

Newsletter 16, 2016 December 7

Best sponsors and friends of school project

LOOKING-FORWARD Foundation

“Iedereen is van de wereld en de wereld is van iedereen”

“Everybody belongs to the World and the World belongs to everybody”



This refrain of the song by Dutch band The Scene/singer Thé Lau I used in my little speech during the official opening ceremony of the school year 2016-2017 on 5 September on the Mac Dinh Chi secondary school in Dien Son. Since a few years, as a representative of Looking-Forward School Fund on the cooperating schools during this particular (Communist) ceremony also a Word to the school board and the students. Our school project should and wants to distance itself from politics, religion and the content and implementation of the education in Viet Nam. By the chorus of this song could I safely (allowed) to draw attention to our greatest general interest: care about our joint one world. The core of this song is that everyone is personally responsible for the quality of our planet and society.

- So:
- TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR WORLD
 - TAKE GOOD CARE OF VIETNAM
 - TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
 - TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOURSELF



I did my littler speech in English, which at most 5 people could understand. English teacher, Mrs Thuy, translated my words directly in front of the other people present (Thuy is the contact person for our project on Mac Dinh Chi school). The 800 pupils thanked us with a loud applause and from Director Mrs Kim Nga we got a beautiful flower arrangement.

This school year (2016-2017) we have a total of 15 new students in our project, of which 6 at this school. The week before this ceremony we have this 6, by the school board selected students-in-distress, visited at home to view their living and housing situation and them officially admit to Looking-Forward project. Then there has happened something very special! The Group of friends of our late son Paul asked us whether they were allowed to support a pupil from our project. We appreciate this very special gesture and thought that a boy would be the best choice for the friends of Paul. The 6 new pupils of the Mac Dinh Chi school are 4 girls and 2 boys. One of the boys was less shy and spoke a little English. We decided to grant him, Minh Man, to the Group of friends.

If we later get his data from his school staff, it shows Man be born on the same date as Paul, November 21!

Most people are Buddhists in Viet Nam. According to them, only the body dies, not the spirit; that will always be with us; could this same date just be a coincidence?



In the school year 2016-2017 the school project has 87 pupils; 4 more than the previous school year. The students are mainly in 6 schools in Nha Trang and Dien Khanh. Every year in August-September, we attend the schools to welcome new L-F students and say goodbye to students who have to leave our project. Most leave our project with high school leaving certificate (12th class). It's very special to see the change in "our" students in the years that they are in our project. If they come to us they are usually very young and very timid. Every year we see them growing up and less shy. At the high school are the adolescents of 15-17 years who are full of confidence about their future. They really are all the same, they have the same modern look and the same desires and possibilities for further study. We have 2 pictures posted by Nhu Truc and Kim Phi with other L-F-pupils.

The first picture was taken in 2010 when they were welcomed in Looking-Forward. The second picture was taken August 23 2016, when Truc and Phi (and Thien, Truong, Hieu, Nhung and Tin) got the farewell bonus of 2 million Vietnamese Dong (about 80 euro).

Truc is now on Nha Trang University and is studying English there. Phi does tourism at College. Also the other 5 Hoang Hoa Tham high school graduates are in vocational training; Nhung is even at a University in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). We are very proud of "our" students!



It is a great pity to have to tell that 2 students who last year left the L-F project and went on to further studies have had to stop their studying because they are pregnant. Statistics in Viet Nam show that among every 100 girls, almost 3 girls get pregnant during their teen years. Abortion is allowed in Vietnam up to 12 weeks. Abortion is widely used

with pregnancies in teenage girls but is still quite often after having had a scan to see if the baby is a boy rather than a girl. With the modern scanning technology at an early stage, the sex can be determined. There is no overall birth control in Vietnam, but someone with a job at the Government



(also in education) may only have 2 children.

Those who followed us on the Looking-Forward website "travel reports", during our visit in August – September has seen pictures of the large cemetery of unborn babies who have been aborted. On a hill outside Nha Trang, hidden behind trees, lies the cemetery "The Angels Family", where a man, has over the last 10 years, buried 10,000 babies bodies. He collects the fetuses at abortion clinics almost daily in and around Nha Trang. On each gravestone are some plastic flowers and all over this cemetery soft serene music to hear. It was very, very impressive to walk between these mini tombs.

We're happy the 2 babies of our ex-L-F-pupils may be born. One has already been born; the other will be in June next year.



It is not easy to manage our school project in Vietnam. Manners, Buddhism, superstition, the language, the school system, the expectations are strange to us. We want sometimes too much, too fast. We want sex education and environmental awareness. We want a healthy life for our students. L-F-manager Ms. Hiep does her best for us in Vietnam. We have to be patient and count our blessings: nearly 20 students-in-need have finished their regular school and almost all of them continued with their education. 87 children who also get that same chance; the school books, the clothing with TET/Lunar New Year, the great day trip together, the bicycle, the school uniform, the extra food for a malnourished pupil and more! All thanks to the L-F-Board, Mrs Hiep, Steve in United Kingdom, the assisting school boards in Nha Trang and Dien Khanh and of course the sponsors and friends of Looking-Forward!

Financial accountability

On December 10 2016 is in the fund € 5.706,19 (including prepaid tuitions).

School year 2016-2017 there are a total of 87 financial-supported L-F-pupils = 53 girls and 34 boys.

78 students have a personal supporter. (10 of them supported by Looking-Forward United Kingdom.

9 more students are available for support.

Special Revenue: Charitable Donation € 124,31

Special Expenses: 2-annual day out with all L-F-pupils, € 1100

Private costs are kept separate from the Looking-Forward fund.

All sponsors can get full access to the L F- accounts

The policy plan and the Foundation articles of Association are visible on our L-F website.

Thank you for supporting the Looking-Forward school project in Vietnam,

We wish you a GOOD and HEALTHY 2017



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