



SUNFLOWER MISSION

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



MISSION

Sunflower Mission (SM) is a 501(c)3 organization committed to improving the lives of the people in Vietnam, mainly through educational assistance programs. We bring school facilities, teaching and learning materials, and scholarships to teachers and students in the most remote areas of the country.

VISION

We aspire for our students in Vietnam to become successful teachers, engineers, and professionals; and for our volunteers to learn the skill sets required of effective leaders, including compassion, gratitude, confidence, and global perspectives.

VALUES

We are a non-governmental, non-religious, and non-political organization. We support students only on the basis of academic potential and financial need. We comply with U.S. and Vietnam laws and regulations. We treat people with respect. We are a non-profit agency; we are not a charity.

GOVERNANCE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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VOLUNTEER STAFF

For a complete list of our volunteers, please visit:
www.sunflowermission.org/team-volunteers

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Dear Sunflower Mission family,

During the last two years, the pandemic presented humankind with unprecedented challenges, personal loss, and ongoing difficulties. However, through this pandemic, we have witnessed and experienced courage, sacrifice, dedication, and resilience that made us stronger!

Fueled by a shared passion for education, your unwavering support, and our volunteers' commitment, Sunflower Mission was able to continue our work, undisrupted, in the face of economic hardships and lockdowns in the U.S. and Vietnam.

In 2021, instead of building new classrooms, we focused on repairing classrooms in Phu Yen, Bac Lieu, and Kien Giang to ensure that our students continue to have a safe haven to learn. A total of 1,200 K-12 scholarships and 184 college scholarships were awarded. During this time we continued English Initiative (EI), our video conference-based service program. EI actually became the week's highlight for many students during the lockdown when communication with the outside world was limited.

For the first time in the history of Sunflower Mission (SM), SEEDS (Students Expanding Education by Donating Services) and our team leaders in Vietnam, along with some of SM's top students, collaborated to organize and lead a major virtual fundraiser event that brought in over \$260,000!

As SM begins our third decade of operation, we continue to engage and prepare the next generation, our SEEDS leaders, in every aspect of our operations and entrust them with increasing responsibilities.

Developing future leaders is key to fulfilling our 100-year operation plan. SEEDS leaders are managing the English Initiative program and organizing major events. Their leadership and compassion extend beyond the classroom when they guided Kha Doan, a recipient of our most prestigious LSMSE scholarship, on his move to the U.S. to pursue a Ph.D. during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Indeed, the future looks bright for SM!

The year 2022 marks SM's 20th anniversary! As Vietnam and the needs of our students change, we strive to innovate programs to better educate our students both academically and socially.

Our mission would not be sustainable over the last 19 years without your support and commitment. Thank you for partnering with us on this mission to transform lives. We look forward to another 20 years of bringing hope and making dreams come true!

With gratitude,

Kim Oanh Nguyen

Sunflower Mission, President

Ethan Bui

Sunflower Mission, SEEDS President



PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

Mona Foundation

For nearly 20 years, Sunflower Mission has been an inspirational beacon for thousands of young people and their families, bringing hope and substantially improved lives of the people of Vietnam.

With a focus on the most remote parts of the country, SM delivers education, community engagement, and life purpose to populations often neglected and underserved. Families are wholly transformed through SM's programs creating capacity in its participants to contribute to their own communities and to the world.

The core of SM lies in its educational programs and associated scholarships for students. However, the mission extends far beyond the classroom by creating inspired, compassionate leaders with moral character who serve SM's forward programs as well as participate in service to the community.

It has been remarkable to see how SM's bold initiatives to sustain the building of new classrooms have continued even through the challenges of the pandemic over the last two years. Undeterred, SM engages its mission knowing that its facilities will be constructed, teachers and materials will be secured and transformative learning will be delivered to those it serves – no matter the obstacles. SM forges a clear vision and then engages as though already complete and delivered.



Above: David and Tammy Wood at a Mona Foundation event.

SM fundamentally builds and engages its mission for sustainability. Through its innovative SEEDS program, leaders are developed to support succession. The organization is structured and funded for long term investment and the progression of students, well on the way to its "100-year operation" objective.

