



**Việt Nam
Health,
Education &
Literature
Projects**

VNHELP Newsletter

**Quý
Y tế
Giáo dục
Văn hoá
VNHELP**

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Founded in 1991, VNHELP is a project-oriented, non-profit, tax-exempt, non-governmental organization.

VNHELP's Mission is to assist children, families, and communities in Việt Nam in the areas of education and health care, and to promote cultural exchanges between Việt Nam and the United States.

Thành lập năm 1991, VNHELP là một tổ chức tư nhân bất vụ lợi, nhằm trợ giúp trẻ em, gia đình và các tổ chức tại Việt Nam về mặt giáo dục và y tế, và khuyến khích trao đổi văn hoá giữa Việt Nam và Hoa Kỳ.

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Accomplishments ♦ Future Challenges

Over the past five years, financial contributions from generous supporters and valuable time from volunteers in the United States—working in close partnership with local organizations and individuals in Viet Nam—have been directly channeled to meet the needs of children, families and communities in overcoming health, education, social and environmental problems.

The growing assistance is only possible through tireless outreach efforts in the United States and has proven the long-term viability and effectiveness of the VNHELP mission. In turn, the organization has strengthened and expanded its circle of friends and contributors. The continuity of our projects, the support of our contributors and volunteers of the past five years have led us solidly into the coming year with the promise of more growth.

The following report highlights past and on-going VNHELP projects.

Project Highlights

♦ **Health Education:** Through a donation of \$2,000 in 1994, the Community Health Center in Cần Thơ, an organization committed to providing public health care information in the Mekong Delta provinces, published and distributed one thousand copies of the 250-page *Personal Health Care Manual*. The Manual was distributed to health care centers, libraries, schools and other community-based organizations.

To meet the needs of the Mekong Delta, VNHELP is aiding the Community Health Center in publishing a dental care manual for health care workers.

♦ **Nguyễn Trường Tộ (NTT) College Scholarship Fund:** This fund, which awards more than 100 scholarships a year to needy college students in Việt Nam, was started by VNHELP founders with an initial gift of \$2,000 in November 1991. Since then, many VNHELP donors have designated their contributions to the NTT Scholarship, helping it grow through the years. To date, 488 scholarships have been granted, with the amount being \$20-\$100 per student per year. A total of \$37,900 has been awarded to recipients throughout Việt Nam since 1991.

♦ **Children Educational Radio Program:** Through VNHELP, the Educational Radio Program in Hồ Chí Minh City has received children's books and funding to cover writers' and readers' fees. Since 1994, VNHELP has supported the broadcast segment,

Summer Literacy Program conducted by NTT Scholarship recipients (Photo by Minh Trí)

Learning about the Environment, funded annual environmental awareness contests and conducted workshops on youth skills development and teaching techniques.

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Letter from Editor

Dear Newsletter Readers and Supporters:

Special greetings to each and every one of you! Your interest in VNHELP activities and Việt Nam is vital to our projects, vital to those we help and always appreciated.

As part of the newsletter team's efforts to gage our effectiveness in keeping our readers informed and involved, a questionnaire was posted in the last newsletter. We thank the readers and supporters who either phoned or wrote to offer valuable feedback and suggestions.

The most numerous comments we received regarding the newsletter requested that VNHELP maintain its "grassroots" look and feel. "Stick to the basics, don't try anything fancy..." was one supporter's succinct suggestion. Another reader asked that every newsletter include brief summaries of all of

VNHELP's various projects to date. One reader wants "shorter articles and less to read!"

We will do our best to implement the suggestions received in order to better spark your interests. In this newsletter, we have included a report on our past and present projects, and an update on our outreach activities.

This newsletter also includes short pieces from Ms. Tôn Nữ Giang Thanh on Vietnamese culture and recent news as they relate to our mission and goals.

In newsletters to come, we want to inform and excite you about VNHELP's various projects and activities. We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and as always, welcome your feedback and suggestions. Do have yourselves a wonderful summer!

