FoVO

Friends of Vietnam Orphanages Inc.

Helping disadvantaged communities in Vietnam

Report to Donors

2019 Financial Year

REGISTERED CHARITY · acnc.gov.au/charityregister



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

REPORT TO DONORS 2019

Introduction

Friends of Vietnam Orphanages Inc (FoVO) is a small registered Australian charity working directly with disadvantaged people and communities in Vietnam. During the 2019 financial year FoVO carried out projects across Vietnam with the assistance of volunteer interpreters and local project partners. Projects included educational assistance, medicines, food and household supplies, assistance to orphanages and shelters, livestock and tree-planting projects, and assistance to disadvantaged families. FoVO continued what we described at the time as our **"barefoot charity model"**: a yearly road trip, one fieldworker and one motorbike, supported by a network of volunteer interpreters and local project partners throughout Vietnam. FoVO had no administration costs. Every dollar donated went to direct assistance in Vietnam. Travel and personal expenses associated with the annual field trip were paid separately. During the financial year FoVO spent $22,730 on projects in Vietnam.

Acknowledgements

FoVO thanks everyone who supported our work during the 2019 financial year.

Our Board was Julie Kulikowski, Dennis McManus, Geoff Stannard and Clive West, with Peter Kabaila as Public Officer. We also thank Loan and Tiệp for their continuing advice on Vietnamese culture and customs.

We thank our regular contributors and donors: Clive, Vytas, Michael and Adrienne, Geoff and Rachelle, Hayden and Yến, Dennis, Karna, Thúy, Kyle, Parika, Mal, Julie and Jan, Thủy and Kim; Greta for the Christmas cakes fundraiser; Jock, Paul, Bill and Morris from the Aranda Men's Group; and neighbours including Hamish and Ginny who helped with fundraising activities.

Our projects in Vietnam depended on volunteer interpreters and local project partners. We thank Châu, Lâm, Nam and Hiệp for interpreting, project organisation and practical assistance.

We also thank Sư phụ Quảng Trí at Bửu Trì Pagoda Orphanage; Yến and Quế at Thiên Ân Orphanage; the Buddhist volunteer group at Sài Gòn Cancer Hospital; Bích Hường and Kim Anh at Mái Ấm Tình Mẹ; Hường at Suối Tiên; Thao in Đắk Mil; Loan, Hường, Thơ and Hậu in Buôn Mê Thuột; Mùi at Lâm Hà; Vương and the Holy Cross sisters in Khánh Hòa; Lâm and helpers in Nha Trang; the Huế Lasan student group in Đăkrông; Nhàn in Phong Nha; Nam, Hiệp and Đồng in Hà Tịnh; the Hà Tịnh university student social club; the Turin Sisters of Charity at Mái Ấm Thiên Ân; the Legion of Mary group in Thạch Long and Thạch Sơn; Lành at the 19.5 Shelter; Bắc at Trang Nứa; Nguyễn and Phượng Hồ at Quỳnh Lập; and Kính in Phát Diệm.

Their local knowledge, time and practical assistance allowed a very small volunteer charity to carry out projects across many parts of Vietnam.

We thank our donors, monthly contributors, Board members, advisers, volunteer interpreters and local project partners for their generous donations, practical help, moral support and good counsel.

Peter Kabaila
Public Officer
Friends of Vietnam Orphanages Inc (FoVO)

REPORT TO DONORS 2019

Project Summary

How Your $22,730 Was Spent

NO.	PROJECT	AUD	MILLION VND
1	Bưu Trì Pagoda Orphanage, Cần Thơ — education and nutrition	$728	12.1
2	Thiên Ân Orphanage, Cần Thơ — nutrition and school materials	$586	9.8
3	Sài Gòn Cancer Hospital — support for volunteer canteen	$494	8.2
4	Mái Ấm Tình Mẹ, Bình Dương — support for orphanage and single mothers shelter	$623	10.4
5	Suối Tiên, Đồng Nai — blood sugar testing kit and two hot/cold water filter machines for homeless women's shelter	$1,124	18.7
6	Lâm Hà, Lâm Đồng — support for orphanage and single mothers shelter	$679	11.3
7	Vi Nhân School, Buôn Mê Thuột — scanner/photocopier and school materials	$679	11.3
8	Buôn Hwie, Đắk Lắk — pig raising and food parcels for disadvantaged Ê- đê households	$1,667	27.8
9	Buôn Mê Thuột rubbish tip — protective clothing for 50 scavengers	$247	4.1
10	Đắk Mil, Đắk Nông — food and livestock assistance for M'Nông households	$444	7.4
11	Mái Ấm Thiên Tâm, Nha Trang — expand capacity to raise chickens	$469	7.8
12	Sơn Tân, Khánh Hòa — food and chicken raising for Răglai households	$951	15.8
13	Cam Tân, Khánh Hòa — food and chicken raising for leprosy-affected households	$296	4.9
14	Nha Trang region — medicine packages for 12 orphanages, schools and communities	$2,220	37.0
15	Bản Khe Ngài, Quảng Trị — food parcels and tree planting for 23 Vân Kiều households	$840	14.0
16	Phong Nha — food, chicken raising and medicines for disadvantaged households	$926	15.4
17	Hà Tĩnh villages — food parcels for 16 disadvantaged households	$593	9.9
18	Thạch Hà Hospital — support for youth volunteer canteen	$247	4.1
19	Hà Tĩnh villages — chicken raising for 10 disadvantaged households	$667	11.1
20	Hà Tĩnh — bicycles, school materials and fees for children from five disadvantaged families	$778	13.0
21	Mái Ấm Thiên Ân, Hà Tĩnh — childbirth and surgery recovery room	$926	15.4
22	Thạch Long and Thạch Sơn, Hà Tĩnh — assistance to eight disadvantaged households	$185	3.1
23	Xã Đoài — support for 19.5 Shelter for Severely Disabled and children's orphanage	$1,142	19.0
24	Nghệ An — school materials for Thái children	$278	4.6
25	Hiếu and Quỳnh Lập, Nghệ An — cow and chicken raising to increase household income	$1,852	30.8
26	Phát Diệm — food, chicken raising, mother-and-baby assistance and school materials	$1,296	21.6
27	Nguyễn Văn Diệm, Hà Tĩnh — contribution towards hip surgery enabling him to walk and return to work	$1,800	30.0
	TOTAL	**$22,730**	**378.4**