We have both directly seen and engaged with the administration and participants of Sunflower Mission. There is a tremendous energy, a sense of pride, and steadfast dedication to the vision exhibited by all involved. We look forward to the next twenty years of SM's journey, knowing that Vietnam and the world will all be elevated by the organization's accomplishments and inspiration.

David & Tammy Wood

Mona Foundation, Board of Directors



Right: Nguyen Ngoc Phuong Trang (third from right) at one of LSMSE's peer & professional mentorship gatherings in Vietnam.

Motorola Solutions Foundation

In 2021, as our world grappled with yet another challenging year, Sunflower Mission emerged bolstered by a new partnership and financial support from the Motorola Solutions Foundation, the charitable arm of Motorola Solutions.

To date, the foundation's \$20,000 grant has funded more than 10 full-ride scholarships for underprivileged students in Engineering & Technology through our Le So Memorial Scholarship of Excellence (LSMSE) and Sponsor-A-Student (SAS) programs.

Nguyen Ngoc Phuong Trang, an LSMSE scholarship recipient studying Computer Science at Vietnam National University, shared the following poignant reflection about the scholarship's impact: *"The day I got selected (for the scholarship) was the day from which the way I see the world completely changed and the way I imagine myself in the future has become more certain and colorful than ever."*

Scholarship recipients in the LSMSE and SAS programs receive not only financial assistance, but also mentorship, skill coaching, and fellowship from our dedicated network of volunteers.

As the philanthropic arm of Motorola Solutions, the Motorola Solutions Foundation partners with organizations around the globe to create safer cities and equitable, thriving communities. *"We aim to partner with organizations that align to our values of accountability, innovation, impact, diversity and inclusion,"* said Karem Perez, executive director of the Motorola Solutions Foundation. *"We are proud to support organizations like Sunflower Mission that embody these values."*

Cindy Au

Sunflower Mission, Director

SCHOOL BUILDING REPORT

When Sunflower Mission was founded in October 2002, there was an urgent lack of access to education in rural areas. Our initial focus was to build as many 2-3 classroom schools as quickly as possible. The first was built in 2003, followed by a rapid wave of construction: at up to 8 schools per year.

Two decades later, Vietnam's infrastructure has greatly improved, and its educational needs have evolved. In recent years, we have focused on constructing modern elementary schools with computer rooms, libraries, and playgrounds.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted our building efforts. In late 2020, we pivoted to inspection and upkeep of existing schools, especially those built before 2015. Out of the 28 schools marked as needing repair, 6 have been fully restored and the rest remain ongoing.

In December 2021, we reached an agreement with the people of Da Krong district, in Quang Tri province, to construct A Ngo, a model school with 6 classrooms and all-new amenities — serving 125 local students who have no nearby school. At the time of this report, construction is in full swing.

Amid travel restrictions caused by the pandemic, Sunflower Mission was able to continue this important work thanks to the dedication of in-country volunteers and construction teams. We owe our utmost gratitude to those leading inspections of existing schools, scouting new locations, and working with the local government to finalize projects.

Thank you for all you do.

Tuan Dao

Sunflower Mission, Chairman

***SEE PAGE 10 FOR SCHOOL AND CONSTRUCTION PHOTOS**

SEEDS: THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

As we look forward to celebrating Sunflower Mission's 20th anniversary, we also mark the 15th anniversary of the formation of SEEDS (Students Expanding Education by Donating Services).

This group of passionate school-age supporters came together in 2007 to support the work of SM. SEEDS have been an instrumental conduit between the broader SM family and youth around the world.

We asked a few SEEDS leaders to reflect on the evolution of the group since its founding in 2007. One striking similarity among all SEEDS members is their maturity.

The motivation for many SEEDS leaders comes from their interaction with local residents in the Vietnam villages in which they visited.

Like many fellow SEEDS members, Kody Ngo's most cherished and memorable moments are the times they spend with each other applying fresh paint on the newly built classroom in the humid summers of Vietnam or organizing fundraiser events.

