

30 December 2020



The worldwide pandemic has affected many activities. FOU temporarily postpones our trips and focuses on educational projects.

## RELIEF EFFORTS

- Many dormitories and orphanages for minority children are often very crowded. When the pandemic erupted early this year, FOU purchased 5,776 soap bars and shipped them to 14 different locations to minimize spreading of the disease at these high-density dormitories. Details were reported in our newsletter last July.
- The Vinh Nguyen dormitory hosted 150 minority children in Kontum. They moved from their original home two years ago to a temporary shelter while waiting for a new home to be built. During this summer, they moved again to their new and empty home within the Dakkia leprosy community in a rural area of Kontum. FOU and supporters shipped mosquito nets, mats, food, additional soaps and school supplies to the children during this transition. The FOU-supported DK library was quickly re-established to have computers, books, and study areas available for the new school year in September (see Figures 1-4).

## EDUCATION

- Scholarship program. Supporting the underprivileged through education is the FOU's main focus. Our scholarship program has shifted gradually toward higher education while supporting other K-12 students. For this 2020-21 academic year, FOU provided a total of 633 scholarships to 584 K-12 students and 49 college /vocational students from 8 different locations in Vietnam (Bu Dang, Cam Ranh, Di Linh, K'Ren, Dalat, Kontum, Pleiku, and Long Dien). A significant number of students, who continued their studies after high school graduation, reflects the success of our program. The number of students attending colleges /universities has increased from 32 to 49 in the last 4 years.
- New libraries. About 40% of K-12 students are doing very well at their schools, as shown by the number of honor certificates, but about 20% of them are slow to switch from tribal lives to the new language and learning environment at schools. We hope to improve this by offering after school tutoring and providing decent facilities and environment for learning. FOU has established 5 libraries and plans to have 2 more at the following sites. Each will have new computers, internet connection, furniture, books, and comfortable environment to study.
  - The Phaolo dormitory in Pleiku. The nuns not only provide free schooling and boarding to approximately 120 minority students at this site, but also encourage them to keep their heritage by allowing them to speak their tribal languages and teaching them their traditional musical instruments. The children also picked up farming skills while providing food for themselves (see Figures 5-7). All 40 scholarship recipients at this site proudly earned their honor certificates last year.
  - The Nu Vuong Hoa Binh dormitory in Binh Phuoc. The 96 minority students at this site have been sharing few outdated “computers” without internet but managed to do very well in school. FOU provided 54 scholarships to students at this site, who all received honor certificates last year (See Figure 8).

## OUTLOOKS

FOU can remotely support following projects until it is safe for international travel.

- Education. FOU will (i) provide scholarships to underprivileged students while motivating them for higher education, (ii) provide maintenance for computers at 5 existing libraries, and (iii) establish 2 new libraries. A scholarship package of each student will be completed in January and sent to the sponsors afterward.
- Health care. FOU will supply common medicine to qualified nuns for free distribution to the tribal people.



Fig.1: Minority students from Vinh Son dormitory pack their books (left) and move to the new place (right). Dakkia, Kontum.



Fig.2: FOU provided relief fund and support for the move to new dormitory at Dakkia leprosy community.



Fig.3: Study hall for children at the new dormitory. Dakkia, Kontum.



Fig.4: The new location of FOU-sponsored DK library. Dakkia, Kontum



Fig.5: Minority students in traditional costumes at Phaolo dormitory, Pleiku



Fig.6: Students learn to be self sufficient by farming, Phaolo dormitory, Pleiku.

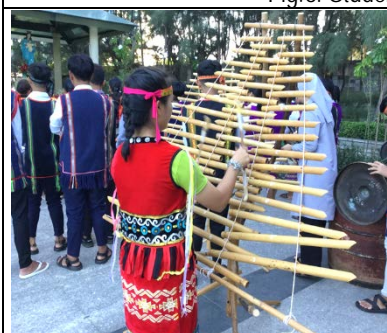


Fig.7: Students keep their heritage by speaking their own languages and mastering their tribal musical instruments. Phaolo dormitory, Pleiku.



Fig.8: Minority students at Nu Vuong Hoa Binh dormitory in Binh Phuoc



## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We sincerely thank the following groups and individuals on behalf of the underprivileged in Vietnam. The following information reflects new donations received during 1 July 2020 – 31 December 2020. Any new donation received after 1 January 2021 will be reported in our next newsletter.

### ORGANIZATIONS:

Organizations	Location
– Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation (accounted in the July 2020 report)	USA
– Kaiser Permanente (accounted in the July 2020 report)	USA
– United World College of Southeast Asia (accounted in the July 2020 report)	Singapore
– Cardinal Newman High School	USA
– Shell Oil Company Foundation	USA
– Microsoft via Benevity Funds	USA
– AmazonSmile	USA

### DONORS:

We have received cash and goods donations from the following supporters (1 July 2020 – 31 December 2020):

- Thuyen Vu & Hung Dinh, David Dinh, Ryan Dinh, Thanh Vu, Chuong & Hoang Vu, Thomas & Hoang Yen Pham, Quynh Tram & Vinh Bui, Ly Le-Phan, Thanh Ostheimer, Hong & Anh Nguyen, Le Bao Ngoc & Michael Truong, Nguyen Hoang Phuc, Ngan-Anh Vu, Thanh-Chung Vu, and Van Anh.
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Note: Donation can be conveniently made online via Zelle. See: <http://www.fou2asia.org/support-fou.html>