

Annual Report



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www.sunflowermission.org



purpose

Sunflower Mission 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 Vietnam.

Our Mission

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.



vision

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

Friends of Sunflower Mission,

2017 was a milestone year for Sunflower Mission as we celebrated our 15th Anniversary and a record year in terms of accomplishments. With your generosity, we are proud to report that we have built 158 classrooms, awarded 18,765 scholarships, and celebrated the college graduation of 489 students. 15 years allows us to see our work come full circle; students we support return to volunteer with SM to help the next generation of students. Our 15th Anniversary Gala raised a record amount \$384,000+ despite the devastation from Hurricane Harvey in Houston just 4 weeks before. Even in difficult times, our volunteers and supporters came together and showed their resiliency and steadfast commitment to education. Thank you for your incredible generosity!

In 2017, we also unveiled our most prestigious scholarship, the Le So Memorial Scholarship of Excellence, named after the grandfather of a former scholarship recipient who refused to let his grandson be uneducated no matter how tough life got. This "full ride" scholarship awards students with both excellent academics and proven financial need. Seven students received the scholarship this year.

Of the many events in 2017, my fondest memory was our family's participation in the work camp in Quang Nam, where we built not only the largest elementary school to date but also a kindergarten school. This was also our largest work camp with 70 volunteers from different countries coming together to teach local students English, arts and crafts, LEGO®Robotics, and for the first time ever, 3D printing technology. The size of the school and the record number of volunteers made this work camp memorable but it was the compassion and energy throughout the 2-week long camp that made this one unforgettable. We came with the intention to make a difference in people's lives but they too have touched ours. I saw many of our youth stepping up during and after work camp to become global leaders by leading efforts to raise awareness and funds for SM. I am invigorated by their passion and motivation to continue our mission.

As we usher in 2018 and the needs of our students change, we remain committed to our mission and are excited to explore new ideas. The work accomplished in the past 15 years was not possible without the incredible generosity from you, our volunteers and benefactors. Thank you for your time, skills, and resources. As we embark on the next phase of SM we will honor your trust. With your valuable support SM will continue to bring hope and together we will change lives.



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Kim Oanh Nguyen
Sunflower Mission President



Above photo: Tien Lap Kindergarten School

*15th Anniversary Tien
Ngoc Elementary School
& Tien Lap Kindergarten
School - Quang Nam*

*158 classrooms built
since 2003
126 classrooms
maintained to-date*

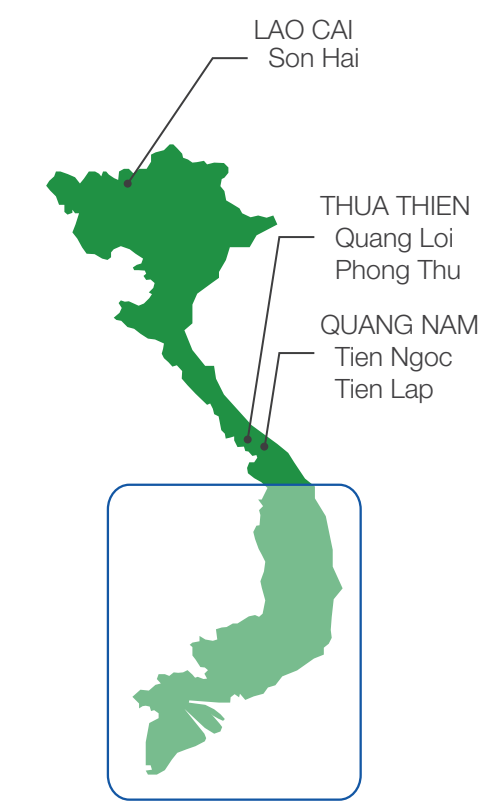


Computer classroom inside Tien Ngoc Elementary School



Work campers painting exterior doors and windows at Tien Ngoc Elementary School

School Building Map



Playground at Tien Ngoc Elementary School

Sunflower Mission is honored and grateful to have the trust and incredible support from The Frees Foundation for the past 10 years. In 2017, their generosity allowed SM to take on its largest single school project to date in the Tien Phuoc district of Quang Nam province. Tien Ngoc Elementary School consists of 6 classrooms, a fully equipped computer room, a multi-purpose utility room for teachers, and modern restroom facilities. Additionally, the installation of a versatile playground, a basketball hoop, and a soccer field enhances the fun and learning experience for students. Designed to withstand the high winds, often experienced in the area, the school's strong walls and reliable roofing system were built on a sturdy foundation. Furthermore, the windows, doors, and open-ceiling design allow for maximum ventilation during the sweltering summer months in Vietnam.



Additionally, Tien Lap, a new 2 classroom kindergarten, was constructed nearby. This school includes a kitchen and lunchroom, in-classroom toilets, and a playground area.



Wall murals inside the classrooms at Tien Lap Kindergarten School

Why I Am Dedicated
to the Cause: *A 15 Year
Committment*

Mark Evenson

I was introduced to Sunflower Mission (SM) 15 years ago as an account manager selling software to Texas Instruments. During one of my trips to Houston I met Duy-Loan Le. After a business discussion we talked about Vietnam. I had been in the Air Force stationed in Asia, part of that time in direct support of operations in Vietnam. We talked about her vision for SM and educating Vietnamese children, and I loved it.

