FoVO

Friends of Vietnam Orphanages Inc.

Helping disadvantaged communities in Vietnam

Report to Donors

2015 Financial Year

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FoVO Vietnam Field Trip Key Map Red circles indicate some project locations.

REPORT TO DONORS 2015

Introduction

Friends of Vietnam Orphanages Inc (FoVO) is a small registered Australian charity providing direct assistance to disadvantaged children, families and communities in Vietnam.

FoVO's principal field visit during the year took place in January 2015. During a month travelling through Vietnam, projects were carried out with orphanages, shelters, schools, village families and other small community organisations. Assistance included education and school fees, food, medicines, baby care, bicycles, books and practical projects intended to improve nutrition or income.

The work depended heavily on volunteer interpreters and local helpers. They identified needs, helped purchase supplies, obtained receipts and photographs, and in some cases continued managing projects after the field visit had moved on.

Every dollar donated went to direct assistance in Vietnam. Travel and other personal expenses were paid separately and were not taken from donated funds.

During the 2015 financial year FoVO received $11,920.58 and spent $11,270 on projects in Vietnam.

We thank our donors, committee members, volunteer interpreters and local helpers for their generous donations, practical help, moral support and good counsel.

Peter Kabaila
Secretary
Friends of Vietnam Orphanages Inc (FoVO)

REPORT TO DONORS 2015

Project Summary

How Your $11,270 Was Spent

NO.	PROJECT	AUD	MILLION VND
1	An Bình Orphanage, Sài Gòn — study scholarships and tutoring	$1,370	24.6
2	Đại Thành village, Hậu Giang — Tern Group village library, school materials and assistance to children	$300	5.4
3	Bến Tre — education and chicken raising for disadvantaged village households	$400	7.2
4	Bửu Trì Pagoda Orphanage, Cần Thơ — food	$300	5.4
5	Thiên Ân Orphanage, Cần Thơ — school fees, food and books	$1,000	17.9
6	Street Children's Group, Cần Thơ — shoes and nutrition	$500	9.0
7	Suối Tiên Women's Home, Đồng Nai — school fees and medicines	$300	5.4
8	St Martin Unmarried Mothers Home, Đồng Nai — baby formula	$150	2.7
9	Nha Trang region — medicine packages for eight orphanages and centres	$950	17.0
10	Hướng Dương Orphanage, Nha Trang — student library	$600	10.8
11	Đại An Orphanage, Nha Trang region — chicken raising	$300	5.4
12	Blind People's Workshop, Nha Trang — food and hygiene supplies	$500	9.0
13	Đà Nẵng and Quảng Nam — school materials and family assistance	$500	9.0
14	Huế and central Vietnam — education and course sponsorships	$1,300	23.3
15	Hướng Phương Orphanage, Quảng Bình — guesthouse signs to help raise income	$250	4.5
16	Hướng Phương — assistance for an unmarried mother and baby	$400	7.2
17	Trang Nứa Orphanage, Nghệ An — bicycles and washing machine	$750	13.4
18	Cầu Giát — clothing for a baby requiring heart surgery	$50	0.9
19	Nghệ An and Hà Tĩnh — education assistance for disadvantaged families	$600	10.8
20	Huế and Nghệ An — school materials for disadvantaged children	$550	9.9
21	Quảng Bình — assistance to a disadvantaged family	$150	2.7
22	Hiếu, Sài Gòn — personal assistance	$50	0.9
	TOTAL	**$11,270**	**202.1**

VND converted at the Reserve Bank of Australia average rate for the financial year, approximately 1.79 million VND = AUD $100.

REPORT TO DONORS 2015

1. An Bình Orphanage, Sài Gòn

Study scholarships and tutoring — $1,370

Description

FoVO continued its education assistance for young women associated with An Bình Orphanage. Eight students received assistance with course fees, and weekly English tutoring was also supported.

Project expenditure

Study scholarships — $1,000 (16.937M VND)

- Song — 1.775M VND
- Thanh — 0.745M VND
- Oanh — 2.819M VND
- Ánh — 2.124M VND
- Hoàng Huyền — 2.124M VND
- Nay H' Quên — 5.450M VND
- Thỏa — 1.200M VND
- Xoan — 0.600M VND

Tutoring during the January field visit — $200 Further tutoring during the financial year — $170 Total: $1,370

Observation

Course-fee requests and receipts were received from Sister Lịch. Attendance rolls were also provided for the weekly English tutoring classes. The assistance ranged from relatively small course costs to a much larger payment for one student, reflecting the different courses being undertaken.

