could be made.

#### B. Delineating Responsibilities:

Prior to the last quarter, the three members of the OHH group, Truong Thi Huong, Le Thi Quynh Chau, and Tran Thi Khanh Van, worked in the office without a clear division of labor and responsibilities. As a result, walk-in patients could only be seen three days a week and there was a lot of wasted time as there was a lot of overlap in what people did. In spite of this, OHH was able to receive 405 patients in 2005. Starting in the last quarter, OHH was able to better demarcate the responsibilities and labor of the people working in the office. Now, Ms. Huong and Ms. Van are responsible for making trips out to the countryside to visit families to do assessments and meet patients who are unable to make the trip into Da Nang. While they are away, Chau mans the desk in the office to take care of the walk-in patients. In this manner, walk-in patients can now be seen 5 days a week (as opposed to the 3 days before). As a result of this new system, OHH was able to receive 349 patients in the first quarter of 2006 alone. An added side benefit of this increase in capacity is that it becomes easier to mobilize large contributions from local government organizations and other NGOS (Their contribution in the 1st quarter of 2006 was up to \$51,187.47 USD).

### C. Work:

Of the 349 patients received last quarter, OHH assessed 102 serious patients who needed surgery during the first quarter of the year.

List of number of patients received, assessed and surgeries funded for 1st quarter - 2006, by province.

<b>Province</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Assessed</b>	<b>Surgeries funded</b>
Phu Yen	26	0	1
Binh Dinh	21	0	3
Quang Ngai	42	27	4
Quang Nam	77	15	15
Da Nang	37	25	24
Thua Thien Hue	26	10	9
Quang Tri	23	6	3
Quang Binh	28	7	6
Nghe An	51	5	8
Thai Nguyen	0	0	0
Ho Chi Minh City	4	2	1
Dong Nai	4	4	1*
Lam Dong	1	0	0
Bac Lieu	1	0	1*
Vung Tau	3	1	0
Khanh Hoa	1	0	0
Binh Thuan	1	0	0
Long An	1	0	0
Tay Ninh	1	0	0
Binh Duong	1	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>76</b>

\* EMW transferred money to the hospitals in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) but they have not operated yet.

Note: In several provinces, number of surgeries is more than number of assessments for the following reason: OHH learns the family situation by talking to the family directly or allowing the local authority to perform the assessment and discussing the case with them afterwards (usually a People's Committee, CPFCs, or other NGOs). In most cases, these are urgent cases, which required immediate action and therefore left no time to do a more complete assessment.

## **II. Case Study/ Narrative:**

Nguyen Thi Duyen

Date of birth: 1998

Address: Hoa Xuan Tay commune, Tuy Hoa city, Phu Yen province

Duyen's family members:

1. Nguyen Duyet, father, was born in 1960
2. Le Thi Luong, mother, was born in 1964
3. Nguyen Thi Duyen, the patient, was born in 1998
4. Nguyen Duy, youngest brother, was born in 2003

Duyen's father, Nguyen Duyet, holds back tears as he recounts the sags of his daughter's heart disease. Duyen's heart disease was discovered in January 2003 at the local hospital when she was 4 years old. Doctors informed had him that his daughter needed surgery as soon as possible due to her heart condition (Communication Inter auriculaire (CIA) and Hypertension arterielle pulmonaire (HTAP)). However, they were also informed that the surgery would cost upwards of VND 18,000,000 (\$1,132 USD). In light of the family's poor economic situation and the fact that Duyen exhibited no outward symptoms of the disease (except for periodic fainting spells), the family could do nothing about treating the disease and simply went home. In June 2003, however, Duyen had an episode where she started to cough up blood (this would recur periodically). Concerned, the family sought ways to find the money to help their daughter. Sadly, their most valuable asset was the 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> piece of land on which they grew rice. The family used this land as collateral for a loan of VND 2,000,000 (\$126 USD) just to send her to Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) for an exam in January 2004. (The terms of the loan call for relinquishing use of the parcel of land to the lender until the loan is paid back in 10 years, at which time, ownership will revert back to Mr. Duyet and his family). They ran out of money and no longer had any property for rice production while Duyen's heart disease became progressively worse as it was left untreated.

Currently, the family's sole source of income is her mother's monthly salary of about VND 500,000 (\$31.45 USD) from her work on a road repair company. To supplement her income, she also collects plastic bottles on the weekends, getting about VND 15,000 to 20,000 (\$0.94 – 1.26 USD) per day. Duyen's father used to be a farmer but the family no longer has any land since taking out the "loan." Currently, he is unemployed but is willing to do almost anything to support his family. He does get sporadic work as a sub-mason and general laborer which earns him about VND 25,000 per day (\$1.57 USD). But he can only find work about 20 days a month.

