

World Concern Development Organization

**VIETNAM:**

**THE ADAPTIVE VOCATIONAL TRAINING  
PROGRAM FOR ADOLESCENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

QUARTERLY REPORT

1 OCTOBER 2003 THROUGH 31 DECEMBER 2003

for

THE UNITED STATES AGENCY  
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Displaced Children and Orphan's Fund  
GRANT NO. 492-G-00-98-00042-00

Submitted by:

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27 January 2004

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**W.C.D.O.**

World Concern Development Organization

*The Adaptive Vocational Training Program for Adolescents with Disabilities*

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### **List of Acronyms**

ABE	Alternative Basic Education
AWD	Adolescents with Disabilities
CBR	Community-Based Rehabilitation
CBSW	Community-Based Social Workers
CEDC	Children in Extremely Difficult Circumstances
CSW	Community Support Workers
CWD	Children with Disabilities
DCOF	Displaced Children's and Orphan's Fund
DET	Department of Education and Training
DeLISA	Department of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs
DSC	District Steering Committees
MOLISA	Ministry of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs
PMT	Project Management Team
PVO	Private Voluntary Organization
PWD	People with Disabilities
SLT	Sign Language Trainers
TNA	Training Needs Assessment
VVAF	Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation
WCDO	World Concern Development Organization



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*The Adaptive Vocational Training Program for Adolescents with Disabilities*

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## **QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**

**REPORTING PERIOD:** 1 October 2003 through 31 December 2003

### **GENERAL REFERENCE**

- A. NAME OF PVO: World Concern Development Organization (WCDO)
- C. AID AGREEMENT NO: 492-G-00-98-00042-00
- B. TITLE OF PROJECT: The Adaptive Vocational Training Program For Adolescents with Disabilities (AVTPAD)
- D. DATE OF THIS REPORT: January 27, 2004

NOTE: In this report, project activities have been divided into geographical categories. The reason for this is that there are two WCDO project implementation and management teams. One is based in Hanoi, the other in the central region of Vietnam in DaNang. The Hanoi office is responsible for the work in Hai Duong Province some 80 kilometers east of Hanoi. The other is based in DaNang and is responsible for two provinces: DaNang and neighboring Quang Nam. Thus the sections are divided into Hai Duong (the north region) and DaNang Quang Nam (the central region).

### **SECTION I. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

#### ***Activity 1: Planning And Coordination***

Consisting of the following activities: *Activity 1.1: Program Management and Coordination*, *Activity 1.2: Strengthen Cooperative Relationships*, *Activity 1.3: Baseline Situational Analysis*, and *Activity 1.4: Training Needs Assessment*.

#### ***Activity 1.1: Program Management and Coordination***

##### **Hai Duong**

As planned in the last quarter, in October the regular meeting between the PMT and WCDO was conducted, to overview the past two years of project implementation (from the beginning up to date), and plan for the next period. Participants discussed three main topics: strengths of the project, weaknesses of the project, and suggestions for

improvement. Emphasis was made on the importance of awareness raising activities in the next period, for further expansion of the good influence of the AWD and families success in the community's awareness on PWD.

This quarter is the end of the year busy time for government agencies; however our local partners have managed not to let this busy-ness unduly influence their regular project activities.

WCDO's Social Worker Ms. Anh Lua has now officially stopped working for WCDO to leave Vietnam and join her husband and his family in Malaysia. A new employee was recruited for her position. The hand-over process was begun in December 2003; however the new Social Worker will officially start working in February 2004.



*PMT and DSC meeting*

### **DaNang**



*Meeting with the Ngu Hanh Son District Steering Committee*

The visits of WCDO Program Coordinators to the provincial partners (PC, Dolisa, Scedfa, Red Cross) and four DSCs of Hai Chau, Thanh Khe, Son Tra and Ngu Hanh Son were short but friendly. The purpose of these meetings was primarily to make initial introductions and get to know one another. Although the visits were short, our partners were happy to see this sign of WCDO's willingness to maintain a good relationship with them. The invitation of Mr.



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Long, Vice Chairman of the DaNang Peoples' Committee to dinner on that day especially showed that the Peoples' Committee highly appreciates WCDO's project and wants to enhance their relationship with us.

### **Quang Nam**

The District Steering Committees of seven districts in Quang Nam met to review the project activities in the past quarter and discuss the plans for the next quarter. In most districts, different members in the DSC participated in various components of the program. As a result, the coordination seemed to improve. For example, Nui Thanh DSC members cooperated closely to organize the sign language class. The DSC of Dien Ban District worked cooperatively to assist in including several AWDs in the ABE program, and they also worked together to carry out Awareness Training on Disabilities Issues.

Mr. Nguyen Tan Gia (a PWD and a member of Dien Ban DSC) actively volunteered to participate in planning and implementing several project activities, such as the Awareness Trainings on Disabilities Issues in Dai Loc and Dien Ban. Also, Ms. Tran Thi Anh (a polio victim) has been involved in planning and participating in many project activities to assist AWDs in Nui Thanh District.

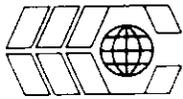
### ***Activity 1.2: Strengthen Cooperative Relationships***

#### **Hai Duong**

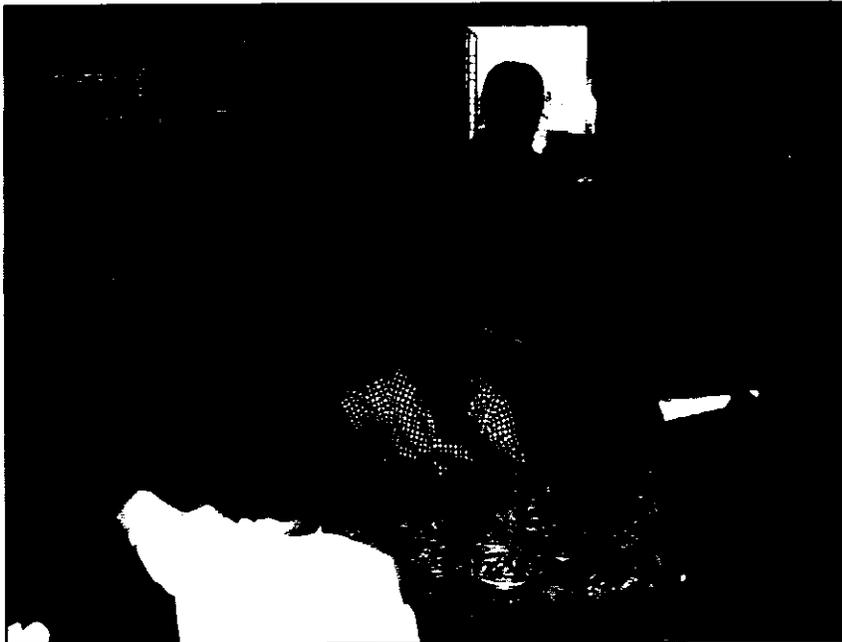
The AWDs studying to become Bench Workers are continuing their training, and are progressing well.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 16 moving-impaired AWDs were taken to Bach Mai Hospital in Hanoi to receive their final consultations and x-rays, to determine the feasibility of corrective surgery. The results show that 11 of them are able to be aided through surgery and physical therapy. The doctors and project officer from VVAF advised that we start treating them on a case-by-case basis in January 2004.

