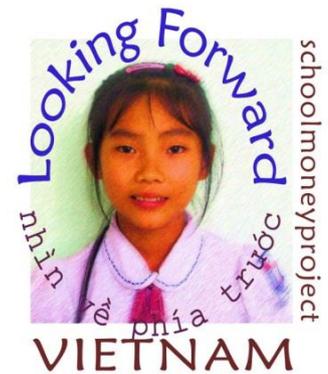


Newsletter 20, December 10, 2018

Dear sponsors and friends of school money project

Foundation LOOKING-FORWARD



The School money project in Vietnam now exists for 10 years!



In October 2008, we started paying school fees for a girl, Le Thi Hao, who lives in a poor fishing district in Nha Trang city. Her 2 brothers Du and Lich followed soon and later also niece Kieu and nephew Viet. We suspected that our money ended up well, but there was no good control possible. After one year we went back to Nha Trang and at Hao's school we met 2 teachers (*Hiep and Danh*) who wanted to help us. We took this offer and then the project took off!

Through these teachers we were given the opportunity to enter government schools. Hiep and Danh were asked by school boards whether our project could be used in some emergencies of pupils at their school. We did our best to help the proposed pupils. It is very difficult to offer no help if we see such a student-in-need at home. The child often recently lost one or both parents; is handed to the grandparent(s) because of divorce or the parent(s) cannot work/little because of illness or poor schooling.

The number of supported pupils increased rapidly. Fortunately, the number of sponsors increased proportionally. Now we have been holding it reasonably stable for several years on 85 pupils at 9 schools in Nha Trang and Dien Khanh. The only school in Nha Trang city (*Cao Thang secondary*) we are slowly phasing out. Instead of this school we made a start with 3 pupils at the Trinh Phong secondary in Dien Phu. The schools are now better connected to each other, so that our pupils can be better monitored. (*The, now still, 7 pupils on the Cao Thang and the 3 girls on the Trinh Phong are all supported by Looking-Forward United Kingdom*)

8 pupils have successfully finished basic education and 6 pupils have left school due to school absenteeism/bad points/relocation so we are back to 85 pupils, we have at the beginning of the school year 2018-2019, on 5 September, 19 new pupils-in-need were able to admit to the L-F-school money project.

We were in Vietnam from August 26 to September 16 and visited the pupils selected by the school boards. These private visits are the most intensive part of our annual stay with our pupils. The Mac Dinh Chi school was allowed to present 7 potential pupils. An example of what we see on our visits follows: Friday afternoon (*31 August 2018*).

This afternoon we even have a guest in our midst. The Japanese Mizuki Takegata wants to get to know our project. Mizuki does 2 years of research in a vaccination project against Meningococcal in Nha Trang that emanates from the University of Nagasaki. We are always willing to show the project in practice to functional interested (*and sponsors*). We do not cooperate with so-called. voluntary work on site; We will not teach or build houses there. That the Vietnamese people can do by them self!

At the Mac Dinh Chi school we are warmly welcomed with a cup of green tea and fruit. Ms. Thuy, the contact person at this school, has gathered the 7 candidates. Our new financial L-F-manager Ms. Thanh joins us to see the working method. (*also the number of local L-F managers has risen; we now have Thanh, Thuy, Hiep, Chi and Lai*).



With 6 mopeds we go to the first pupil Nu Em (11).

We must drive a narrow track from the paved road. At the end is a cottage whose walls are hand-built with loam. Beautiful to see, but what if you have to life there all year, with often heavy rain and wind.



Em lives with her brother and sister with her sick parents. The family gets some food aid from the local government. We decide, without a doubt, to pay the tuition fees for Em. There is only one way out of this shabby situation for her; Now learn and study hard for a well-paid job in the future. We are happy to be able to help this young girl.

The 2nd pupil, Ngoc My (13) lives with her grandfather (± 70) in a very simple house. The grandpa is obviously very happy that My is included in our school feed fund. Retirement benefits (*Women 55 Year/Men 60 Year*) are only for ex-government personnel. There is an age benefit, but that is for a woman after 75 years and a man after 80 years and then only 400,000-600,000 Dong/ € 16-24 per month depending on health situation.

