

## Physiotherapy A Great Success!

Located at 38 Tu Xuong Street, the Centre of Social Assistance for Disadvantaged Children provides an international standard of healthcare, free of charge, to children from poor families who would otherwise be unable to afford treatment. With this in mind, the Social and Medical Center's ongoing healthcare activities are of a very high standard and we have had some amazing successes over the years.



Physiotherapy is one of the many arenas which have seen major success with the children over the years. There are 3 full time physiotherapists working in the SMC, 2 local physiotherapists and 1 international physiotherapist. One of the local physiotherapists, Xuyen, has been working for the Foundation for over 14 years and Nhung has been working here for 3 years.



The progression the children have made through the hard work and dedication of these three physiotherapists is immense. All of the children who are admitted to the SMC are assigned to a physiotherapist and receive daily treatment and rehabilitation according to their needs.

The following case is an example of the progress that children can make during their time in the SMC:

Thong is a bright 2 and a half year old boy who has been living at the centre for almost two years.

He was referred to the CNCF SMC by a local orphanage, as he had severe malnutrition, with very weak muscles in his limbs and trunk. He was also diagnosed with mild hydrocephalus (water in the brain) and curvature of his spine. Whilst he was at the Centre he received nutritional support and

regular physiotherapy to strengthen his muscles and mobilize effectively. With regular physiotherapy he was able to sit independently in September of last year and has progressed hugely since then and has started walking in April of 2008. Thong began to wear a spinal support in December 2007 and this has straightened his spine and allowed him to walk confidently by himself.

He is a very intelligent boy and has begun to say some simple words. He can play with blocks and puzzles very well and has a lovely little personality; always interacting and smiling with people. With further physiotherapy, love and attention from the carers and volunteers we are confident that he will continue to make great progress.