Reflection

Education had become an important part of FoVO's assistance at An Bình. Rather than simply supplying goods to the orphanage, the projects helped young women continue their studies and develop skills for adult life.



English tutoring class





Happy group



Sponsored students at An Binh

REPORT TO DONORS 2015

2. Đại Thành Village, Hậu Giang

Tern Group education project — $300

Description

FoVO contributed $300 to a small education project being carried out by Tern Group at Đại Thành village in Hậu Giang Province. The project included support for a village library, literacy activities and assistance with school materials, clothing and education costs for disadvantaged children.

Project expenditure FoVO contribution — $300
The contribution formed part of Tern Group's locally managed education work in the village.

Observation

Tern Group was a very small volunteer organisation working directly with village children. Its activities included a librarian, a literacy competition and practical assistance intended to encourage children to remain at school.

Reflection

The project provided FoVO with an opportunity to work alongside another small volunteer group already operating locally. At the time, the arrangement appeared to be a practical way for a small amount of money to support several related education activities.



Tern Group members



Children and members of Tern Group



Participation in group work



One of the paintings



Children showing their competition paintings.



Handing out prizes of school materials

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3. Bến Tre Village Households

School materials and chicken raising — $400

Description

FoVO provided $400 for assistance to disadvantaged households in Bến Tre. The project was managed locally by Cha Hạp.

Project expenditure

School educational materials were purchased for children from needy families. Part of the funding also provided chickens for one family to raise.

Total: $400

Observation

The assistance was directed to individual households rather than an institution. Visits to the families provided an opportunity to see their living conditions and discuss what assistance would be useful.

The education materials met an immediate need for families struggling with school costs. The chickens were intended to provide one household with a small continuing source of food or income.

Reflection

This was a simple village-level project combining immediate assistance with a small attempt to help a family improve its own circumstances.


VENEZ


EXO
STYLE

REPORT TO DONORS 2015

4. Bửu Trì Pagoda Orphanage, Cần Thơ

Food supply — $300 (5M VND)

Description

FoVO provided a bulk supply of instant noodles for children living at Bửu Trì Pagoda Orphanage in Cần Thơ.

Project expenditure

- 50 boxes of instant noodles
- 20 packets per box
- Total: 1,000 packets

Total: 5M VND ($300)
The funds were provided to Hien, FoVO's volunteer interpreter in Cần Thơ, who organised the purchase and delivery.

Observation

FoVO had previously assisted Bửu Trì with food, study books and student sponsorship. During this visit food remained a straightforward need, so 50 boxes of noodles were purchased and delivered to the orphanage.

Reflection

This was uncomplicated assistance. It did not attempt to create a new program or change the way the orphanage operated. It simply provided a substantial quantity of food that could be used directly by the children.



Buu Tri Pagoda from the street



Ground floor temple space



Su Phu (head nun) watching the noodle boxes being delivered



Newborns in Buu Tri Pagoda



Children getting their new shoes.



Children at Buu Tri always appeared to be excited to see a visitor

REPORT TO DONORS 2015

5. Thiên Ân Orphanage, Cần Thơ

School fees, food and books — $1,000 (17.5M VND)

Description

FoVO provided a combination of education and food assistance for children at Thiên Ân in Cần Thơ. The project included one year's school fees for ten children, rice, instant noodles and books for the children's library.

Project expenditure

- School fees for 10 children for one year — 10M VND
- 100 kg rice — 1.5M VND
- 50 boxes of instant noodles, 20 packets per box — 5M VND
- Library books on subjects including personal hygiene and sex education — 1M VND

Total recorded project cost: 17.5M VND ($1,000)
A further 1.56M VND worth of books for teenagers was also purchased during the visit. FoVO's volunteer interpreter Linh donated the cost of another 100 kg of rice.

Observation

Thiên Ân cared for about 40 children, ranging from toddlers to teenagers. Another group of older teenagers was living elsewhere while undertaking tertiary studies. The shelter occupied rented buildings beside the river and was managed by Trần Bạch Yến, known as Rose, with assistance from Mary.