Trần Nhã Uyên, Editor

Youth Take the Initiative

Expanded Outreach Activities

Outreach activities have been expanded to increase VNHELP's visibility. Activities include house parties to promote and raise money for VNHELP's projects. Here is a brief rundown of outreach activities of the past three months.

On March 23, 1996, volunteers and supporters gathered at Trần Kim Anh's house for the *Annual Spring Gathering*. More than 30 people got together for an update on VNHELP's activities and to catch up with one another.

Volunteer Send-Off. It has become a tradition for VNHELP staff and members of Volunteers in Asia, a Stanford-based non-governmental organization, to gather at the house of Chris Jenkins and Trần Khánh Tuyết, VNHELP Advisory Board members. Each gathering has been an opportunity for the volunteers to meet with Vietnamese Americans and share information and thoughts before going off to Việt Nam to teach English at various academic institutions.

Hùng Lê, VNHELP's East Coast supporter, displayed VNHELP information at the *Bridges with Asia Conference in New York, May 2 - May 4*.

The *Third Annual Vietnamese American Student Conference* was held at University of California, Irvine, on Sun-

day, May 26. Ngô Đức Thành and Sonny Lê attended the conference and presented workshops on community activism. The theme of this year's conference -titled, *Navigating the Future*- was community activism.

The *1996 NGO Forum on Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia* was held at the American University in Washington, D.C., from May 30 through June 1. This year's conference focus and title was *Sustainable Development*. The conference was attended by the largest Vietnamese delegation ever assembled. VNHELP's conference representative was Executive Director, Sonny Le.

Tran Kim Anh gave a slide presentation titled *Việt Nam Country: Faces of the Future*. at the Berkeley Public library, California on June 2. The purpose of the presentation was to raise public awareness of current developments in Việt Nam and VNHELP's projects. Many attendees wished to offer support to VNHELP after the presentation.

Over \$650 was raised for the Can Tho Street Children Program at a House Party hosted by Joanne Kimata and John Piette on June 15. Many thanks to Joanne and John.

Sonny Le

Street children eating dinner before class

Two Fremont high school students organized a Cha Gio (Vietnamese spring rolls) sale at Fremont High, raising \$365 for VNHELP projects. The two entrepreneurs, Sea Nguyễn, 17, and Ly Nguyễn, 16, sold 600 rolls at the Fremont High Cultural Festival with the help of five other friends. Sea and Ly are two very enterprising young adults who have always felt immense compassion and concern for those less fortunate than they.

Sea and Ly have attended many VNHELP events that have served to foster their budding philanthropy. The two sisters and their parents came to the U.S. from Việt Nam in 1986, and lived in New York state for two years before making California their home. Sea is currently an eleventh grader at Fremont High, while Ly is a tenth grader at the same school. Both sisters are very active members of various school organizations and activities. VNHELP extends its gratitude to Sea and Ly and congratulate them on a successful venture!

Accomplishments ♦ Future Challenges

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♦ **Assistance to Rural Schools - Junior High School in Can Lộc District, Hà Tĩnh Province:** Since 1992, funds from VNHELP have purchased text books, set up a small library for more than 300 students and provided awards of encouragement and grant scholarships to students in financial hardship. *Elementary School in Đông Hòa Hiệp Village, Cái Bè District, Tiền Giang Province:* In 1995, school facilities were improved, new textbooks were given to 800 children and free lunches were provided to students taking their middle school entrance examination.

♦ **Street Children:** VNHELP launched this Can Tho-based program in 1995, and has provided the following services to children aged 5 to 15: daily hot meals, clothing, school supplies, basic medicine and remedial education. For 1996-1997, an *on-the-job training program* offers children on-going support and skills training to become tailors and machinists. The first ten girls and boys have already been identified and will join the program in August 1996.

♦ **Vocational Training for Disabled Children:** VNHELP has been making contributions to the *Cần Thơ School for Handicapped Children* since 1991, including: food, educational toys, cassette player-recorders, tapes, folding canes and Braille watches. In 1994, VNHELP helped the school establish an income-generating pig farm. The school has since made a profit of approximately US\$1,100 from the sale of four lots of pigs. Connected to the pig farm is a "Biogas" project that utilizes animal wastes to produce heating for the kitchen, resulting in savings of US\$40 each month.

