

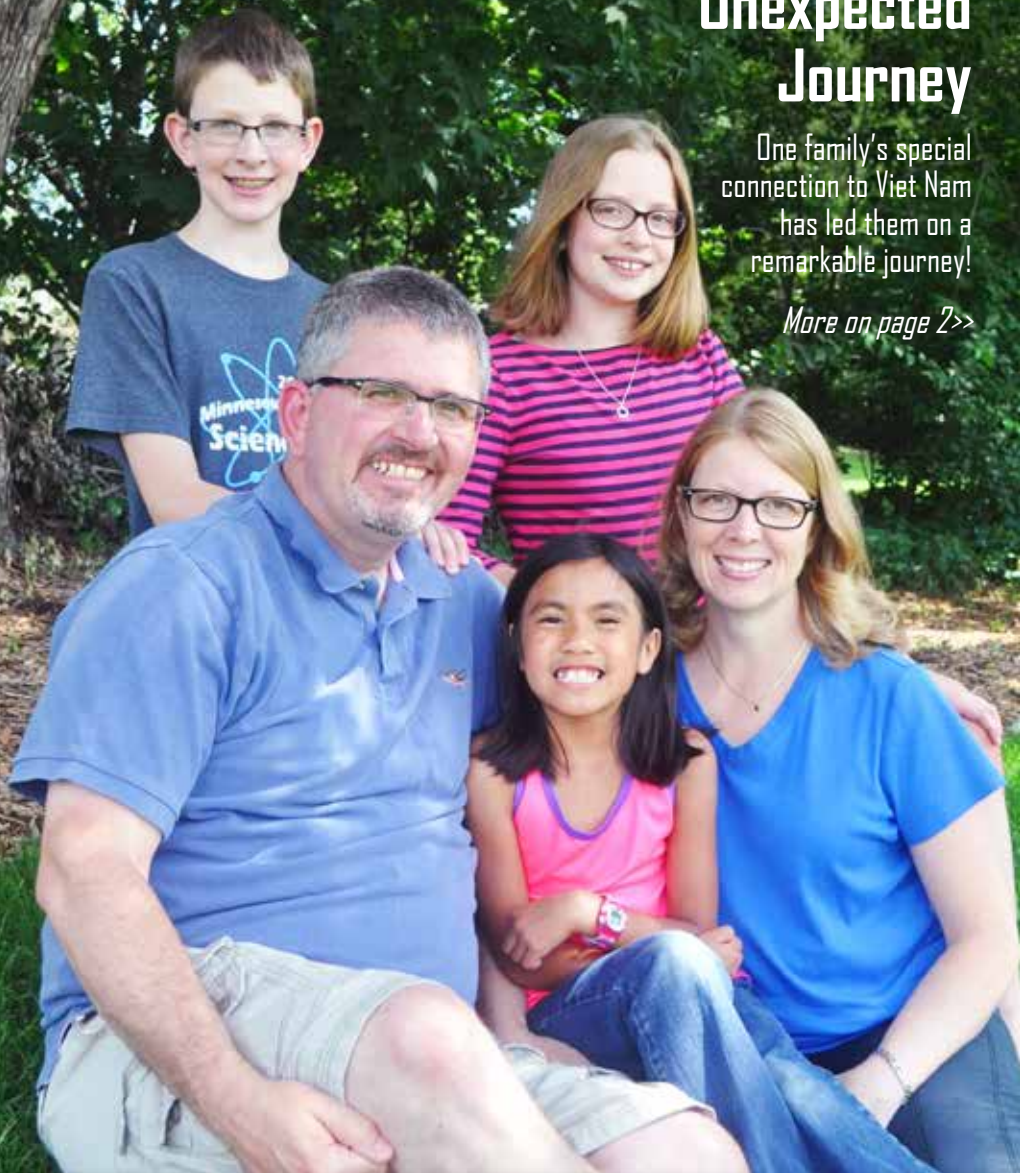
The Perennial Path

Summer 2015

A Family's Unexpected Journey

One family's special
connection to Viet Nam
has led them on a
remarkable journey!

