

# Brittany's Hope Foundation

## Annual Report 2007





## Our Background

Brittany's Hope Foundation is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 foundation dedicated to aiding and facilitating adoptions of special needs children from around the world. Unicef's latest figures estimate that more than 143 million children languish in institutions and orphanages around the world; typically in countries which are under-developed and plagued by poverty, social restrictions, and war. If you are an abandoned child with special needs of any kind, chances are slim you will receive the medical care you need to reach your potential.

Our foundation was created with the hope of building a bridge to unite special waiting children and families who wish to adopt a child but are burdened by the substantial cost associated with adopting a child internationally. Although we assist with advocating for our special children, **Brittany's Hope Foundation is not an adoption agency.** We raise funds and work with adoption agencies to lower the cost of adopting special needs children. *One hundred percent of all donations we receive are used to place financial grants or to benefit one of our humanitarian efforts.*

Although we are based in the United States, we place financial grants only on international waiting special needs children. There are many grant and scholarship programs available to families wishing to adopt special needs children domestically, however there are few opportunities to receive financial assistance when adopting internationally. We work closely with Affiliate Agencies, all of which are international adoption agencies. These agencies submit applications on behalf of waiting children who are especially difficult to place with families. They may simply be older than the desirable toddler age, part of a sibling group, physically challenged, or be classified as special needs as a result of a traumatic birth. They may also be healthy children born with the stigma of rape or a family history of mental illness which causes them to be labeled as a special needs child.

Once a child is labeled, regardless of the reasons why, it becomes much harder for agencies to find families who are interested in choosing a child with "special needs" over a healthy child. We have granted children from China, Vietnam, Korea, Russia, Kazakhstan, Guatemala, Haiti, Sierra Leone, Taiwan, Colombia, Philippines, Estonia, Lithuania, India, and Eastern Europe. These grants are child-specific grants, which means the grant is placed on a chosen child; in this way we are unique among granting organizations.

In addition to this, we also sponsor other humanitarian efforts to benefit the children who are left behind, arranging for surgeries, safe cribs, formula, and education and transitional housing for older orphans.



## The inspiration behind the foundation

Brittany's Hope Foundation was created in January 2000 for the purpose of advocating for orphaned special needs children who are longing for the love of a family. Our foundation was inspired by our first adopted child, Brittany who we adopted when she was 12 years old. While Brittany was home for Christmas break in January 1999, during her senior year in college, her life was tragically cut short as a result of a car accident.

She was pursuing a career in social work and hoped to help waiting children find loving families. As we reflected upon the person that Brittany was and the work that she planned to do, we remembered a conversation she shared shortly before her death. She stated she *"dreamed of a world where all children know the peace and love only a family can provide."*

Although Brittany was unable to pursue her dreams, we wanted to honor her life by beginning the work she intended. As a result, Brittany's Hope Foundation was born. We believe every child deserves to know the love and security only a family can provide; our foundation reflects this passion. Through our work, we advocate for children who would likely spend their lives in an orphanage as a result of a disability or simply because they are older than the more desirable infant. Sometimes our advocacy means the difference between whether or not the child even survives, such as our heart baby cases. Although we are a small organization, we provide hope and love to children from around the world by helping them find their forever families.

## Our Mission Statement

We believe in the fundamental right of all children to have the security and love of a family.

We resolve to facilitate adoptions of special needs, older and sibling children by providing financial grants to special waiting children; to actively seek out healthy and happy families who can offer love and support to special needs children; to raise public awareness of the need for healthy homes for special needs, older and sibling children and to raise public awareness of the unique joys of parenting a special child.

We dedicate our work to improving the quality of life for all God's children, especially those who wait in institutions or orphanages, live in extreme poverty or under the duress of slavery, abuse or war; and we seek, create and support humanitarian programs which accomplish these goals and extend all efforts to champion and campaign for children's rights regardless of race, religion, or country of origin.

## Our Service Program Accomplishments

### Granted Children

In 2007, Brittany's Hope Foundation placed \$371,500 on 74 children.

### Humanitarian Aid



### **Humanitarian Service Program**

In June 2007, Brittany's Hope joined the Degenhardt Foundation and the Social Work Department at Elizabethtown College to create the College's first service-learning experience to southern Vietnam. While this 14-day trip offered students first-hand experience with orphaned children, it also showed them the conditions of extreme poverty. The group of 30 visited several orphanages and street children centers, where they painted doors, playground equipment, built cribs and planted trees and crops. Below is a description of projects conducted on the trip:

#### 1. **GO VAP ORPHANAGE**

The Elizabethtown Occupational Therapy students went to Go Vap Orphanage to provide occupational therapy and training for the staff and children. They supplied the center with additional equipment and educational toys and trained the caretakers how to use the toys properly for overcoming physical problems with the children.