Luckily, the Phu Yen Provincial CPFC learned about Duyen's situation at the beginning of 2005 and introduced her to EMW at that time. EMW agreed to fund the full cost of her operation. Duyen entered Hue Central Hospital on November 14, 2005. After being prepped for surgery for about ten days, Duyen received a successful operation on November 25, 2005. On December 5, 2005 Duyen and her father left the hospital to come back home for Tet to start a new life with their family.

## **III. Partnerships:**

East Meets West Foundation, P.O. Box 29292, Oakland, CA 94604

A. Funding Counterparts:

Counterpart name	Type of collaboration	Amount of Funding Provided in 1st quarter-2006 (USD)
Committee for Population, Families and Children (CPFC) in provinces such as Phu Yen, Binh Dinh, Quang Ngai, Quang Nam, Da Nang, Thua Thien Hue, Quang Tri, Quang Binh and Nghe An	Provide EMW with lists of potential heart patients and partially defray the cost of surgery for patients.	Total amount of Funding provided, 1st quarter-2006: <b>\$10,578.47</b> of which: CPFC - Binh Dinh: \$628.93 CPFC - Quang Ngai: \$1,006.29 CPFC - Quang Nam: \$5,547.03 CPFC - Quang Tri: \$754.71 CPFC - Quang Binh: \$1,132.08 CPFC - Nghe An: \$1,509.43
<b>(Da Nang ASP)</b> Da Nang Association to Support the Poor	EMW still maintains the good cooperation spirit of the year 2005. In 2006, they cooperate to support for not only Da Nang patients but also Quang Nam patients when EMW required.	<b>\$ 16,835.53</b>
<b>(OGCDC)</b> Office of Genetic Counseling and Disabled Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cooperates with EMW to make appointments for examination with The Hue General hospital for EMW heart patients in provinces Quang Tri, Quang Binh and Nghe An.</li> <li>- Keeps EMW informed of the exam results of the heart patients in provinces Quang Tri, Quang Binh and Nghe An.</li> <li>- Assists EMW with home assessments of heart patient and their families in Thua Thien Hue province and produces the report of family situation after their investigation.</li> <li>- Cooperates with EMW to share surgery cost for the poor families.</li> <li>- Assists EMW patients in provinces as Thua Thien Hue, Quang Tri, Quang Binh and Nghe An for procedures to enter the Hue</li> </ul>	<b>\$18,553.53</b>

	hospital for surgery because it's far for them to stop at Da Nang office. - Tracks all EMW patients at Hue Central Hospital who are awaiting surgery and post-surgery and keeps EMW informed of any changes in their status.	
<b>(AOG)</b> Assembly of God (Da Nang)	Cooperates with EMW to share surgery costs	<b>\$566.04</b>
<b>(SEAR)</b> South-East Asian Relief Inc.	Cooperates with EMW to share surgery costs	<b>\$2,326.86</b>
<b>(COVN)</b> Children of Vietnam	Cooperates with EMW to share surgery costs	<b>\$628.93</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$49,489.36</b>

B) Donors:

The Golden Soul Fund of the Labor Newspaper	the Vietnamese donors give their donation to any poor children who they concern throughout the <i>Lao Dong</i> newspaper office	<b>\$628.93</b>
Church (Phu Thuong church locates in Hoa Son commune, Hoa Vang District, Da Nang)	People donate through church	<b>\$1,069.18</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,698.11</b>

C) Hospitals:

In this quarter, OHH plans to send the majority of its patients (the ones without serious complications) to Hue Central Hospital (HCH) and Viet-Duc Hospital for surgery. In the last quarter, HCH performed surgery for 59 of the 76 surgical procedures funded by OHH.

Da Nang General Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides free examinations and Doppler tests for our clients in the Quang Nam and Da Nang area.</li> </ul>
Hue Central Hospital (HCH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performs surgery for a large percentage of our clients.</li> <li>This is the only hospital that can service our clients in the area from Phu Yen to Nghe An province. Specifically, HCH has performed surgery on patients with serious heart problems such as Fallots or Valve replace or Inversed artery.</li> <li>Provides free pre- and post-surgery examinations for patients. HCH cooperates with EMW for free Doppler exams and</li> </ul>

