



Thuan's story



Above: Vietnam, located on the eastern coast of the Indochina Peninsula, has experienced significant economic growth, causing a widening gap between rich and poor. Far right: Thuan has learned to read and write through the support of CRS' Inclusion for Vietnamese with Disabilities program.

Map credit: OCHA. Top Photo by Kim Pozniak/CRS. Bottom Photos by Laura Sheahen/CRS.

Quat Trinh and her daughter, **Thuan**, live in Vietnam. Thuan has cerebral palsy and can't walk or move easily. When Thuan was young, her mother was frustrated and cried often. Quat wanted her daughter to learn, but Thuan wasn't strong enough to go to school. And schools in Vietnam often lack resources to serve students with disabilities.

Catholic Relief Services invited Quat to a meeting for parents who have children with disabilities. Quat learned how to exercise Thuan's muscles and how to help her eat on her own. She wrote the alphabet on the wall near Thuan's bed so she could learn it. Quat also received help from a tutor who worked closely with Thuan. In the beginning, Thuan could not even hold a pen. With time, she was able to write many things, including math problems and even poems! Thuan's tutor was amazed at how much she accomplished.



Still, Quat and Thuan faced daily challenges because they didn't have much support. Quat helped organize a local parents association where parents shared advice about how to care for children with disabilities, celebrate their children's accomplishments and comfort each other through difficult times. Quat is proud of her daughter—who she brags is very smart—and is grateful for all the progress Thuan has made.

LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

Every person is made in the image of God. This means that every life is sacred and all people are worthy of respect, no matter who they are or where they live. We are called to care for all human life.

life and dignity of the human person

COUNTRY SPOTLIGHT: VIETNAM

ACTIVITY SHEET GRADES 4-6

Use words and images to show how you can live out the principle Life and Dignity of the Human person in your:

Family

School

Neighborhood/community

World