In November, WCDO cooperated with the HN Special Education Center and the Cat Tuong company (a hearing aid supplier) to organize a one-day training on hearing aids for 17 hearing impaired and their families, who will be provided with hearing aids. The purpose of this training was to teach them how to properly use and maintain hearing aids. The training also covered topics such as how to provide a suitable environment for AWDs with hearing aids, and the best ways to communicate with people fitted with hearing aids. Extensive discussion occurred between families, focused on how to



encourage their children to always wear their hearing aids, which would allow them to further develop their spoken communication skills. On December 29<sup>th</sup>, 17 AWDs were fitted for hearing aids. The AWDs and their families were very pleased to receive such extensive support from WCDO. They promised that they would work together with the CBSW's and business owners to follow up on the training. This is a good reminder of the importance of providing the needed training in how to use prosthetic devices to maximize the benefit to the person fitted with them. It is clear that follow up will need to occur to help the AWDs gain the maximum benefit from the hearing aids.



*Visitors from Plan, VNAH and HVO*

Also during November, staff from several other NGOs visited several WCDO Hai Duong project sites. Plan, VNAH and HVO spent a day visiting and discussing issues with us as a learning and sharing experience in the field. This visit was also very beneficial for WCDO staff. It allowed for a chance to exchange information and practical ideas, on how to improve our project work and improve coordination among the different NGOs working to assist those who are disabled.

## **DaNang**

Using funds from a private donation, we were able to organize a reproductive health check for 82 AWDs and four CSWs. The team included six doctors, two from DaNang, and four from the Light Center (formerly Youth House) of Hanoi. The health check included a general health check (weight, blood pressure, heart, lungs, genitals, etc), ultra sound, and womb ultra sound for females. The health checks showed that a number of our beneficiaries have significant health problems.

Of the 53 women checked, 22 had gynecological problems, four had kidney stones and two had high blood pressure. Of the 33 men checked, three were anemic, one had kidney



stones and two had Prepuce. It was clear that many of the young women did not understand how to take proper care of themselves during their period. As part of the health checks, the doctors took time to explain the problems and to teach the young people how to take care of themselves better. Medications were also given on an as-needed basis. Most of those examined had never had an examination of this kind. This activity allowed us to better understand the true health condition of the young people and several of our staff. Thus, we can now make plans for how to treat the more serious health conditions and we can encourage the CSWs to give advice and guidance to the young people and their families so that further problems can be prevented. We will also do follow-up with all the people with health problems to make sure they have received treatment, or have taken steps to improve their personal health care.

### **Reproductive health training:**

Together with the health checks mentioned above, Dr. Giang from the Light Center conducted training for 82 AWDs and 15 CSWs. The AWDs gained basic knowledge about general and gender specific reproductive health. The training included normal diseases for teenagers, facts and risks in reproductive health for teenagers, the prevention of sexual abuse, drugs and prostitution. The training also communicated about avoiding smoking, drinking alcohol, and taught self-evaluation skills, decision-making skills, and some communication skills.



*Reproductive health training*

### **Quang Nam**

At the same time the health checks were administered in DaNang, WCDO also took the opportunity to do health checks of 195 beneficiaries and CSWs from Quang Nam. It took from December 15<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> to complete the reproductive health checks. They included a general health check, ultrasound, and womb ultrasound for the females. As part of the examination, the doctor explained to the examinee about any problems, taught

about preventative care, and provided any medicines, if needed for treatment. This was the first experience receiving an examination of this kind for almost all of the beneficiaries.



*Training on reproductive health for Quang Nam AWDs*

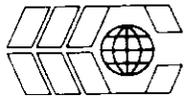
The results of this exam showed the presence of similar health issues as in DaNang, with a very high percentage of the young women having reproductive health problems. Therefore, we are planning for the CSWs to begin providing training and advice about personal health care to the beneficiaries and their families. This will follow up on the Reproductive Health Training that was provided through the Doctors from Light Center (formerly Youth House). Furthermore, WCDO has already begun making plans for follow-up of any examinees with health problems. This will be done in cooperation with Dien Ban Health Center, and several other hospitals in Quang Nam and Danang.

#### ***Activity 1.3 and Activity 1.4: Baseline Situational Analysis / TNA***

In Hai Duong, The CSWs and CBSWs continued to survey, searching for more businesses with the potential for training and employment of AWDs. In DaNang and Quang Nam, no new beneficiaries were added to the program, and there are no plans to include more AWDs in the program at this late stage in the project.

#### ***Activity 2: Direct Interventions***

Consisting of the following activities: *Activity 2.1: Raising Disability Awareness*, *Activity 2.2: Community Support Worker Training and Group Formation*, *Activity 2.3: Adapting Vocational Sites*, *Activity 2.4: Adapting Training*, and *Activity 2.5: Employment and Income Generation*.



**Activity 2.1: Raising Disability Awareness**

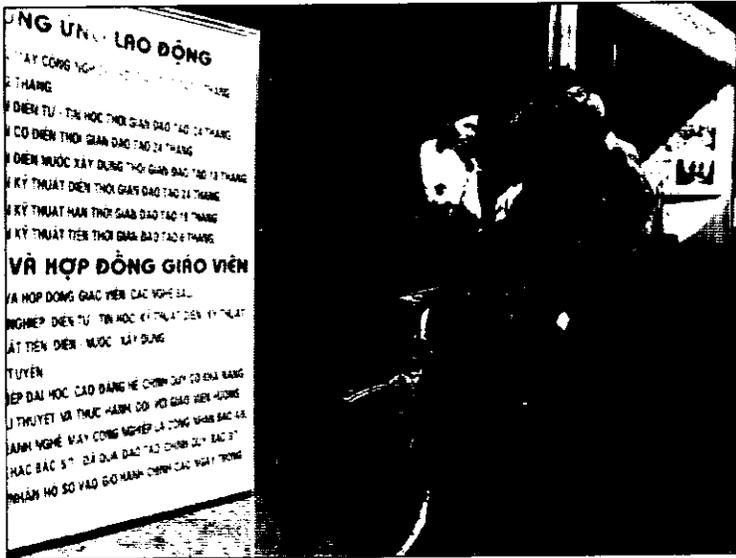
**Hai Duong**

Several special awareness-raising activities took place during this quarter.

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, an awareness-raising training focused on the families of deaf adolescents was conducted in Hai Duong. This was done in order to meet the training needs of their families, who were lacking in practical knowledge about how to take care of their deaf children. Ms. Cuc of WCDO worked with Ms. Ha (a senior program officer from PSBI) to help teach the deaf adolescents' families. At the beginning, the participants were skeptical of their need for further information. But after a while they all became very keen on the discussions. They felt they had learned many necessary things, and they wanted to share that knowledge with the others. *"If only we knew this from the beginning, we possibly could have prevented the deafness of our child."*

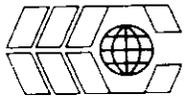
On November 25<sup>th</sup>, there was a Job Fair in Hai Duong City. This event followed a

similar Job Fair in Hanoi. This was through the initiative of WCDO's national government partner MOLISA in recent years to create more opportunities in the job market. Considering this as an excellent chance to raise awareness of the public on employment of disabled persons, WCDO and VNAH (who also work in Hai Duong) made an effort to help some disabled, as well as the businesses working with the disabled, raise their voice during the Job Fair. Following WCDO's suggestion, the PMT became actively involved in helping businesses working with the disabled to set up stalls with displays emphasizing the many abilities of



*Hai Duong Job Fair*

disabled individuals. The PMT also required the MOLISA representative to emphasize the need for job opportunities for the disabled in the opening speech. Many AWDs were also encouraged to participate in the Fair. They took the opportunity to visit the stalls and talk with potential employers. They also distributed disability awareness raising leaflets. The Bench Worker students, who already had experience in talking with employers at the Hanoi Job Fair, also actively took part in helping the Hai Duong AWDs talk with potential employers. WCDO's expectation of the visit to the Job Fair was not that many people would receive jobs; rather, it was to increase the awareness of the many



abilities of the disabled. Some visitors and participating employers shared their appreciation of the information that was shared. Responses to the AWDs' requests for employment were at first immediate rejection. However, after further discussion several business owners said things like: "You can come and prove yourself for a probationary time in my business" (Van Anh Co., a handicraft manufacturer).