I didn't care too much for education until I joined the Air Force. Coming from a very small town in Northern Wisconsin, and only 17, it was shocking to experience the difference between those who had the opportunity to pursue an education and those who did not. I realized how very important an education is!

I left the Air force after 4 years and went to college. Ever since, I have been a strong believer in educating early and often. Education can make a difference, and make the world a better place.

In a fast changing world it is important to quickly adapt, grow and overcome challenges. Since my time in the Air Force the Vietnamese people have held a special place in my heart. When Duy-Loan told me about SM the connection was made: Vietnamese children and education. I was on board!

In my opinion SM is a very special and unique organization. Other non-profits use a large part of their resources to pay employees to fundraise for them. The commitment, passion and sacrifice of those

in SM is truly remarkable. Not many non-profits can keep their expenses so low.

Personally, being associated with SM has been a blessing. I have met many wonderful people and attended some special events. I love seeing all the young people at the events, it really gives you confidence that the future will be bright for this world.

I remember speaking with Duy-Loan 10 years ago about how challenging it is to fundraise. I recalled a surgeon who was making almost \$1M a year. When I told him about SM he offered to donate \$5.00. In speaking with a young sales representative about SM, he offered \$500. I lost track of the surgeon but the sales representative and I are life-long friends.

It is easy and fun to give when times are good but when times are not so good it is even better to give. When things are not so good, and you don't feel your best, giving makes you feel better. If you give your time and/or expertise you will feel better... and when you give to SM you will feel the BEST—I guarantee it! Give as much as you can and give often!

A dear friend and college professor of mine always ended his correspondence with: "Onwards and Upwards"

Sunflower Mission: Onwards and Upwards! I am looking forward to the next event.

Mr. Mark Evenson has supported Sunflower Mission since 2003.



A Bright Future for
Vietnam: *Why I Support
Sunflower Mission*

Shaunna Black

I joined Duy-Loan Le and Andrew Latham in Vietnam to participate in Sunflower Mission's Engineering and Technology (E&T) Scholarship ceremonies & student forums in Da Nang, Saigon, and Can Tho this past December. It was a touching experience to meet so many students who treasure and depend on these scholarships as the gateway to their chosen futures.

Meeting these dynamic, hardworking, and committed students inspired me to contribute more to Sunflower Mission's purpose. We traveled to university campuses to hold the Student Forum where we would meet auditoriums filled with E&T students.

The topic was "What skill sets students should hone and develop to make them effective entrepreneurs in the future?" For three to four hours we answered questions asked in both English and Vietnamese by the students.

It amazed me to see E&T students engaged and curious. Every session we generally ran out of time before the students ran out of questions. Their questions challenged our experience, expertise and perspectives. It was fun, energizing and enlightening for me.

In addition, we spent one day with student groups participating in the Texas Instruments National Design Competition. Out of the 90 entries the top 9 project teams were selected to present their designs. I was delighted to learn that several mem-

bers of the first and second place winning teams were E&T scholarship recipients! This speaks volumes for SM's effort in seeking the best and the brightest to nurture for Vietnam.

I enjoyed my first trip to Vietnam. From the history and bustling sophistication of the capital, to the beaches, pagodas, rain forests, street shopping in Da Nang, the My Son temple complex, southern Can Tho with its network of river and canals, and floating markets Vietnam was a country of visual contrast, customs, flavors and sounds.

Wherever we traveled strangers asked Duy-Loan for her picture because Sunflower Mission has changed so many lives in Vietnam. It was a wonderful trip and I feel honored to have been invited for such a delightful, memorable experience.

Ms. Shaunna Black is a retired VP at TI and has supported Sunflower Mission since 2007.



Above photo: Q&A session with Duy-Loan Le, Andrew Latham, Shaunna Black, and faculty

Vigilant Solutions
Commitment to Further
STEM Education in
Vietnam
Steve Cintron
COO of Vigilant Solutions

STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) is currently taking the world by storm, with STEM-related occupations projected to grow at a rate of 8.9 percent in the next ten years, compared to the 6.4 percent growth of non-STEM related jobs (US Department of Commerce). With the technological workforce growing at such a rapid pace, the next generation needs to be prepared to be leaders of this movement.

Vigilant Technology's heavy emphasis on developing innovative technology means we are committed to growing a community of forward thinkers and innovators. We want to help foster the next generation's interest in technology. This belief is why it is important to us that children around the world gain access to the STEM education they want and deserve.

We are excited to be a sponsor of Sunflower Mission and to help provide scholarships to students in Vietnam to help further their interest in STEM. Our sponsorship began almost ten years ago after

learning about Sunflower Mission's commitment to helping the youth of Vietnam gain access to education, specifically in science and technology.

Even though the nonprofit was only five years old at the time, we knew it was an organization that was committed to make a lasting impact.

In just ten years, together with Sunflower Mission, we have provided thousands of students with scholarships to help them further their education in the fields of engineering and technology, as well as providing them with facilities to learn in. We have had the joy of watching Sunflower Mission grow and continue to provide the youth of Vietnam with the educational opportunity every child deserves. We look forward to continuing Sunflower Mission's dedication to improving education for the youth in Vietnam for years to come.

Below: Mr. Andrew Latham presenting E&T scholarships to students—E&T scholarships are supported by Vigilant Solutions and other companies.