After returning from a Vietnam work camp trip and observing the conditions of students there; Don Quy-Le Dao says: "[our purpose was to give our] time, money, and spirit to empower education and raise communities out of poverty."

SEEDS's fresh ideas and unique perspectives have been invaluable to Sunflower Mission as they help to evolve the services we offer to ensure we provide relevant skills.

English Initiative (EI) is a SEEDS managed program that helps students in Vietnam improve their English conversational and written skills. Dalton Bui and Jacqueline Hoang have led a group of English-fluent volunteers and connected them, virtually, with Sunflower Mission scholarship recipients in Vietnam who are looking to strengthen their English language skills. This cultural and educational bridge between East and West is a valued connection.

The friendship, camaraderie, and personal fulfillment are immeasurable and indescribable. With encouragement, trust, and guidance from Sunflower Mission's Board of Directors, SEEDS have not only contributed to Sunflower Mission's past and present success, they are also our future! This is a dream come true for the Sunflower Mission family.

Thanh Bui

Sunflower Mission, Secretary

Dinh Ngo

Sunflower Mission, Director



SEEDS: IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I want to impact our organization as a whole, beyond our work camp. This includes helping to organize fundraisers and galas, MCing events, leading EI, and playing a role in decision-making. Leading our SEEDS enables me to continue to make a difference for students in Vietnam even from thousands of miles away.

I think SEEDS has evolved to take on a much larger role within SM, such as organizing events and making important decisions for our organization. The amount of belief and trust that the BOD has in us is awesome!"

- Dalton Bui (SEEDS Vice President 2017 - 2021)



Left: Dalton Bui & Jacqueline Hoang (front center) pose alongside other SM volunteers & SEEDS members at work camp.

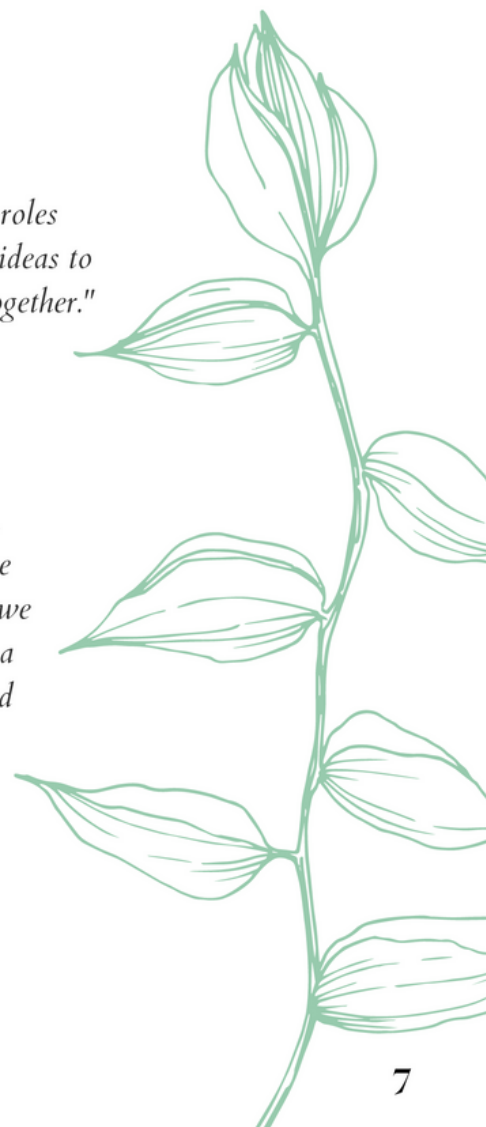
"Because of the trust SM has in SEEDS, we are able to take on even more leadership roles and contribute more of our talents! SEEDS will continue to come up with innovative ideas to best reach our students in Vietnam. SEEDS will continue to be a family that works together."

- Jacqueline Hoang (SEEDS President 2017 - 2021)

"I developed a close friendship with one of the kids at the schools [during work camp]. On the last day, we had a schedule change and missed our chance to say goodbye to the students. I was devastated that I wouldn't get to see the students one last time. When we started departing on an open cart, I saw him running down the road and waving, with a gift in hand. I was able to stop the cart and give him a hug and receive the gift - a hand carved bamboo 'cell phone' so I could call him and stay in touch.