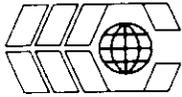
In the afternoon of November 30<sup>th</sup>, a joint event was organized by Disability Forum and UN Volunteers to celebrate the International Day of Disabled Persons (December 3), World HIV/AIDS Day (Dec 1), and International Volunteer Day (Dec 5). WCDO supported a 30-member delegation from Hai Duong to attend the event. This delegation consisted of the peer group leaders from all 12 districts in Hai Duong, some business owners and the CSWs. They also brought samples of products made by AWDs to display, and to contribute as prizes for winners in the competitions. Participants seemed to enjoy the event very much. This was the first time for many of them to participate in such an interesting event and for them to meet with the role models of successful PWDs from all across the country.



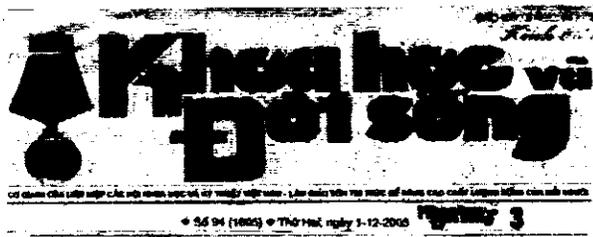
*Joint event held in Lenin Park*

Additionally, the morning before the event, the delegation had time to visit Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum and Museum. This was a good chance for the peer group leaders to socialize and have an important cultural experience. Upon returning to their home community, they confidently and eagerly shared their experience with their friends in the peer groups.

To celebrate the International Day of Disabled Persons, on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, an awareness-raising contest was conducted at a secondary school in Thanh Hai commune, Thanh Ha District. The idea of this contest was to create an attractive and effective awareness-raising activity for the non-disabled in the local community. Experience from the contest



will be applied in awareness-raising events in other districts during the next National Day for PWD in April 2004. Thanks to the superb efforts of the DSC, the local authorities, and the creativity and enthusiasm of the school's teachers and pupils, the contest was successful beyond our expectation. There were a wide range of interesting activities such as painting, story telling, games and short dramas, all of which were well organized and arranged. The AWDs from Thanh Ha and several other districts also attended as either contestants or spectators. They had a wonderful opportunity to directly communicate with the non-disabled participants, including local officials, teachers and pupils, and even some parents of the students. Opinion polls were taken after the contest, which showed that the event had provided useful information pertaining to the needs of PWDs. Hopefully, it also gave new ideas and motivation to the participants to take the time to help PWDs. Many good suggestions were made for improving support for PWDs in the future, such as more joint games and presentations between the disabled and the non-disabled. Participants also contributed to a fund to assist the disabled in the school's commune. The Vice - Dean of the school commented, "Honestly, we the teachers, let alone the pupils, never considered the disability issues in any school activities before, and somehow forgot that there are disabled around us. By preparing and organizing this contest, we have made a very good step in improving our awareness. We would like to do more to help PWDs in the future, perhaps in another creative way, not just repeating what we did again."



**Tìm việc cho người khuyết tật  
phải gắn với kinh tế địa phương**

Trong các hệ thống chính trị, không chỉ có Đảng và Chính phủ, mà còn có các cơ quan, tổ chức, doanh nghiệp, cá nhân... Tất cả đều phải có trách nhiệm chung để tạo ra môi trường thuận lợi cho người khuyết tật.

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**TÌM VIỆC CHO NGƯỜI KHUYẾT TẬT**

Trong các hệ thống chính trị, không chỉ có Đảng và Chính phủ, mà còn có các cơ quan, tổ chức, doanh nghiệp, cá nhân... Tất cả đều phải có trách nhiệm chung để tạo ra môi trường thuận lợi cho người khuyết tật.

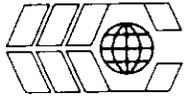
Trong các hệ thống chính trị, không chỉ có Đảng và Chính phủ, mà còn có các cơ quan, tổ chức, doanh nghiệp, cá nhân... Tất cả đều phải có trách nhiệm chung để tạo ra môi trường thuận lợi cho người khuyết tật.

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Also, in coordination with VNAH, there were several visits made by national level reporters to WCDO project sites in Hai Duong. They came in order to get information on vocational training and other support activities for PWDs. Reports from these visits have appeared in national newspapers and on radio programs. These reports gave meaningful messages on awareness-raising: good lessons on the successes of AWDs and the businesses that employ them, challenges they are facing, and a call for action from the whole of society to help PWDs. These reports were also encouraging to many PWDs, as a sign that there are people who do care about them.

*An article about vocational training for AWD in Hai Duong*



## **DaNang**

Training on raising awareness for the disabled took place from November 10-13, 2003. The audience was the families, businesses, ABE teachers, Sign Language (SL) mobile trainers and District Steering Committee members in the DaNang area (105 people). During the training, Dr. Khanh (trainer) from the DaNang Medical School, introduced the following issues:

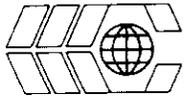
- Basic concept of disabilities, and causes of disabilities
- Needs of PWDs
- Barriers in the development of the PWD
- Abilities of PWDs
- Adaptive vocational training and employment for PWDs: successes challenges in training or working with AWDs; How to encourage and motivate PWDs; Roles of families and employers in supporting AWDs.
- A video tape titled "Jobs for PWDs in Asia," produced by the International Labor Organization (ILO) was also shown at this training.

A special speaker whom WCDO invited was Ms. Oanh, a victim of cerebral palsy from Hanoi. We asked her to share about her experience in overcoming the many barriers and difficulties that she has met. Her story of struggling to obtain a college education and acceptance was very moving, as was her sharing about how her family's support was a crucial part of her success. She also talked about a support group that she is a part of called Bright Future. Ms. Oanh's previous experience with World Vision in encouraging and assisting with the formation of peer groups was also a valuable lesson to share with trainees.