Excerpt from a letter written by Huynh Thi Kiem Phung

All photos: Sister Ngoc Hoa speaking and posing with former SAS students who have graduated and are currently in the work force

Excerpt from a letter written by Bui Thi Chinh

Excerpt from a letter written by Le Thi Thuy Trang

Engineering & Technology Scholarships



Mr. Bruce Newton on stage with scholarship recipients

The Engineering and Technology (E&T) Scholarship program in 2017 marked a milestone for Sunflower Mission (SM) as it successfully celebrated its 15th anniversary of supporting student education in Vietnam. The program culminated in the presentation of 60 university scholarships to engineering and technology students in Danang on December 4, 2017 and in Saigon on December 5, 2017.

The award ceremonies demonstrated the strong and ongoing partnership between Sunflower Mission and eSilicon Corporation, who has been a donor and supporter since 2005. Additionally, eSilicon assists in administering the E&T scholarship program with guidance from Sunflower Mission. Since its inaugural cere-

mony held in 2005, SM has awarded 395 E&T scholarships.

As an independent and world leading provider of complex semi-conductor design and packaging solutions, eSilicon once again made its Vietnam engineering team available to act as technical advisors for the program. The students' application packages, including essays, are reviewed and screened by the eSilicon team in America.

Those selected will go through an in-person technical interview conducted by working engineers and a civic leadership assessment by human resource professionals in Vietnam. With this rigorous process, we can be sure those awarded

scholarships are among the best. Along with financial awards from Sunflower Mission, eSilicon provided four of the winning students with an offer of employment to join its 300-strong engineering team in Vietnam, after they graduate.

The collaborative partnership between Sunflower Mission and eSilicon provides positive outcomes for all parties, including local universities. The most qualified students are selected to enter the engineering industry with excellent technical expertise. It is a win-win partnership all around.

Bruce Newton, Global HR VP & Nguyen Thi Bich Thuy, Talent Acquisition Asia

Introducing: Le So Memorial Scholarship of Excellence (LSMSE)



The Le So Memorial Scholarship of Excellence (LSMSE) was introduced in 2017 to universities and secondary high school students in Vietnam by Sunflower Mission (SM).

This scholarship is dedicated to the memory of Le So, a very determined person who inspired and refused to allow his grandchild to stop learning. He knew education was the only path out of poverty and that it would pave the way for a better life.

With the mission to provide needed financial support to students who have demonstrated academic excellence and moral character; the scholarship prioritizes awarding students who major in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics,

Business, Education, or the Medical fields. The reward is \$2000 USD/year (\$1000 paid per semester).

7 students from the top 6 representative universities in Vietnam were awarded the LSMSE scholarship in 2017 based on their applications, essays, and in-person interviews.

The first LSMSE Scholarship Award Ceremony was held in Danang University and University of Technology in Saigon on October 08, 2017. Scholarship administrators in Vietnam will continue to follow each LSMSE Scholar to provide mentorship and guidance through any future struggles that could affect their education.

Zenda (Phuc) Nguyen LSMSE Leader - Vietnam



"The award of LSMSE is very valuable to me. Without it, I would have to do so many jobs to continue my studying in University. And to be honest, I don't know how long I can go on if I was not given the chance by Sunflower Mission" - Nguyen Thi Tam

Tam is a LSMSE recipient from Quang Nam province studying at Hue Laws University.



Mr. Bruce Newton and Ms. Nguyen Thi Bich Thuy on stage in Saigon



Left photo: Table display and cake at the 2017 E&T Scholarship ceremony in Saigon. Above photo: 2017 E&T Scholarship Ceremony in Da Nang with Ms. Duy-Loan Le, guests, and scholarship recipients



Photos top - bottom: Zenda at a round-table discussion with LSMSE scholarship recipients

Zenda with Nguyen Thi Tam

Zenda mentoring a group of students

Zenda and current scholarship recipients pose for photos



Work Camp 2017



Above photo: 2017 work camp participants pose in front of Tien Ngoc Elementary School

Together we achieve more. Together we build dreams. We build schools to provide education—the most effective way to lift a community out of poverty. In short, we set them up for success.

To say 2017 work camp was a success is an understatement. It was the largest work camp with 70 volunteers from 5 countries. With a generous contribution from The Frees Foundation, with whom Sunflower Mission has collaborated for the past 10 years, we completed 2 schools in the Tien Ngoc District, Quảng Nam Province in central Việt Nam. Tien Lập kindergarten school has 2 classrooms and a kitchen. Tien Ngoc primary school has 6 classrooms, a fully equipped computer room, and teachers' lounge.

In addition to completing the 2 schools, our U.S.-based volunteer physicians collaborated with Vietnam-based physicians to offer medical clinics for the young and elderly. Gifts were also distributed to local families and students.

The newly constructed schools are fully utilized and shorten the commute for over 200 students. They will provide an opportunity for these youngsters to have a great future.

For our work camp participants, Sunflower Mission is more than just building schools and awarding scholarships. Work camp provides an opportunity for participants to hone their leadership skills, especially teenagers and college students.

Work camp is not just a volunteer experience: we make lasting memories, establish lifelong friendships, and create an opportunity to immerse oneself in the country's culture, customs and traditions. Read more stories from our work campers here and learn about what an impact the trip had on them.

Together, we achieve more and build dreams!

*1st-time work camp participant
Mr. Thanh Bui*



Work campers carry supplies near the gate at Tien Ngoc Elementary School

“Một cây làm chẳng nên non, ba cây chụm lại nên hòn núi cao.”