I've cherished this heartwarming moment since then, and it's inspired me to continue working with SM through the years. "

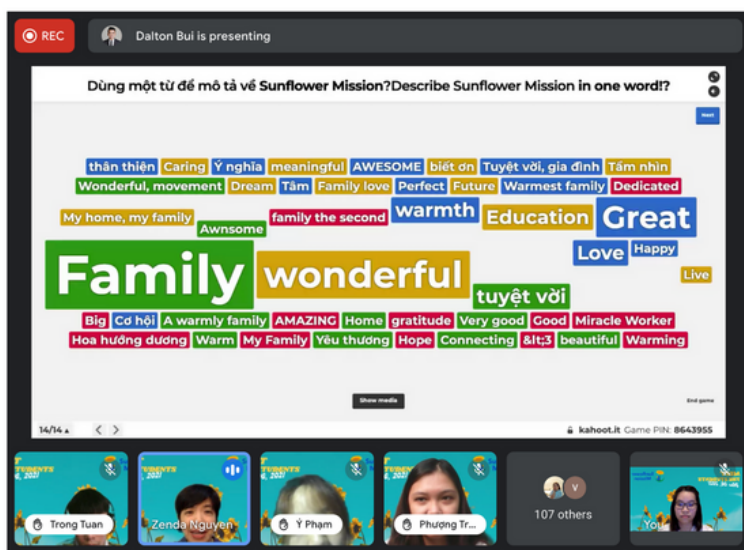
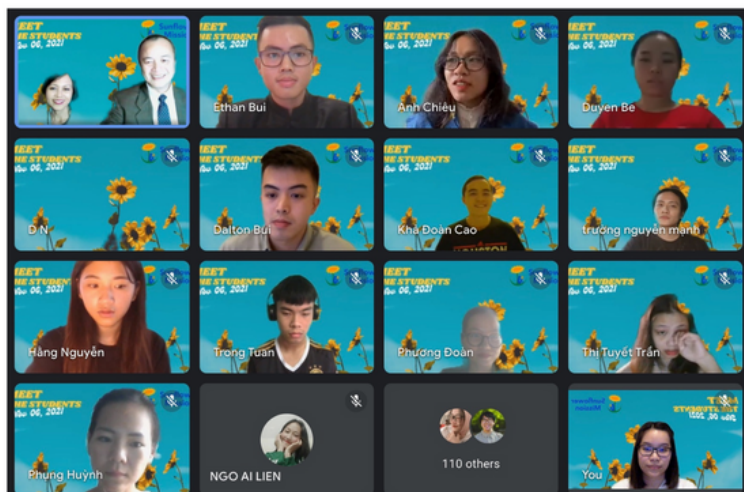
- Don Q. Dao (SEEDS President 2010 - 2014)



MEET THE STUDENTS

On November 6th, 2021, Sunflower Mission hosted our first-ever "Meet the Students" event. Supporters and students gathered virtually to share stories, play games, and reflect on a wonderful year of growth and service despite the challenges of the pandemic.

The event was led by our young volunteers in the United States and Vietnam. **With your help, we raised \$263,714!**



Above: Screen captures from our virtual "Meet the Students" event which connected our scholarship recipients in Vietnam and SM overseas staff and supporters.

In Sunflower Mission's 19-year history this was the first gala to be:

- Led by our SEEDS
- Planned and executed in collaboration with our students and leaders in Vietnam
- Designed to allow our supporters and students to interact

We are proud this event achieved all of the above milestones and more!

Our students are the superstars of our organization, and we are constantly inspired by their stories. With our planned in-person gala canceled due to the pandemic, we believed that this was the perfect time to put on a virtual event that showed off our college scholarship recipients.

Instead of being known as one of "SM's students," they were able to speak directly with donors, to tell them how their scholarships and contributions had changed their lives and fostered their dreams.

