

23 December 2023

FOU representatives visited many project-sites last summer. The members and volunteers traveled at own expenses, so that 100% of donated fund will be used to benefit the underprivileged.

EDUCATION

Helping the underprivileged through education is the FOU's main focus. We established 10 libraries so far.

Table 1: FOU supported libraries

1) CNHS library in DiLinh/Gia Lanh. Managed by Nữ Tử Bắc Ái convent.	6) Đinh-Vũ library in Pleiku. Managed by Phao Lồ convent for school girls.
2) Ly Thanh Phương library in Cam Ranh. Managed by Đức Bà Truyền Giáo convent.	7) (New) Thanh-Nhàn library in Pleiku. Managed by Phao Lồ convent for school boys.
3) (New) Sỷ-Luân library in Buon Ma Thuot . Managed by Nữ Vương Hoà Bình convent.	8) Bùi-Lê library in Pleiku. Managed by Phao Lồ convent.
4) Ly Thanh Phương library in Kontum. Managed by Phao Lồ convent.	9) Bùi-Koa library in Bình Phước. Managed by Nữ Vương Hoà Bình convent.
5) DK library in Kontum. Managed by Nữ Tử Bắc Ái convent.	10) Lam-Anh library in Bình Phước. Managed by Đức Bà Truyền Giáo convent.

Last year FOU provided 562 scholarships (542 for K-12 graders, and 22 for college students) at 13 sites. This summer we (i) visited all sites except Minh Hung, Datong, and Kren, (ii) organized two midwifery workshops in BuonMaThuot and Pleiku, and (iii) inaugurated two new libraries (Sy-Luan and Thanh-Nhan). FOU and a group of teachers from HP Academy in Saigon visited DiLinh, GiaLanh, and Dalat. The teachers distributed gifts to patients and their families at the leprosy communities, awarded academically excellent students, and enjoyed the shows performed by students (Figs. 1 and 2). Similar visit was made by other volunteers in October (Fig. 3). Similar celebrations were performed at other sites (Figs. 4-14)

HEALTH CARE

Traditional home birth was common to Montagnard women. Some still practice home birth since they either live very far from a hospital or simply cannot afford a steep hospital cost. FOU started our first training in 2019 and continued this summer after the pandemic. Two doctors of obstetrics and gynecology, Dr Ngoc and Dr Phuc, led the workshops in BuonMaThuot (Fig. 10a) and Pleiku (Fig. 11b) to 20 women from different tribes. The training was tailored to midwives in remote tribes to enrich their skills. All participants received stipends for their participation, essential toolkits and medicine to bring back to their tribes.

FOU celebrated the opening of two new libraries after the midwifery workshops.

- The new library Sỷ-Luân in Buon Ma Thuot will benefit students at the Catholic Teresa dormitory. Ten new computers, furniture, books were donated to support about 120 students. The workshop participants, Dr Ngoc, and FOU members enjoyed the traditional musical show by the students themselves.
- The new library Thanh-Nhàn in Pleiku was renovated from a primitive shelter into a large multifunctional room—for studying, dinning, or entertaining by younger students—and a smaller room with books and 10 new computers for mature students. All room floors were raised and tiled to eradicate the previous dusty floor in dry season or muddy floor in rainy season. A new water well Thanh-Nhàn was built to provide clean water to about 300 tribal families in Pleiku.

We then visited some midwives who attended our training in 2019. We met a couple of midwives who are still actively practice midwifery at their tribes, and home-birthed children (Figs. 12-13). We also visit and distributed gifts to patients at the leprosy communities at Dakia in Kontum, and Dak Nong in Buon Ma Thuot.

OUTLOOKS

FOU will continue to support the underprivileged groups in Vietnam.

- Education. Continue providing scholarships to minority students while motivating them for higher education. Explore online English teaching to children in Vietnam. Upgrade computers to needy library.
- Health care. Provide clean water, basic medicine, improve sanitary conditions at remote tribes.
- Sustainable energy. Install solar-powered hot water systems.



Fig. 1. Members of HP school with patients and students. Di Linh leprosy community.



Fig. 2. Members of HP school and students at CamLy dormitory in Dalat



Fig. 3. Jeff Scharfen with patients and children in DiLinh leprosy community.



Fig. 4. Celebration at Ly Thanh Phuong library in Cam Ranh



Fig. 5a: Celebration at LyThanhPhuong library in Kontum



Fig. 5b: Celebration at Ly-Thanh-Phuong library in Kontum



Fig. 6: Celebration at D.K. library and visit to Dak Kia leprosy community in Kontum.



Fig. 7. Celebration at Bui Le library in Pleiku.



Fig. 8. Celebration at Bui-Koa library in Binh Phuoc.



Fig. 9. Celebration at Lam-Anh library in Binh Phuoc.



Fig. 10a: Dr Ngoc (*) leads the midwifery workshop and celebrates with participants in Buon Ma Thuot.



Fig. 10b. New computers /books at Sy-Luan library and new boots to student farm helpers in Buon Ma Thuot.



Fig. 11a: Construction and celebration at Thanh-Nhan library in Pleiku.



Fig. 11b: Dr Phuc (*) leads the midwifery workshop in Pleiku.



Fig. 11c: Celebration at Dinh Vu library in Pleiku.



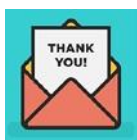
Fig.12. The FOU-trained midwife Denh (*) and the children whom she delivered at Bong K'La tribe in Pleiku.



Fig. 13. The FOU-trained midwife Romah Thieu (*) and people at VonChep tribe in Pleiku.



Fig. 14. Patients awaiting gifts at Eana leprosy community in Dak Nong Buon Ma Thuot.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We sincerely thank the following groups and individuals on behalf of the underprivileged in Vietnam. The following information reflects new donations received from 1 January 2023 till 31 October 2023. Any new donation received after 1 November 2023 will be reported in our next newsletter.

ORGANIZATIONS:

Organizations	Location
— United World College of Southeast Asia	Singapore
— Shell Oil Company Foundation Matching Gifts	USA
— EDI American Online Giving	USA
— Amazon Smile	USA
— 3C's Compassionate Caring Charity	USA
— The Blackbaud Giving Fund	USA

DONORS: (1 Jan 2023 – 31 Oct 2023)

We have received cash, and in-kind donations (toys, books, laptops, candies, mosquito nets, computer tables, shipping cost...), and kind help from the following supporters:

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Note: Donation can be conveniently made online via Zelle.(See details at: <http://www.fou2asia.org/support-fou.html>)