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www.BrittanyHope.org | 717.367.9614

A Daughter Inspires a Mission

Written by Doug Atkins

On April 23, 2007, we learned that we would once again be parents to another beautiful child, our daughter Julia. Unlike our first two, the news didn't come from our doctor, but instead our caseworker. When they unveiled her picture, we instantly fell in love and knew she was meant to be ours.

After months of filing paperwork and waiting, we were united with our beautiful

daughter on Thanksgiving Day. She was only 15 months old at the time, but she joined her older brother and sister to make our family complete.

Julia's life began in the Ben Tre Child Protection Center, a government run orphanage for abandoned, street and abused children. The center was small, utilitarian and clean, but it was evident, even during our first visit, there were a lot of needs not being met.

At our Giving and Receiving Ceremony, when we signed paperwork to complete our adoption, we also committed to adopting the culture and customs of Viet Nam. We knew that one day we would be back to visit Julia's birth country. Five years later, when the opportunity to tour the whole country came about, we made the voyage back to Viet Nam.

While visiting Ben Tre, we became aware that life at the center had become even more challenging. Since inter-country adoptions between the U.S. and Viet Nam had ceased, most of the adoption agencies were no longer providing aid to the orphanages. It was evident they were understaffed despite having even more children with severe special needs.

One child in particular pierced our hearts and has never left our minds. She was about 4 years old with Cerebral Palsy and could barely stand on her own. When you picked her up, she hugged you as tight as she could and wouldn't let go. If this beautiful little girl had access to therapy, care and treatment, she might have been able to develop and blossom physically.

This time, we left Viet Nam determined to find help for all of the kids at Ben Tre. We realized sending aid directly to a foreign country could be difficult, and potentially unlawful, so we started searching the

internet for resources. We were thrilled to find Brittany's Hope, who had a connection to the Ben Tre orphanage! The next morning, I was on the phone with their Executive Director, Mai-Lynn Abel Sahd, learning about their strong foundation in Viet Nam. Together, we implemented the Ben Tre Milk Program to provide nutritional support to all the children at the center.

Our family has been working very hard to spread awareness to support this very worthy cause. We just recently learned that Brittany's Hope is committed to taking on the Ben Tre Protection Center as a full partner, to be a steady source of support and launch a Child Sponsorship program!

The 70 children currently in care at the Ben Tre Protection Center deserve compassion, love, and protection every bit as much as our daughter, Julia. As a father and friend of the Ben Tre Protection center, I am asking you to consider sponsoring a child today to help change a life forever.

Sponsor a Child at Ben Tre



Meet Ha, Age 2

Ha was sent to Ben Tre when she was only 4 months old. Both of her parents are incarcerated, and she was born in prison. Her extended family is impoverished, and cannot afford to care for her. Ha is shy, but loves affection. She also loves to dance and sing. **Your sponsorship will give Ha a chance to succeed in life and break the cycle of poverty!**

Ha

[More on Next Page >>](#)

Sponsor a Child at Ben Tre

For just \$35/month, you can provide essentials for kids at Ben Tre, like:



Food & Water



Shelter & Clothing



Medical Care



Sustainable Future



Lam

Meet Lam, Age 11

Lam is a friendly and fun young man. His parents abandoned him into the care of his elderly grandparents, who could not financially support him. As a result, Lam roamed the streets and his studies failed. However, now that he's in the care of the Ben Tre center, he is receiving an education and thriving.

Your sponsorship can give Lam the love and encouragement he needs!