This training gave the families and business owners a chance to share about the challenges they have faced, and it gave the opportunity for them to encourage each other in their efforts. One grandfather of an AWD said, "I will tell my granddaughter about Oanh's story. PWDs may sometimes be slower than others because of their difficulties, but if they

*Awareness-raising training in DaNang*

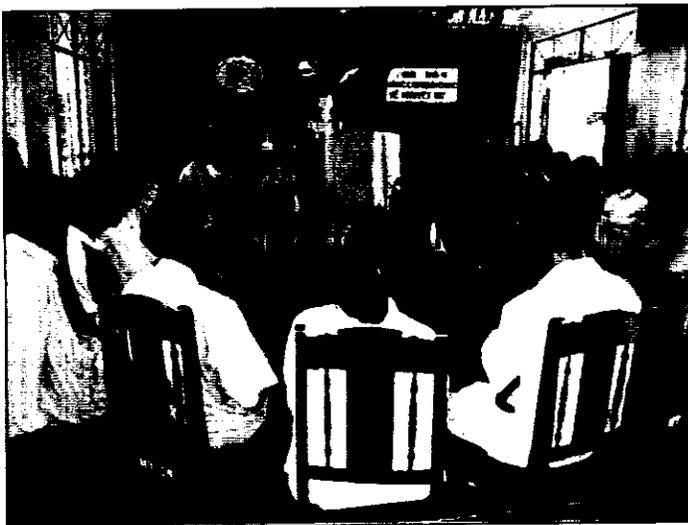


try they can attain their goals." Ms. Trinh, the owner of a very busy sewing shop said: "Thanks to this training I better understand my student. I have often seen PWDs on TV. But I really admire Ms. Oanh. Her success is the result of three factors: herself, her family and society. I will try my best to help my student succeed."

In celebration of the International Day of Disabled Persons (December 3rd, 2003) Dolisa DaNang cooperated with WCDO, VNAH and the Youth Union to organize a big meeting. It included about 400 people, of which 300 were PWDs, 50 were representatives of various government organizations, companies, businesses and NGOs, and 50 were volunteers. Also, 80 beneficiaries of this project and 15 CSWs were present.

At the meeting, Mrs. Mai, Vice Chairman of Dolisa read the report on the five-year implementation of the Ordinance concerning the disabled. She said that although greater numbers of PWDs have received schooling, health care, rehabilitation, vocational training and jobs, many PWDs still lack access to cultural and social services. Of special importance is the need for them to receive acceptance in society, and to be reintegrated into their communities and no longer be treated as inferiors. Mr. Long, Vice-chairman of the DaNang People's Committee, appreciated the contribution of PWDs to the development of the city. He also called on people to give more consideration and support and employment to PWDs. Mr. Nghiem, who is presently training two AWDs in our project, spoke on behalf of the PWDs sharing his experience and feelings. He also called on the PWDs themselves to not give up and to remain active in improving their own lives. The meeting was also broadcast on the regional TV several times.

## Quang Nam



*Awareness raising training in  
Dien Ben, Quang Nam*

This quarter in Quang Nam awareness trainings on disabilities issues were carried out in Dien Ban District on November 10<sup>th</sup>, and Dai Loc District on November 11<sup>th</sup>, for families of AWDs, businesses employing AWDs, ABE teachers and district commune officers. A total of 54 participants (32 female, 22 male) took part in the two trainings. Issues discussed in the trainings included: Types of disabilities, the physical and emotional needs of PWDs, barriers to the development of PWDs, abilities of PWDs, and the role of educational and skill job training for PWDs.

Two successful PWDs were actively involved in the trainings: Ms. Oanh with cerebral palsy from Hanoi and Mr. Gia, a polio victim from Quang Nam. They shared with the participants about their own experiences in overcoming difficulties, how their families were crucial in supporting and caring for them, the role of educational and skill training/job on their development and the role of community attitude and support for PWDs. There were opportunities for useful discussions among the families of AWDs, business owners, ABE teachers and district/commune officers. The ABE teachers told encouraging stories about the tremendous improvement of many of the AWDs in their classes, and they shared about how community attitudes were improved when they witnessed the ability of the ABE students to learn. At the end of the training, one district officer expressed his interest in learning and understanding more about PWDs. Before, he had paid little attention to the needs of PWDs.

On the International Disability Day (December 3, 2003) the CBSWs and CSWs organized meetings for the AWDs in Dien Ban, Que Son and Thang Binh District. With the assistance of the CBSWs and CSWs, the AWDs discussed the meaning of the International Disability Day. Furthermore, they took this opportunity to discuss examples of successful PWDs, how to maintain their reproductive health, and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

### ***Activity 2.2: Community Support Worker Training and Group Formation***

#### **Hai Duong**



*Community Based Support Workers Training*

A four-day training course on communication, negotiation and supervision skills took place from November 18-21, 2003 at the WCDO office in Hanoi. Six CBSWs from the three provinces Hai Duong, Quang Nam and DaNang participated. Although the main target group was the CBSWs, several WCDO project staff from Hanoi and five staff from GEDA attended to enrich the discussion and sharing, and to enhance their own skills in these areas. The trainers were two experienced coordinators from the NGOs MCC and PSBI. The aim of this

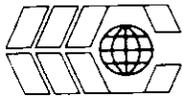
course was to provide most of the key skills which are necessary for CBSWs and staff to have for the implementation of project activities, as well as providing tools for dealing with local partners, and networking with other CSWs or AWDs and their families. The course focused heavily on the use of practical methods, role playing and exercises. Though the course was quite short, it provided significant critical knowledge to the participants, and seemed to meet the expectations of the participants. Of particular value were the practical materials and real life examples given by the trainers, which made the lessons and discussions more engaging and memorable.

According to a number of the CBSWs, the course has already aided them in understanding the core concepts of communication, negotiation and supervision. It has also helped them to organize themselves in a professional way. They learned how to make plans, time schedules, steps to supervising activities, how to carry out an interview or a visitation, and other practical skills. Besides the skills, the course gave a chance to the CBSWs and staff from different provinces, projects, and organizations to share experiences and ideas with each other. All the participants expressed appreciation of the course and looked forward to other similar training to broaden their knowledge and improve their skills.

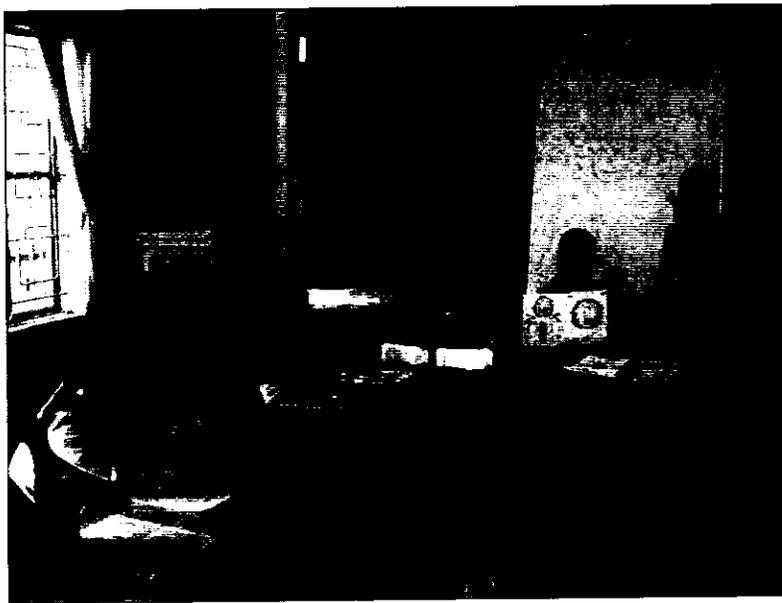
Following the reproductive health checks in the last quarter, Peer Group Meetings in this quarter concentrated on reproductive health education, in cooperation with the Light Center (Youth House). On one hand, the additional training helped to consolidate the knowledge the AWDs gained from the health checks and personal counseling. Additionally, more comprehensive understanding was developed among the AWD through detailed presentations by the Light House trainers and group discussions. Some of the AWDs were very shy when they first talked about sexual issues, but they seemed very curious to learn more.



