

Vietnam

Caregiver Name: Lien
Age at Implantation: 3

Child: Minh Triet
Age Today: 10



My name is Lien, and I am the mother of a bright, energetic boy named Minh Triet. Our journey into the world of sound has been a path paved with both immense challenges and miraculous blessings. Today, I share our story to shed light on the realities of raising a child with cochlear implants (CI) in Vietnam, hoping it brings both inspiration and awareness to the global community.

The Hurdle of Sustainability

While receiving a cochlear implant is a medical miracle, the "happily ever after" requires constant vigilance. For our family, the most significant challenge is the long-term financial burden of maintaining the device. **We were blessed to receive the initial implant through the generosity of sponsors, but the ongoing costs of maintenance, specialized hygiene services, and expensive replacement parts weigh heavily on our daily lives.**

Minh Triet is an active boy who attends an inclusive school. He plays, runs, and explores like any other child. However, every accidental bump or technical malfunction is a moment of terror for us. For a family with limited means, the high cost of components means that a single broken part could silence our son's world indefinitely. The fear that we might one day be unable to afford a repair—returning him to a world of silence—is a shadow that never quite leaves us.

A Village of Support

We have not walked this path alone. **Our greatest support has undoubtedly been a Foundation.** They have not just been donors; they have been companions for years, recently helping us upgrade Minh Triet's device. This upgrade was life-changing, allowing him to hear more clearly and speak with newfound confidence.

Furthermore, we owe so much to the direct intervention by Vietnamese audiologists and therapists. Their professional guidance and love turned a daunting medical process into a successful reality. They taught us that a cochlear implant is not a "fix," but a tool that requires patient, skilful nurturing to truly bloom.

Miracles in the Classroom

Today, Minh Triet is a confident boy who can hear and speak clearly. If you asked me years ago what my dream was, it was simply to hear him call my name. He has far exceeded that. **His greatest achievement to date is his successful integration into a mainstream school alongside hearing peers.**

There is no greater joy than seeing him stand boldly in front of an audience, reading aloud from a book. Seeing him communicate fluently and laugh with his friends is a happiness we once only dared to dream of. He is living proof that with the right technology and support, the gap between silence and sound can be bridged.

Advice and Advocacy

To other parents starting this journey, my advice is simple yet difficult: be patient and stay calm. There are no shortcuts to language. I encourage you to let your child wear their device all day, talk to them constantly, and expose them to every sound the world has to offer. Your persistence in daily speech practice is the bridge that connects your child to society.

Since the day we discovered Minh Triet's hearing loss, we completely reorganized our lives. We adjusted our work schedules and transformed our home into a rich linguistic environment, accompanying him through every syllable.



As a final word, we are eternally grateful for the gift of sound. However, I urge global organizations to look beyond the surgery. Families in LMICs (Low- and Middle-Income Countries) need support for the ongoing costs of maintenance. No child should lose their connection to the world simply because a plastic part is too expensive to replace. Let us work together to ensure that the gift of hearing is a gift that lasts a lifetime.