This event truly showcased the capabilities of our American and Vietnamese youth. We are especially proud of our students in Vietnam - Chieu Anh, Son, Linh, Phuong, Kha, and Kim Thai for stepping up as organizers and speakers for the event.

Sunflower Mission's future is in good hands!

Jacqueline Hoang & Dalton Bui

Sunflower Mission, SEEDS Alumni

GRATITUDE FOR OUR IN-COUNTRY TEAM

The year 2022 marks Sunflower Mission's 20th anniversary. Much of our work is not possible without our volunteers in Vietnam working tirelessly to carry out our mission. Their diligent efforts make Sunflower Mission successful and their caring hearts provide the students with an extended family.

To our in-country volunteers:

- Thank you for going from school to school, all 63 of them, to validate our scholarship recipients and personally deliver scholarships to the students.
- Thank you for traversing remote areas to oversee the construction and maintenance of our schools to ensure we have the best classrooms for our students.
- Thank you for coordinating our work camp, arranging hotel, food, and many more accommodations to make our trips pleasant and exciting.
- And last but not least, the biggest thanks go to the students for working hard, achieving success, and returning to help us guide the next generation.
- Thank you to all the nameless and faceless aunts, uncles, sisters and brothers for sharing our mission for a better quê mẹ (motherland).

Dr. Thai Dinh Nguyen

Sunflower Mission, Director

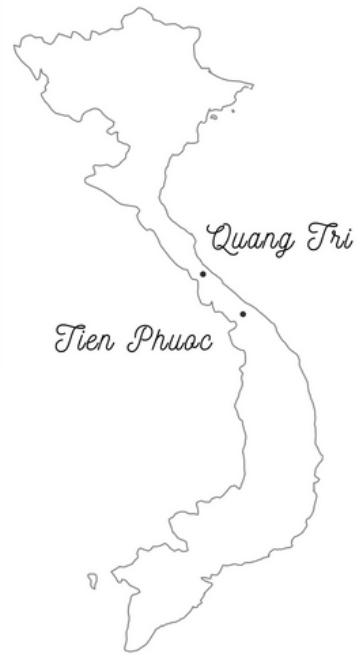


Above: Screen captures from social and mentoring events for our scholarship recipients hosted by LSMSE Team Leads in Vietnam, Zenda Nguyen and Quoc Nguyen.



SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION & EVENT PHOTOS

CONSTRUCTION AND STUDENT IMAGES FROM THIS SPRING



Above: Construction at A Ngo School in Quang Tri province from January - March of 2022.

Below: Students participate in an HHEI event at the Tien Ngoc school in Tien Phuoc province in January of 2022.

Despite all of the disruption that the global pandemic caused, our volunteers and local families did as much as they could to keep things moving forward for the students!



PREFACE

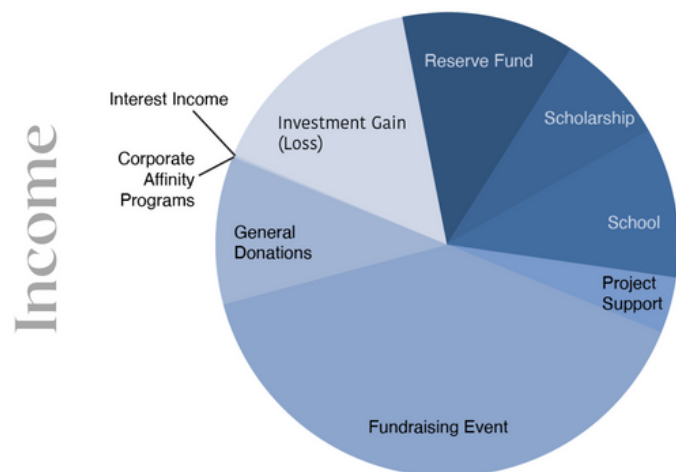
Sunflower Mission is beyond thankful for the love and support over the past 19 years. We are committed to performing our fiduciary duties to donors and supporters at the highest level. We have a reserve fund for rainy days and operational stability. We continue to keep our G&A expenses at < 3% of donations received in any one year to ensure every hard earned dollar goes directly to the cause. We also invest wisely to keep up with inflation and to yield a positive return with minimal risk.