One person cannot do much. However, together we can build a big mountain.

Read these experiences and more at:
workcamp2017.tumblr.com/



A student shows off his artwork illustrating what he aspires to be.

...by the end of each day, we are all sweaty and very tired, but very excited that we are providing [students] a vital key to their dreams and aspirations.

- Olivia Trinh



This page, clockwise from top: Three students excitedly watch as the LEGO®Robotics robot they created and programmed kicks a ball; Students learning English through song and games inside of a completed classroom; Students and work campers take turns arm-wrestling during work camp; Sibylle Katona and students observe a 3D printer at work; School boys gather below the canopy in preparation for a school opening ceremony.

I left the worksite with a hopeful heart and the assurance that our efforts would help contribute to the future of Vietnam's youth.

- Kyra Burke , 17



This is my first real experience in volunteer work. I am so grateful to have been a part of this amazing experience. It gives me hope for the future of education in Vietnam...I am amazed by how much the children are eager to learn there. They walk kilometers every day to go to school and are so happy about it. They really are a great example of courage.

- Sibylle Katona



Participants shared their intense emotions and how their hearts were deeply touched



Work camp work shops included: Arts & Crafts, English Lessons, LEGO®Robotics, 3D Printing, and a Medical Clinic for both adults and children



We are loyal fans of Sunflower Mission (SM). SM has shown my little family the true meaning of hope and fellowship.

Our first trip to the SM work camp was in 2012 when my daughter Zoe was 12 and my son Zak was 9. That summer, our family structure had changed drastically and I was looking for a venue to distract my children. So off to Vietnam we went!

The first few days my shy children, stuck to me like glue—sitting next to me on the bus, painting the same wall I painted, and eating at the same table with me. After a few days of interacting with SEEDS volunteers (Nanhi, Don, Dan, Kody) and playing with the school children, my kids were no longer by my side!

When we returned to the States, our “problems” were no longer “problems”. Zoe & Zak had seen the children’s hardship in Vietnam and realized how fortunate we were to have a good education within our reach. So our transition, to life, post-divorce, was effortless.

Summer time in Vietnam was hot and work camp was hard. Yet we had a great experience. Due to personal commitments, I decided not to go again, once was good enough. But work camp kept calling to us. We ended up going again in 2013 and in 2014!

On each trip our family gained a greater appreciation for life and expanded our circle of friends; Zoe & Zak learned more about their beloved country.

In 2016 both Zoe & Zak “begged” me to attend another work camp. I was surprised, in the past, it was my idea. This time they insisted that we should go. It was the best decision we ever made.

I saw my two, formerly shy, kids transform and blossom into leaders. It was their turn to welcome the new, shy volunteers with open arms. It was their turn to interact with the local students in the LEGO®Robotics work shop. Zak even brought his guitar to jam with the children during our siesta breaks.

On this trip I realized SM was no longer just a volunteer trip, it was a road map for our children to grow into future influencers. Work camp allowed us to promote education to our communities in Vietnam, as a family, but it also allowed our youth to blossom beyond our imagination.

We set out to change the lives of children in Viet Nam, in the process, they positively changed us!

- Stephanie Nguyen, Zoe Pham, & Zak Pham

Photos, top - bottom: Students show-off their art projects that illustrate what they want to be when they grow up

Zoe Pham sings while her brother Zack Pham plays guitar for students during work camp

A completed classroom arranged with computers in preparation for a LEGO®Robotics work shop

Students get body paint art work from the work campers



If you care to look, you can always find talent and one of the saddest things for me is to see that talent go to waste. As I helped to teach the children LEGO®Robotics at work camp, I saw future mechanical engineers, project managers, software programmers and leaders. How many will achieve the full potential that I could see bursting to get out? The answer of course is that I will probably never know. I do know that without the work of Sunflower Mission, those children may never have this experience which hopefully sparked a curious mind to continue to learn and the confidence to believe they can achieve anything.

- Catherine Prescott
VP of Global Human Resource
National Instruments

Ba học từ Ba Mẹ của các anh chị về tham gia work-camp cách dạy cho con mình

A very special thank you to Mr. Phạm Đình Lợi for the transportation of our donated medical equipment and school supplies. Much appreciation to Ms. Cao Thị Kim Dung for our arts & craft supplies!



lòng yêu thương. Ba nghĩ về kì nghỉ hè của con, việc đầu tiên trong đầu ba là ai sẽ trông con để ba đi làm trong suốt thời gian con nghỉ bây giờ. Vì công việc của ba bận lắm. Ba lại không muốn gửi con về quê vì sợ ở đó con không được chăm sóc đầy đủ như ở thành phố này. Và ba cảm phục những người cha, người mẹ cùng con đi suốt work-camp này. Hoặc gửi con từ ngàn dặm xa về đồ mồ hôi trên mảnh đất khô cằn của quê hương, nơi những đứa con yêu của họ có thể chỉ nghe mà chưa bao giờ thấy và cảm nhận. Ba học được rằng ba không bận như mình vẫn nghĩ.

- Nguyễn Quốc excerpt from a letter about work camp

I joined the trip without any expectations and by the end of it my heart was filled with joy and memories. It was all about compassion, hard work, and giving to others.

- Nguyễn T. Nga

My group of volunteers...never complained about anything even though they had a lot to complain about: the heat, little water, and the commute to school. The children’s willingness to put in work to improve themselves really made me rethink how I view my own experiences.

