



Dear friends and future friends of the Vietnam Education Society,

Thank you so very much for your support of the Vietnam Education Society (VES) over the past 15 years. VES was formed in 2005 to improve educational opportunities for the children in rural Vietnam, primarily through the construction of primary schools and early education centres. With your help, VES has built three primary schools including fans, lights, desks, blackboards and a washroom block, a multi-purpose room, a primary school library and seven early children education centres/kindergartens (also with washroom blocks and some with kitchens). We have also given school supplies, toys, blankets, cots, rice cookers, water filtration systems and playground equipment to many schools.

Our opening ceremony for the seventh VES early childhood education centre took place in Vang hamlet in Quang Tri province on 15 May 2020, shortly after students returned to class following the pandemic-enforced school shutdown. Here is a photo of the new school and one of the children at lunch time. Although I was unable to attend the opening ceremony, I was there for the December 2019 ground-breaking ceremony. I can attest to the excitement of that day and the deep appreciation for the new school expressed by teachers, parents and commune officials.





The A Xing kindergarten we had planned to build received funding from a Vietnamese donor so instead VES raised funds for the construction of a different kindergarten in the same district. The new kindergarten in Bù hamlet of Tan Lap Commune, Huong Hoa district in Quang Tri province was completed in July 2021. The community is of the Van Kieu ethnic minority and the people make their living through farming. In the new classroom approximately 30 3-6 year old children who currently do not attend kindergarten as there is no space for them, will learn and play. Covid restrictions have delayed the opening ceremony for this new kindergarten; we hope that the ceremony will take place in the fall of 2021.

VES pays annually for the school lunches for about 100 kindergarten children at VES schools whose parents cannot afford the small fee. These lunches literally change young lives. Malnutrition leaves children at risk of both physical and mental stunting. The schools weigh and measure kids at the beginning and end of the school year to track the impact of the lunch program. Since 2012-2013, VES has been providing 45 scholarships through an organization called Pacific Links, which is now in its 20th year of empowering women and young girls in Vietnam and neighbouring countries. These scholarships keep girls at risk of being sexually trafficked safe and in school. VES also contributes \$15,000 annually to support a summer anti-trafficking camp for over 750 girls (It was held online this year due the pandemic). Trafficking is one of the most terrible things human beings do to each other. We must work to keep these girls and young women safe.

Although Vietnam has been one of the more successful countries in the fight against Covid-19, the country has still felt the economic impacts of the pandemic. And, as everywhere, the most vulnerable are always the most severely affected. The Vietnam Education Society, with your financial support, makes a difference. You can assist with this valuable work by donating online at www.vietnameducation.ca or by mailing a cheque made out to:

Vietnam Education Society
1926 Pohorecky Terrace, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7W 0J1.

All donations over \$20 will receive a tax receipt. One hundred percent of all donations go directly to the VES projects. (I cover the administration costs myself separately.)

Thank you so much for considering this request. As you will appreciate, fundraising is particularly challenging in the year of the COVID-19 pandemic, even though the global health crisis is increasing the needs of the poorest people in all societies, including Vietnam. We hope you will join with the Vietnam Education Society in helping the children of rural Vietnam.

Yours truly,

Carin Holroyd, President,
Vietnam Education Society
carinholroyd@gmail.com
306-341-4575