

ARTISTS FOR ORPHANS PATRONS: NORMIE ROWE, REG MOMBASSA, MARCIE JONES AND DENISE DRYSDALE. AMBASSADOR: TIFFANY SPEIGHT

Artists for Orphans - May, 2012
Out of sight, out of mind.

After the media hullabaloo surrounding the return of the documents to the Vietcong soldier's family subsided, it was time to turn our attention back to the orphanages. We heard on the grapevine that our Foreign Correspondent segment should go to air at the end of May or early June.

Once again I am typing this on an iPad so forgive any typos.



Kids from the toddlers orphanage modelling the new clothes that Artists For Orphans delivered.

We met up with friends from Lanterns Restaurant in Nha Trang who took us to several of the poorer orphanages in the area. One was for toddlers only. We took out Sudacreme Ointment which is an all purpose ointment and very good for nappy rash, toothbrushes and brand new clothes donated by Debbie Mansfield of Debz Fashions. (thank you Deb - they were a God send) As you can see from the above photo they play on a very hard tiled floor. We will deliver some rubber matting before we leave as we saw a few of the kids take some spills.



THE POOR ORPHANAGE IN THE MOUNTAINS.

This is a rural, Government run orphanage that really struggles. They speak a different dialect too but we managed. They were so shy when we arrived but look at them now. This is the poorest one I've seen here and it was so wonderful to turn up with brand new clothes for them (again from Debz Fashions xxxx), fresh meat, vegetables, eggs underwear, toiletries for the girls and treats. Hein and I did all the shopping but we met an Aussie called Tom who insisted on paying for it all. Tom is a pensioner. They love hip hop and danced for us so We bought them some music and DVDs which we are taking out this week! They have nothing else to entertain them. No house mothers here. The kids swim in the river in their clothes - that's how they do their laundry.



ARTISTS FOR ORPHANS AND KIDS WITHOUT BORDERS

Artists for Orphans collaborating with Son Michael Pham, Founder of Kids Without Borders in Ho Chi Minh City. We are happy to be associated with Kids Without Borders. Son Michael was a Vietnamese refugee who now lives in Seattle. We arranged this meeting some time ago. He has been dedicated to the welfare of orphans in Vietnam for over 12 years and is supported by Rotary. I know we will have a long and happy association. Son has been a great help, opening doors for us, giving advice and translating for us too.



TU DU PEACE VILLAGE, SAIGON

This little poser comes from Tu Du Peace Village where 100% of the kids are affected by Agent Orange. Not all the kids here are orphans but all have severe handicaps. Third generation children are still being born malformed because of Agent Orange. This was my second trip to Tu Du but this time we had Son Michael there to translate when we met the Director. Kids Without Borders have a Teach Them to Fish Programme which provides scholarships to support orphans in Viet Nam when they leave the orphanages at the age of 18 and start a life of their own. The scholarship supports them with continuing education, vocational training, health and living necessities. The cost? Less than \$1 per day. One former orphan is now a doctor and using her skills at her former orphanage.



GO VAP ORPHANAGE, SAIGON

This baby girl from Go Vap Orphanage, smiles all the time. Quite remarkable considering she is blind. So many beautiful babies! It was great to see the air conditioning we donated being used. Now we intend to put air-conditioning in the room for the handicapped kids and also the ward for the severely ill kids.



THE NITTY GRITTY

Artists for Orphans Delivering food to a Buddhist Orphanage/pagoda with the help of our friend, Hien.

Only vegetables and rice for these guys and they are so cheap. Temperature was in the 40s!

This is a beautiful little Buddhist orphanage where they make tofu and dry radishes to sell at the market to survive. This pagoda and the surrounding area is very poor and the entire area floods when it rains. They now have a communal area above flood level however the old basic kitchen and other areas still flood. On Sundays the locals come in for Prayer and food.

They all dress in their grey tunics and the sense of peace here (despite the poverty) is wonderful. We need funds for bikes for the boys to ride to school on and I am writing this while waiting for my lift back out there to meet with the Head Monk who is fairly young and always smiling.

Our plans were interrupted by my husband's sudden ill health. Thankfully he is on the mend but will need to see a specialist when we get home.

What we need for the kids; clothes (in good condition) shoes, school bags, laptops, toys, ointments, toothbrushes, toothpaste and ongoing donations. A few orphanages need bikes for the kids to get to school on but we would have to buy them over there.

How can you help? Support our events. How about a fundraiser for Artists for Orphans? A raffle? A sporting event? No contribution is ever too small. A kids clothing collection would be great! We ask artists of any persuasion to contribute to Artists for Orphans Art Auction.

We return to Australia on June

Music, Art and Heart

Roni Wildeboer

Founder

Artists for Orphans Inc

Registration 11770

Artists-for-orphans.com

Sevently.org

**NO ACT OF KINDNESS,
NO MATTER HOW SMALL,
IS EVER WASTED.**



