

Newsletter 17, July 14, 2017

Dear sponsors and friends of school project

## Foundation LOOKING-FORWARD



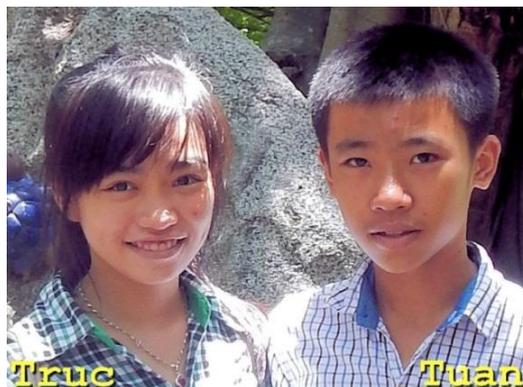
Let's start the newsletter this time with bad news.

In the last six months 3 Looking-Forward-pupils left school early, these are 20-2. NHI, 29-2. Tuan and 47-2. Thu.

Khanh Nhi was already in the final class 12, when she no longer showed up at her high school during the tests of the 1st semester. This formerly excellent pupil was now 18 years old and was more interested in the opposite sex than in her school books. The performances of Nhi at school had gotten worse and apparently she had foreseen bad results of the tests. Viet Nam is a real achievement-orientated society; if you cannot perform well, you're off. We have not seen Khanh Nhi anymore. Our manager Hiep has tried to meet her, but did not succeed. The school policy gives no time for reflection; there is no way back for a school leaver. Even though we want it differently, we are obliged to conform to the Vietnamese (*communist*) school system.

Thanh Thu (*16 years/class 10*) is about the same situation, but this occurred at the tests of the 2nd semester in May. However, Thu can not do anything about it; she has less learning abilities. The school report of the 1st semester showed many insufficient marks. Thu has persisted until May, but apparently did not dare to make the final tests of the year. Thu has also disappeared. Her friends say she has a job in a pub.

Minh Tuan (*14 year/class 8*) is a boy who is dealing with his adolescence. Boys are in any case more difficult to motivate for school than girls. His older sister Nhu Truc (*20*) (*who participated in our school project before Tuan and is now going to college in Nha Trang*) has tried everything to let her little brother continue going to school, but he doesn't want to listen to her advice. Truc and Tuan are both abandoned by their parents and now live together in a very simple cottage in the village of Dien Dien. Tuan does not listen to our manager Hiep either. When we are back in Nha Trang/Dien Khanh, we definitely will visit Truc and Tuan. Tuan must realise that our project might be the last possibility for him to go back to school. If he will not continue, a future as factory or farm worker with a salary of less than 50,000 Dong (2 Euro) for a long day of work without any social insurance will be his foreland.



Other news that is not that nice, is the fact that the income of Looking-Forward is declining. Two fixed sponsors dropped out this year (*their reasons are not linked to our school project*). This year we have had only one special extra gift. Therefore, upcoming school year, we will admit fewer new needy students to our small project.

This does not mean anything for the current L-F-pupils, because there are individual sponsors for them and we have sufficient funds reserved. The reduction in the number of supported students can be compensated for by the 12 students who will leave our project in August, because they have successfully completed 12th grade. In the upcoming school year we support 85 students, this may be a few less. If we admit a student-in-need to Looking-Forward, we guarantee that the pupil can complete the 12-year regular school training, with or without a personal supporter.

## The good news:

We are very pleased to mention that all 71 L-F-pupils at primary, secondary and high school classes 10 and 11 will move over to a next class. 54-2 Thanh Quyet is the only student that will redo the 6th grade. We worry more about Quyet, because of his extremely poor home situation.

All 12 pupils who completed their final exams (class 12) have a diploma. "Our" Thu Hang did also pass her final exam! The small and affectionate Hang has been the poorest student in our project. She was still very young when her father left; her mother is mentally handicapped and can't take care of her. The grandmother who did is deceased. Since then, Hang lives by herself in a small shed in Dien Dien. We decided not to make a difference between pupils, but some students catch the eye because of their very bad situation. Hang is one of them. In 2009 she became a L-F pupil. At that time she was a malnourished, shy child. In addition to the monthly school fees, we let Hang have breakfast at the school canteen at our expenses. We have bought her a bicycle, a school uniform and a solid schoolbag, so she could go to secondary school (grade 6 to 9). Hang flourished and became very motivated to learn. After class 9 she even wanted to go to high school (*grade 10 to 12*). We (and her personal supporter) let her continue and now she has passed high school; that's great! Hang will not continue learning, because our project stops for her; we cannot make a difference. With pain in our hearts, but with satisfaction, we need to say goodbye to dear Hang in August.



