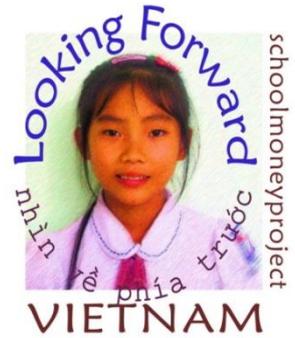


Dear sponsors and friends of school money project

Foundation LOOKING-FORWARD



A few months ago we returned from our trip to Vietnam. For me personally, it was the 10th trip to this country in Eastern Asia. The first time, in 2008, I went on a holiday with my family. We then made a journey from the South to the North of the country, from Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) to Hanoi. In Nha Trang, we met the girl Le Thi Hao. By meeting her by coincidence, our private school project has started. It now already exists for 10 years.

Our foundation now supports 83 pupils with school fees. They all live in a suburb of Nha Trang, Vinh Ngoc, and in (the outskirts of) Dien Khanh. We do this in collaboration with 7 schools. These schools nominate an average of 10 students in financial distress per school. With help of individual supporters from the Netherlands, United Kingdom and Germany we pay the school fees for "our" students so that they can attend the regular 12-year-old school program.

On September 5, when the new school year in Viet Nam starts with large important ceremonies, we have changed 16 students in our project. 13 Students have passed their final exams of the 12th-class. We had to stop with one pupil (Minh Tuan, class 8) because of bad behaviour. The support of the disabled Nhu Quynh has also stopped, because the financial situation of her parents has improved because of the selling of their farmland.

Duc Long (10 years old) was taken by his father (*who is living elsewhere*) to join him for work. It is a pity that not the school board nor we can do anything against this. To soften the loss for the blind mother a little bit, we decided to accept Long's younger brother Quan in our school project.



33-3 DD: Nguyen Long Quan

So there are 16 new pupils in our Fund. Their beautiful names are: Bay, Quan, Tan, Tanh, Cuong, Toan, Hieu, Hien, Anh, 2 x Ly, Son, Tuyen, Thien Thanh, and Hop. You can see photos of them on our L-F website.

The school boards selects the new pupils for the open spots that arise because of school leavers. Under the guidance of a teacher we visit the residential address of the pupil to check if the pupil is selected rightfully.

These home visits are one of the most special happenings in our project. Very often we are warmly welcomed in a shabby cottage by a single mother or grandmother * that raise their (grand)children with quite a lot of trouble. (**girls are often 'dumped' at their grandparent(s) after a divorce*). In 99% of the cases we can make the family happy with the first monthly school fees and the L-F-welcome package.



Tran Nhat Ly

Because I do this annual home visits already for 9 years, I find my way around in the countryside and drive my rented motorbike, with Lidy on the back, to the schools and to many residential addresses of the students.

We drive skilfully along pits and through rice that is drying on the roads. In the peak hour we drive effortlessly together with the chaotic traffic in Nha Trang city. However, I am still not skilled in using the Vietnamese language. The language is very difficult, because it is a language based on sounds. An "a", for example, has different meanings when pronounced with different accents.

Lidy and I returned to the Netherlands after more than 3 weeks on September 19; tired but satisfied. Tired of the very long days, of the heat (\pm 35 degrees) and the dirty air and of course by the many activities. But satisfied, because everything has gone so well this year. The student exchange with the emotional farewell and the admission of 16 beautiful children; the meeting with so many new people inside and outside our project. With our local manager, Mrs Hiep (66), all is settled well for the current new school year.



Everything went fine until 4 November. Typhoon Damrey blustered over Nha Trang and Dien Khanh. Every year in the rainy season, Vietnam has to deal with tropical storms, but they are usually mostly in Northern and Central Vietnam. This time a large storm (with winds of more than 130 km. p/hour) struck "our" region. In Khanh Hoa province more than 100 dead and hundreds injured. More than 80,000 houses are damaged, trees are blown down, (rice) crops have been destroyed, roads were under water for a long time and the electricity was down in many places. The schools were closed as a precaution.

The families of our students have had a very hard time. Manager Hiep has, together with the school boards, made an inventory of the suffered damages.



The house from My Hoa has been blown over completely (*see photo left*), but also the small cottage where Kim Chi and Thuy Ngan lives (*last picture very cottage Chi and Ngan*). From 33 other houses of our students the roof was blown off. We know the houses of our students; we could almost guess which houses would be not be strong enough for such a heavy storm.



Our foundation is not able to pay for restoration of material damage at a home of a LF-student.

However, we wanted to give our families some relief. Each of the 36 affected families

has received 500,000 Dong/20 euro to compensate for lost food and lost revenue. Manager Hiep has given this money to the families. This friendly gesture is appreciated by the families and the school boards.

2017-12-1



These extra, unforeseen costs mean a decrease of the financial resources of our foundation. We ask for a, completely voluntarily, (extra) donation with regard to this emergency aid.

Because of its strategic geographical location and political structure (Communist) Vietnam has many "friendly" countries. Russia, America, China, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand have sent millions of dollars for emergency aid. This is also meant to rebuild destroyed houses. But as we understand, through our various local contacts, our families have not yet received any money from the governments.

It is shocking to see what has got lost of nature in the last 9 years that we have been here. Almost all of the green coastal zone from the airport to Nha Trang, 40 km distance, is destroyed because of the construction of luxury holiday resorts. Several parts of the riverbank from the river that comes from the mountains is cast in concrete. Mountain forests are burned down and changed to monoculture agricultural land with much erosion.

Vietnam has an annual economic growth of more than 5% and the population grows every year with one million inhabitants. We can see the consequences in the large-scale construction of residential areas, industrial areas and roads on the outskirts of the city. As a result, a huge hardening and drainage of formerly ecological outdoor area is visible.



We must not charge the Vietnamese for the cause of global climate change. But we may very well hope that more action is taken AGAINST the adverse effects of this climate change. Vietnam can, because of its vulnerable location, expect many more natural disasters.

Each pupil in Europe nowadays learns to appreciate and care for nature and environment . Let's assume that, with our school project, we contribute to making the future decision makers from Vietnam more natural and environmental conscious. It will not be our fault; we use every opportunity tell them.

Financial accountability

On 1 December 2017 an amount of € 5,313.79 is on the bank account of Looking Forward (*including prepaid tuitions*).

During the school year 2017-2018, the foundation financially supports 83 students = 44 girls and 39 boys.

72 students have a personal supporter. (10 of them supported by Looking-Forward United Kingdom). 11 More students are available for support.

Special revenue: nice amount from wedding from Evert and Chen

Special spending: € 20,-/500.000VND times 36 emergency aid Typhoon Damrey on November 4.

Private costs are administrated seperately from the Looking-Forward finances. All sponsors can get full access to the L F-accounting.

The policy plan and the statutes of the foundation are published on the L-F website.

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

We wish you a GOOD and HEALTHY 2018

Lidy en Johan Verschuren,

E-mail: info@looking-forward.nl , Website: www.looking-forward.nl

IBAN: NL15RABO 01360.36.562, in the name of: Foundation Looking-Forward

Looking-Forward UK: Steve Martin, E-mail: Steve.Martin@pafra.com