The project combined basic needs with education. The food could be used immediately, while the school fees and books supported the children's continuing education.

Reflection

The project showed how a relatively small amount of funding could be divided between immediate necessities and longer-term education. Local assistance was also important: Hien managed the FoVO expenditure and Linh added another 100 kg of rice from her own funds.



Children leaving to go to school.



Meal time



Kindergarten children at Thien An Orphanage.



Children and Yen at Thien An orphanage.

REPORT TO DONORS 2015

6. Street Children's Group, Cần Thơ

Shoes and nutrition — $500 (8M VND)

Description

FoVO provided shoes and a six-month nutrition supplement for children living at a shelter for street children in Cần Thơ.

Project expenditure

- 20 pairs of shoes for younger children @ 100,000 VND — 2M VND
- 20 pairs of shoes for older children @ 200,000 VND — 4M VND
- Eggs for six months — 2M VND

Total: 8M VND ($500)
The egg allowance was calculated as 30 eggs at 3,000 VND each, supplied weekly for six months. Hien managed the purchases.

Observation

About 40 children were living at the shelter. Many sold lottery tickets outside school hours. The daily food allowance was very small and the children normally received an egg only once a week.

The shelter was expected to relocate, so FoVO avoided expenditure on buildings or equipment. Assistance was limited to things the children could use immediately: shoes and additional food.

Reflection

The uncertain future of the shelter influenced the project design. Rather than investing in the premises, FoVO concentrated on simple assistance that directly benefited the children.



Street children club, where street children are staying in Can Tho



The office is always the best facility





Children are watching TV in their room.



Buying shoes for street children

REPORT TO DONORS 2015

7. Suối Tiên Women's Home, Đồng Nai

School fees and medicines — $300

Description

FoVO assisted the Suối Tiên home for disadvantaged and homeless women in Đồng Nai. The project provided school assistance for two girls living with their mother at the home and medicines for residents.

Project expenditure

- School fees for Loan and her sister Phượng — $120
- Approximately one month's supply of medicines — $180

Total: $300

The school-fee receipt was provided by Sister Hương. Sister Thu, the convent nurse, selected and purchased the medicines and later supplied a receipt and list of the medicines purchased.

Observation

The home accommodated about 85 women and was run by five sisters with novices, volunteers and other helpers. Some residents were able-bodied, while others were elderly, disabled or confined to bed.

Loan and Phượng lived at the home with their mother. The education assistance was a small, practical way of helping the two girls continue at school while their mother had very limited resources.

Reflection

The project combined assistance to two children with support for the wider community of women at the home. Working through the sisters also meant that the school fees and medicines could be purchased locally and documented.



Suối Tiên home for disadvantaged and homeless women in Đồng Nai



Residents in nursing home are preparing vegetable



Mother with 2 sponsored students



Sponsored student Loan

REPORT TO DONORS 2015

8. St Martin Unmarried Mothers Home, Đồng Nai

Baby milk formula — $150

Description

FoVO provided baby milk formula for St Martin Unmarried Mothers Home in Đồng Nai. Sister Thuy organised the purchase and provided confirmation of the expenditure.

Project expenditure

Baby milk formula — $150

The assistance was intended to provide approximately two months' supply.

Observation

St Martin assisted around 70 young women each year during pregnancy and after childbirth. The home was managed by Sister Thuy and included a productive farm as part of its operations.

The need identified during the visit was straightforward: milk formula for babies whose mothers could not provide sufficient breast milk.

Reflection

This was another small and practical project. The home already had its own organisation and resources, so FoVO's role was simply to meet an immediate need identified by the people caring for the mothers and babies.



Sister Thuy holds a toddler raised at the Home





The home already had its own organisation and resources

REPORT TO DONORS 2015

9. Nha Trang Region

Medicine packages for eight orphanages and centres — $950 (16.6M VND)

Description

FoVO purchased eight identical packages of medicines for orphanages and other centres in the Nha Trang region. The medicines were purchased locally from Thiên Phúc Village Pharmacy and divided into separate packages for delivery during the field visit.