VND converted at the Reserve Bank of Australia average rate for the financial year, approximately 1.66 million VND = AUD $100.

REPORT TO DONORS 2019

1. Bưu Trì Pagoda Orphanage — Cần Thơ

Education and nutrition — $728

Description

Bưu Trì Pagoda Orphanage cared for 66 children. FoVO provided school materials, food, toiletries and other everyday supplies.

Project expenditure

School materials:

- 6 English language charts — 0.2M VND
- 7 high school calculators — 2M VND
- 40 exercise books — 0.24M VND
- 200 pens — 0.48M VND
- 200 exercise book covers — 0.2M VND
- 20 technical drawing sets — 0.2M VND
- 2 boxes of chalk — 0.1M VND

Food and household supplies:

- 400 chicken eggs — 0.64M VND
- 15kg chicken meat — 3.45M VND
- 1 box of 12 one -litre bottles of cooking oil — 0.25M VND
- 10 one -litre bottles of shampoo — 1.2M VND
- 250kg rice — 2.5M VND
- 30 Lifebuoy soap bars — 0.3M VND
- 30 toothbrushes — 0.13M VND
- 30 tubes of toothpaste — 0.33M VND
- 1 bag of 10kg washing powder — 0.14M VND
- 10kg garlic — 0.17M VND
- 10kg seasoning powder — 0.5M VND
- 4kg pepper — 0.4M VND
- 10 boxes of 30 packets of noodles — 0.94M VND
- 2 boxes of 12 litres of fish sauce — 0.43M VND
- 2 boxes of 10 litres of soy sauce — 0.3M VND

Observation

The project combined educational assistance with practical support for the daily care and feeding of the children.

Reflection

A relatively small project could meet several immediate needs at the same time. Working directly with the orphanage allowed assistance to be selected according to what was actually needed.





Head nun (Sự phụ Quảng Trí) with our project



Thi helping to unpack and sort out school study books into sets





REPORT TO DONORS 2019

2. Thiên Ân Orphanage — Cần Thơ

Nutrition and school materials — $586

Description

FoVO provided food, school materials and everyday supplies for 40 children at Thiên Ân Orphanage. The orphanage was undergoing forced relocation onto a smaller parcel of land, so there was less home-grown food available.

Project expenditure

School materials:

- 6 English language charts — 0.2M VND
- 40 exercise books — 0.24M VND
- 200 pens — 0.48M VND
- 200 exercise book covers — 0.2M VND

Food and household supplies:

- 200 chicken eggs — 0.32M VND
- 15kg chicken meat — 3.45M VND
- 4 boxes of 48 mini -cartons of Milo — 1.2M VND
- 1 box of 12 one -litre bottles of cooking oil — 0.25M VND
- 10 one -litre bottles of shampoo — 1.2M VND
- 30 Lifebuoy soap bars — 0.3M VND
- 250kg rice — 2.5M VND
- 30 toothbrushes — 0.13M VND
- 30 tubes of toothpaste — 0.33M VND
- 1 bag of 10kg washing powder — 0.14M VND
- 10kg garlic — 0.17M VND
- 10kg seasoning powder — 0.5M VND
- 4kg pepper — 0.4M VND
- 10 boxes of 30 packets of noodles — 0.94M VND
- 2 boxes of 12 litres of fish sauce — 0.43M VND
- 2 boxes of 10 litres of soy sauce — 0.3M VND

Observation

The relocation onto a smaller parcel of land reduced the orphanage's capacity to grow some of its own food.

Reflection

The project responded to the immediate effect of the relocation by concentrating on food, school materials and other everyday supplies.



REPORT TO DONORS 2019

3. Sài Gòn Cancer Hospital

Support for volunteer canteen — $494

Description

FoVO supported a Buddhist volunteer group operating a canteen at Sài Gòn Cancer Hospital.

The group prepared and delivered food to cancer patients and handed out take-away food, including noodle packets, to visiting relatives.

Project expenditure

FoVO provided:

- 150kg rice
- 12 x 1kg bags of Knorr seasoning
- 1,500 noodle packets (50 boxes x 30 packets)
- 102 x one -litre bottles of cooking oil
- 50kg sugar

Total project cost — 8M VND ($494).

Observation

The project worked through an established volunteer group already preparing and distributing food at the hospital.