Xuyen

Meet Xuyen, Age 7

Xuyen comes from a broken home. Her mother sent her away to live with her father and stepmother. They were very impoverished and Xuyen's stepmother was physically and verbally abusive. A loving aunt rescued Xuyen, and took her to Ben Tre. She is now an active girl who likes school and jumping rope. **Your sponsorship can help her overcome her past and achieve her potential!**



Nhi

Meet Nhi, Age 11

Nhi is a smart and loving young lady. Her father died when she was very young, and tragically, her mother then became terminally ill as well. Shortly before her death, Nhi's mother sent her to Ben Tre, where she knew Nhi wouldn't have to be alone. Nhi is an excellent student who loves to sing, dance and daydream. **Your sponsorship can let her know that she is not alone, and that someone is rooting for her!**

Hope Preserves a Tribe

On a recent trip to Ethiopia, Brittany's Hope distributed new uniforms to 150 kids at the Dawn of Hope center. As the children jumped and shouted with joy, it became clear just how impactful this program has been on the Negede-Woyto tribe. Just 5 years before, visitors weren't welcome and the village was full of garbage and human waste.

After decades of living as social outcasts without rights, the Negede-Woyto tribe struggled to grow with their country. Ethiopian people, including government officials, scoffed at the thought of helping or even interacting with them. Despite such negativity, Brittany's Hope and our trusted partners saw ambition and promise in the tribe's children and knew education would be a catalyst to their success.

It began with a small group of bright children from Negede-Woyto families and 14 from the social majority attending classes in a small, rented building nearby. Family members that were comfortable with our partners were trained and given jobs teaching, cleaning and cooking. Most of them ended up bringing lessons in sanitation and commerce back to their community members, slowly empowering the Negede-Woyto people to break free from preconceptions and social stigmas.

Today, over 40 children from the Dawn of Hope have graduated and successfully enrolled in the public school system. Symbols of cultural acceptance like these have led the government to change their way of thinking and donate land for the construction of a new school, completed in 2014.

While the Dawn of Hope expands, the need for supplies becomes more crucial. **For just \$50, you can give a desk and unleash endless potential from an incredible and resilient group of people.**



Meet the rest of the Ben Tre kids at BrittanysHope.org/sponsor

Granted Children Home



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to families adopting orphans
with special needs.



Give Hope Today!
Your support helps bring over
100 kids home every year!

Rebekah from China

"The adoption process was long and
challenging, but it has been a journey
that is absolutely priceless."



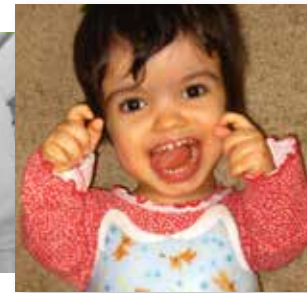
Cordelia from China

"When she's older, I'll tell her about
the incredible kindness of strangers
that made our family possible."



Sadie from China

"From the bottom of my heart, I want
to thank you for your help in bringing
my daughter home."



Maria from Bulgaria

"We love her dearly and are eager to
help her heal from the neglect of the
first two years of her life."



Zeritu from Ethiopia

"We cannot say thank you enough...
it is hard to remember our family
before she was with us."



Ashley from China

"Our family has had 3 children benefit
from Brittany's Hope grants and they
each now have a promising future."



Silas from China

"Silas is deaf and was not given any
formal language before age 6. Your
support changed his future."



Molly from China

"We couldn't be more thrilled to
call this amazing, special girl our
daughter."



Super Kid Yordanka

Written by Yordanka's Mom, Shannon

My beautiful daughter, Yordanka, has been home with me for nearly 3 years now, and is thriving!

Shortly after we returned home, we were given a walker and motorized chair through a local foundation to help her get around more easily. Some days, Danka pretends to 'forget' where her walker is and I laugh and say, 'Princess, the castle isn't that big,' and that always gets a response of 'Oh, Mom!'

Danka loves being able to drive her chair on walks with me instead of

being stuck in her stroller. She has only been driven over my foot once, but 'Lightning McQueen' did take out the gate to the deck. It was a minor mishap compared to the huge smile on her face!

