



## **President Annual Report at AGM Zoom Meeting on 19/12/2022**

VNF Board continues to have our regular monthly meeting via Zoom, including the Annual General Meeting, partly due to the Covid pandemic. We managed to keep close contact with our charity partners in Vietnam via emails, phones and personal visits in VN by some directors. The following projects have been delivered:

### Recycled Bicycle Project 2021-2022:

We have extended our collaboration with Recycled Bikes For Kids (R4K) led by Mr. Trần Quyết Thắng in Hà Tĩnh. A total of 588 renovated bikes were distributed to poor school children with good academic records. These are schools in North-west region and poor coastal regions of Vietnam. Thanks to your generous supports, this year our Bikes Appeal raised \$20,860.

### Rainwater Containers Project 2021-2022:

We continue our collaboration with our local partner Mr. Huỳnh Ngọc Bảo and the local Red Cross and delivered 300 vats of 1,000 litres to poor villagers in remote areas of My Hiep Son, Kien Giang, for harvesting rainwater.

### Bridge Project 2020-2021:

In collaboration with the Buddhist Association of Cà Mau (Giáo Hội Phật Giáo Cà Mau), the building or replacing old monkey bridges with new concrete bridges continued with a total of 7 bridges (varying from 16m to 40m long by 2m wide) were built in the Tran Phan and Ngoc Hien, Dam Doi, Ca Mau area to provide safe travel for local children and improve transportation for local communities. We would like to acknowledge the generous donation of Mr Vu Phuong Diem to this project over many years.

### VNF Covid Relief Appeal 2021:

Our August 2021 Covid Appeal received overwhelming support, in total VNF raised \$74,000 which was promptly donated to three charity groups in Vietnam: Chung Tay Vì Cộng Đồng (Volunteer Together As Community); Hành Trình Yêu Thương (The Journey of Love); and Diêu Giác Orphanage to provide sustenance and emergency assistance to those affected in Saigon.

### Ban Bau Primary School Project:

VNF provided funding for the renovation of Bản Bâu Primary School in Nam Động village, Thanh Hóa Province. This is a rural community consisting of over 90% ethnic minorities, with an average income of under VND 500,000 (AUD 30) a month. The project was co-funded and managed by our local partner Volunteer Together As Community (Chung Tay Vì Cộng Đồng), and comprised the following scope:

- Complete renovation of classrooms, including walls, painting, electrical wiring, ceiling fans and lights

- New furniture and blackboards
- New toilets for boys and girls
- New doors, windows and school gate

#### Tra Linh Primary School Project:

VNF has joined force with Chung Tay Vi Cong Dong to build a well, fresh water storage and filtration system to provide clean water to Tra Linh Primary School in Nam Tra My district of Quang Nam province. This project was completed in December 2021. We would like to thank TMA Solutions Australia for their generous contribution to this project.

#### Build a Future Program:

In late 2021, the Vietnam Foundation launched our new Build A Future Program. This program aims at providing annual scholarships to disadvantaged children at secondary school levels, the selection and coordination are carried out by experienced partners in Vietnam. A total of \$29,553 was raised and sent to 3 partners in VN in 2022 to provide scholarships in the final three years of High Schools. These partners are Chung Tay Vi Cong Dong, Quy Khat Vong and Rotary Club of Saigon.

In addition to providing the scholarships, we are developing a training program to teach scholarship recipients important life skills such as physical health and nutrition, study techniques such as utilisation of internet, education about social media, job-seeking skills, community involvement and resilience training. A pilot program providing English tuition to upper secondary students in Vietnam has started from June/July 2022 summer break with English volunteers from Australia & Vietnam under the coordination of an experienced Australian teacher, Mr Rhys Williams and Ms Kieu Vuong, the President of Rotary Club Saigon.

From November 2022, this program becomes the long term scholarship fund. A special purpose fund was created with the objective to provide funding for future scholarship grants. Fund raising activities for this program are headed by our enthusiastic member Mr Vu Van Hieu.

With increasing support from friends in the USA, VNF has set up a new chapter in the USA called Vietnam USA Foundation Ltd VUSAF which has been approved as a 501(c)(3) Public Charity Tax Deductibility under IRC Section 170. A new website is being built for VUSAF and will go online shortly.

In addition to updating news on our website, we continue to report our activities to members and supporters via our e-Newsletter twice a year. We are looking for volunteers to help writing news articles and editing video clips on our charity projects in VN. Your help is greatly appreciated.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dr Lý Gia Nhân

President

19/12/2022