*AWD in reproductive health training*



In December, the AWDs took an exam to test their knowledge on the reproductive health issues that they previously learned. This was to determine the effectiveness of the training, and also to encourage their continued learning. The AWDs enjoyed this exam, especially when during the year's final peer group meeting they were informed of their exam scores. There were first, second and third prizes for the three highest scorers, and consolation prizes for each of the remaining participants. About two-thirds of the AWDs got good or very good marks. The year-end group meetings also had a special activity, which was enjoyed very much by the AWDs. A volunteer musician from Hanoi came and taught the AWDs to sing some new songs.



*Reproductive health training for the deaf*

such as PSBI, train the deaf about reproductive health. She is looking for a way to develop suitable training materials and methods for deaf adolescents concerning reproductive health.

### **DaNang**

The CBSW training that was organized in Hanoi about monitoring, communication, and report writing skills was attended by Ms. Trieu and Ms. Hang. They said this training was very useful for them and provided them with useful knowledge and skills that they could apply in their work.

WCDO staff member Ms. Cuc also worked together with the Light House trainers to conduct a two-day reproductive health training specifically for the deaf youth. These topics were new to them, but they were able to gain more knowledge on the subject. However, it was very difficult for trainers to express the more abstract ideas. Many of the deaf adolescents could not fully understand the training but they could understand enough. This training also raised their awareness of sex abuse, which seems to be a high-risk issue for them. Ms. Cuc is currently surveying how other NGOs,

On November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 15 CSWs and one ABE teacher received training in basic sign language in Hoi An along with a number of CSWs from Quang Nam. The primary trainer, Mr. Thang, is a deaf student from Bien Hoa School for the Deaf. The other trainers were WCDO's SLMTs. The training focused on signs for the alphabet, colors, animals, fruit, time, family, names, age, occupations, questions, and things around the house.



*Sign language training for the CSWs*

After the training, Mr. Thang and Ms. Cuc took the opportunity to teach the SMLTs more about teaching methods. They also evaluated their teaching style, and discussed ways to improve it. We are planning the second more advanced sign language training for CSWs after Tet (Vietnamese New Year in late January).

#### **Peer group meeting and activities:**



All the districts held their regular peer group meetings. The main life skill topics introduced at the meetings were HIV AIDS prevention and natural disaster prevention (Red Cross sponsored). The topics were introduced and communicated through stories and activities to help the adolescents understand and remember. The WCDO CSWs, Ms. Hoa and Mr. Lanh, were the key trainers.

This quarter WCDO provided each district with a small portable library

*Portable library*

to use at the peer group meeting. To start with we put about 30 books, magazines, leaflets, and brochures in the portable library for the AWDs to read and borrow. Besides the purposes of helping the AWDs with useful knowledge, we also wanted to encourage the children to get in the habit for reading and improving their ability to read difficult books. Each book was carefully selected based on content and level of difficulty.

### **Quang Nam**

CBSW training was organized in Hanoi for three sites about monitoring skill, communication skills, communication style, and report writing skills. Ms. Thanh and Ms. Phuong attended the training and appreciated it greatly.

Monthly peer group meetings for the AWDs were carried out in all seven districts of Quang Nam. With the assistance of the CSWs and CBSWs, the AWDs learned more about how to run the meetings themselves. They also took time to discuss personal hygiene, maintenance of reproductive health and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

### ***Activity 2.3: Adapting Vocational Training Sites***

#### **Hai Duong**

The Hai Duong City Blind Association has completed their upgrade of the massage center housing. Though they continue to use their old equipment, the facility upgrades significantly improved conditions, and they have already seen an increase in clientele. WCDO is evaluating to what degree we will assist with the next steps to provide some equipment and rebuild the toilet and bathing area.

In the meantime, the local government has begun repairing the other building as a short-term solution before they can allocate funding for remodeling. An NGO named Canadian Fund is also considering providing support to repair the facilities at the Provincial Blind Association Center. In order to prevent the possibility of double funding or waste of resources we have regularly cross-checked with the Canadian Fund.

The staff at the center feel very encouraged with the results of the first step. *"I am glad that things worked out. This is the first project we were involved in directly ourselves. We especially appreciate this project, because it is like a catalyst to stimulate support from other agencies. We believe this improved massage center will open greater opportunities for vocational training and income for the blind youth, and the blind in general,"* said Mr. Tuan, Vice-President of the Provincial Blind Association.

In Nam Sach, detailed plans and designs for constructing a toilet and bathroom for an AWD have been finished, and construction will begin after the Tet holiday. The CSWs and DSC were actively involved in seeking contributions from the local community. The District's department for construction helped with the design, a business owner promised help with the electrical materials, and some villagers committed to do the non-technical labor work. WCDO provided guidance on disabled-adaptive designs. This toilet and bathroom are the pilot handicapped accessible bathroom in Hai Duong. If all goes well, further bathrooms will follow. With assistance from the local communities, we hope to be able to help many more AWDs, and we hope to show the communities how to provide practical assistance to, and encourage their involvement in serving the disabled.

In Thanh Ha, WCDO also supported two businesses with some general upgrading of facilities where several AWDs work. WCDO is supporting one-third of the total costs for these upgrades, and the business owners are covering the remaining two-thirds.

### **DaNang**

#### **Case Story:**

**Cuong** has shriveled legs and clubfoot on his right side. He cannot walk far by himself. In September, WCDO paid for an operation on his foot. He is studying electronics repair at a private shop and is making good progress. The toilet in his house is extremely old, slippery and has a doorsill (threshold) that is far too high for him to cross. WCDO helped his family to repair the toilet. They installed a squat toilet with strong hand rails, leveled the toilet floor and paved it with non-slip tiles. The toilet after repair is now suitable for him. Cuong is very happy and is no longer fearful of falling.

### **Quang Nam**



During this quarter, with the technical assistance of Mr. Tuan, site improvements were completed at the house of Nguyen Hoang Linh (leg mobility difficulty due to polio) in Dai Loc. She and her family are very pleased with the better access and bathroom with a suitable handrail for her. WCDO is planning to use this style of construction for PWDs to teach several stakeholders in Dai Loc District, since this is likely the first handicapped accessible bathroom in the area (it appears that no public

*Newly remodeled bathroom  
in the home of AWD Linh*

facilities in the district are yet handicapped accessible). Mr. Tuan also negotiated with partners and families of Nguyen Thi Dieu Oanh in Dai Loc, and Nguyen Thi Nga in Que Son. It is planned that the site improvements to the houses of these two girls with polio will be carried out in the next quarter.

**Activity 2.4: Adapting Training - Formal, Informal, and Alternative Basic Education (ABE)**

**Formal Training**

**Hai Duong**

There are 16 AWDs in the final formal training at the Women Union's Job Service Center. Two AWDs have dropped out, one in Hai Duong so they could receive medical treatment, and one in Chi Linh to return home and take care of his family in the district (he is married).

District	In Formal Training			Graduate from Formal Training		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Binh Giang				3	2	5
Cam Giang				1		1
Chi Linh	6	6	12		3	3
Hai Duong	1	1	2	8		8
Kim Thanh				1		1
Kinh Mon				5	7	12
Ninh Giang				2	1	3
Thanh Mien				2	2	4
Gia Loc						
Nam Sach						
Tu Ky						
Thanh Ha	2		2			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>37</b>

**DaNang**

No Formal Training is being done in DaNang.

