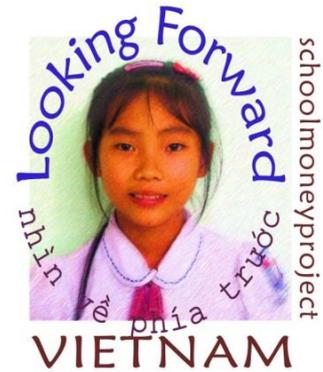


Newsletter 21, 15 July 2019

Dear sponsors and friends of school money project

Foundation LOOKING-FORWARD



It's nearly that far. In a few weeks we are allowed to return to "our" pupils in Vietnam! We are curious how the children are doing. They all passed and moved to the next class. Thach, Tran, Hung and Vy have finished the 12-year basic education. They are going to leave our school money project. 4 new pupils will occupy their sponsored places.

◆The 85 supported poor pupils in our project you can call them "Droplets on a glowing plate". At the Dien-Dien primary school there are more than 1,000 pupils. We only help 11 of them. The population of Vietnam (*almost 8 x surface of the Netherlands*) grows with ± 1 million inhabitants a year (*2775 a day*). In 2 years, the milestone of 100 million inhabitants will be met.

Each "droplet" is in fact an individual child with a life for themselves in distress. It wants to go to school, it wants to have opportunities for a good life. When I look such a child in the eyes, I think back to my own childhood. When I was 12 years old, my father(44) died in a traffic accident in 1976. My mother was left alone with 6 sons.

My wish to study interior design in Rotterdam vanished; I also had to go to the construction workers school in Waalwijk, just like my 2 older brothers. I was sad because of the death of my father, but probably (*at that age*) more sad because I couldn't go to Rotterdam.

Luckily my godfather, uncle Jan, helped me to go to the upholstery school in Breda. Not exactly what I wanted at that moment, but I ended up well anyway. Sometimes you need some help in a difficult period in your life.

◆In Vietnam it is very normal (*as in many developing countries*) to marry at the age of 20 and to have the first baby within a year. For the young mothers this means an end to their follow-up education. It would be nice if a girl first is able/wants to complete her study, so that she can have an independent income after the pregnancy periods.

Our project seeks to motivate "our" pupils to finish their professional training before they start their own family. Some pupils take our advice. One of them is the now 21-year-old Nhu Truc. We sometimes ask the good English-speaking Truc to join us as an translator. When we were at the Trinh Phong School last September to meet 3 new L-F pupils, principal Mai asked Truc whether she was already married and perhaps already had a baby? Truc replied: "*No, Johan told me not to*". This is good, right? Try to do that at least one more year Truc; then you are done with your university training English.



◆Since one year our foundation has a new financial manager in Vietnam. This is Mrs. Thanh (55) from Dien Khanh. We think she is doing an excellent job, but we asked her how she experienced this year. This is what she wrote: "*We have now worked together for a whole school year. It makes me happy*

that I can bring the monthly Looking-Forward school money to the poor pupils. The books for the new school year help the children to go to school , in a safe environment.

You are far away, but your heart is very close, and I appreciate it. I love the way of working, devoted, clear, transparent. At the beginning of the new school year, I attended the specific living conditions with Johan and Lidy to include poor pupils in the project to help them. You organized for the L-F children a nice day out; Support for Bao Han health care; Tooth repair for Kim Thach. I also know that you are willing to help old students if they need support such as Xoai, Hao and Truc.

I like the way you work today, you send the list of schoolchildren, the amount of specific kids, the sum of money, on the basis that I can make a list, the envelope of the school fees for the children to sign and transfer photos to Johan. I make the payment report and send it to Lidy to check.

I am very happy to be an employee of L-F, but my English is not good, I don't know if this is an obstacle for you? I am convinced that the students will never forget the L-F fund and the support they receive. I hope the L-F organization will always accompany the poor pupils. Sincere thanks, Thanh. "

We experience Thanh as a professional and accurate financial manager who is very involved in the L-F pupils. We hope we can work together for many more years.



◆ In the final week of May, during the closing ceremony of the last school year, "our" pupils were given

the books for the new school year 2019-2020. This is common in Vietnam, as the after-school training will continue during the holiday season and then they work with the new books.

Managers Thanh and Thuy had made a list of all the necessary textbooks for each specific pupil. At the 4 secondary schools, Tran Quang Khai, Mac Dinh Chi, Trinh Phong and Nguyen Du, they were allowed to buy a small number of



additional book packages for other poor pupils at the school (which were selected by the school board). We do this as a friendship gesture to the assisting schools. These school packages cost us an average of 6 euros per package. In addition to this small gesture and a coffee-tea-biscuits-package on Teachers Day, our foundation does not pay anything else for the schools involved.

◆ We continue to move our school money project from the city of Nha Trang to the outskirts of the municipality of Dien Khanh. 4 pupils of the Cao Thang school in Nha Trang city leave this school and are replaced in our project by 4 new pupils from the Trinh Phong School in Dien Phu village (The L-F pupils at this secondary school are supported by Looking-Forward United Kingdom).

Next year the final 3 Cao Thang pupils will leave our project and from then on our project will be fully active at 7 schools in Dien Khanh villages. The schools/pupils in Nha Trang city will transfer to the New Zealand Quan Am Foundation as agreed.

◆ On September 5 every year, we want to be present at the official opening ceremony of the new school year. This year we are trying to attend this impressive socialist ceremony at the new school in our project, the Trinh Phong secondary school. At this old school almost 800 pupils are divided over

20 classes. In the Netherlands, we call a class of 40 pupils a "popping class", but in Vietnam this is becoming increasingly the result of the rapidly growing population. Many new schools are being built, but the number of pupils grow faster.



During the formal ceremony, very long speeches are held by the principal, teachers and government representatives. Some years I am also invited to do a short speech. My speech is then checked for content beforehand. The speech should not be about politics, religion or the school system. However, I can say something about our world environment. In

Vietnam, they are experiencing more and more problems because of climate change. Increasingly, the temperature rises near 40 C and the weather is more unpredictable and the typhoons more powerful. I tell those present that we can only solve this global problem all together.

◆ Financial Accountability

On the first of July 2019 there is € 10,303.41 in the fund (*including prepaid tuitions*).

School year 2018-2019 there were a total of 83 financially-supported L-F pupils = 46 girls and 37 boys. 72 pupils have a personal supporter. 11 more students are available for support.

Special donations: €298.10 collected at cremation ceremony from sponsor

€895.-- for 45-year wedding anniversary sponsor

There were no special (*unforeseen*) expenses.

Private costs are well kept separate from the Looking-Forward fees.

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

The Policy Plan, Foundation Statutes and Annual report 2018 are visible on our L-F website.

Percentage cost of project management and fund administration compared to revenues in 2018 = 6.0%



We (*Lidy and Johan*) will be back at "our" pupils in Nha Trang and Dien Khanh from

September 1 t/m 19 September 19, 2019.

Follow us during these days on the L-F website "Reisverslagen", (*in Dutch*)

For the personal supporters of a pupil who want to give a greeting card: Writing in English, fresh colors, no cat picture or holiday snaps. A "Dutch/English" card. Issue before August 28th!

Thanks for supporting the Looking-Forward School Money project in Vietnam

Lidy and Johan Verschuren (L-F The Netherlands)

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