2. **BEN TRE ORPHANAGE**

The Elizabethtown College students worked at The Ben Tre Orphanage planting grape fruit trees, cutting grass, weeding, and gardening. Students also helped put together 5 beds and 10 cribs for the children residing at the center. All the improvements made to the center created a more healthy living space and helped the children gain skills in gardening and growing vegetables to eat.

*Bicycle Ceremony* - A bicycle ceremony was held in Ben Tre on June 3rd, 2007. An Elizabethtown College student representative gave a speech explaining the bicycle project and how she helped collect donations for the "bicycle scholarship" in the United States. Twenty bikes were presented to the children of Ben Tre to assist in the transportation to and from school.

3. **DANANG STREET CHILDREN**

The Elizabethtown College students painted the school rooms, fence, doors and windows at the Vocational Training Center for the Danang Street Children's Center. After all the renovations the students prepared a small celebration/party for the children at the center including outdoor games and activities.



4. **HOI AN VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER**

The Elizabethtown students painted the fence and helped clean up the grounds and planted flowers at the Hoi An Training Center.

5. **HOI AN ORPHANAGE**

The Elizabethtown students cooked dinner for the children and the Hoi An Orphanage and also taught them American games. The students were able to take a break from working and interact with the children.

6. **CAM RANH HOUSE OF LOVE**

On June 8, the students visited the Cam Ranh orphanage/convent and had a small party for the children. They distributed toys and gifts for the children as well. On June 11, students took the children on an island tour where there was a lot of food, swimming and entertainment.

7. **NHATRANG SOCIAL PROTECTION CENTER**

The Elizabethtown students helped upgrade the housing by painting inside and outside of building. The playground equipment was also worn down and needed painted and moved onto a grassier surface. The students also helped with ground work, planting plants and working in the garden. Brittany's Hope Foundation also purchased 10 cribs for the infants and new shelves/cabinets for the children. The Elizabethtown students helped put everything together properly.

**Medical Intervention**

Brittany's Hope Foundation, together with Degenhardt Foundation, resolved to bring Hieu Thach to the United States for corrective surgery on his severe clubfoot deformity. Hieu was born into a poor family in rural Vietnam where he was not getting the proper treatment for his disability. The Degenhardt Foundation handled all arrangements on the Vietnam side working closely with the US Embassy, while Brittany's Hope Foundation managed the U.S. side by arranging medical care and housing with a host family.



Hieu arrived in the United States on a medical visa on July 2, 2007 and will be living with his host family until it is time for him to return to Vietnam. Surgery was performed on both feet free of charge and Hieu is currently receiving physical therapy to help gain enough strength to walk on his own.

**Cam Ranh Sponsorship Program**

Brittany's Hope Foundation has developed a sponsorship program with the House of Love center in Cam Ranh, Vietnam. In 2007, there were 59 children residing at the House of Love. Brittany's Hope worked to find sponsors here in the United States to donate monthly payments to support the children. It cost \$25 to sponsor a child. Older children who were in need of tuition money to further their education were provided with \$40 a month to cover education costs.

**Cam Ranh Nutrition Program**

Brittany's Hope Foundation, along with donors and a local church, worked to raise the quality of life for those at the House of Love by supplying \$500 dollars a month. This money was used primarily to provide the center with high-grade formula, dairy products, cereal, protein-rich food, vitamins, and medicines for children.

**Miscellaneous Outreaches**

Brittany's Hope Foundation provided International Children's Alliance with a \$5,000 grant for the Saranda Orphanage in Albania. This gift was used to purchase the necessary items to improve living conditions for the children residing at the orphanage.



## Our Board of Directors

**Chairperson:** Candace L. Abel; **Vice President:** Pamela Grosh; **Treasurer:** Cathleen Miller;  
**Secretary:** Marsha West.

**Members At Large:** Susan Abel, Marcie Bahn, Scott Chamberlain, Alice Clouser, Brad Davidson, Jo Davidson, Barbara Diener, Glenn Ellis, Denisha Kline, Amanda Riley, Alex Sahd, James Spooner, Dave West.

**Honorary Board Members:** Rose Block, Lori Burkholder, BS, Lisa Carlson, MD, Becky Fox, DDS, Peggy McFarland, Ph.D., Mary Jean Risser, Gina Strouse, Scott Stoner, DC

## Our Financial Information

### Basic Information

- Brittany's Hope Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Public Charity.
- Brittany's Hope Foundation is required to file an IRS Form 990 or 990-EZ.
- Contributions are deductible, as provided by law.

**Fiscal Year:** December 31, 2007

<b>2007 Revenue</b>	
Receipts/Income	\$1,036,657
<b>Expenses</b>	
Grants Paid	\$305,500
Humanitarian Programs	\$87,579
Fundraising	\$18,925
Public Relations	\$12,844
Office	\$44,729
Excess/Receipts Greater Than Dispersements	\$567,080
<b>Ending Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$1,595,920</b>