Hoa Ta

Sunflower Mission, Treasurer

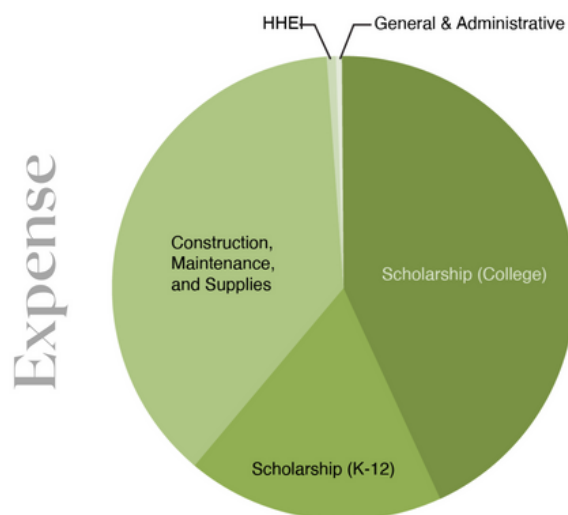
Statement of Operations

YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 2021 (UNAUDITED)



Income

Reserve Fund	\$71,125.00
Temporarily Restricted Funds	\$149,300.00
Scholarship	\$55,300.00
School	\$69,000.00
Work Camp	\$0.00
HHEI ¹	\$0.00
Project Support	\$25,000.00
Unrestricted Funds	\$392,538.50
Fundraising Event ²	\$238,050.75
General Donations	\$67,376.79
Corporate Affinity Programs ³	\$690.95
Interest Income	\$422.10
Investment Gain (loss)	\$85,997.91
Total Income	\$612,963.50



Expense

Scholarship	\$185,960.00
K-12	\$50,000.00
College	\$135,960.00
School	\$132,308.00
Construction	\$107,268.00
Maintenance	\$25,020.00
Supplies & Misc.	\$20.00
Work Camp⁴	\$0.00
HHEI¹	\$10,000.00
General & Administrative⁵	\$840.93
Total Expense	\$319,108.93

NOTES

Sunflower Mission's operating principle requires funds on hand in year "n" for year "n+1" operation

(1) HHEI = Hygiene & Health Education Initiative

(2) Fundraising amount is net, including both public events & individual pro-bono affinity programs

(3) Amazon Smile Program

(4) Work camp cancelled due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic

(5) G&A 19 year average is 0.59% (<1%) of annual donations

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

Sunflower Mission complies with all applicable state and federal laws governing tax-exempt organizations. This annual report is available on line at www.sunflowermission.org. Annual financial statements conform to generally accepted accounting principles required by state and federal laws and are available for public view upon request.

Sunflower Mission's operating principles require the organization to devote <3% of annual donations to General & Administrative (overhead) expenses. All U.S. volunteers pay all of their own travel expenses. SM commits to projects only when funding is available.

DISTINGUISHED PARTNERSHIP CIRCLE
In honor of lifetime contributions
and invaluable advice

Mona Foundation
National Instruments Corp.
Texas Instruments Inc.
The Frees Foundation

LEADERSHIP DONOR CIRCLE
In honor of Patron & Benefactor donors
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You Got I.T.

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Hoang Lien)
Trung Vuong '80 Saigon & Friends
Van Tran & Anh Thu Phan
Vincent & Chau Phan
WePay

SPECIAL DONATIONS:

**SM received \$59,786.07 from Network
for Good, Benevity, and UK Online
Giving.**

We acknowledge individuals when we can
identify the names. In many cases, we
regret that we are unable to. We are deeply
grateful for all donations.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:
**Sunflower Mission expresses heartfelt
gratitude for multi-year pro-bono
support**

1. Mr. Danh Quang Le & Mrs. Huyen Thanh
Luu - annual report printing service
2. National Instruments Inc. - LEGO Robotic
workshop
3. Drs. AnhThu & Hoi Nguyen of FabLab -
3D Printing workshop