The school also provides training in traditional medicine; since June 1995, a number of blind students have graduated from this program. For skills training, the school developed several *self-supporting projects*, including sewing and woodworking for the deaf and mute children.

♦ **Cultural and Professional Exchanges:** In 1995, VNHELP helped artist Đinh Ý Nhi obtain a one-month residency at the prestigious Villa Montavo, California. □

Mr. Bùi Văn Chương, principal of the Cần Thơ school for handicapped children, with the Income-generating project. (Photo by Thạch Phạm)

Projects 1991-1995

● **Medical Equipment and Supplies to Sông Bé Hospital:** From 1991 to 1994, the Compassion Group of VNHELP sent medical texts, equipment and supplies, including: stethoscopes, blood pressure units, aspirators, electrocardiographs, syringes, hypodermic needles, surgical threads and gloves. In 1993, the hospital computerized its patient records using a computer donated by VNHELP.

● **Foreign Language Center:** In 1995, the Foreign Language Center at Cần Thơ University received a 486 personal computer, equipped with a CD-ROM drive and printer. The computer is used by the instructors and students to access and utilize modern language instruction materials.

● **Vocational Training for Disabled Children:** In 1992-1993, VNHELP provided sewing machines and school supplies worth about US\$1,400, to disabled students attending the *Compassion Classes in Vân Nội Village*, Đông Anh District, in the Hà Nội suburbs.

● **Orphanages and Childcare Centers:** VNHELP has provided funds to improve the daily meals at two orphanages and to build bathroom facilities for three day care centers in Hồ Chí Minh City, Hà Nội and Cần Thơ. VNHELP also sent educational toys and supplies to day care centers in Cần Thơ and Hà Nội.

● **Medical library:** In 1991, VNHELP sent medical texts and journals to the Association of Physicians and Pharmacists in Cần Thơ to help the Association set up a medical library. Money was also provided to print and distribute health care pamphlets on the following subjects: toxic effects of alcohol, coffee and street drugs, general hygiene, prevention of common illnesses and use of over-the-counter medication.

● **Center for Cultural and Physical Development of Schoolchildren:** With \$1,000 from VNHELP in 1993, the Center in Huế provided musical instruments and organized cultural activities including: Vietnamese traditional music programs, student painting exhibitions and table tennis competitions.

● **Nôm Script Research:** VNHELP provided technical expertise for the collection and study of written works in the traditional ideographic script, so that rare and historical documents can eventually be computerized.

* * *

Many thanks to VNHELP project coordinators and volunteers in the U.S. and Việt Nam for their creative ideas, for raising funds and for volunteering their time to review and visit VNHELP projects in Việt Nam.

Trần Kim Ánh

Chung một mục đích

AbleNet là một nhóm bạn cả Mỹ lẫn Việt, trong đó có nhiều bạn khuyết tật, đã và đang mang lại niềm hy vọng cho những người cùng bị khuyết tật ở Việt Nam. AbleNet là một tổ chức thiện nguyện đặt trụ sở tại Berkeley, thuộc tiểu bang California, đã tổ chức các lớp huấn luyện miễn phí về tin học và điện toán cho học sinh và sinh viên khuyết tật tại Việt Nam.

AbleNet là đứa con tinh thần của David Đặng Ngọc Ánh. David bị liệt chân từ nhỏ vì đạp mìn lúc còn sống ở làng tại miền trung Việt Nam và được

mang đến Mỹ để giải phẫu. David thành lập AbleNet năm 1989.

Hiện nay AbleNet đang mở một trường huấn nghệ tại Đà Nẵng với 11 học viên mỗi lớp. Học viên sẽ tham gia chương trình học một năm để học những kiến thức căn bản về Windows, FoxPro, Lotus 123 và chế bản in điện tử. Mỗi lớp có một giáo viên và sáu máy điện toán loại 486 để học viên thực tập.

