



# NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

OFFICE OF INFORMATION, 3D TACTICAL FIGHTER WING (PACAF), CLARK AIR BASE, PHIL., TEL: 55195  
CLARK/SAIGON RELEASE NUMBER 75-22 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CHRISTINA -- THE LITTLE VOLUNTEER WITH A BIG HEART

CLARK AB, R.P. [April 10] -- As hundreds of volunteers busily went about their many tasks of caring for the Saigon orphans in the huge gymnasium that was serving as temporary home this past week, one little girl was bridging the generation and communications gap between the workers and the youngsters.

Christina Ly-Lan Richard may only be 11 but her credentials were unchallenged by her contemporaries or any of the other veteran volunteers that helped in the airlift operations at Clark Air Base to bring out the orphans from the besieged South Vietnam capital.

Christina is a student, a volunteer, a beautiful little girl --- and, a former South Vietnamese orphan herself.

She learned the Vietnamese language from her grandparents in the Cholon district of Saigon and was adopted at age six by TSgt. and Mrs. Gerald Richard, of the 1961st Communications Group at Clark.

Her birth place was Nha Trang which is noted for its beaches and rest and relaxation areas, however, the fate of that city and its inhabitants remains cloudy as of this report.

But Nha Trang and Cholon are only distant memories for Christina now. Today she is an active student in the Clark school system and speaks English fluently. However, she was able to put her Vietnamese language to good use when the call went out for volunteers at Clark to assist in the orphan airlift phase here.

[MORE]

CHRISTINA—ADD ONE

Christina acted as interpreter for many of the volunteers and the Saigon orphans. She bathed a few of the youngsters, took them to eat at the dining hall on Clark that had prepared food considered digestible and compatible to diets they were accustomed to, and she cared for a few of the tots.

All in all, Christina put in more than 30 consecutive hours of volunteer work without a break. Officials and her parents wanted to give her rest, but she pleaded with them to let her stay on with the orphans.

Most of the Saigon orphans have left Clark now and chances are few will remember her, but the Clark volunteers and base officials will long recall Christina— the little volunteer with the big heart.

CLARK/SAIGON RELEASE NUMBER 75-22

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[CUTLINE]

CHRISTINA, THE LITTLE VOLUNTEER with a big heart, brings a smile out of one of the Saigon orphans who transited Clark Air Base in the Philippines. Christina Ly-Lan Richard is a former South Vietnamese orphan herself. (OFFICIAL PHOTO BY SGT. TOM BENT)