	<p>diagnosis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides medical treatment as well as performs closed and open heart surgery for EMW clients who have congenital and acquired heart disease.</li> <li>• Provides low cost heart operations (\$1000-1500 USD/case) compared to other heart operation hospitals in Vietnam.</li> </ul>
Viet-Duc Hospital in Hanoi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides free examinations for heart patient.</li> <li>• Can do open and close heart surgeries for cases in the Da Nang area.</li> </ul>
Trieu An Hospital in HCMC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trieu An hospital had operated quickly 1 patient from Ms. Robin's area.</li> <li>• Surgeries at this hospital are more expensive than in other hospitals in Vietnam (for example, the Heart Institute), average cost around \$3000 - 4000 USD/case.</li> <li>• Instrumental in OHH's fundraising plans due to its location in HCMC and its ability and willingness to perform surgeries on short notice. Most donors require that the heart patients whom they sponsor are operated on in the HCMC area because they want the ability to visit and see these children.</li> </ul>

#### IV. Problems & Responses:

- Le Thi Quynh Chau will leave EMW at the end of April 2006. Recruiting for a suitable replacement has already begun and a person will be hired as soon as possible.

#### V. Project Specifications:

A) Local partners: Provincial CPFCs

Key services provided:

Service Provided	# of cases	Amount Spent (in USD)
Surgery	76 *	41,133.32 *
Others (exam, transportation, medicine and food)	12	440.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>41,573.84</b>

In a break from past policy, in 2006, OHH has been limiting the amount of money used to fund non-surgical costs like examinations, transportation, medicine, and food. OHH is simply trying to concentrate as much of its resources as possible on providing surgery to the most number of needy children. For the whole of 2005, about 5.5% of the money spent by the program went to these incidental expenses (\$8545 incidental expenses / \$157,115 total budget). In contrast, for the first quarter of 2006, only 1.1% has been spent on non-surgical expenses. Moving forward, OHH would like to continue to limit non-surgical expenses to about 1-2%.

#### VI. Financial Summary:

All figures in USD.

Province	Amount Budgeted	Amount Spent in 1st quarter
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Phu Yen	5,000	1,571.38
Binh Dinh	5,000	2,072.33
Quang Ngai	5,000	2,449.74
Quang Nam	30,000	5,464.91
Da Nang	25,000	9,549.85
Thua Thien Hue	10,000	3,768.06
Quang Tri	10,000	1,883.96
Quang Binh	10,000	4,052.39
Nghe An	10,000	3,925.22
Thai Nguyen	5,000	0
Others	5,000	6,836.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>125,000</b>	<b>41,573.84</b>

**Note:** The expended amount included 3 cases from HCMC office but two among these 3 cases do not operate yet.

OHH expended \$41,573.84 (fund both surgery and others) in the 1st quarter of 2006. However, due to EMW's policy of not paying for the entire operation, EMW is able to help a larger number of patients. EMW, however, has cooperated with some NGOs to share the cost of surgery for patients.

Two reasons account for the variation seen in the amounts expended seen above. First of all, the amounts are simply a reflection of the number of patients OHH happened to have in the first quarter of 2006. Since the budget for each province is an estimate of how much work OHH has done in the province in the past, the amount expended in each province reflect the "normal" distribution of patients from these provinces seen in previous years (i.e., that most patients come from Quang Nam and Da Nang provinces, etc.). The second reason is that some of these provinces do not have any other NGOs working in the area and the CPFC in these provinces have little money. Due to EMW's reluctance to fund 100% of the costs of surgery, these provinces (Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, etc.) unfortunately receive a disproportionately smaller share of the OHH largesse. *(Of course, if a child has a serious need and requires immediate surgery, EMW will fund the operation.)*

#### **VII. Activities in Next Quarter:**

Besides continuing the work begun in the 1st quarter of 2006, in the 2nd quarter OHH will focus on the following matters:

- Work with CPFCs in Binh Dinh, Quang Tri, Quang Binh and Nghe An on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to cooperate on compiling patient lists and getting these CPFCs to contribute more funding for heart surgeries in 2006.
- Continue sending patients to Hue and Viet-Duc hospitals and plan to send patients to other hospitals (Trieu An hospital and Tam Duc hospital- a new hospital in HCMC) for surgery in order to increase the quantity of surgeries provided.

#### **IX. Other Comments:**

OHH suggests that EMW push to complete the OHH software soon. Although plans for a software program to manage OHH was discussed, nothing definitive has been heard or discussed. Currently, many OHH records are kept on paper and filed in large, bulky binders. The software would obviate this waste of paper while at the same time make record keeping and retrieval a more orderly affair.

**X. Photos:**



Nguyen Thi Duyen, 7 , before surgery left (Nov. 14, 2005), and visiting the EMW office after surgery, right (Dec. 6, 2005).



Nguyen Thi Ngoc Dung, 9, before surgery (Jan. 4, 2006), left and after successful heart surgery (March 29, 2006), right.



Nguyen Quang Tien, 7, before surgery (Nov. 8, 2005), left and after surgery (Jan. 6, 2006), right.