Trong tương lai gần, David hy vọng có thể mở thêm lớp dạy Anh văn và kế toán căn bản, cũng như sẽ mở thêm hai trường mới tại thành phố Hồ Chí Minh

và Hà Nội.

Nhằm mục đích giúp đỡ các học sinh và sinh viên học giỏi và nghèo có cơ hội theo đuổi việc học để có thể có cuộc sống tự lập sau này, VNHELP đã phát năm học bổng (\$70 mỗi học bổng) cho năm học sinh khuyết tật đã tốt nghiệp khoá học năm 1995 tại trường của AbleNet ở Đà Nẵng. Các em Nguyễn Thị Liễu, Nguyễn Thị Hồng, Đoàn Minh Vinh, Lê Thị Hoa và Nguyễn Thị Hiếu sẽ dùng tiền học bổng này để tiếp tục theo học trên đại học.

Ban Biên Tập

Nhớ về Huế

Nhiều người nói với tôi: "Một khi đã uống nước sông Hương thì sẽ nói như người địa phương, nghĩ như người địa phương, cư xử như người địa phương." Có lẽ trong nước có cái gì đó chẳng. Hay đó là vẻ đẹp của mặt trời lặn trên sông Hương. Hay là cảnh trăng lên sáng đỏ sau rặng cây trên nền trời đầy sao, hay sự êm ả của những gợn sóng trên dòng sông chảy mãi không ngừng. Dù gì đi nữa, tôi đã thức nhiều đêm mê hoặc nhìn phong cảnh sống động ở Huế.

Có lẽ tôi hơi thiên vị vì đã sống ở Huế, nhưng ai có thể chối bỏ được cái đẹp của dòng sông Hương êm đềm trôi qua thành phố? Nhiều hôm tôi thức dậy sớm trước khi bình minh ló dạng trong buổi sớm mai ẩm ướt để ngồi trên cầu Tràng Tiền nhìn những gợn sóng trôi qua bên dưới. Ai biết được những gợn sóng đó đã mang theo bao nhiêu giọt nước mắt của các đôi tình nhân trên hai bên bờ sông, đã chứa chất bao nhiêu ước mơ và thể nguyện, đã nghe bao nhiêu lời hứa hẹn và bí mật của họ. Những rặng núi muôn tuổi của miền trung nước Việt đã nói lời minh triết nào với các gợn sóng lặng lẽ này? Những lời than vãn nào đã theo dòng sông trôi ra biển cả?

Trong những đêm sáng trăng, tôi ngồi bên bờ sông, uống ly cà phê đá, mê mẩn nhìn trăng sáng đỏ vươn lên sau rặng cây để cùng hoà nhập với các vì sao trong đêm tối. Trăng, với tất cả vẻ thanh nhã của mình, toả ánh sáng dịu dàng trên con sông như mời gọi Dòng Sông cùng nhập vào trong một vũ điệu êm đềm và tinh tế. Đã có bao nhiêu cặp tình

*Đọc theo bờ sông Hương ở Huế
(Photo by Lê Minh Sơn)*

nhân bắt chước điệu múa rối tuyệt này dưới ánh trăng bên dòng sông? Lời thơ nào của vua chúa cũng như của nông dân đã viết dưới các vì sao sáng này?

Tôi nhớ vào đêm tối cuối ở Huế dưới ánh trăng tròn, tôi đạp xe dọc theo dòng sông Hương đến ngôi chùa Linh Mục nổi tiếng. Mảnh trăng duy nhất ấy đã dẫn đường cho tôi đi suốt bờ sông tới chùa và xung quanh đấy. Tôi thấy những mảnh ruộng lúa nhường chỗ cho ruộng ngô cạnh bờ nước. Tôi nghe tiếng đê kêu và côn trùng rả rích trong đêm. Hít bầu không khí ẩm áp và ẩm ướt vào lồng ngực, tôi để nó lan khắp thân thể và thấm vào hồn tôi. Đêm đó, tôi đã để mình lại đấy, mãi mãi hứa hẹn với thành phố Huế. Và không có cách nào khác hơn là dưới ánh trăng và bên dòng sông của Huế.