Reflection

Supporting an existing local volunteer group allowed FoVO's contribution to become part of a larger continuing service for patients and their families.



Classic Vietnam delivery by motorbike.







Food production on a commercial scale and filtered water supply to people on the street.

REPORT TO DONORS 2019

4. Mái Ấm Tình Mẹ — Bình Dương

Support for orphanage and single mothers shelter — $623

Description

FoVO provided food, toiletries and practical supplies for Mái Ấm Tình Mẹ, an orphanage and single mothers shelter in Bình Dương.

Project expenditure

- 2 hair dryers — 0.56M VND each
- 5 boxes x 48 mini -cartons of Milo — 1.6M VND
- 5 boxes x 48 mini -cartons of milk — 1.3M VND
- 1 box of Laughing Cow cheese, 30 cartons x 10 pieces — 0.5M VND
- 9 x one -litre bottles of shampoo — 0.6M VND
- 60 Lifebuoy soap bars — 0.24M VND
- 2 x one -litre bottles of shower gel — 0.09M VND
- 5 boxes of yoghurt — 0.58M VND
- 500 quail eggs — 0.45M VND
- 8 x 1kg bags of Knorr seasoning — 0.45M VND
- Storage cabinet for baby clothes — 3M VND

Total project cost — 10.1M VND ($623).

Observation

The shelter required a mixture of everyday consumable supplies and simple equipment for the care of children, babies and mothers.

Reflection

Small practical items can be as useful as larger projects. The assistance was selected according to the everyday needs identified at the shelter.







The floors are crowded at midday sleep time

REPORT TO DONORS 2019

5. Homeless Women's Shelter — Suối Tiên, Đồng Nai

Blood sugar testing kit and water filter machines — $1,124

Description

FoVO continued its support for a shelter for homeless women at Suối Tiên village in Đồng Nai.

Project expenditure

- Blood sugar testing kit — 3.2M VND ($198)
- Two hot/cold water filter machines — 15M VND ($926)

Total project cost — 18.2M VND ($1,124).

Observation

The hot/cold water machines contain filters which need to be changed every few months. FoVO had previously supported an outdoor awning at the shelter which was being used for meals.

Reflection

Returning to places previously assisted allowed us to identify new practical needs rather than treating each visit as a separate one-off contact.





Inside, the machine has filters that need to be changed every few months.





Meal under the awning we supported in a previous year

REPORT TO DONORS 2019

6. Orphanage and Single Mothers Shelter — Lâm Hà, Lâm Đồng

Clothing, school materials and practical supplies — $679

Description

FoVO provided assistance for 32 children at an orphanage and single mothers shelter near Lâm Hà in Lâm Đồng Province.

Project expenditure

Clothing — 4M VND:

- 26 sets of winter clothing, each with shirt and long pants
- 26 pairs of socks
- 6 girls' hats

School materials — 4.6M VND:

- 18 school bags — 3M VND
- 200 pencils
- 240 pens
- 13 scissors
- 20 rulers
- 30 erasers
- 10 pencil sharpeners
- 100 sets of coloured paper

Medicines and toiletries — 1.5M VND:

- Worm tablets
- Saline
- Children's paracetamol liquid
- 30 x 6m mosquito nets, donated by a market seller
- Hospital gauze
- Multivitamin drink
- Menthol
- 5 x one -litre bottles of shampoo — 0.5M VND

Equipment — 1M VND:

- Electric kettle
- Blender

Total project cost — 11M VND ($679).

Observation

The assistance covered several straightforward needs: warm clothing, schooling, basic health supplies and equipment used in the everyday care of the children.

Reflection

A modest budget could provide a useful range of assistance when needs were identified beforehand and purchases were made locally.







REPORT TO DONORS 2019

7. Vi Nhân School for Disabled Children — Buôn Mê Thuột

Scanner/photocopier and school materials — $679

Description

FoVO supported Vi Nhân School for Disabled Children in Buôn Mê Thuột with equipment for the school and school materials for disadvantaged students.

Project expenditure

- Scanner/photocopier — 6M VND
- School materials for disadvantaged students — 5M VND Total project cost — 11M VND ($679).

Observation

The scanner/photocopier provided equipment that could continue to be used by the school, while the school materials provided direct assistance to students.

Reflection

The project combined a lasting item of school equipment with immediate assistance for children who needed help with their education.






Canon

REPORT TO DONORS 2019

8. Buôn Hwie Ê-Đê Village — Đắk Lắk

Pig raising and food parcels — $1,667

Description

FoVO assisted disadvantaged Ê-đê households at Buôn Hwie village with a pig -raising project and food parcels.

Pig raising

Eleven disadvantaged households were each provided with a pair of mountain piglets to raise.

Project expenditure:

- 11 pairs of mountain piglets — 22M VND ($1,358)

Food parcels

Food parcels were also provided to 25 disadvantaged households.

Each food parcel contained:

- 10kg rice
- 1 litre cooking oil
- 1 litre fish sauce
- 1kg sugar
- 1kg seasoning
- 1 packet of monosodium glutamate

Project expenditure:

- 25 food parcels — 5M VND ($309)

Total project cost — 27M VND ($1,667).

Observation

The pig project was intended to provide households with livestock that could be bred and raised, rather than providing only short-term assistance. Food parcels provided immediate assistance to households in need.

Reflection

The project combined immediate food assistance with a longer-term opportunity for families to increase their own household resources through raising pigs.