## Quang Nam

### Formal Training

District	Graduated from Formal Training		
	Female	Male	Total
Thang Binh	3	3	6
Dien Ban	0	2	2
Nui Thanh	1	0	1
Tien Phuoc	1	1	2
Que Son	1	1	2
Dai Loc	0	2	2
Tam Ky	1	2	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>

The 18 students finished six months of formal training in sewing, electrical repair and motorcycle repair at Quang Nam Job Service Center in January 2003. After graduation, they returned to their home villages and the CSWs in seven districts visited all of them to help arrange for four to five months of community based training. Seventeen of the graduates presently have jobs.

**Case story: Bui Thi Loi**, born in 1983, lives in a remote mountainous village of Que Phuoc commune in the Que Son district of Quang Nam province. She is mobility impaired in her right leg due to polio. After a six-month formal training course in sewing at Quang Nam JSC, the CSWs helped her to find a five-month informal training at the shop of Ms. Vo Thi Lien at Dong Phu, Que Son. She completed the additional training three months ago and returned to her home village to open her own sewing shop. The people in her village have already started to come to her to have clothes made. She has improved in her social skills through participating in the regular peer group meetings and other project activities. She is now proud of her skill and her valued position in the community.

### Informal Training

#### **Hai Duong**

Overall the vocational training is going along smoothly. However, we have had some AWDs drop out during the trial training period. For several AWDs, this has been due to the struggle of working at a business far from their homes. The CBSWs and CSWs have



met with these AWDs and their families, and are seeking a way to find more suitable training locations for them.

We have also seen a more serious problem occur. Several AWDs supported through our project have dropped out of their current training or work to attend training at the formal job service centers, supported through projects funded by other donors. This has happened for several reasons. For one, the focus of some government workers in the community is on the numbers of beneficiaries only, and not considering whether they have already received training. Secondly, the attitude of some AWDs is that they only care about the exciting social life during the training time at the formal centers. These reasons are possibly why in some of the job service centers, there are AWDs who have received training more than one time. WCDO staff have discussed this issue with the provincial DOLISA. Furthermore, we recently did a cross check between VNAH and WCDO. This successfully prevented a number of AWDs from receiving training funded by VNAH that had already received training through WCDO.

WCDO has continued to provide equipment support to local businesses. The PMT also took part in the equipment hand-over process. CSWs are closely monitoring the use of the equipment to ensure that the AWDs receive the full benefit of this support.

District	Doing Informal Training			Graduate from Informal Training		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Binh Giang	3 (*)	2	5	2	6	8
Cam Giang	5	4 (*)	9	3	3	6
Chi Linh	3	4	7	8	8	16
Hai Duong	0	1	1	0	2	2
Kim Thanh	3	1	4	15	6	21
Kinh Mon	3	2 (*)	5	3	3	6
Ninh Giang	3	1	4	6	1	7
Thanh Mien	0	0	0	7	5	12
Gia Loc	5	1	6	7	7	14
Nam Sach	1	6	7	4	6	10
Tu Ky	8 (*)	3	11	6	9	15
Thanh Ha	7	4	11	11	9	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>137</b>

(\*) : Several AWDs dropped out of the program, making the number of AWDs in this district lower as compared to last quarter.

**DaNang**

District	Doing Informal Training			Graduated from Informal Training		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Hai Chau	6	5	11	4	2	6
Hoa Vang	1	4	5	2	2	4
Lien Chieu	1	2	3	2	4	6
Ngu Hanh Son	4	7	11	4	2	6
Son Tra	2	12	14	2	2	4
Thanh Khe	4	5	9	2	3	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>31</b>

We lost two beneficiaries, Du Van Hai and Le Thu Ha, because their families moved to HCMC. In November, we provided supporting equipment for 12 businesses, nine bicycles to AWDs, one wheelchair for an AWD, and start-up assistance equipment to four graduates. Also, the local television station filmed the hand-over of equipment for three of the graduates at the Lien Chieu Red Cross office. It was shown on television during the Humanity Program the following Monday (December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2003).

**Case story:**

**Le Thi Bich Thuy** is 17 years old, and is hearing and speaking impaired. Her family lives in Dien Ban, Quang Nam. They were very poor and could not afford to pay for her schooling. Therefore, when she was eight years old, she moved to DaNang to live with her aunt and uncle. After finishing Level Five at the Deaf School, her teacher introduced her to the WCDO staff. She asked if Thuy could be helped through our project. Thuy is clever and hardworking, and her trainer is enthusiastic to help her. Although she lives far from home, she is happy because of the family atmosphere at the shop. After studying for only four months, she can already perform at the same level as another person after nine months of training. WCDO has



*Thuy with her sewing machine*

Although she lives far from home, she is happy because of the family atmosphere at the shop. After studying for only four months, she can already perform at the same level as another person after nine months of training. WCDO has



helped her with a bicycle and a sewing machine for her training. In addition, a WCDO mobile sign language trainer often goes to her house or shop to teach her.

### Quang Nam

District	Doing Informal Training			Graduated from Informal Training		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Thang Binh	5	3	8	9	11	20
Dien Ban	5	4	9	8	8	16
Nui Thanh	4	3	7	8	5	13
Tien Phuoc	3	2	5	5	8	13
Que Son	4	4	8	7	9	16
Dai Loc	4	8	12	13	8	21
Tam Ky	3	6	9	5	6	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>110</b>

During the skills training for AWDs in the community, the CSWs and CBSWs paid regular visits to businesses to encourage the AWDs and help solve problems arising with the work and social life of the AWDs. This has been a critical part of the success of this training. One shining example of a supportive volunteer has been Mr. Gia, a PWD business owner in Quang Nam. He often accompanies WCDO staff to visit and talk to AWDs, which helps them greatly in improving their social skills and confidence.

#### Case story:

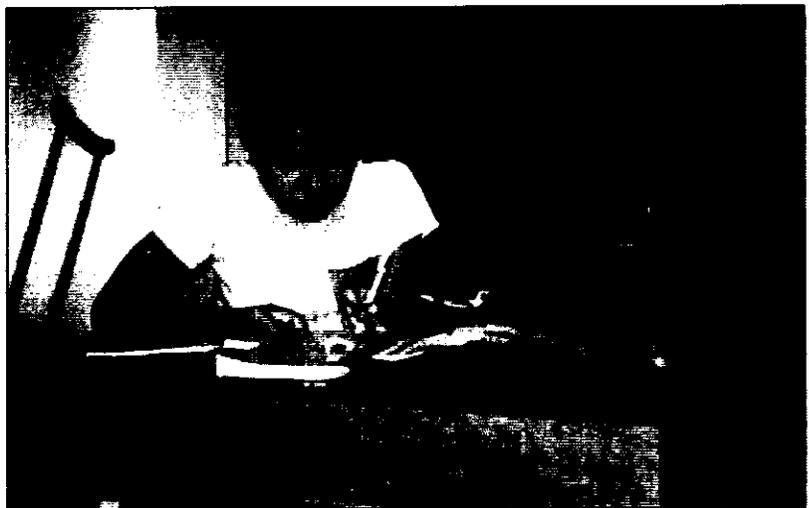
**Nguyen Van Tho**, born in 1988 with a leg deformity, lives in the Dien An Commune of Dien Ban District. Tho and his brother live with their grandparents because their mother died in 1990 and her father left when they were very young. Tho had to drop out of school because his grandparents could not afford the fees. He started his training in wood carving under the guidance of Mr. Sinh at Dien An Commune in August 2003. He enjoyed the training as well as participating in activities with other AWDs from Dien Ban District and Dai Loc District during the beach outing. After four months, he has made much progress in his skills training and Mr. Sinh is planning to employ him at his business after the training is completed.

