



**Special Needs Children** from Thua Thien Hue Social Centre, in patient registration-triage, An Hoa Clinic, prior to seeing a team doctor.

## Special Clinic with “Special Patients” Closes-out Special Trip

*“This is my second trip, but nothing I’ve done has been as meaningful than what we did today for these kids,” Ron Gibson (NC).*

That was actually the opinion of each member of VWAM’s second medical mission team. 67 special patients suffering from autism, mental disorders, down syndrome, some deaf mutes and blind, and various other physical disabilities were given primary health examinations and referrals for specialized treatment.

While these kids were seen at a clinic in Hue City, the other clinics served by each medical team were in rural areas with **ethnic minorities (Primarily Katu) and Kinh/Vietnamese**. The teams commuted daily 1:15 hours each way. Due to the distance, lunch was on-site from Mr. Cu’s Mandarin Café.

Heat and humidity was unusually severe for April. The average daily temperature was **99** degrees with a heat index of **105** degrees. There were several heat casualties, especially on the second team.

And history was made with VWAM’s first **quadriplegic**, first **Native-**

**American**, and first **African-American** members. Marine vet **Wilson Yazzie (AZ-MN)**, Army vets **Darol Kubacz (SC)** and **Dr. Richard Ferguson (UT)**.

Another first occurred when VWAM participated in a conference at **Hue University Medical College and Pharmacy School**. It was represented by **Drs. Mike Bernardo (SC)** and **Richard Ferguson**, **Dr. Bob Swan (ME)**, **Dr. Tom Love (CA)** and **RN Steve Scott (FL)**. They interacted with staff, faculty and students. **Chuck Ward** and **Dr. Bernardo** made presentations. The event led to a practicum experience for 24 medical and dental students, and 29 interpreters translated on 3 teams.

The mission is to serve Vietnamese and honor Vietnam vets, but it also has a profound effect on others. A couple examples: *“I wanted to thank you for this experience. It was great, and seeing the team in action was awesome. The best part, beside being able to help the Vietnamese people, was how the team was able to work together and not let little things get in the way of the mission,”* **Mike Hollinger (WA)** and **Susan Vanover (CA)** said, *“I want to thank you so very much for a very fulfilling VWAM trip. The memories will be in my heart and daily thoughts for weeks and months to come.”*

While “Patient Statistics” focus on the accomplishments of two medical missions, another important mission also took place. **Nurse Coordinator & Board member Steve Scott** led the medical training team. He was assisted by volunteer **James Galbavy (FL)**, **Dr. Mike Bernardo**, **Medical Director/Board member**, and **Dr. Tom Love**, **Dental Coordinator/Board member**. They offered first-aid classes for 24 local villagers and Red Cross staff in Nam Dong, 45 km southwest of Hue.

The **VLS or Village Life Savers** program is a first-aid course that improves survivability for victims of trauma, drowning and electrocution, heart attacks or stroke, work or farming accidents, venomous bites, etc. Local villagers were selected to participate in the training. These new first responders will now train other villagers. With no EMS system in the countryside, rendering first-aid and stabilizing a victim in the field greatly reduces mortality rates.

If you didn’t follow the teams at VWAM’s FB page, you can still do it. Scroll down each post to read and view photo’s. The posts tell an incredible story of volunteerism, service, sacrifice and ministry. The FB address: [www.facebook.com/vwamtoday](http://www.facebook.com/vwamtoday).

**Thuong Quang Clinic and  
Huong Son Clinic  
March 29 - April 13  
&  
Nam Dong Training Team  
April 10 - 17  
&  
Xa Thuong Lo Clinic and  
Tri Tran Khe Tre Clinic  
April 13 - 30**

### “Patient Statistics”

- 2,494 patients.
- 3 Heart procedures - \$8,326.
- Medicine dispensed - \$13,486.
- 2,494 dental hygiene kits & vitamins (Adult and/or Child) - \$12,470.
- 231 dental – \$23,100.
- 54 special patients (Not heart) requiring lab tests, x-rays, CT/MRI scans, EKG’s, ultrasounds, echocardiograms, hospitalization, surgery or other non-heart procedures - \$7,452.
- Medical equipment distributed – 6 wheelchairs (\$510), 9 walkers (\$216), 3 set of crutches (\$84), 11 canes (\$132), and 2 pairs of hearing-aids (\$4,699) - \$5,611.
- 478 eye patients (421 eyeglasses dispensed & 10 cataract procedures - \$8,145.
- Food & other stipends - \$5,450
- Total – \$84,041.

### Team Spotlight!



**Holly Love** has quietly served at dozens of clinics over the past 10 years. Out of sight, usually in a back room, she stands hour upon hour without complaint sterilizing instruments for Dr. Tom & the dental team.



Ron Gibson was smitten by the tender heart and loving personalities of the Down Syndrome children.



The March 29-April 13 Seacoast-VWAM team. It's amazing they're smiling after 7 clinic days. Unusually hot and humid, they began each day 4:30-4:45 a.m. returning to the hotel about 6:00 p.m. Jokingly, someone said, "And to think I paid money to do this! Well, I'd do again".



Medical training team member Jim Galbavy (FL), a Vietnam Era vet, demonstrating how to do CPR with one of VWAM's manikins.



April 13 - 30 medical team, at the farewell dinner Furama Resort, held in honor of the fifteen Vietnam & Vietnam Era vets. Special guests were Dr. Dan Mitchell & Tony Brewer, Orphan Voice.



(L) Dr. Bob Swan supervises dental treatment given by a final year dental student from Hue Medical College. (R) Dr. Chander Bhatti also checks on the treatment given by another soon to graduate "Dentist" (May 2019). First patient is in a bed; second patient in a desk chair. You make work what you have at the clinics.



Ho Thi Kim Oanh's Mother dressed her in the best clothes she had for clinic. Turns-out she had tonsillitis, and VWAM took care of it by sponsoring surgery.



Dr. Vu Nguyen, Vietnamese-American, providing a much needed injection to relieve knee pain. He & wife RN Kayla, triage, are always a wonderful addition to any team.



Wilson Yazzie, a Navajo Native-American & Marine vet, enthralled the interpreters with his stories.

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