She has recently started therapeutic horseback riding and loves it, but thinks the horses 'smell icky.' Danka enjoys being on the go, is very artistic and her crafts always involve glitter, which rocks! We went to a Fairy Festival and dressed up like fairies and she absolutely treasured every moment. Her favorite part of the day was the live mermaids swimming in the pool.

Danka is an amazing little girl! Thank you seems so generic, and makes me weep uncontrollably at the same time. I am so grateful that Brittany's Hope helped bring my little girl home to me.

Meeting At Last

Written by Shannon
& Alisia Alvarez



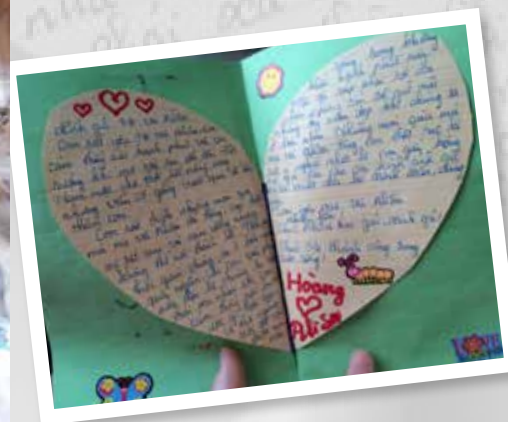
Shannon: Our family became involved with Brittany's Hope a little under two years ago when we began sponsoring a child. When we chose Hoang, we did not yet know the amazing personal connection we would form with him. A few months into our sponsorship, we were invited to a Skype social where we got to speak to our "son" in person. Through these Skype socials and regular email correspondence, we began to foster an amazing connection.

In the summer of 2014, when my daughter, Alisia, came to me and said she wanted to visit Hoang in Viet Nam, as well as to see the soccer field that she and her friend Hannah had raised money to build, I had to say yes! She worked all summer to save her money and next thing you know, we were flying to Viet Nam with the team from Brittany's Hope!

The team visited various orphanages and sites until we finally arrived at Ha Tinh, the place we had been waiting to visit! As we waited to get off the bus, we were nervous. Would Hoang be as excited to see us as we were to see him?

Alisia: The moment my mom and I stepped out of the bus we heard, "Mom! Mom! Alisa! Alisa!" (That's what he called me!) You could see the excitement on his face as he gave us each a big hug. He immediately took us each by the hand and led us to where the welcoming ceremony was being held. We spent the entire day following each other around and connecting as if we had known each other for a long time, even though it was our first time meeting in real life. We didn't speak the same language and had to communicate through gestures, but we enjoyed being together and felt like family.

We hope and pray that we will see Hoang again. We know that through Brittany's Hope, we will get to Skype with him every year and continue to stay connected until he is a grown adult. We are thankful for the opportunity to connect with an orphan on the other side of the world and know we are making a difference in his life.



Brittany's Hope SUPER SALE

October 10, 2015 :: 8am to 1pm



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5K
& FUN WALK

8:30a
Sept. 12
Elizabethtown

CROSS COUNTRY
5K
& FUN WALK
8:30a
Sept. 12
Registration

Register & Fundraise Online at
www.WalkOfLove.org

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Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Gender: _____

*Event: ☐ 5k(\$25) ☐ Walk(\$10)

Shirt: Free / Tech(\$15) Size: _____

Register Family & Friends

Name: _____

Age: _____ Gender: _____

*Event: ☐ 5k(\$25) ☐ Walk(\$10)

Shirt: Free / Tech(\$15) Size: _____

Name: _____

Age: _____ Gender: _____

*Event: ☐ 5k(\$25) ☐ Walk(\$10)

Shirt: Free / Tech(\$15) Size: _____

Registration Opens at 8:30am
1 Hollinger Lane, 17022

* Children 12 & under participate for free under the supervision of a legal guardian.

* Brittany's Hope grant recipients participate for free.

Please send **this form** and a **check**
payable to **Brittany's Hope** in the
enclosed envelope.



Aiding Abandoned Children Worldwide
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