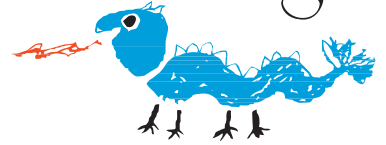


# DRAGON TALES

An update on the work of Blue Dragon Children's Foundation

Vietnam - March 2011

blue dragon



CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

## From 1 to 100

In November 2005, Blue Dragon rescued a 13 year old boy who had been trafficked from Hue in central Vietnam and put to work on the streets of Ho Chi Minh City.

In January 2011, we reached a milestone: the total number of children we have rescued surpassed 100. So... what became of that first child we rescued? And who is "Number 100?"



**Ngoc** (left) had never been to school when we met him selling flowers in Ho Chi Minh City. Aged 13, he worked until 3 or 4am selling flowers to tourists and outside nightclubs. If he failed to make enough money, the traffickers beat him. He was never paid for his work.

Now almost 19, Ngoc works in an Italian restaurant in Hanoi. He has completed several years of formal education, has bought himself a motorbike, and enjoys rollerskating on the weekends!

**Giang** (not her real name) was found by Blue Dragon in January this year working in a factory in Ho Chi Minh City. She started each morning at 7am and finished at 2am, sewing parts of handbags together. During her time in the factory, she worked under hazardous conditions, and even suffered an electric shock. Giang's salary was about \$1.50 per day.

Now Giang is back in her village and wants to study to become a hairdresser. Her family is deeply grateful to have her back.

Blue Dragon's efforts to rescue trafficked children continue to make a tremendous impact on the lives of young people throughout Vietnam.

*Read more about Blue Dragon's anti trafficking work on page 3!*



## You can help stop child Labour

The two best ways you can help Blue Dragon are by raising awareness and fundraising. Blue Dragon is reliant on donations to continue our vital work. We also need to tell as many people as we can about what we do.

If you want to donate to Blue Dragon, you can choose the option that best suits you [here](#).

If you want to help children in need by fundraising on behalf of Blue Dragon then please email [info@bdcf.org](mailto:info@bdcf.org) for more information and tips.

Telling other people about the work we do is also really helpful. You can do this by encouraging people to 'like' us on **Facebook** and by forwarding this newsletter to your friends and colleagues.

*If you want a unique experience, and the chance to see Vietnam whilst helping Blue Dragon's anti-trafficking work, Rally Indochina could be just the thing for you! Sign up before all the spaces fill up!*

*If you are a student in the US, there are lots of fundraising events happening this year for Blue Dragon arranged by uNAVSA. Have a look at their website!*

Historical Adventure  
Charity Rally



Be part of a motorcycle adventure through Vietnam. 40% of each participant's Rally fee will be donated directly for the kids at Blue Dragon Children's Foundation.



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CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

Vietnam - March 2011

## A Dear friend, a tragic loss

Blue Dragon lost one of its most charismatic kids in January. Nguyen Van Hai (or 'Toby Hai', as he was known here) died, along with his grandmother, in a fire on the boat that they lived on.

Hai had come to Hanoi to escape poverty in the countryside. Blue Dragon was in the process of finding a better place for him and his grandmother to live when this tragedy occurred.

Hai was an intelligent boy who loved football and sports. His loss shocked everyone at Blue Dragon and a framed photo of him now resides in the main office, along with a football signed by his friends.



You will live on in our memories, Toby Hai.

## Changing Lives: The Power of education

*Over 1 million children under 14 in Vietnam do not go to school.*

**Why?** In Vietnam the cost of tuition fees and school materials can be more than some families can afford. The children of parents who cannot afford to send their child to school become vulnerable to traffickers and may end up in factories, on the streets, or at home on the farm with little hope of breaking the poverty cycle.