From total 12 successful pupils, there are 8 who want to continue studying and will pursue vocational or secondary education. The students that will continue their education and are admitted to college or university, will get a bonus of 2 million Dong (*80 Euro*) of Looking Forward to buy school books and uniform. The students that stop learning (*this means including Hang*) search for a job and therefore will get no starting bonus. They get a farewell gift.

Our project admits children with particularly poor living conditions. Because of our financial support and the corresponding obligation to go to school, we make it possible for the child connect with its peers again. That means that a sad little girl/boy, turns into a healthy and confident teenager of 18 years during the years our fund supports them. The individual supporters see their pupil changing from a child-in-need into an adolescent with a cell phone. These sponsors ask themselves sometimes, especially during the 12th school year, if their donated money will be spend well. In response to this question, we copy a part of the conversation with a doubting individual supporter:

*"Best ..... and. ... It sounds contradictory, but we should be happy with a cheerful dancing Hoang Hoa. When Looking-Forward started 5 years ago supporting Hoang Hoa and "your" Khanh Nhi too, their mothers/grandparents were unable to pay school fees for these 2 girls. If they would have quit school at that moment, they would not have had a good future; they would have become country workers or market sellers for example. Because of our school project, these 2 girls continued their education and have developed like all other students of their age. This is the objective of our fund. We achieved the result we wanted for as well Khanh Nhi as Hoang Hao (and almost all pupils-in-need in our project); they attended the 12-year regular education successfully (diploma). They are now (almost) 18 years old and equal to their peers; they are young adults and want to try relationships and go out to bars. To make sure they can afford these activities, they will have a side job after school. They need to give some of this extra earnings to their (grand)parents, but they keep some money to buy fancy clothing and to have a drink in a pub or disco in their village. At their home, the situation has not changed much, but the students from class 12 will give content to their own*



*lives; that is a normal situation and we are happy that we contributed to make that happen! Of course there are pupils (Nhi-Hoa?) that might not need the financial support anymore during the last half year, but we complete sponsoring them during the entire school period; we promised this at the beginning when they did need it very much. "*

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An English group, headed by Steve Martin, supports 10 Looking-Forward-pupils (*on the Cao Thang secondary in Nha Trang*) are already for 2 years. We knew Steve only via internet, but during our short cycling holiday in June in East Anglia, Steve and his wife Lynn came to meet us. It was a very nice meeting on which we have experienced that Steve and Lynn very motivated to participate in our school project. The monthly school fees are transferred correctly by Steve to manager Hiep and he informs his British sponsors well. Because of his demanding job he is not able to visit Viet Nam at the moment, but he will do this as soon as possible.



### Financial accountability

On July 10 there is € 4,789.93 at the bank account (including prepaid tuitions).  
School year 2016-2017 there are a total of 87 financially-supported L-F-pupils = 53 girls and 34 boys. 78 students have a personal supporter. 9 more students are available for support.  
Special donation: € 540,- from Lidy's 60th anniversary.  
There were no special (unforeseen) expenses.

Private costs are kept separately from Looking-Forward. All sponsors can get full access to the L F-accounting. The policy plan, the foundation statutes and annual report 2016 are visible on our L-F website.

[Percentage cost project management and fund administration in comparison to revenues in 2016 = 3.4%](#)



We (Lidy and Johan) will once again meet "our" students in Nha Trang and Dien Khanh from

**27 August until 18 September 2017**

Follow us during these days on the L-F Web site "travel reports"

For the individual supporters of a pupil that want to give a greetings card: write in English, fresh colours, no cat images or holiday snaps. A "Dutch/English" card.

Hand this in before 22 August!

**Thank you for supporting Looking-Forward school project in Viet Nam**

Lidy en Johan Verschuren,

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