

Dear friends and future friends of the Vietnam Education Society,

Thank you so very much for your support of the Vietnam Education Society (VES)! Every fall, I send out to you an overview of VES activities particularly those that occurred over the past year and an appeal for your financial support. Here is my update and appeal for 2022-23!

In 2021-22 VES completed the construction of two new kindergartens thanks to generous donations from the Ptarmigan Foundation and Bob and Mary Hagedorn. See photos below – Miet Pa Cong kindergarten on the left and Trum kindergarten on the right. These two new kindergartens are in rural Quang Tri province.





Both of these wonderful donors have also agreed to fund an additional kindergarten each. Construction will begin on these kindergartens in early 2023. This will bring the total number of VES kindergartens to 13 along with our three primary schools and one primary school library. The schools are spread out across numerous provinces in north, central and southern Vietnam:

Primary schools and library – Thai Nguyen province (1), Quang Binh province (1), Quang Nam province (1), Bac Giang province (1).

Kindergartens – Thai Nguyen province (1), Bac Giang province (3), Ba Ria/Vung Tau province (1), Kon Tum province (1) and Quang Tri province (5 soon to be 7).

VES also provides school supplies, toys, blankets, cots, rice cookers, water filtration systems and playground roofs and equipment to our various schools. Since 2010, VES has been paying annually for the school lunches for children at VES schools whose parents cannot afford the small fee and raising the money for kitchens for most of the kindergartens we build. A proper kitchen allows the kindergarten to provide more nutritionally sound lunches for their children. 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. We know that the lunch program makes a difference as we can see the number of malnourished children drop over the course of the academic year.

Over the years, as we have built more kindergartens, we have been funding more children's lunches. While we have seen the parents in some communes become better off and therefore able to pay the lunch fees themselves, this has not offset the increase in student numbers from the new kindergartens. Rural Quang Tri province is very poor and none of the parents of the children at those kindergartens can afford to pay for lunches. This year we are funding lunch for over 350 children and we need your help to do so! The monthly cost per child for daily lunch and snacks is only \$15; \$150 funds lunch for a child for a school year.









Since 2012, VES has been providing 45 scholarships through an organization called Pacific Links, which has been empowering women and young girls in Vietnam and neighbouring countries for over two decades. These scholarships keep girls at risk of being sexually trafficked safe and in school. VES also contributes U.S.\$15,000 annually to support a summer anti-trafficking camp for over 750 girls. 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. The cost to support one scholarship girl for one school year is \$400 and the cost for one girl to go to camp is \$175.

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. 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

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carinholroyd@gmail.com

306-341-4575