Nhung was in grade 6 in 2004 when she met Blue Dragon. Her mother was ill and her father went to Hanoi to find work. Her family was living on 50 cents a day. Deeply in debt and struggling to earn enough to survive, Nhung's family had to choose between putting food on the table and paying for her school fees, hardly a choice at all. Nhung truly loves school and has always been an excellent student. Luckily, with Blue Dragon's help she was able to continue her studies and is currently in her final year of high school.

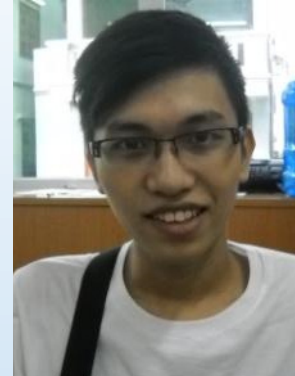
Blue Dragon has helped almost 2000 kids like Nhung go back to school and training. However, we currently have over 300 children like Nhung who need sponsors.

To sponsor a child like Nhung go to [www.streetkidsinvietnam.com](http://www.streetkidsinvietnam.com) or email [sponsorship@bdcf.org](mailto:sponsorship@bdcf.org)



*Nhung is now planning to go to university!*

## Staff profile



**What's your name?**

Nguyen Van Linh.

**What's your job at Blue Dragon?**

IT Coordinator.

**How did you first hear about Blue Dragon?**

I was working on the streets when I first met Michael, the founder of Blue Dragon. Blue Dragon helped me to go to school to study, and now I have a job here.

**What's your typical day at Blue Dragon like?**

I manage all of Blue Dragon's IT equipment, update the website and help with online content. I also give IT lessons to street kids.

**Do you like working here?**

Yes! Because I was a street kid before Blue Dragon helped me, I now want to help other kids in the same way.

**What are your plans for the future?**

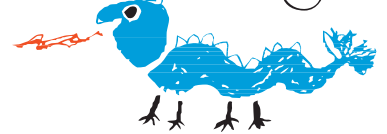
Maybe I will still be working for Blue Dragon! I want to improve my English and I hope Blue Dragon can help me to get a scholarship to study abroad.

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CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

## What's Blue Dragon Doing about Trafficking?

In January 2011, Blue Dragon reached a major milestone, rescuing our 100th child from trafficking. With one more child rescued soon after, we are proud to have helped 101 girls and boys escape trafficking and go home.

Of these children and youth we have rescued, 9 have been girls and young women trafficked to China to work in brothels, and we rescued them in response to calls for help.

The remaining 92 children are kids we have rescued from domestic traffickers who took them from rural areas to work on the streets, or in factories in Ho Chi Minh City.

To combat this domestic trafficking, Blue Dragon works with the source communities, the villages from which the kids are being taken, mostly in central Vietnam. We start by establishing a relationship with community members, and show them our intentions by offering humanitarian aid to those in need.

Once families know us, they are confident to ask for our help in locating their children who have been trafficked.

Normally, the parents have very little information about where their children are, so we have to do investigative research. So far we have been able to find the children in all but 2 cases.

**"Extreme poverty is almost always the main factor, but it's not the only factor."**

*Trafficked children work for up to 18 hours a day.*

We then travel to Ho Chi Minh City, taking with us a government official from the source communities and a Red Cross member. If possible, we also take a Vietnamese journalist.

To retrieve the children, our process is simple and direct. We travel from factory to factory in taxis, requesting that the factory owners hand the children over to us. They usually try to refuse, but they never win the argument.