Tôn Nữ Giang Thanh

Tương lai của một kinh đô cổ

Năm 1993, UNESCO (Tổ chức Giáo dục Khoa học và Văn hoá Liên Hiệp Quốc) công nhận Huế là một di sản văn hoá của thế giới. Đó là bước đầu trong việc bảo tồn di sản và văn hoá của kinh đô cổ kính.

Năm 1994, sau năm năm tái thiết, cầu Tràng Tiền lại mở ra cho lưu thông qua lại. Cây cầu danh tiếng này, với sáu vồng và mười hai nhịp, đã sụp lần đầu tiên năm 1946 trong một trận đánh với Pháp. Cầu được xây lại nhưng lại bị phá hủy lần thứ nhì năm 1968 trong trận Tết Mậu Thân.

Gần đây Việt Nam phê chuẩn 65,5 triệu Mỹ kim để tu bổ Huế vốn đã bị tàn phá nặng nề trong thời chiến tranh. Dự án kéo dài 15 năm này nhằm trùng tu các lăng tẩm, đền đài, Thành Nội và Tử Cấm Thành. Ngân sách nhà nước, viện trợ ngoại quốc và đầu tư của các cơ quan trong nước cũng như ngoại quốc sẽ đài thọ cho dự án.

Dự án gồm hai giai đoạn. Giai đoạn đầu tổng kết về những địa điểm cần được trùng tu cũng như tu bổ những di vật quý. Giai đoạn chính trang thứ nhì sẽ bắt đầu vào năm 2001, tập trung vào việc xây cất, trang hoàng lại bên trong và ngoài Thành Nội, lăng tẩm và vườn thượng uyển. Theo dự tính đến năm 2010, Hoàng cung, lăng tẩm và hai bên bờ sông Hương sẽ được phục hồi lại được về huy hoàng cũ.

Tôn Nữ Giang Thanh

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On behalf of the aid recipients in Viet Nam and the VNHELP Board of Directors, THANK YOU ALL for your support.

Project Committee Chairpersons: Nguyễn Dụng Tài (93-95), Nguyễn Nam (95-96)

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Memories of Huế

Emperor Minh Mạng's Mausoleum (Photo by Sonny Lê)

People have said to me, "Once you drink the water, you will talk like the natives, think like the natives, act like the natives." Maybe it really is in the water. Or it's the beautiful sun setting over the Perfume River. Or the bright orange moon rising behind the treeline towards the dark starlit sky, or even the tranquillity in the waves of the constantly flowing river. Whatever the spell that binds me, it has kept me up many nights conjuring up the vivid images of Huế's landscape.

Perhaps I am a little biased, having lived in Huế, but who can deny the beauty of the gently flowing Perfume River that runs through the heart of the city? I would rise before the dawn on misty mornings to sit on the Tràng Tiền bridge and watch the waves gently flow under me, carrying with them who knows how many tears shed by lovers along the banks, how many dreams wished and sworn upon them, how many promises and secrets overheard by them. What infinite wisdom is passed onto these silent waves by the ageless mountains of Central Việt Nam? What cries of pain do they carry to the vast ocean?

In the evenings following a full moon, I would sit on the banks of the River, sipping French iced coffee, mesmerized by the bright orange moon as it emerges from behind the horizon of trees to join the stars in the dark night. The Moon, in all its elegance, would cast a soft glow on the waves below as if to

invite the River to join it in a silent and delicate dance. How many lovers emulated this intricate dance in the moonlight by the river? What poetry was composed by kings and peasants alike under these brilliant stars?

I remember riding my bicycle along the bank of the Perfume River toward the famous Linh Mụ pagoda on the night of my last full moon in Huế. The Moon was my only guide along the side of the River, lighting my way toward the Pagoda and beyond. I saw small rice paddies give way to small crops of corn by the water. I heard the cries of crickets and songs of insects fill the night. I took in the warm moist air, letting it spread in my lungs, through my body and into my soul. This night, I was to leave my heart at the Pagoda, forever promising it to this city. And I would do it no other way than under the Moon and by the River in Huế.