The eight recipients were:

- La Salle Disabled Workshop
- Hướng Dương Orphanage
- Đại An Orphanage
- Nhân Ái Orphanage
- Thanh Sơn Pagoda
- Lộc Thọ Pagoda
- An Đạo Buddhist Orphanage
- Minh Hòa Deaf School

Project expenditure

- 8 medicine packages @ approximately 2.1M VND each Total: 16.6M VND ($950)

Receipts and photographs were obtained for the purchases.

Observation

The medicines were selected at the local pharmacy as items regarded as useful for the orphanages and centres. They included common medicines and supplements that local carers were familiar with and able to use.

The packages were prepared at the pharmacy and then delivered after FoVO had visited the different institutions around Nha Trang. Our project partner Lam delivered the medicines and sent back handover photographs.

Reflection

Buying the medicines locally allowed the same basic package to be distributed to a number of small institutions. It was a practical way of spreading assistance across the region while using medicines that local carers recognised and understood.



Sorting medicine into packets at pharmacy



La Salle Disabled workshop



One of the pagoda handover photographs sent by our project partner Lam, who delivered all of the medicine supplies for FoVO.

REPORT TO DONORS 2015

10. Hướng Dương Orphanage, Nha Trang

Student library — $600

Description

FoVO provided $600 to establish or improve a student library at Hướng Dương Orphanage in Nha Trang.

The funds were given to Lam, FoVO's local volunteer interpreter, to manage in consultation with Father Thiên. Lam purchased the books and supplies after the field visit and receipts were subsequently provided by email.

Project expenditure

Student library books and supplies — $600

Observation

The library was intended to provide useful study and reading material for children at the orphanage. Having a trusted local person was important because the books could be selected and purchased after the immediate visit rather than everything having to be decided while FoVO was at the orphanage.

Reflection

This was a good example of the value of local volunteers. FoVO could provide the funding, but somebody living in Nha Trang was better placed to complete the purchases, liaise with the orphanage and report back afterwards.









REPORT TO DONORS 2015

11. Đại An Orphanage, Nha Trang Region

Free-range chickens — $300 (5M VND)

Description

FoVO provided funding for a free-range chicken house and chicks at Đại An Orphanage. The project was intended to improve both the children's nutrition and the orphanage's capacity to produce some of its own food.

Project expenditure

Chicken house and chicks — 5M VND ($300)
The funds were given to Father Cô to manage. Lam followed up the project locally and provided photographs and receipts.

Observation

Rather than purchasing only food for immediate consumption, the project provided the orphanage with chickens and somewhere to raise them. The completed chicken area could continue to produce food after the original FoVO expenditure had been used.

Reflection

The project was small, but it represented the sort of practical assistance FoVO was increasingly interested in: providing something useful immediately while also encouraging the recipient to produce some of its own food.















New chicken farm

REPORT TO DONORS 2015

12. Blind People's Workshop, Nha Trang

Food and hygiene supplies — $500 (8.75M VND)

Description

FoVO provided a substantial package of food and everyday hygiene supplies for a workshop used by blind people in Nha Trang. The contents were discussed with people at the workshop so that the purchases reflected what they said they needed.

Project expenditure

- 200 kg rice — 3M VND
- 30 litres cooking oil — 1M VND
- Soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste — 1M VND
- 27 boxes of instant noodles — 2.75M VND
- 20 kg laundry powder — 1M VND

Total: 8.75M VND ($500)

Observation

Fourteen blind people were working at the workshop when we visited, mainly making brooms. We were told that about 30 people used the workshop altogether and that there were another 240 blind people in the wider community.

The workers earned only about 19,000 VND a day. The workshop had begun in 1993 with very modest government investment and appeared to operate with only one sighted staff member.

Reflection

The project provided useful everyday supplies selected with the people who would use them. It also gave FoVO another opportunity to see how people with disabilities could work together and earn some income rather than depending entirely on institutional care.



Blind men making brooms.







Supplies delivered to blind people

REPORT TO DONORS 2015

13. Đà Nẵng and Quảng Nam

School materials and family assistance — $500

Description

FoVO provided $500 to Vien, a volunteer interpreter in Đà Nẵng, to manage two small projects. Most of the funding was used to purchase school materials for children at a school in a disadvantaged area of Quảng Nam Province.

The remaining 2M VND was used to assist a poor family which had suffered a double traffic accident.