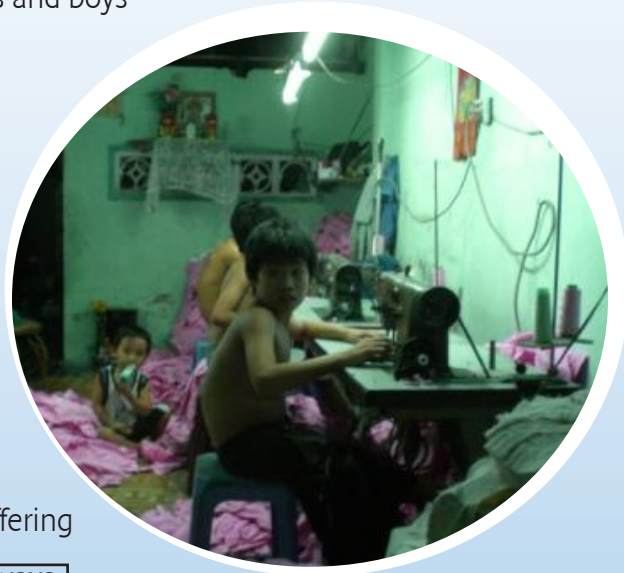
Each trip rescues 6-12 children, who we take home by train. But once home, our job is not finished. We then need to assist the families to deal with whatever problem led them to let their children be taken in the first place. Extreme poverty is almost always the main factor, but it's not the only factor.

Over the course of a year we are able to bring home all of the children taken from any given village, and educate all community members so that they resist the pressure from traffickers to let their children go. The traffickers then often just give up.

*Happy kids rescued on one of our recent missions.*

The next stage in Blue Dragon's work, due to begin late in 2011, is to target the factories and garment industry more effectively to encourage them to end their use of child labour.

Blue Dragon has made a great impact since our first rescue in 2005. We now aim to end trafficking of children from Hue to work in garment factories by 2016. THANK YOU to all our friends and supporters who have helped us get this far! With your support, we will keep on fighting the trafficking of children.



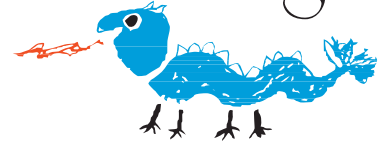


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CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

## Featured Fundraisers

Here's what some of our friends around the world are doing to help children in Vietnam..

- The students of Hamilton and Alexandra College in Australia raised money for Blue Dragon through BBQs and selling chocolate. They raised over a thousand dollars which will be used to help children in rural areas stay in school.
- Instead of presents, the Fitzgerald family from Sydney, Australia decided to celebrate Christmas by sponsoring a child with Blue Dragon! They raised \$1,060, enough to sponsor a child for 3 years!
- Middle schoolers at the Vietnamese Heritage Camp in Colorado joined in an effort to raise funds by babysitting, doing chores around the house, walking dogs, saving pennies and making and selling Vietnamese coffee at camp. They raised \$1,321.56 which will go to the Hoi An Children's Home.
- Trish Kratochvil from Sydney, Australia held a special dinner fundraiser to raise awareness and funds for our Outreach program. She charged \$30 per person and raised \$1,995!
- The Hilton Hotel in Hanoi held a photography competition and silent auction raising \$637 for Blue Dragon!



*The kids at the Vietnamese Heritage Camp worked hard to raise money for us!*

## Blue Dragon around the world

As Blue Dragon reaches more children in Vietnam, we need more support from our friends around the world. We are now fortunate to have support from two groups:

- Blue Dragon Children's Foundation International: This is the Australian Board that governs our work in Vietnam. The Board meets quarterly, and can be contacted at [sussie@bdcf.org](mailto:sussie@bdcf.org).
- Blue Dragon Children's Trust (New Zealand): This Wellington-based volunteer group aims to raise support for our work throughout New Zealand. Contact them at: [bdctnz@gmail.com](mailto:bdctnz@gmail.com).

## How to Learn more about Blue Dragon



**Blogger**

Read new stories every week on the Blue Dragon blog



Search for Blue Dragon Children's Foundation on Facebook



Watch Blue Dragon's movies on YouTube

## Donate today!

Click one of the icons below to donate online.

**PayPal**

(Worldwide)  
Not tax-deductible

**100 FRIENDS**

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for Americans



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for Australians

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[www.streetkidsinvietnam.com](http://www.streetkidsinvietnam.com)

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