Tôn Nữ Giang Thanh

Tôn Nữ Giang Thanh is Case Worker at the Living Well Project, working with the Bay Area's HIV/AIDS stricken Vietnamese Americans. Giang Thanh recently spent one year teaching English at the University of Huế with Volunteers In Asia. Giang Thanh will pursue an advanced degree in International Public Health at Yale University in the Fall and plans to return to Việt Nam to work in Huế again.

The Future of an Ancient Capital

In 1993, Huế was officially approved by UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization) as a World Heritage Site. This was a first step to restoring the heritage and culture of the ancient capital.

In 1994, after five years of reconstruction, the Tràng Tiền Bridge was reopened to the public. This famous bridge, with six arches and twelve spans, collapsed the first time in 1946 during battle with the French. It was rebuilt but then destroyed a second time in 1968 during the Tết offensive.

Court Galleries

Recently, Việt Nam approved a \$65.5 million fund for the restoration of Huế, which was severely damaged during the American War in Việt Nam. The 15 year project is slated to restore tombs, temples, the Citadel and the Forbidden Purple City. Funding will come from the state budget, foreign aid and investments from domestic and foreign entities.

The project is to be completed in two stages. The first task is to set-up files on existing and lost sites to be restored as well as to repair precious artifacts. The second stage of the restoration is to start in 2001 and will focus on construction, redecoration and re landscaping of the Citadel, tombs and court galleries. By the year 2010, it is projected that the main Imperial Palace, royal tombs and the banks of the Perfume River will be restored to their original glory.

Trở lại Huế Xưa

Ai viếng quê xưa mùa biến loạn
Ai thăm xứ cũ thuở thanh bình
Huế nay thành nội chờ sương sáng
Đá cũ rêu tàn mới chiến binh.

An Cựu chiều nay mờ ngấn nước
Sông buồn khi nắng đục mưa trong
Bên cầu cũ tưởng mình quên bước
Ngõ cũ, đường xưa lạ nẻo lòng.

Tôi đứng ven bờ sông lối cỏ
Mái trường xưa cũ vẫn thân yêu
Mà người tựa cổng giờ không rõ
Mang nét ưu tư đổi điểm kiêu.

Vỹ Dạ năm xưa mặt chữ điển
Người em gái nhỏ tuổi hồn nhiên
Tiếng thơ như gọi tình quê cũ
Năm tháng quên rồi tên của em

Chân bước lang thang mọi nẻo đường
Mong tìm dấu vết một tình thương
Bảy tầng tháp cổ, thêm Linh Mục
Vắng bóng em tôi giữa khói hương

Nhịp cầu Bạch Hổ cần khoan thai
Mờ ảo trong sương chiếc lãng dài
Chờ mối tình quê về viễn xứ
Bến đò Thừa Phủ có chờ ai?

Cảnh cũ còn đâu núi Ngự Bình
Rêu cồn, Đập Đá nước còn xanh
Mà đâu nón lá che chiếu nắng
Bước nhỏ qua sông gió gợn tình

Tóc xõa bờ vai mờ nắng hạ
Mắt em hồn nhạt nước sông Hương
Hoa tím ướp trang thơ buồn bã
Nghìn năm xứ Huế vẫn còn thương.

T.T.H.

Return To Huế

Who visits the homeland in seasons of chaos
Who visits the past land once in peace
The citadel awaits the morning dew
Ancient stones, wilting moss are weary from war

The waters of An Cựu this evening are dreamy
The river seems sad, murky in sunshine, clear in rain
Believing that steps have all been forgotten
Old paths, past roads, seem unfamiliar to the trails of the soul

By the rivers I stand, on the grassy banks
The roof of my old school do I still adore
But the silhouettes by the gates have since been blurred
With traces of concerns of different form of beauty

Squarely defined were the faces of the past Vỹ Dạ
And the girl, of natural innocence in youth
Sounds of poetry awake the love for the past homeland
But the months and years have erased the memory of your name

My steps wander on each and every trail
Hoping to find some traces of love
Seven stories of the ancient tower, the steps of Linh Mục
But your silhouette is missing from among the smoke of incense

The arches of the Bạch Hổ bridge span peacefully
Dreamily in the mist, a long small boat
Carries the love for the homeland to far way lands
Who now awaits on the shore of the Thừa Phủ port?