Project expenditure

- School materials for disadvantaged students
- Assistance to a family following a double traffic accident — 2M VND

Total: $500

Observation

The school materials were presented to students as encouragement awards. Vien organised the purchases and distribution locally.

FoVO visited several children's homes in Đà Nẵng during the field trip. These were already receiving substantial support from larger overseas organisations, so our small amount of funding was directed instead towards needs where it could have a more useful local impact.

Reflection

Having a local volunteer able to identify and manage small projects allowed FoVO to direct assistance beyond the institutions visited during the field trip. The project also showed the advantage of not providing money simply because an orphanage had been visited.









Award presentation at the government school to students.

REPORT TO DONORS 2015

14. Huế and Central Vietnam

Education and course sponsorships — $1,300

Description

FoVO provided several small education grants during the financial year for students and families in Huế, Quảng Bình and Hà Tĩnh.

The assistance included nursing studies, language-teaching degrees, tertiary study and school costs for disadvantaged families.

Project expenditure

- Nursing certificate course for Sister Luyện from Hướng Phương Convent — $300
- Language-teaching degree course costs for Sisters Huyền and Hiệp — $400
- College course fees for Công Bình — $200
- Educational costs for two families in Huế and one village family in Hà Tĩnh — $400

Total: $1,300

Receipts were obtained for the nursing course and school fees. The assistance to Công Bình covered contributions towards two semesters at Huế College of Industry.

Observation

The recipients and circumstances were quite different, but the projects shared a common purpose of helping people continue their education when course or school costs were difficult for their families to meet.

The nursing scholarship was for a young sister from Hướng Phương Convent. Sisters Huyền and Hiệp were studying English-language teaching. Other assistance helped students from poor households meet ordinary school and tertiary education costs.

Reflection

These were small education projects rather than one large program. FoVO responded to individual requests where there was a local contact who knew the student or family and could help document the expenditure.



Student choir in Hue



Leigh, an education sponsor, visiting his sponsored students, Hiep on left and Huyen on far right



The first family in Hue assisted with education costs.



The second family in Hue assisted with education costs.



Students visiting the disadvantaged families in Hue



Hue University graduation ceremony photo of one of the students.

REPORT TO DONORS 2015

15. Hướng Phương Orphanage, Quảng Bình

Guesthouse signs to help raise income — $250 (3.8M VND)

Description

The sisters associated with Hướng Phương Orphanage operated a small guesthouse at Phong Nha to help support their work with disabled children.

FoVO funded two large illuminated signs to make the guesthouse easier for travellers to find and encourage more paying guests.

Project expenditure

- Two illuminated guesthouse signs — 3.8M VND ($250) The funding was provided to Sister Vinh at the Phong Nha guesthouse.

Observation

The guesthouse provided the sisters with a way of earning some income rather than depending entirely on donations. Its location was not obvious to travellers, so better signs were a simple way of making the existing business more visible.

Reflection

Rather than paying directly for the orphanage's running costs, this project supported an activity that could continue earning money for it. The signs were a small investment in something the sisters were already operating themselves.







The view at the back of the Huong Phuong Guest House

REPORT TO DONORS 2015

16. Hướng Phương, Quảng Bình

Assistance for an unmarried mother and baby — $400

Description

FoVO provided $400 through Sister Hương to assist a young unmarried mother from Hà Tĩnh who was being cared for at Hướng Phương.

The young woman gave birth to a baby boy on 1 February 2015. Sister Hương subsequently provided an account of how the assistance had been used.

Project expenditure

The expenditure reported by Sister Hương included:

- Hospital costs — 1.265M VND
- Five tins of Dielac Alpha baby formula — 0.700M VND
- Baby clothing and nappies — 0.955M VND
- Medicine for the mother following childbirth — 1.500M VND

FoVO contribution: $400

Observation

The mother remained at the centre for three months. As she was unable to breastfeed, formula was needed for the baby during the first month. The assistance also helped meet hospital, medicine, clothing and nappy costs.

Sister Hương reported back in detail after the birth, providing FoVO with a record of what had happened and how the money had been spent.

Reflection

The circumstances could not be planned in advance in the same way as a school or equipment project. FoVO provided funds through somebody who knew the young woman and could respond to her needs as they arose, then report back afterwards.