- Nguyễn Tín

It was a rewarding experience. Even during brief contact with the patients, the stories of their lives have profoundly touched me. My problems are really minimal compared to what my patients in Tien Ngoc, Quang Nam have to face throughout their lives.

- Dr. Bùi Thanh-Hằng



Top row photos: U.S. doctors Hana Bui & Hoang Phi conduct much-needed physicals on students and their families

Above photo: Locals and work campers carefully apply a clock graphic to a classroom wall

Seeing their eagerness to learn is the best part of the work camp because it’s uplifting and makes you realize that everything we are doing at Sunflower Mission is making an impact on the lives of so many kids.

- Zachary Phi

Below photo: Students pose with gift packs filled with school supplies at a school completion ceremony



This is my third trip and with each journey I learn more. When I see the children’s energetic faces as they play and sing songs in their newly constructed classroom all the hard work we do pays off.

- Katie Nguyen





“The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the Grandest intention”
- Oscar Wilde



Through My Lens: *A Gala Experienc*

Throughout my life I have found volunteering my time to be a rewarding experience. Growing up, my father taught me that I could find the true meaning of life through service to others. Back in Vietnam he was known for the little things he did to help people in our village of Binh Gia. Through the love of photography, my chosen profession, I look for ways to give back.

Dinh Ngo approached me to help with photographing Sunflower Mission's 15th Anniversary Gala. I knew nothing about SM except that they were a non-profit that worked to further education in Vietnam. After much thought and discussion, I informed my husband that we would be spending our anniversary date night at a

Clockwise from top left: Sunflower Mission's long-time supporters sing in celebration of our 15th anniversary; table centerpiece and program designed by the talented Nguyen Pham; sound check by our hosts in the main ballroom; Peter Nguyen sings a stirring rendition of "You Lift Me Up" surrounded by SEEDS.

fundraising gala and that he would be my assistant.

I arrived at the event prepared to do my job as I had done for so many events before. I met with key individuals, set up my gear, and walked around to get a feel for the space.

As the evening unfolded I noticed that the guests came from all walks of life: doctors, corporate board members, retired teachers, engineers, high school and college students, lawyers, young professionals and grandparents accompanied by entire families. There were supporters from Houston, Seattle, New York, New Jersey, California, Hawaii, and many other places.

The event was nothing short of a great celebration—warm, friendly and uplifting. I was amazed at what Sunflower Mission has accomplished in 15 years. It has shown immense compassion through its scholarship programs and provides the experience of a summer work camp for those in the U.S. It is a real experience that

individuals will carry with them throughout life. It is a lesson that textbooks or classrooms cannot give.

The theme of the Gala was “When You Believe” and it was only fitting that I witnessed the enthusiasm and excitement of hundreds of believers throughout the evening. They all truly “BELIEVE” in the mission and work that Sunflower is carrying out.

I was honored to have the opportunity to photograph this milestone event and to learn about the good work that they are doing. I am excited to take part in the mission and join one of the future work camp trips with my kids.

Ms. Thuvan Nguyen is owner and photographer at Frame This Moment Photography. She specializes in documenting family stories through the eye of the camera lens; creating pieces of art and timeless heirlooms. She photographs events and holds portrait sessions. She will be dedicating part of her services to Sunflower Mission. framethismomentphotography.com

Our 15th anniversary gala event was held in early October of 2017 in Sugar Land, Texas—raising over \$384,000 with 700 + of our closest friends and supporters from 20 cities and 14 states. We are so grateful for our our talented team of supporters and volunteers!

See more photos from the evening on pages 18



Legacy Sponsors

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The Frees Foundation
Mona Foundation
National Instruments
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Kim Son Restaurant

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Our very first class reunion was in 2013. Twelve of the sixty students from class 6P1 of Trung-Vuong High School were in attendance. We were only 12 years-old when we last saw each other in April 1975. Thirty eight years have gone by. On our first night together in Houston we opened our hearts to each other, retelling detailed accounts of how each of us struggled to get to this point in life. Every story brought tears to our eyes and laughter.

Our class kept in touch and fondly shared photos of our beloved school. Trung Vuong was where we grew up together and shared precious memories. We feel that students in rural Vietnam, today, are not as lucky. Their schools are burdened with leaking roofs, eroded unfinished floors, unsafe doors and windows, cracked walls, unsanitary bathrooms, no running water, poor ventilation, and a lack of supplies with no technology.

From these realizations, we unanimously decided to sponsor a two classroom elementary school, Truong Tieu-Hoc Binh Thanh Trung 2, in Xa Binh Thanh Trung, Huyen Lap Vo, Tinh Dong-Thap. The school was completed in June 2014. A proverb is etched above the front door, “Tien Hoc Le, Hau Hoc Van” (moral education before academic education). Photos of the completion ceremony showed students sitting in the courtyard, beaming with much anticipation—it touched our hearts.

Every year, since 2014, our classmates and families have participated in the

completion of new schools at work camp. We organized medical clinics for children and the elderly with the medical professionals in our class—running two clinics alongside U.S. and Vietnam doctors. Medication was generously donated by Kim-Thoa's best friend Phien Pham.