Where is the old scenery, there, the Ngự Bình mountain
The moss of the islet, and the still-blue waters of Đập Đá
But where - the conical leaf hats to cover the evening sun
Only tiny steps in the rivers breeze call back waves of loves

Hair falling on your shoulders in the misty setting sun
Even the water of the Perfume River fade in jealousy of your eyes
Purple flowers pressed between the pages of sad poetry
Will still love Huế for a thousand years to come.

Translated by Tôn Nữ Giáng Thanh



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- ◆ Children Educational Radio Program
- ◆ Vocational Training for Disabled Children
- ◆ Assistance to Rural Schools
- ◆ Cần Thơ Street Children Program
- ◆ Cultural and Professional Exchanges

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Fifth Year For Nguyễn Trường Tộ Scholarship

The Nguyễn Trường Tộ College Scholarship program has completed its fifth successful year, during which VNHELP granted scholarships to 129 students. As has been the case in the past, VNHELP selection criteria is based on the applicant's level of academic achievement, creativity and economic hardship.

The scholarship recipients attend college in the cities of Huế, Hồ Chí Minh City, Cần Thơ and Đà Nẵng, details as follows:

-In Huế: 49 scholarships (30 scholarships of \$70 each, 19 scholarships of \$20 each)

-In Hồ Chí Minh City: 30 scholarships of \$100 each.

-In Cần Thơ: 45 scholarships (30 scholarships of \$70 each, 15 scholarships of \$20 each)

-In Đà Nẵng: 5 scholarships of \$70 each for disabled students

All of the recipients are or were in their last two years of study, with 56 students majoring in the area of Applied Science and Technology, 28 in Basic Science, 21 in Arts and Humanities and 24 in Business Science.

On behalf of the 1995-96 Nguyễn Trường Tộ Scholarship recipients, VNHELP gratefully thanks all donors for the generosity and support during the past years and years to come.

Working Toward The Same Goals

AbleNet, a group of Vietnamese and Americans—many disabled—is bringing hope and dignity to their counterparts in Việt Nam. AbleNet is a Berkeley, California-based charity offering free computer and software training to disabled students in Việt Nam, so that the Vietnamese disabled have a better chance of learning to live independent and productive lives.

AbleNet is the brainchild of David Đặng, paralyzed since childhood after stepping on a land mine near his village in Central Việt Nam. Brought to the U.S. for multiple surgeries, David remained and founded AbleNet in 1989.

AbleNet presently operates a school in Đà Nẵng with a class load of eleven students. The students enroll in a one year program in that teaches and introduces them to Windows, FoxPro, Lotus

1-2-3, desktop publishing and word processing. These classes are taught by one full-time instructor and allow the students to gain experience with six up-to-date 486 PC computers.

In the near future, the school hopes to add English and basic accounting to its curriculum, as well as open two new schools in Hồ Chí Minh City and Hà Nội.

In keeping with our mission to help the needy in Việt Nam become self-sufficient, VNHELP has awarded five scholarships of \$70 each to the disabled students in Đà Nẵng. The students Nguyễn Thị Liễu, Nguyễn Thị Hồng, Đoàn Minh Vinh, Nguyễn Thị Hiếu and Lê Thị Hoa, graduated from the AbleNet school in 1995 and are using their VNHELP scholarship money to pursue college degrees.

Newsletter Staff

Chương Trình Văn Nghệ Gây Quỹ ♦ Fund-raising Concert

Mùa Thu Ta Hát Yêu Nhau
Với các nghệ sĩ nổi tiếng: Khánh Hà, Lê Uyên Phương, Đức Huy

Chủ Nhật, ngày 22 tháng 9, 1996
Từ 2:30 P.M. đến 5:30 P.M.
Tại Santa Clara Convention Center
Ticket: \$25-\$50

Mọi chi tiết xin liên lạc VNHELP số (510) 832-4715 hoặc (408) 276-0974



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