

## Child Sponsorship Success Story

We would like to tell you the story of Nguyen Thi Tinh, Ref. 4B who is one example of the many children whose lives have been changed through the Child Sponsorship Programme.

Ben Tre is one of the poorest provinces of Vietnam and Giong Trom is one of the poorest districts of this province. Even today, the community still does not have electricity or running water. Everyone gets their drinking water from gathering rain water. The local people work hard every day in the fields, under harsh weather conditions and yet their earnings are barely enough to survive on, especially with rising costs in the country. Many of the children in the community leave school early to help their parents work in the fields to ensure food will make it to their tables each day.

It is in this area that our sponsor child Nguyen Thi Tinh lives.



Tinh was giving a speech in the meeting between CNCF and all sponsored children in Ben Tre

Tinh was first referred to the programme in September 1998; she was living with her older sister and eldest brother and his family. Her mother passed away when she was only a toddler and her father abandoned the children shortly after. Over the year's Tinh's brother has done what ever job available to him to provide for his family's daily needs, from planting sugar cane trees, to working as hired labour in the fields.

From an early age Tinh was aware of her family's situation. She would monitor the price of rice and calculate whether her family would survive another day. She studied hard so that more doors would open for her future.

Tinh applied herself and worked hard for her future. In Vietnam the importance of family is very much inherent, children often leave school to work and help their family. Tinh was very lucky to have such a supportive brother and to have the help of the Foundation.

For more than 10 years in the sponsorship programme, Tinh always proved that she is a diligent student and does extremely well in her studies. On 29 August 2008, Tinh graduated from Can Tho University. She is now working as a journalist for The Radio and Television Station of Ben Tre and is self-supporting.

Tinh is a bright young woman who has paved a way out of poverty for her family and who through the help of the Child Sponsorship Programme knows the benefits of an education. In an area where education is secondary and families struggle every day, Tinh's story not only inspires but allows the community and her family to see that through hard work, perseverance and the invaluable support of sponsorship; poverty does not define potential and one child can become a symbol of a bright future for her and for her community.