We extended healthcare education through a new program, Health and Hygiene Education Initiative (HHEI), at Minh-Tam and Tien Ngoc elementary schools. Dr. Kim Thoa visted schools to train the locals in a 5-step handwashing method. They emphasized the importance of keeping desks, classrooms, and school yards clean. Other dedicated SM volunteers (anh Hoang, chi Phuong va anh Hoc) visit monthly to monitor and report progress. Minh-Tam Elementary School, for the 2016-17 year, showed a significant decrease in student absences due to illness.

In October 2017, we had another class reunion in Houston, and attended SM's 15th Anniversary Gala. It was truly a heart-warming event. We learned that our class was the first to make a total donation of \$11,000 to SM. We are proud to achieve our goal: giving back to the children of Vietnam through education. These children will make lasting friendships and priceless memories in these beautiful new schools. Through HHEI they will be healthier, allowing them to excel in academics, and pursue their dreams.

*Bui Thanh Hang, MD
class of TV 6P1*

Top - Bottom: Work camp in Quang Nam 2017; Completed school in Dong Thap 2014; 15th anniversary gala in Houston 2017; SM fund raising event in Houston 2015; E&T scholarship, Saigon 2017

A Lifetime of Friendship: Sunflower Mission and Trung-Vuong Collaboration



Clockwise from top: Sunflower Mission's core members pose for a group photo; Revelers dance through the night; Annual reports display; Ms. Duy-Loan Le speaks; MCs Dinh Ngo & Thien Trang Nguyen introduce Minh Thu Pham to sing “When You Believe”



Gala Experience: continued



Where Are They Now?
E&T Scholarship
Recipients



Nguyễn Xuân Thuận
E&T scholarship 2009
Pursuing a PhD
University of Electro-Communications
Japan

Trần Trung Hiếu
E&T Scholarship 2010
Pursuing a PhD
The University of Stuttgart
Germany



Vòng Tay Yêu Thương

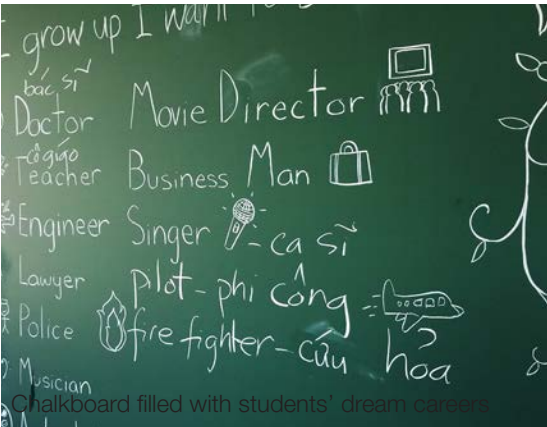
Why Sunflower Mission Must Continue

“Trước lúc mẹ mất, mẹ dặn đi dặn lại ảnh đừng để em bỏ học. Ảnh cũng yếu lắm rồi...” (“Ảnh” là cách em gọi ba)

“Sau này ra trường, sướng khổ gì em cũng phải giúp đỡ những bạn có hoàn cảnh như em để các bạn được đi học. Nhất định như vậy! Đơn giản vì lúc đường như cánh cửa học đường đóng lại trước mắt em, em được bao nhiêu cánh tay nâng đỡ, em không biết nói sao... (khóc)”

Trích từ buổi giao lưu với Duy-Loan cuối năm 2017:

“Con gửi hồ sơ xin học bổng cho hội Sunflower Mission. Con đạp xe về ngang qua ngôi trường mới xây ở xã con cũng có biểu tượng của Sunflower Mission. Con thấy vui và ấm áp lắm...”



Tôi hay bảo mọi người là mình đang đi tìm ngọc quý đang nằm le lói ở đâu đó. Có những cánh tay run rẩy yếu ớt của gia đình cố đưa nó lên. Có những cánh tay của thầy cô nâng niu gửi đến hội. Tôi nghe tiếng Zenda khóc trong buổi phỏng vấn, chắc nhiều phần là hạnh phúc vì đã tìm được những viên ngọc về trong vòng tay yêu thương của hội. Để nuôi lớn niềm hi vọng tỏa sáng trong tương lai. Và còn nhiều nữa những viên ngọc sáng trên đất nước này cần đến hội của chúng ta.

Quoc Nguyen & Zenda Nguyen on behalf of the Sunflower Mission team in Vietnam

Read their words in English, page 22

Photo left: Sunflower Mission’s SAS & LSMSE Leadership Team in Vietnam: Thieu Trinh, Quoc Nguyen, Zenda Nguyen, Phung Tran, Thu Trang To, Khanh Tran, and Trong Le

Huỳnh Hải Âu
E&T Scholarship 2010

Pursuing a PhD
Sungkyunkwan University
South Korea



Lại Thị Kim Phụng
E&T scholarship 2012
Pursuing a PhD in Computer Science
Oregon State University
USA



Phạm Hữu Nhân
E&T scholarship 2012
Pursuing a PhD in Computer Engineering
The University of Nevada, Reno
USA

Trích từ buổi phỏng vấn các em sinh viên xin học bổng:

“Học hết lớp 9 em đánh liều bắt xe lên phố kiếm ít tiền đi học tiếp. Bước xuống xe em chẳng biết đi đâu về đâu. Có cô bán cơm cho em gửi đồ, rồi em đi đại. Có chỗ họ xua đi vì hồi đó em nhỏ và đen đui lắm. Đi bộ rạc cả chân, cũng may được một nhà hàng thuê. Ngày về cầm những đồng đầu tiên kiếm được em vui lắm, em thấy cánh cổng trường học lại mở cho em, mà không biết được thêm bao lâu nữa...”