Our project partner Sister Hương of the St Paul De Chartres nuns, distributes the food provisions.





Our project partner Sister Hậu, of the St Paul De Chartres nuns, is the convent pig handler. She checks the gender and distributes each piglet



11 pairs of mountain piglets. For eleven disadvantaged households.

REPORT TO DONORS 2019

9. Rubbish Tip Scavengers — Buôn Mê Thuột

Protective clothing for 50 scavengers — $247

Description

FoVO provided protective clothing and equipment for 50 people who made a living scavenging recyclable materials from the rubbish tip at Buôn Mê Thuột.

Project expenditure

Protective equipment included:

- 50 pairs of rubber boots
- 50 pairs of gloves
- 50 hats
- 50 face masks

Total project cost — 4M VND ($247).

Observation

People working on the rubbish tip were exposed to dirt, sharp objects and other hazards while searching through waste for recyclable material.

Reflection

The project was simple and inexpensive. It provided basic protection for people carrying out difficult work in unsafe conditions.





Protective equipment being delivered.



REPORT TO DONORS 2019

10. M'nông Village — Đắk Mil, Đắk Nông

Food and livestock assistance — $444

Description

FoVO assisted eight disadvantaged M'Nông households in a village near Đắk Mil in Đắk Nông Province.

The assistance combined food with pigs and chickens which households could raise.

Project expenditure

Assistance included:

- Piglets
- Chickens
- Chicken feed
- Food for eight disadvantaged households

Total project cost — 7.2M VND ($444).

Observation

The project combined food for immediate household needs with livestock that families could raise themselves.

Reflection

Providing livestock as well as food gave families something productive to work with after the immediate assistance had been used.



Our project partner Thao stands next to our three motorbikes, two carrying food, the third carrying livestock.





REPORT TO DONORS 2019

11. Mái Ấm Thiên Tâm — Nha Trang

Expansion of chicken raising — $469

Description

FoVO assisted Mái Ấm Thiên Tâm to expand its existing chicken -raising project.

The project provided a raised concrete floor for the chicken area and 100 six-week-old chickens.

Project expenditure

- Raised concrete floor for chicken -raising area
- 100 six -week-old chickens

Total project cost — 7.6M VND ($469).

Observation

The shelter was already raising chickens. The new concrete floor and additional chickens increased the capacity of an existing activity rather than establishing an entirely new project.

Reflection

Adding to an activity that was already operating successfully was a practical way of helping the shelter increase its own food-producing capacity.

REPORT TO DONORS 2019

12. Răglai Village — Sơn Tân, Cam Lâm, Khánh Hòa

Food parcels and chicken raising — $951

Description

FoVO assisted disadvantaged Răglai households at Sơn Tân village in Cam Lâm District with food parcels and a chicken-raising project.

Food parcels

Food parcels were provided to 15 disadvantaged households.

Project expenditure:

- Food parcels for 15 households — 3.4M VND ($210)

Chicken raising

Ten disadvantaged households were each provided with:

- 30 chickens
- 15kg chicken feed
- A chicken cage

Project expenditure:

- Chicken -raising assistance for 10 households — 12M VND ($741) Total project cost — 15.4M VND ($951).

Observation

The food parcels provided immediate assistance, while the chickens, feed and cages gave ten households the means to begin raising their own poultry.

Reflection

As with several FoVO projects during the year, immediate food assistance was combined with a small productive project intended to provide a continuing household benefit.



Our project partner, the local Holy Cross nuns, delivered and distributed the food








NIKE



REPORT TO DONORS 2019

13. Leprosy-affected Community — Cam Tân, Khánh Hòa

Food parcels and chicken raising — $296

Description

FoVO assisted families affected by leprosy at Trai Cui, Cam Tân, with food parcels and a small chicken-raising project.

Food parcels

Food parcels were provided to eight disadvantaged households.

Project expenditure:

- Food parcels for 8 households — 1.8M VND ($111)

Chicken raising

FoVO also provided 100 chickens to be raised by the convent for the benefit of the village.

Project expenditure:

- 100 chickens — 3M VND ($185)

Total project cost — 4.8M VND ($296).

Observation

The food parcels provided direct assistance to eight households. The chickens were raised collectively by the convent rather than being distributed separately to individual households.

Reflection

The two forms of assistance met different needs: food provided immediate help, while the chickens provided a small continuing source of food and support for the community.











REPORT TO DONORS 2019

14. Medicines — Nha Trang Region

Medicine packages for 12 orphanages, schools and communities — $2,220

Description

FoVO purchased 12 packages of basic medicines for orphanages, schools, shelters and disadvantaged communities in the Nha Trang region. Each package cost 3M VND ($185).

Medicines supplied

Each package contained a selection of commonly needed medicines and medical supplies, including:

- Paracetamol
- Children's paracetamol
- Diarrhoea medicine
- Antiseptic
- Saline
- Vitamins
- Calcium
- Cough medicine
- Worm tablets
- Medicated oil
- Gauze
- Bandages
- Cotton wool
- Other basic medical supplies

Recipients

The 12 medicine packages were provided to:

1. La Salle workshop and accommodation for disabled people
2. Lộc Thọ Pagoda Orphanage
3. Hướng Dương Orphanage
4. Chùa Phật Bửu, Ninh Hòa
5. Thanh Sơn Pagoda Orphanage, Cam Lâm
6. Nhân Ái, Cam Ranh
7. Đại An Orphanage, Cam Ranh
8. Mái Ấm Hy Vọng day centre for children with Down syndrome, Cam Lâm

9. An Đào Orphanage, Ninh Hòa

10. Ninh Hòa Government School for Disabled

11. Trai Cui leprosy-affected village

12. Răglai village

Project expenditure

- 12 medicine packages at 3M VND each — 36M VND ($2,220) Total project cost — 36M VND ($2,220).