Sister Huong with a newborn



Workshop for disabled children in Huong Phuong



Novices and children together at lunch.

REPORT TO DONORS 2015

17. Trang Nứa Orphanage, Nghệ An

Bicycles and washing machine — $750 (12.5M VND)

Description

FoVO provided bicycles and a washing machine for Trang Nứa Orphanage in Nghệ An.

Five bicycles were purchased for children at the orphanage. A 10 kg washing machine was also provided to assist with the considerable amount of washing required in caring for the children.

Project expenditure

- Five bicycles and 10 kg washing machine — 12M VND
- One additional small bicycle — 0.5M VND

Total: 12.5M VND ($750)

Observation

The bicycles were practical transport for children travelling to school. During the purchase it became apparent that another smaller bicycle would also be useful, and an additional 500,000 VND was provided for this.

The washing machine addressed a quite different but equally practical need at the orphanage.

Reflection

The project consisted of ordinary items with an immediate use. The additional small bicycle was a reminder that needs sometimes became clearer only when we were on the ground and able to respond directly.



Group photo with the children





Breakfast: Older children in Trang Nua orphanage preparing instant noodles.



Mai Ly serving instant noodles for younger kids



Instant noodle breakfast.



Children in Trang Nua trying out new bicycles

REPORT TO DONORS 2015

18. Cầu Giát, Nghệ An

Clothing for a baby requiring heart surgery — $50

Description

FoVO provided $50 for clothing for a baby from Cầu Giát who required a heart operation.

Project expenditure

Baby clothing — $50

Observation

This was a very small project arising during the field trip. The family's major concern was the baby's medical condition, but there was also an immediate need for suitable clothing.

Reflection

Not every FoVO project involved a large purchase or a planned program. Sometimes a small amount of practical assistance was appropriate to the circumstances encountered during the journey.









The baby after heart surgery last year was recovering well and was looked after by parents and grandmother.

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19. Nghệ An and Hà Tĩnh

Education assistance for disadvantaged families — $600

Description

FoVO provided education assistance to disadvantaged families in Nghệ An and Hà Tĩnh during the financial year.

In Nghệ An, assistance was provided to a farming family at Xóm 5, Lạc Thành, Hùng Thành, Yên Thành. The family had ten children. Three sons were attending university and five children were still at school.

In Hà Tĩnh, assistance was also provided to disadvantaged families through FoVO's local contacts.

Project expenditure

- Nghệ An and Hà Tĩnh family assistance during the January field trip — $400
- Earlier assistance to a disadvantaged Hà Tĩnh family — $200

Total: $600
The January expenditure included:

- School fees for Hoàng Sỹ Thái — 3.08M VND
- 40 school notebooks and a box of pens for other children in the family
- Further assistance to a family at Xóm 9, Cẩm Minh, Cẩm Xuyên, Hà Tĩnh

Observation

The Nghệ An family were poor farmers supporting a large number of children through school and university.

The Hà Tĩnh household visited during the January work had six children and faced a number of difficulties. The father repaired motorbikes while the mother suffered from mental illness. Two daughters were also receiving treatment for mental illness, while two sons were attending university and the youngest daughter was at high school.

Reflection

Education costs can place a considerable burden on large families with very limited incomes. These projects provided relatively modest assistance directed towards keeping children and young adults in education.



A couple and 3 daughters are living in a hut in Ha Tinh



Simple and organised kitchen



A double bed for whole family



The father is a good traditional carpenter building a boat. His grandfather and his father are also carpenters.

REPORT TO DONORS 2015

20. Huế and Nghệ An

School materials for disadvantaged children — $550

Description

FoVO provided school materials for disadvantaged children through Thuy, a volunteer interpreter who had previously helped with small charity projects in her home area.

In Huế, assistance was provided to children whose mother collected recyclable rubbish for an income and suffered from mental illness.

A larger school-material project was carried out at Thuy's home village at Xóm 4, Quỳnh Vinh, Hoàng Mai, Nghệ An.

Project expenditure

Huế family — $100
Nghệ An school project — $450 (7.5M VND)
The Nghệ An project assisted 100 students in Grades 1 to 6. Each student received:

- 10 notebooks — 60,000 VND
- 5 pens — 15,000 VND

Total for 100 students: 7.5M VND ($450) Total FoVO assistance: $550

Observation

The Huế assistance was intended to encourage a mother with very limited means to keep her children attending school.

