

# A Devoted Heart to Hue

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Larell Catherman, an instructor in nursing at Pacific University, Seattle, USA, is a current deputy director of Medrix - a nonprofit humane organization in health care in South East Asia. I met and knew her since 1995 when she came to our Hue Central Hospital to complete her master degree in nursing.

Being an active lady, sentimental to children, she has a great wish to share her experience with Vietnamese in various training course's on nursing. Agreed by Vietnamese government and Ministry of Public Health, every year she comes to Vietnam, especially to Hue, to do voluntary work. At Hue Central Hospital and Hue College of Medicine, she participated in different training programs on pediatrics, intensive care, preventing hospital environment from bacterial contamination, etc. Through a series of effective and interested practicum lectures, she showed her wonderful, experienced expertise as well as her serious working manner. We are really impressed by the enthusiasm and effective help from Larell and others Medrix's staff, among which is her husband - a sedate American, who also has a devoted heart to Hue like his wife.. Working together, we've learned that she is always uneasy seeing the lack of health care facility in medical units in rural areas of Thua Thien Hue province. More than once, we've seen the passionate tears on her face when she met disabled children or hungry families.

Back to America, her home country, she and her friends in Medrix spent a lot of time and energy to raise money for medical equipment, books and literature materials, which then they used for training health staff in Hue. She especially concerns with locations where sanitary and health care condition are still very poor. Through her actions, she has shown her ambitious intention to make a bridge between her American friends and Hue people. She brought American students to Hue; she organized and headed delegations from the US to visit and work at Hue; and she collected charity money from American donors to support medical units in various communes in Thua Thien Hue province. Her Medrix organization has offered 500,000,000 VND to upgrade health care stations at Huong Van (Huong Tra district), Quang Tho (Quang-Dien), Thuy Phuong and Thuy Phu (Huong Thuy), and Thuy An (Hue city) communes. Seeing these stations getting better and better, happy smiles appear brightly on her face.

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We are very pleased knowing that her Medrix organization wants to set up other projects, in collaboration with Hue Central Hospital and Hue College of Medical, on bringing voluntary nursing students to Hue and bringing English teachers of Hue College of Medicine to the US for short training courses. In addition to that, a special project on training staff of pediatric departments of provincial hospitals in Central Vietnam will also be carried out.

Through the years, Larell Catherman becomes an intimately familiar figure to doctors, nurses and staff of Hue Central Hospital. "Every time I come back to Hue, I feel that I am home again", she often says. This is, definitely, a lovely devoted heart which comes to Hue from halfway round the earth. Larell, we always highly appreciate and love you.

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