Observation

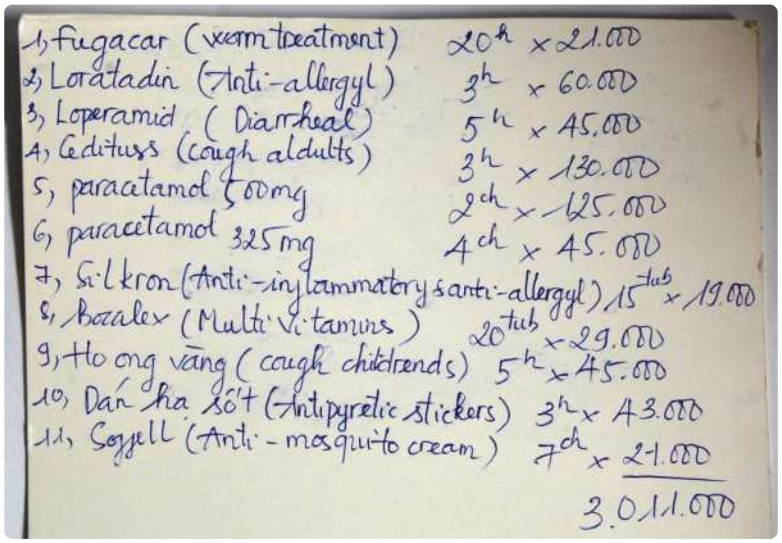
The same basic medicine package could be distributed through a range of established orphanages, schools, shelters and communities. Local organisations could then use the medicines according to the needs of the people in their care.

Reflection

Purchasing the medicines in standard packages made it possible to provide useful basic medical supplies to 12 different places during the field trip.



Each medicine package was assembled and hand delivered by Lam (below), our volunteer interpreter.





Lam, our project partner.

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La Salle disabled workshop and accommodation, Nha Trang. Medicine package



Lộc Thọ Pagoda orphanage, Nha Trang. Medicine package.





Hướng Dương orphanage, Nha Trang. Medicine package.





Girls on a soft toy shopping outing

Chùa Phật Bửu, Ninh Hòa. Medicine package.





Thanh Sơn Pagoda orphanage, Cam Lâm. Medicine package.





Nhân Ái, Cam Ranh. Medicine package.





Negotiation for more funding from FoVO.

Đại An Orphanage, Cam Ranh. Medicine package.





Mái Ấm Hy Vọng downes syndrome day centre, Cam Lâm. Medicine package.





An Đào orphanage, Ninh Hòa. Medicine package.





Ninh Hòa Government School for Disabled. Medicine package.





Medicine supply, village of 37 leper households (Trai Cui), Khánh Hòa Province.





Medicine supply for Raklay indigenous village, Khan Hoa Province.





REPORT TO DONORS 2019

15. Bản Khe Ngài Vân Kiều Village — Đăkrông, Quảng Trị

Food parcels and tree planting — $840

Description

FoVO assisted 23 Vân Kiều families at Bản Khe Ngài in Đăkrông District, Quảng Trị Province.

The project combined immediate food assistance with trees that families could plant and grow.

Food parcels

Food parcels were provided to 23 families.

Project expenditure:

- Food parcels for 23 families — 4.6M VND ($284)

Tree planting

Each of the 23 families was provided with 500 cây tràm trees for planting.

Project expenditure:

- Trees for 23 families
- Truck transport of the trees to the village

Total tree-planting expenditure — 9M VND ($556).

Total project cost — 13.6M VND ($840).

Observation

The project provided each family with a substantial number of trees rather than a small token planting. Transport was also included so that the trees could be delivered to the remote village.

Food met an immediate need, while tree planting was a much longer-term form of assistance. The project therefore combined short-term support with something the families could cultivate for future benefit.



Youth group crossing the river to carry trees to the village





Students visiting each household to deliver our assistance.



Students visiting each household to deliver our assistance.



Children in the village.



REPORT TO DONORS 2019

16. Phong Nha Villages

Food, chicken raising and medicines — $926

Description

FoVO worked with local contacts to assist disadvantaged households in villages around Phong Nha.

The project combined home visits and food assistance, chicken raising and basic medicines.

Food assistance

Seven disadvantaged households were visited and provided with food parcels.

Chicken raising

Ten disadvantaged households were each provided with:

- 30 month -old chickens
- 12kg chicken feed

Medicines

Basic medicines were also provided for use in the local community.

Project expenditure

- Food assistance for disadvantaged households
- Chickens and feed for 10 households
- Basic medicines — 3M VND

Total project cost — 15M VND ($926).

Observation

Visiting households allowed assistance to be directed towards families identified locally as being in particular need. Chicken raising provided a more continuing form of assistance alongside food and basic medicines.

Reflection

The project again combined immediate assistance with a small livelihood activity. Working with local people helped FoVO identify households and decide what form of assistance was practical.