**Alternative Basic Education****Hai Duong**

Most AWDs in the ABE classes are in the final stages of the classes. The progress evaluations are planned to occur during the next quarter. These AWDs have already been placed in vocational training courses, and the businesses will be encouraged to continue on-the-job training to further their learning.

**DaNang**

There are presently two ABE classes being taught in DaNang. The first is taught at Chi Lang School, and currently has four students. Lai dropped out because she is too busy helping at home. The students are presently studying the first part of level five. So far they have successfully completed about 60% of the planned schooling. The second class is taught at Tran Quoc Toan School, and currently there are five students attending. The students study well and are on track in their studies,



*Alternative Basic Education in DaNang*

except Kim Phuong who has dropped out because her family does not consistently bring her to class. All the students now know how to read, write and do basic math. They have completed about 70% of the planned coursework. Both of the ABE teachers were able to attend the awareness training and sign language training.

**Quang Nam**

In Dien Ban: 11 AWDs completed their ABE coursework with 45.5% scoring Very Good, 36.4% Good and 18.1 % Average. Most of them have made significant progress during the course. Now they are able to read, write and do basic mathematics. The teachers were very devoted and creative in their teaching, which aided the AWDs in developing better communication skills. District officials, parents and the community expressed appreciation of the success of ABE class in Dien Ban. WCDO will work with Dien Ban DSC to plan for a new ABE class starting in the first quarter of 2004.



*ABE class in Dien Ban*

In Tam Ky, most students in the ABE class made consistent progress, thanks to the devotedness and quality teaching methods of Ms. Huong. The AWDs enjoy working together in their class. They especially enjoy learning through songs, games and activities as a team. Ms. Huong also had a chance to share her ideas and experience with parents of AWDs, business owners and CSWs, at the Awareness Raising training in Dien Ban. She has also voluntarily participated in other project activities to assist the adolescents. The ABE class has been greatly appreciated by the local authorities and community.

**Sign Language Training****Hai Duong**

Son continued his training for the deaf in Hai Duong, Gia Loc. Many of the deaf students at Cam Giang have stopped studying. This, according to Son, was because they only enjoyed the sign language study, and found the ABE difficult and boring. We learned that two of the three girls in the class were often absent. A meeting with families of these kids is planned for after the Tet holiday to see how to help these kids. Son will also attend this meeting. The deaf in Hai Duong, Gia Loc have improved greatly in their use of sign language. However, in the month before Tet, the businesses in Gia Loc are

extremely busy and needed people to work overtime. As a result, they have had less time for sign language studies.

### **DaNang**

No sign language training occurred in DaNang this quarter.

### **Quang Nam**

Three Sign Language Mobile Trainers in Quang Nam (one man - Chuong, two women - Thuy and Tinh) traveled around five districts in Quang Nam (Dien Ban, Thang Binh, Que Son, Dai Loc, Nui Thanh and Dien Ban) to teach sign language to hearing impaired kids. The three teachers have been working devotedly to help AWDs. Chuong began making weekly trips in November to Nui Thanh district to work with six hearing impaired kids. The partners and parents of the AWDs greatly appreciated the sign language classes. The Committee of Population, Family and Children Protection in Dien Ban District organized a class of ten hearing-impaired children and Tinh was given responsibility for teaching them Sign Language. The class was filmed and shown on television several times. This has had a significant positive impact on Disability Awareness Raising in the community.



Together with the CSWs of DaNang, 20 CSWs and CBSWs of Quang Nam (16 female, four male) participated in the Sign Language Training in Hoi An on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of November. The CSWs and CBSWs initially focused on learning some simple signs to apply in their work. This was also an ideal occasion for the CSWs of Quang Nam and DaNang to sit down and share their work experiences.

*Sign Language Training in Hoi An*

**Activity 2.5: Employment and Income Generation**

**Hai Duong**

Several graduates from formal training left their jobs with sewing businesses in Hai Duong City. They stated this was because of the low income they received as compared to their expenditures. To assist these formal training graduates who are jobless, the CSWs have visited their families to discuss the issues, and to help find local businesses who can provide jobs to these people. However, most businesses require at least three months of additional training before giving them employment. In some cases, the AWDs and families are able to pay for this extra training. However, for those who cannot afford to pay the full amount, WCDO is considering providing partial support.

Many graduate AWDs continue to work in the businesses where they were trained, and are satisfied with their jobs and income. A small number of beneficiaries have shown the potential to do business on their own. For those 17 most entrepreneurial individuals WCDO, the PMT and the DSCs have handed over equipment for starting up their own business and/or equipment to assist them with mobility difficulties (for example, wheel chairs). Income of the beneficiaries ranges from 60,000 to 500,000 VND (U.S. \$3.83 - \$31.91) per month.



*AWD Tiep (learning and speaking impaired) repairs bicycles in Thanh Mien*

One positive turn of events for several beneficiaries is that several young people who stayed home after their graduation, have now come back to work. They seem to have a more positive attitude regarding the value of having employment. However, there are still a small number of beneficiaries who have chosen not to work after completing their training, and seem to have no interest in finding employment.



District	Formal Graduation				Informal Graduation					
	Female		Male		Female		Male		Total	
	employed	not employed	employed	not employed	employed	not employed	employed	not employed	%	
Binh Giang	1	2	1	1	40	2	0	4	2	75
Cam Giang	1				100	3	0	3	0	100
Chi Linh				3	0	7	1	8	0	94
Hai Duong	6	2			75			2		100
Kim Thanh	1				100	12	3	5	1	81
Kinh Mon	3	2	5	2	67	1	2	1	2	33
Ninh Giang	2	0		1	67	5	1	1	0	86
Thanh Mien	3	0		1	75	5	2	4	1	75
Gia Loc						7	0	5	2	86
Nam Sach						4	0	5	1	90
Tu Ky						3	3	9	0	80
Thanh Ha						9	2	9	0	90
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>83</b>

**Case story:**

**Hoa – Kim Thanh District**

Hoa is a mobility disabled girl and an only child. Her parents are separated. Her father lives in the south and she lives with her mother. She has received minimal loving care. Yet, in spite of her difficult circumstances, Hoa is always trying to improve herself through reading, practice and hard work. After completing her training period at the sewing business of Mr. Thu, she began working there and earns about U.S.\$20-25 per month. Apart from her work, she is the group leader of *Union Group*, which is the name of the peer group in Kim Thanh. She has done a good job leading the group, and the members are pleased with her and love her very much.



*Hoa singing with friends in a group meeting*

Hoa has a very beautiful voice, and likes to practice singing. Sometimes, together with other friends, they invite a teacher to teach them songs. This activity does much toward building her self-confidence and pride. She rarely now thinks of herself as disabled. Her father never comes to visit her and her mother, Hoa, is happy and optimistic. She still takes time every year to travel to the south to visit her father. Hoa seems to be happy and at peace with her life, and she is hard to forget.

