

# “SWIM FOR LIFE” NEWS

Quarterly Newsletter

JUNE 2017



## Learn-to-Swim Updates



Teacher Training!



Pool Openings!



## Teacher Training 2017



Happy Summer from Swim for Life Vietnam! In April, we trained 40 teachers on survival swimming, water safety, and CPR. It was also the first year in which 20 of our returning teachers began the process of earning their AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety Instructor certification and license—we are excited to increase the rigor and quality of our training program to international standards!

We are grateful for our key training partner, Swim Vietnam, from Quang Nam Province. Together we are creating an impact in Quang Binh as we also trained several teachers from pools around the area, outside of the two pools we manage. We are excited to expand our expertise and capacity in training as we develop a core swim instructor team, some of whom will become trainer-of-trainers for additional capacity building in Quang Binh.

## Swimming Season Begins Again!



Immediately following our teacher training, we opened our two training pools at the Dong Hoi and Quan Hau primary schools. The students were delighted to enjoy the water and experience immediate successes in their skill development. As a program we are also becoming more effective in our pool operations as well as documentation of student learning outcomes.

Our first spring course resulted in 393 students successfully completing our basic survival swimming course. Additionally, we have over 750 students registered to participate in our two summer courses, with more families sending in registrations as we write! Kevin and Beth are also offering our first adult swimming course this summer—our class comprised of all female, adult students are excited and eager to learn!

## Visit from Dr. Ramos, Drowning Prevention Expert



The Swim for Life Vietnam team was very honored to host Dr. William Ramos from Indiana University's School of Public Health. He is serving as our lead academic in our current research project. In 2016 we were able to collect nearly 40,000 pre/post assessments for our classroom-based Water Safety Education program. A scholarly article on this first phase of the research will be released soon. We will also be presenting in Vancouver, BC at the upcoming World Conference on Drowning Prevention in October of 2017.

We kept Dr. Ramos very active during his time in Vietnam—In Quang Binh and Quang Nam we visited pools, observed water safety presentations, and met with provincial and district-level Departments of Education & Training. In Hanoi we met with UNICEF, WHO, Hanoi School of Public Health, Vietnam National University (University of Social Sciences and Humanities) and the Vietnam Red Cross. IU recently published a story on his visit—to learn more, click the link [here](#). We are very grateful for this collaboration and opportunity to expand our impact to the national and global drowning prevention community.

## Upcoming activities—local conference, open water & funding!



Drowning prevention has become an urgent priority in Quang Binh Province, and as such, Swim for Life Vietnam will be hosting a local drowning prevention conference on July 7th. We have invited our partner INGO's to collectively share our best practices with members of the local government, as well as regional and national partners.

As we look to the future, we have begun to explore the possibility of starting an open water Learn-to-Swim program in Quang Binh. Earlier this month we hosted Hue Help (an INGO based in Hue) to conduct a feasibility study, and we received very affirming recommendations to proceed in our planning process! This would also be another opportunity to enhance our INGO partnerships.

Additionally, in May, Bloomberg Philanthropies announced they will be investing 25 million dollars in the three countries with the highest drowning rate, which includes Vietnam. This is encouraging news for the national effort to reduce drowning-related mortality rates in our communities! We are seeking to be an active part of this widespread effort. Click [here](#) to learn more about the announcement. \*

For more information and to support us, please visit our website at [www.swimforlifevietnam.org](http://www.swimforlifevietnam.org).