Example of one household -young couple with two disabled boys.





This 29 year old paralysed daughter's father has a bad leg, but still managed to earn some money as a wood worker and coffin maker.

REPORT TO DONORS 2019

17. Disadvantaged Households — Hà Tĩnh Villages

Food parcels for 16 households — $593

Description

FoVO worked with local volunteers Nam, Hiep and Dong to provide food assistance to disadvantaged households in villages in Hà Tĩnh Province.

Food parcels were provided to 16 households identified as being in need.

Project expenditure

- Food parcels for 16 disadvantaged households — 9.6M VND ($593)

Total project cost — 9.6M VND ($593).

Observation

The local volunteers knew the families and villages and helped identify households where assistance was most needed.

Reflection

Working with trusted local people allowed FoVO to direct relatively small amounts of assistance to individual households rather than relying only on larger institutions.





REPORT TO DONORS 2019

18. Thạch Hà Hospital Youth Volunteer Canteen — Hà Tĩnh

Food for patients — $247

Description

FoVO supported a youth volunteer group providing food for patients at Thạch Hà Hospital in Hà Tĩnh.

The volunteers operated a hospital canteen and prepared soup and meal packets for patients.

Project expenditure

FoVO provided:

- Materials for making soup
- Meal packets for 50 patients

Total project cost — 4M VND ($247).

Observation

The project worked through young local volunteers who were already providing practical assistance to patients at the hospital.

Reflection

A small contribution could support an existing volunteer activity and allow local volunteers to provide meals directly to people receiving hospital treatment.



REPORT TO DONORS 2019

19. Chicken Raising — Hà Tĩnh Villages

Chicken raising for 10 disadvantaged households — $667

Description

FoVO provided chickens and supplies to 10 disadvantaged households in villages in Hà Tĩnh Province.

The project was intended to give each household a small productive activity which could provide food and potentially increase household income.

Project assistance

Each of the 10 households received:

- 30 month -old chickens
- 25kg chicken feed
- Medicines for the chickens

Project expenditure

- Chicken -raising assistance for 10 households — 10.8M VND ($667)

Total project cost — 10.8M VND ($667).

Observation

Providing month-old chickens rather than very young chicks reduced some of the risk involved in establishing the household chicken-raising projects. Feed and medicines were also supplied to help families get started.

Reflection

The project provided more than the livestock alone. Chickens, feed and medicines together gave each household the basic materials needed to begin raising the birds.





REPORT TO DONORS 2019

20. Children from Disadvantaged Families — Hà Tĩnh

Bicycles, school materials and school fees — $778

Description

FoVO assisted children from five disadvantaged families in Hà Tĩnh with bicycles, school materials and school fees.

The assistance was intended to help the children continue attending school where family circumstances made the costs of education difficult to meet.

One student assisted was Võ Thị Thiên Trang, a Year 7 student.

Project expenditure

Assistance included:

- Bicycles
- School materials
- School fees

For Võ Thị Thiên Trang:

- Bicycle — 1.4M VND
- School fee — 1M VND

Total project cost for assistance to children from five families — 12.6M VND ($778).

Observation

The costs associated with attending school were not limited to books and classroom materials. For some children, transport and school fees were also significant expenses for the family.

Reflection

Providing the particular things preventing a child from attending school could be more useful than providing the same standard package to every student.



Võ Thị Thiên Trang in Year 7 is eleven years old



Bao An casting out fishing nets



Bảo Khang towing his mother to shore.

REPORT TO DONORS 2019

21. Mái Ấm Thiên Ân Single Mothers Shelter — Hà Tınh

Childbirth and surgery recovery room — $926

Description

FoVO assisted Mái Ấm Thiên Ân, a shelter for single mothers in Hà Tınh, with equipment and supplies for a room where women could recover after childbirth or surgery.

Project expenditure

- Room heater — 1M VND
- Hot water shower — 3M VND
- Treatment bed — 3M VND
- Training books — 3M VND
- Five mother -and-baby care packages — 1M VND each Total project cost — 15M VND ($926).

Observation

The project provided a combination of permanent equipment, reference material and individual care packages for mothers and babies.

Reflection

Rather than providing only consumable supplies, the project helped equip a room that could continue to be used by women recovering after childbirth or surgery.



Baby at the shelter






APIDO

REPORT TO DONORS 2019

22. Legion of Mary — Thạch Long and Thạch Sơn, Hà Tĩnh

Assistance to eight disadvantaged households — $185

Description

FoVO worked with the Legion of Mary to provide practical assistance to eight disadvantaged households in Thạch Long and Thạch Sơn, Hà Tĩnh.

The assistance was selected according to the circumstances of the individual households rather than providing every household with the same items.

Project assistance

- Food parcels for six households
- Clothes storage for one household
- Nappies for an elderly woman in another household

Total project cost — 3M VND ($185).

Observation

The eight households had different practical needs. Six needed food, while the other two households required quite different forms of assistance.

Reflection

This small project showed the value of asking what individual households actually needed. A standard food parcel was useful for most families, but was not necessarily the most useful assistance for everyone.



REPORT TO DONORS 2019

23. Xã Đoài — Nghệ An

Support for 19.5 Shelter for Severely Disabled and Mother Teresa of Calcutta Children's Orphanage — $1,142

Description

FoVO provided food, toiletries and other everyday supplies to the 19.5 Shelter for Severely Disabled and the Mother Teresa of Calcutta Children's Orphanage at Xã Đoài.