We need to go very far into Dien Son countryside area to the residential address of the 3rd student, Thanh Thoai. His family do not live in a house, but under a large canvas. Around this shelter there are hundreds of white ducks. The parents of Thoai run here a duck farm. It's dirty and wet. Father and mother welcome us warmly and offer us all immediately a coconut to drink.



We have told you before that we hardly meet reminders from the terrible Vietnam War. That is until this afternoon; Until Lidy falls backwards with her little plastic chair. Next to her lies, in the "living room", an old grenade, with the ignition still on top.

As a legacy of the war with the United States, there are large quantities of unexploded explosives in Vietnam, which result in dozens of victims every year. In the war years, seven million tons of bombs fell on Vietnam and about one-third of them did not explode. Since 1975 there are over 40,000 deaths due to these explosives.

The father found the grenade in a big pond on his land. He can ask the government to remove the bomb, but like all Vietnamese they don't want any government/police on their private property. We advise him to be very careful with the grenade and not to leave it in the house.



Thoai gets from Mizuki the Looking-Forward welcome pack. He will get his first school money at school, September 5, during the official opening of the new school year 2018-2019.

←Pupil 4, Minh Phuc (13), is part of one of the poorest families in Dien Son. His father and mother are weakly gifted and only able to do simple and badly paid work. Phuc has a younger brother and sister (*The number of children in a Vietnamese family is seldom more than 2-3*). Of course, Phuc becomes a L-F-pupil and gets the package with toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, washing powder, noodles etc...

After their house was destroyed completely by Typhoon Damrey in October last year, student number 5, Hoang Tien (11), lives with his 3 sisters with his grandparents. Mother has long gone and dad is seriously ill (cancer). Tien himself has chronic swallowing problems. A next-to-living aunt takes care of them. Here Mizuki also makes the family happy with the welcome package.→



Pupil 6, Thanh Thuan (12), lives in a reasonable cottage with his illiterate parents and older sister. Father earns little as a freelance worker. All hope for a better life will be directed at the children; Let's help them a little. Welcome Thuan! But do your best at school, because NO school = NO money!

Pupil 7, Thanh Nhut (11), lives in the lowest house we have ever come in. We must bend over deeply to enter the wooden house. The sun shines through the many holes in the roof.



His father is present. His mother is working as a construction worker. It is a sad family; Father, Nhut and his younger brother have mental health issues. Nhut suffers from epileptic seizures. Without a doubt, we take Nhut in our club.

At 5.00 PM we are ready. First we took the pupils back to school; They can go back home on their bikes. While enjoying an iced coffee we evaluate this afternoon. Mizuki says an impressive, memorable experience to be richer (*and she gives a nice donation*).

For those who want to see more pictures of this afternoon, we advise you to look at the Looking-Forward website at "Reisverslagen" on Day 6 and Day 7.

The school money project now exists for 10 years. We can be proud of the results. Including the 85 pupils we support at this moment, we have in total supported 179 pupils-in-need financially and morally to continue/follow their basic education.

We work excellently together with the school boards of 9 schools in Nha Trang and Dien Khanh, namely: Primary School (Class 1-5) Dien Dien; Secondary School (Class 6-9) Tran Quang Khai, Mac Dinh Chi, Trinh Phong, Nguyen Du and Cao Thang; High School (Class 10-12) Hoang Hoa Tham, Nguyen Thai Hoc and the Giao Duc Thuong Xuyen.

With the indispensable support of our sponsors in the Netherlands and United Kingdom (*and with good health*) we hope to be able to continue our project for the next 10 years.

A good future we make together!

Financial accountability

On December 4, 2018 an amount of € 6557,- is on the bank account of Looking Forward (*including prepaid tuitions*).

During the school year 2018-2019, the foundation financially supports 85 students = 47 girls and 38 boys.

73 students have a personal supporter. (10 of them supported by Looking-Forward United Kingdom). 12 More students are available for support.

Special revenue: € 178,- from Richard Hale school from United Kingdom

Special spending: ±€ 1500,- for day trip with 70 L-F pupils to I-resort on September 4

Private costs are administrated separately from the Looking-Forward finances. All sponsors can get full access to the L F-accounting.

The policy plan and the statutes of the foundation are published on the L-F website.

Thank you for supporting the Looking-Forward school project in Vietnam,

We wish you a GOOD and HEALTHY 2019

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