“Nhà em nghèo quá nên hồi mẹ bị ung thư, xã cấp cho sổ người khuyết tật mỗi tháng được lãnh 200 ngàn đồng, mẹ bảo dành cho em đi học...”

Trích từ thư giới thiệu của thầy chủ nhiệm gửi cho hội:

“Trong ngày bạn bè cùng trang lứa làm hồ sơ thi tuyển, em gặp riêng tôi và trình bày rằng: với điều kiện hiện tại, em chỉ thi tốt nghiệp chứ không thi đại học, em xin thầy cho phép em đi làm và em hứa với thầy trong thời gian đi làm sẽ luôn ôn tập để sang năm thi lại. Nhìn em vừa nói vừa khóc thực sự tôi không thể cầm lòng...”

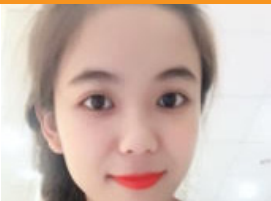
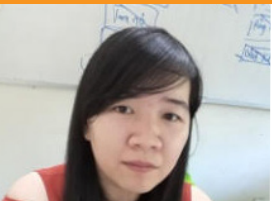
“Tôi viết lá thư này gửi đến quý học bổng không phải vì tôi là giáo viên chủ nhiệm của em, mà vì tôi không thể để một đứa học trò từ vùng quê hiếu học này vì quá nghèo mà bỏ dở ước mơ của mình...”

What Are They Doing?
SAS Scholarship Recipients

Above Left - Right:
Trần Văn Khanh - Mechanical Engineer
Trần Thị Phụng - Electrical Engineer
Nguyễn Thị Quỳnh Lưu - Environmental Engineer



Below Left - Right:
Huỳnh Thúy Kiều - Accounting
Lữ Thị Như Ý - Accounting
Võ Thị Tình - Accounting



Above Left - Right:
Huỳnh Trung Ngự - Education Tech
Nguyễn Phạm Vân Thảo - Teacher
Phạm Thị Thu - Elementary Education



Above Left - Right:
Nguyễn Thành Tài - Marine Technology
Đặng Văn Thanh Tuấn - Information Technology



Above Left - Right:
Tô Thu Trang - Business Administration
Trương Thị Vẹn - Agricultural Business
Võ Văn Tú - Hospitality Business
Nguyễn Nhựt Linh - Business Finance



I often tell everyone, our mission is to find the charming & flickering jewels still hiding somewhere. They are the shaky arms from families trying to lift them up. They are the caring arms from the teachers sending them to us.

- Quoc Nguyen



Why Sunflower Mission Must Continue:
An Embrace of Hope

English translation from page 21

Quotes from interviews with scholarship applicants:

“After finishing the 9th grade, I summoned all my courage to catch a bus to the city, hoping to earn some more money to support my studies. Getting out of the car and knowing of nowhere to go, I just kept moving until one shop woman let me leave my stuff at her place. Many places refused me because I was way too skinny. Finally, a lucky door opened just as I almost collapsed to the ground. I burst into tears while holding my first earning in my hands, as if I could see the university entrance waiting for me, but I didn’t know how long it would last ...”

“The ward government issued a support book to my family with a monthly amount of 200,000 VND (<\$10 US) as we were too poor. Though my mom had a cancer at that time, she wanted to save the entire amount in order for me to go to school.”

“My mother’s last words were her telling my dad not to let me drop out of school by any means. He was getting weak himself though ...”

“After graduation, I will surely help those who have similar circumstance like me to have a chance to go to school. Definitely! Why? Simply because when it was almost impossible for me to walk through the class door, I had so many loving arms lift me up. I don’t know what to say ...”

Quote from a teacher’s referral letter for a scholarship applicant:

“On the day that her friends were preparing applications for the university entrance examination, she met me privately. She

begged for my permission to go to work, as she would only be able to take the graduation exam, not the university entrance one. She promised that she would self study for the university entrance exam next year. I felt like my heart shattered when I saw her crying while explaining that she wouldn’t be able to afford attending university this year.

I’m writing this letter to your scholarship fund, not because I’m her teacher, but because I cannot bear the fact that a hard working and studious girl from the village is about to give up her college dream simply because she is too poor...”

From the talk with Duy-Loan on the last day of 2017:

“I could see the Sunflower Mission logo on the newly built school in my neighborhood while cycling around. My heart was filled full of joy and love ...”

I often told everyone, our mission is to find the charming & flickering jewels still hiding somewhere. They are the shaky arms from families trying to lift them up. They are the caring arms from the teachers sending them to us. I heard Zenda’s teardrops falling down during the interview. They must be the tears of joy as we bring those precious stones to our embrace of Hope; to help them shine with a better future. There are so many more in this country awaiting us, and we will keep the Sunflower Mission torch going!

