



20 December 2019

FOU members and friends traveled at our own expenses to the remote project sites. We provided relieving assistance, assessed current educational, social, and health-care projects, and evaluated new projects to provide sustainable benefits to the underprivileged.

## SYNERGETIC ACTIVITIES

Supporting the underprivileged through education is the main focus of FOU. We have been cooperating with United World College of Southeast Asia (UWCSEA) in Singapore and Cardinal Newman High School (CNHS) in California to provide scholarships to K-12 and college students. Students from UWCSEA spent their spring break week in March at DiLinh leprosy community and Mai Anh special education school in Dalat. In December, a CNHS team of staffs, students, and parents visited these places and CamLy convent in Da Lat. They shared games, toys, clothes, shoes, and distributed gifts and interacted with children at all three locations.

The FOU team completed their annual visits to numerous project sites in August.

- Education. FOU offered 601 scholarships this year to 544 K-12 students, and 57 college /vocational students from 8 different locations in Vietnam (Bu Dang, Cam Ranh, Di Linh, K'Ren, Dalat, Kontum, Pleiku, and Long Dien). Despite of their social and economic status, more than 50% of sponsored students earned their honor certificates of academic excellence. Significant number of students continued after finishing their high school reflected the success of our program to promote higher education. The number of post high school students from 32 to 57 in 3 years.

The fifth library, named "Thư viện CNHS," was opened this year in DiLinh. All libraries, located in dormitories of Catholic convents, are equipped with new desktop computers, printers, furniture, textbooks as well as reference books to serve the students at these locations.

- Midwifery workshop. FOU organized 2 workshops for tribal midwives who follow the homebirth tradition at remote tribes in Kontum and Pleiku. Twenty four ladies with mixed experiences were trained by Dr. Hanh and senior medical students Chi and Phuc. Graphics, animations, and childbirth models were used for illustration. All participants received gifts and delivery kits when completed the workshop. Two local liaisons will help to monitor performance and results of the participants. Five minority groups were also trained and received donated first-aid kits for their dormitories.
- Relief support. We distributed gifts to the patients at different leprosy communities (Di Linh and Kontum). Off-the-counter medicine were provided to the nuns who are qualified to diagnose and distribute free medication to the poor Montagnard. We also distributed 250 pairs of slippers to bare-footed children and cheered them up with new clothes, candies, and toys.
- Clean water, energy, and sanitation. Clean water and improved sanitary would reduce health issues at developing communities and boarding schools for the minority. FOU team inaugurated two gravity-fed clean water systems in N'Tol, two solar water heaters in Kontum, and a water filtrating system in Kontum. With help from a local engineer, FOU built and donated additional 30 toilets to tribal communities in Kontum.

## OUTLOOKS

FOU will focus on following projects in the coming months:

- Sustainable energy. FOU will provide technical and financial support for irrigating systems at the leprosy community in Gia Lanh and solar powered lights at the remote tribal villages in N'Tol where electricity is not available.
- Sanitary. In the fourth phase, FOU will build additional toilets at tribal villages in Kontum. Each toilet and linked septic tanks would cost less than 300 usd yet would be still functional for at least 5 years.
- Educational. FOU will continue to provide scholarships to underprivileged students while motivating them for higher education. We will support the maintenance of computers at five libraries and employ qualified tutors to guide the students.
- Health care. FOU will continue to supply common medicine to qualified nuns for free distribution to the tribal people. Midwifery workshops will be repeated for minority midwives from different tribes.



Fig.1: Cardinal Newman staff and students with leprosy patients (left) and with students at Mai Anh special education school (right). DiLinh and Dalat.



Fig.2: Students proudly show their honor certificates at Datong (left) and DiLinh (right)



Fig. 3: Awards to academic excellent students in Datong (left) and K'Ren (right)



Fig. 4: A minority child with her honor certificate in K'Ren (left). Groups of outstanding academic students in LongDien (right)



Fig. 5: Proud students with their honor certificates. Bu Dang



Fig. 6: Happy college-bound students. Long Dien.

08.08.2019



08.12.2019

Fig. 7: Tribal people contribute labor to the two clean water projects in N'Tol.



Fig. 8: School supply donation (left) and distribution of gifts to the tribal people (right). N'Tol.



Fig. 9: Clean toilets for the underprivileged minority. Kontum.



Fig. 10. Children with the new water filtering system. Kontum.



Fig. 11. One of the two Sao Hạ (Tropical Star) solar water heaters. Kontum.



Fig. 12. Dan and Sister Thanh at the DK library in Kontum (left). Opening of the new CNHS library in DiLinh (right).



Fig. 13. Drs. Hanh, Phuc, and Chi at midwifery workshops in Kontum and Pleiku.



Fig. 14: Midwifery workshop (left) and first-aid training (right). Kontum.



Fig. 15: Dan and interpreters in music classes in Kontum (left) and DiLinh (right).



Fig. 16: Smiling mother and child (left) and happy patients during gift distribution (right). Dakkia leprosy community, Kontum.



Fig. 17: Phuc and children enjoy Macarena dance in Kontum (left). FOU friends with children in Dilinh (right)



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