### DaNang

District	Formal Graduates					Informal Graduates				
	Female		Male		Total	Female		Male		Total
	empl oy	not empl oy	empl oy	not empl oy	% empl oy	empl oy	not empl oy	empl oy	not empl oy	% empl oy
Hai Chau						4		2		100%
Hoa Vang						1	1	2		75%
Lien Chieu						2		4		100%
Ngu Hanh Son						4		2		100%
Son Tra						2		2		100%
Thanh Khe						2		3		100%
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>97%</b>

The one unemployed young woman (Nguyen Thi Thanh Tam), temporarily stopped working to help her mother with the business during Tet. Of the 31 AWDs who have graduated, four AWDs opened their own shops with the income from 400,000 VND to 600,000 VND per month.



**Case story:**

**Tran Thi Kim Lien** has a very weak left arm and clubfoot on the right leg. She has started her own business making tofu. Her father abandoned the family when she was young. Her mother is often sick, and the family income comes from their small rice field and her baby-sitting for neighbors. The CSW took her to discuss employment at several businesses like sewing and stoneworking for training. However, in spite of her great effort, she could not learn the necessary skills because of her weak arm. At last a business owner agreed to teach her how to make tofu right at her house. He also taught her how to manage the business. After three months of training, she opened her own shop at home. At the market, there are already some people selling tofu who have regular customers. But because of the quality of her product and help with introductions by the CSW, she is successfully competing with the other producers. Also, with the grain grinder provided by WCDO as part of her start-up assistance, she can also make soybean milk to sell right from her house. Her income is already about 300,000 VND per month, after only two months of operation. This business provides jobs for both her mother and herself. Using the bicycle provided by WCDO, she plans to expand her business by selling tofu and soybean milk at other locations farther from the market.



*Lien making tofu*

**Quang Nam**

District	Formal Graduates					Informal Graduates				
	Female		Male		Total	Female		Male		Total
	employ	not employ	employ	not employ	% employ	employ	not employ	employ	not employ	% employ
Thang Binh	3		3		100%	9		11	1	95.0%
Dien Ban	0		1	1	50%	8	1	8	1	87.5%
Nui Thanh	1		0		100%	8	2	5		84.6%
Tien Phuoc	1		1		100%	5		8	1	92.3%
Que Son	1		1		100%	7	2	9		87.5%
Dai Loc	0		2		100%	13	1	8	1	90.5%
Tam Ky	1		2		100%	5		6	1	90.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>94.4</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>90.0</b>
					<b>%</b>					<b>%</b>

\* NOTE: 15 of 18 formal graduates did a further four or five-month informal training to upgrade their skills.

Note that several of the graduates work in areas not related to their skills training. This was due to their desire to try other work and having the confidence to seek out their desires. Overall income made by the AWDs graduates was low, about \$5 – 52 per month. This relates to the limited opportunities and choices of employment in a rural province like Quang Nam. However, since before the AWDs had jobs they were a costly burden to their families with no hope for any income, even a small salary is a blessing to them and their families.



**Case story:** Nguyen Tan Tin, born in 1983, lives in the Dai Lanh Commune of the Dai Loc District. He has limited use of his left leg due to childhood polio. With the support of Ms. Hong (WCDO Community Support Worker), Tin was successfully trained as a barber by Mr. Cuong in his home commune. After completing the training, Tin worked with Mr. Cuong for four months. In March of 2003 Tin started his own barber shop. He now has many regular clients and enjoys his work very much, while earning about 400,000 VND per month. This is adequate for him to live on. He very much enjoys

*AWD graduate Nguyen Tan Tin enjoys playing his flute*

participating in games, songs and activities with other AWDs in his district. Also his hobby is playing flute and he almost always performs in peer group activities or picnics with friends.

## **SECTION II. ANALYSIS OF THE QUARTER**

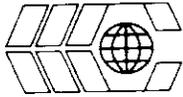
- *Why and how intended results were or were not achieved.*
- *Contributions of the activities to the results.*
- *Unintended results.*
- *Lessons learned.*
- *Adjustments in program to improve results.*

### ***Lessons learned and adjustments to the program***

There were several valuable learning experiences from the Disability Awareness Raising contest in the Thanh Ha district of Hai Duong Province. This contest was discussed during the PMT & DSC meetings as a pilot model of a special awareness raising event in the districts. It was agreed that CSWs from a number of other districts should attend the event in Thanh Ha to learn from the experience. However, when the day of the event came, only CSWs from two other districts showed up with a few of the AWDs from their districts, who had registered to participate in the contests. While having the event on Sunday may have been a deterring factor, poor attendance from the other CSWs is more likely to indicate their passive attitude towards the work in a district not under their direct responsibility.

On the positive side the exceptionally high quality of the Disability Awareness contest was truly a good result. The organizers and contestants managed to convey informative messages in an attractive way, using the look and feel of a national television entertainment program. These interesting methods gave a lively effect and was quite motivating to the participants. Due to their effectiveness, we plan to try some of these methods of communication used in Thanh Ha, in future awareness raising activities. This also reminded us that video-documentation of this kind of activity as a reference for future awareness raising activities, would be beneficial.

Another concern in Hai Duong was that about 20 deaf adolescents and their families missed the training day for reproductive health care. For some families, it was because of transportation difficulties. But for the others, it was because they received notice of the event too late. Next time we will have to make more effort to insure all the AWDs receive notice. We also learned after trying to teach the deaf about reproductive health issues, that we need to develop some better adapted content and methods for training them, since their condition is so unique.



In several locations, we are also still struggling to assist those graduates that as yet do not have employment. It is very challenging to balance the differences between the AWDs expectation, skills, and available jobs. The more remote locations, like Quang Nam are the most difficult, since there are few options for the beneficiaries and incomes are very low in the village setting. The rural nature of Quang Nam and the extremely limited job market make living and work for many AWDs very challenging. This limitation is almost impossible to overcome for the beneficiaries that are not willing to leave their home village to find work.

Despite the difficulties of travel in Quang Nam, the Sign Language Mobile Trainers have successfully expanded their work into five districts. The local authorities, parents of AWDs and the community appreciate the sign language training, especially the classes in Dai Loc, Dien Ban, and Nui Thanh District. These hearing impaired adolescents are thrilled to be learning how to communicate, especially since most of them had never before studied sign language.

***Results achieved and contribution of activities to results.***

The progress of AWDs in the ABE classes of Tam Ky and Dien Ban has been extremely encouraging. These adolescents had been dropped from the mainstream schools several years ago, due to various reasons (lack of suitable teachers, lack of interest in helping them, poor attitudes in the community, etc). Now they have a chance to learn how to read, write, do mathematics and communicate with other people who care. And interestingly having the local community watch these young people learn and mature seems to have had an impact on their thinking. Hopefully, they are beginning to understand that being disabled does not mean that they are unable to learn.

Peer group activities continue to provide significant value to many AWDs. The confidence, social interaction, and knowledge gained is an important part of their new life as participating members of society.

The reproductive health care training has met an essential need of the young people we serve. Not only has it provided practical knowledge and guidelines for daily living and general understanding on reproductive health care issues, but it has given us a chance to learn that a surprisingly high number of the adolescents have significant health problems, and by having a chance to talk and receive counseling, they can receive needed help. The reproductive health examination and training was also the first time most of the adolescents had ever been examined.

Looking at the beneficial results of the reproductive health training and exams, WCDO staff concluded that we need to make sure that every one of the beneficiaries of this program receive a health exam, counseling and basic training in personal hygiene. We