*Quoc Nguyen &
Zenda Nguyen*

Top - bottom: Students enjoy their new playground equipment at Tien Lap Kindergarten school

Students and work camp participants engage in English lessons through song and game playing

Playground at Tien Lap Kindergarten

Students take a close look at the 3D printer

Dr. Ho Thi Kim Thoa engages with students during the work camp medical clinic



Statement of Operations (unaudited) for the year ending December 31, 2017

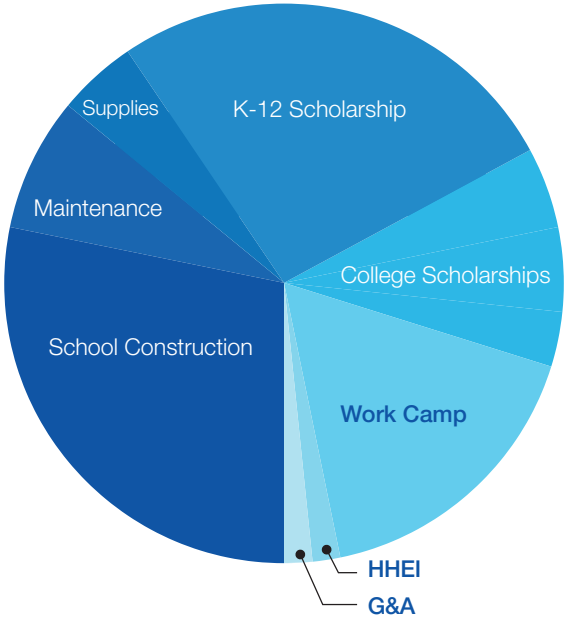
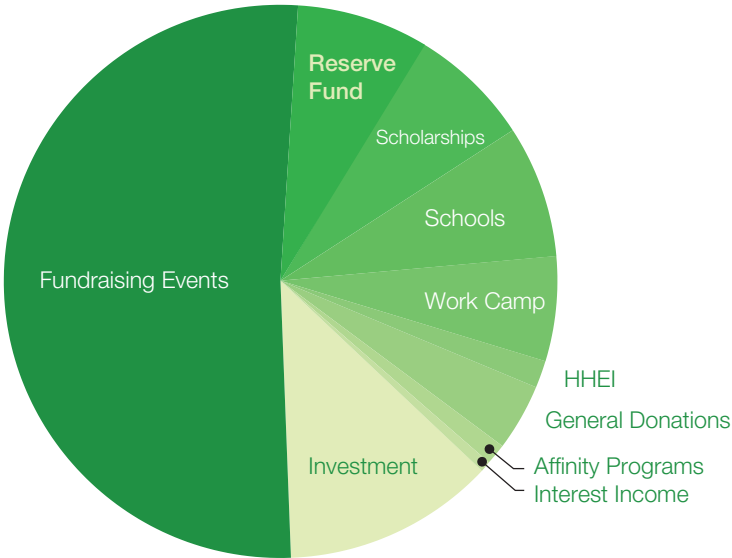
Income

Reserve Fund	\$47,500.00
Temporarily Restricted Funds	\$119, 074.56
Scholarships	\$41,257.86
Schools	\$42,500.00
Work Camp	\$30,316.70
HHEI***	\$5,000.00
Unrestricted Funds	\$377,332.99
Fundraising Events*	\$284,372.46
General Donations	\$18,577.12
Affinity Programs	\$4,647.13
Interest Income	\$211.08
Investment Gain (loss)	\$69,525.20
Total Income	\$543,907.55

Expenses

Schools	\$164,168.00
School Construction	\$119,201.00
Maintenance	\$29,134.00
Supplies	\$15,833.00
Scholarships	\$147,952.20
Dao-Le (K-12)	\$99,700.00
College	\$48,252.20
Work Camp**	\$54,520.00
HHEI***	\$3,470.00
G&A	\$415.64
Total Expenses	\$370,525.84

* after expenses and including a \$65,000 grant for school
**100% of work camp expenses are paid for by individual work camp participants
*** HHEI refers to Hygiene & Health Education Initiative
Sunflower Mission’s operating principle requires funds on hand in year “n” for year “n+1” operation



Public Disclosure Sunflower Mission complies with all applicable state and federal laws regulating tax-exempt organizations and fundraising practices. The annual report is available upon request. Information included:
* Description of purpose
* Description of program activities, accomplishments and geographic area served
* Summary of the total cost of each major program
* The organization’s board of directors

Annual financial statements conform to generally accepted accounting principles required by state and federal law. The annual report provides specific, objective information about accomplishments related to Sunflower Mission’s stated mission. Program names, activities and financial information listed in the annual report and IRS Form 990 are consistent.

Financial Activity At least 97 percent of annual expenses are for program activity and not more than three percent for administrative and general overhead

cost. All U.S. volunteers pay all of their own travel expenses. Sunflower Mission commits to projects only when funding is available.

Fundraising Our solicitations and information materials clearly describe the purpose or programs for which the contributed funds will be used. The donor is provided with the address or phone number of Sunflower Mission. All information provided in connection with solicitations is accurate.

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Gala "15" floral sculpture created and donated by Mrs. Khanh Tran. 15th Anniversary Gala sponsors recognition located on page 17.

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- ♦ **Mr. Danh Quang Le & Mrs. Huyen Thanh Luu** annual report printing services
- ♦ **eSilicon Corporation** administering the Engineering & Technology Scholarship Program
- ♦ **National Instruments Inc.** leading the LEGO®Robotics work shop
- ♦ **Mai CPA** pro bono tax services since Sunflower Mission's founding
- ♦ **Ms. Amina Tang & Ms. Mina Hoang** pro bono bookkeeping services since 2006