Project expenditure

Supplies included:

- Washing powder
- Cakes
- Condensed milk
- Toothpaste
- Cleaning supplies
- Shower gel
- Milk
- Nappies
- Rice
- Other everyday supplies

Total project cost — 18.5M VND ($1,142).

Observation

The project provided practical consumable supplies used in the everyday care of children and people with severe disabilities.

Reflection

These institutions had continuing costs for food, hygiene and personal care. Providing supplies that would otherwise have to be purchased allowed FoVO's assistance to meet immediate and practical needs.



Sisters and some residents pose with our project of donated supplies.



A boy sees the new visitors.

REPORT TO DONORS 2019

24. Thái Children — Nghệ An

School materials — $278

Description

FoVO contributed school materials for Thái children in Nghệ An as part of a larger project.

Project expenditure

FoVO provided:

- 300 junior school exercise books
- 300 senior school exercise books
- 300 pencils
- 300 pens

Total project cost — 4.5M VND ($278).

Observation

FoVO's contribution formed one part of a larger educational assistance project. The purchase provided substantial quantities of basic materials that could be distributed among the school children.

Reflection

FoVO did not need to fund an entire project where a useful contribution could be made to an activity already being organised locally by our project partner Hiep' s very small charity.





REPORT TO DONORS 2019

25. Hiếu and Quỳnh Lập — Nghệ An

Cow and chicken raising — $1,852

Description

FoVO provided livestock assistance to Hiếu and disadvantaged households at Quỳnh Lập in Nghệ An.

The project included a calf for Hiếu and a larger chicken -raising project organised with local assistance at Quỳnh Lập.

Hiếu — cow raising
Hiếu was provided with a six -month-old calf to raise as a means of increasing his household income.

Project expenditure:

- Six -month-old calf — 10M VND ($617)

Quỳnh Lập — chicken raising
The chicken-raising project provided assistance to 24 households or allocations.

The project supplied:

- 730 chickens
- 25 bags of chicken feed

Twenty-two families received chickens and feed. Sister Nguyện also received an allocation, and Hiếu was treated as the equivalent of two households, receiving:

- 50 chickens
- Two 25kg bags of chicken feed

Livestock expenditure was 18.5M VND.

The remaining 1.5M VND was used to purchase food utensils for elderly people affected by leprosy living in a hospice.

Project expenditure:

- Quỳnh Lập chicken project and associated assistance — 20M VND ($1,235)

Total project cost — 30M VND ($1,852).

Observation

Hiếu received both a calf and a larger allocation of chickens and feed. The wider chicken project distributed livestock among local families, with the quantities recorded at the time.

Reflection

The project concentrated on livestock that households could raise themselves. Recording the numbers of chickens, bags of feed and individual allocations also provided a clear account of how the project funds were used.



Hiếu. Visit and buy 6-month-old cow to raise household income, Nghe An.



With the new calf, after a reconstructive surgery in Saigon.



Hiếu with chickens to raise, Nghe An.

REPORT TO DONORS 2019

26. Phát Diệm

Food, chicken raising, mother-and-baby assistance and school materials — $1,296

Description

FoVO worked with Sister Kính and local contacts at Phát Diệm on several forms of assistance for disadvantaged people.

Food parcels

Twenty food parcels were provided:

- 15 parcels for homeless women living in a group house
- 5 parcels for other households which included a person with a disability

The expenditure also included repayment of 2M VND which Sister Kính had borrowed for assistance during the previous year.

Project expenditure:

- Food parcels and repayment of earlier assistance — 5M VND ($309)

Chicken raising

Fifteen disadvantaged households were each provided with:

- 30 week -old chickens
- 25kg chicken feed

Project expenditure:

- Chicken raising for 15 households — 10M VND ($617)

Mother-and-baby assistance
Two mother-and-baby care packages were provided.

Project expenditure:

- Two mother -and-baby care packages — 2M VND ($123)

School materials
School materials were provided for a class of 20 children with disabilities.

Project expenditure:

- School materials for 20 children — 4M VND ($247)

Total project cost — 21M VND ($1,296).

Observation

The assistance at Phát Diệm was not a single standard project. It responded to several different groups and needs identified through local contacts: homeless women, disadvantaged households, mothers and babies, and children with disabilities.

Reflection

Working through established local contacts allowed a relatively modest total budget to be divided among several quite different needs. The detailed expenditure also recorded where each part of the donation was used.



Sister Kinh helps set up the loom for a sleeping mat weaving demonstration.









Returning home with poultry and feed bags

REPORT TO DONORS 2019

27. Nguyễn Văn Diệm — Hà Tĩnh

Contribution towards hip surgery — $1,800

Description

FoVO contributed towards hip replacement surgery for Nguyễn Văn Diệm, a fisherman in Hà Tĩnh.

Diệm needed replacement of the femoral head of his hip. Without the operation he had difficulty walking and working to support his family.

The operation was quoted at 100M VND.

Funding for the operation was assembled from several sources:

- Health insurance — 40M VND
- Diệm's wife sold her gold — 10M VND
- Contribution from his wife's sister — 10M VND
- Contributions from his three brothers — 10M VND
- FoVO contribution — 30M VND ($1,800)

Total available for the operation — 100M VND.