At the Nghệ An school, a modest package of notebooks and pens could be distributed to 100 children. The individual value was small, but the materials were basic items each child could use directly in class.

Reflection

Both projects used simple school supplies to address an immediate education need. Working through a local volunteer also enabled FoVO to reach families and a village school that would otherwise have been difficult for a visiting Australian charity to identify.





Shopping bicycles and schoolbags for 3 children in Hue







Delivering bicycle and school materials for the girls.



Boy happy with his bicycle.

REPORT TO DONORS 2015

21. Quảng Bình

Assistance to a disadvantaged family — $150

Description

FoVO provided $150 to assist a disadvantaged family in Quảng Bình. The assistance was managed locally through Tien Cao and Father Micae Hoàng Xuân Hường of Kim Lũ Parish.

Project expenditure

Family assistance — $150

Observation

The project was one of several small family-assistance projects undertaken during the financial year. Local contacts were important in identifying families experiencing hardship and in making sure that the assistance reached them.

Reflection

FoVO did not have a formal family-support program. Small amounts were provided where a trusted local person knew the circumstances of a family and could manage the assistance directly.



Canh Van Hoang, a boy in Quang Binh Province to receive a school education

REPORT TO DONORS 2015

22. Hiếu, Sài Gòn

Personal assistance — $50

Description

FoVO provided $50 in personal assistance for Hiếu, a young woman who I had met at An Bình Orphanage. The assistance was managed by Linh, who initially paid the money and was subsequently reimbursed by FoVO.

Project expenditure

Personal assistance for Hiếu — $50

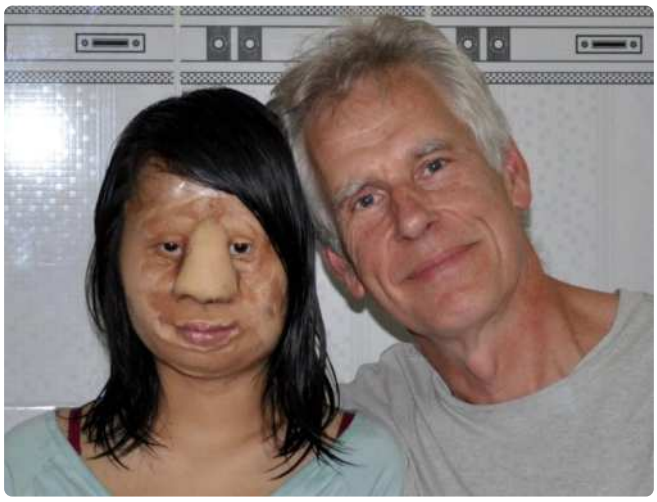
Observation

Hiếu had been known to FoVO for several years and had previously received assistance as she moved towards independent adult life. This small payment responded to an immediate need rather than forming part of a larger project.

Reflection

Maintaining contact with people previously assisted sometimes resulted in small requests for further help. In this case the amount was modest and could be provided through a trusted local contact.





With Hieu after one of her many surgeries.

REPORT TO DONORS 2015

Some Project Stories

Why Shoes and Eggs?

At the Street Children's Group in Cần Thơ there were about 40 children on the books but we saw only a few children at this government-run shelter. Many children sold lottery tickets outside school hours.

Their daily food allowance was only 12,000 VND. We were told that the children normally received an egg once a week.

The shelter itself was expected to move, so spending money on the building or equipment did not make much sense. We decided to buy things the children could use wherever they were.

FoVO provided 20 pairs of shoes for the younger children and another 20 pairs for the older children. We also paid for 30 eggs a week for six months.

It was not a complicated project: shoes for their feet and a few more eggs in their diet.

The Extra Bicycle

At Trang Nứa Orphanage in Nghệ An we had allowed 12M VND for five bicycles and a 10 kg washing machine.

Then another need appeared.

One of the children needed a smaller bicycle. Rather than go away and turn it into another proposal, another approval and another project, we added 500,000 VND and bought one.

The final project was therefore five bicycles, one small bicycle and a washing machine — $750 altogether.

Small charities sometimes have an advantage simply because they are small. If the need is obvious and the cost is modest, a decision can be made on the spot.