Project expenditure

- FoVO contribution towards hip replacement surgery — 30M VND ($1,800)

Observation

The operation was successfully completed.

By April 2019 Diệm was walking with significantly less pain. He later returned to work.

FoVO's contribution met the final 30M VND funding gap after health insurance and contributions from Diệm's family had provided the other 70M VND required.

Reflection

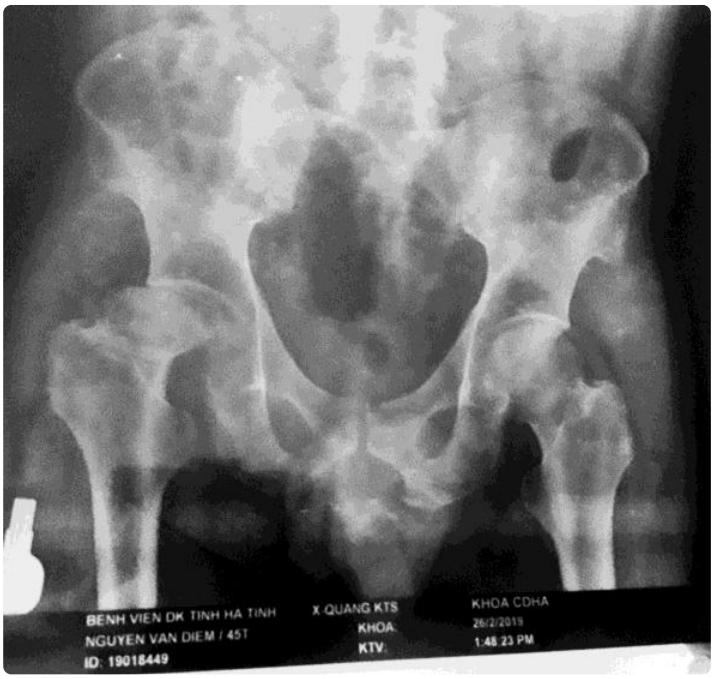
FoVO did not pay the full cost of the operation. The project worked because Diệm's family, health insurance and FoVO each contributed towards the cost.

The 30M VND contribution completed the funding needed for surgery and helped Diệm regain his ability to walk and return to work.



Diem's fishing boat





Diem before the operation and Xray of the deteriorated hip

REPORT TO DONORS 2019

Some Project Stories

11,500 Trees Across the River

Returning to the Vân Kiều village of Bản Khe Ngài was encouraging. The cây tràm trees provided in the previous year were growing well and the village wanted to plant more.

That was the easy part. Getting thousands of young trees to a remote mountain village was another matter.

This year FoVO provided another 500 cây tràm trees for each of the 23 families. A group of 45 university students joined us to help with the delivery. Together they carried 11,500 seedlings and food supplies across the river and then about 4 km along the track to the village.

The village headman explained that cây tràm was particularly suited to their hard mountain soils and difficult climate. For local families, growing the trees was one of the few available ways of earning an income.

It was satisfying to come back a year later, see the earlier trees growing, and find that the village wanted to do more.

The Secret Chicken Sale

One of the pleasures of returning to places we had visited in earlier years was finding out what had happened to previous FoVO projects.

In villages around Hà Tınh we had helped disadvantaged households with chicken raising. When we returned to visit one elderly couple, they recognised us immediately. The woman hurried off to show us their chicken yard.

She explained that she and her husband were now in their eighties. They could no longer work their rice farm as they once had, so they were concentrating on raising chickens. The chickens gave them eggs to eat and some money from sales.

Then their adult daughter joined the conversation and proudly announced that her mother had just sold chickens at the market for 2.8M VND.

Apparently her mother had not intended to tell us that.

There were similar small discoveries during the journey. Chickens supplied in earlier years had produced eggs and meat, some had been sold, and others had bred another generation. A project that had disappeared from our accounts a year or two earlier could still be scratching around in somebody's backyard.

The Chicken Floor

At Mái Ấm Thiên Tâm near Nha Trang, the retired couple caring for children had a very practical ambition. They wanted a better floor for their chicken area and more chickens.

They were already raising chickens, but did not have the money to improve the area or increase the flock. FoVO provided a raised concrete floor and 100 six-week-old chickens, costing 7.6M VND ($469).

The woman was delighted. She told us that every day she had thought about making a new concrete floor and raising more chickens, so there would be more eggs and meat for the children and perhaps some additional income. She simply had not had the money to do it.

Looking at the completed floor and the new chickens, she decided that God must have brought us there to help her.

It was one of the smaller FoVO projects of the year, but sometimes a small amount of money is enough to allow somebody to do something they have already been planning for themselves.

The Last 30 Million

Nguyễn Văn Diệm in Hà Tınh needed an operation to replace the femoral head of his hip. Without it, walking was painful and he could not properly work to support his family.

The operation would cost 100M VND.

Health insurance would pay 40M. Diệm's wife sold her gold and raised another 10M. Her sister contributed 10M. Diệm's three brothers found another 10M between them.

The family had somehow assembled 70M VND, but they were still 30M short.

FoVO provided the missing 30M VND ($1,800).

The operation went ahead successfully. When we followed up in April 2019, Diệm was walking with much less pain. Later we heard that he had returned to work.

It was not really a story of FoVO paying for an operation. Most of the money had already been found by Diệm, his family and health insurance.

We just provided the last 30 million.