

Your Gifts Are Transforming Lives

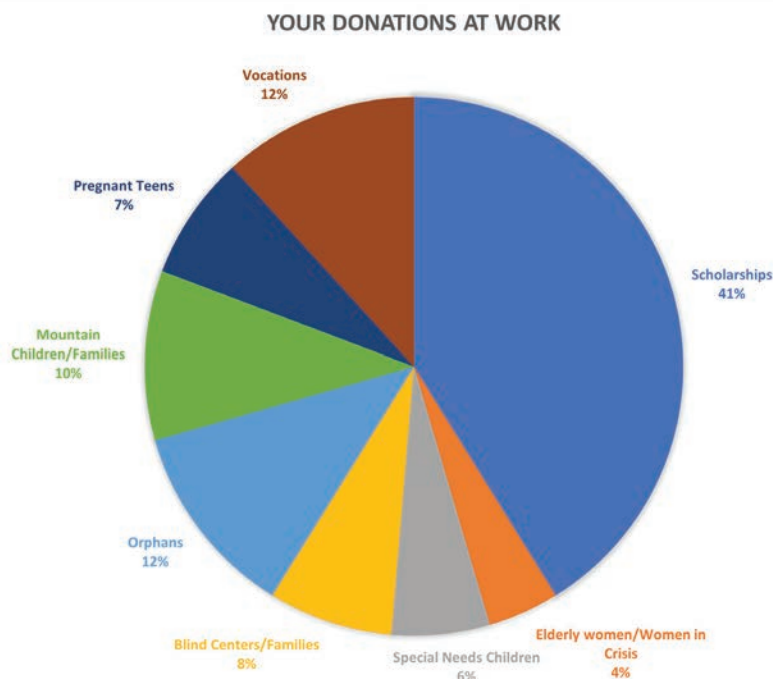
Dear Benefactors and Friends,

We hope and pray that you, your families and friends have been blessed with peace and health during this time. We continue to pray that God will keep you safe.

For two summers, the COVID-19 pandemic has kept us from visiting Vietnam and helping there. However, we have been in contact by phone and email with the Lovers of the Holy Cross in Hue and made arrangements to wire our donations to them. Your generous gifts have continued to provide resources for the four centers, the poor mountain families and students in need of scholarships. Even a pandemic won't stop us from helping our Vietnamese friends!

Your gifts have helped:

- 40 children between 6 months and 17 years old at Lam Bich Dong Ha Center.
- 59 children at Nguyet Bieu Hue Center who are staying as active and healthy as possible.
- 25 children at Hoa Yen Cam Ranh Center who are happy because they are eating healthy food, learning and exercising.
- 30 students who are living at the Cam Lo Boarding School for mountain children, receiving scholarships to live away from home and finish elementary and high school.
- 45 students who have scholarships to help them finish their education.



As you know, these ministries need your help. We invite you to open your heart as we create the new great hope for the future of God's children!

Sadly, our annual benefit dinner has been cancelled for the last two years. Until we are able to gather again for good food, good conversation and a good cause, we hope you will continue your support for *A Call to Vietnam* by using the envelope in this newsletter. You can donate the cost of your ticket, your raffle ticket, your dessert dash donation, and of course, your Fund a Child gift. Together, we will continue to provide hope for the people of God in Vietnam who need our help!

May God bless you and your family and help us see the COVID pandemic end soon!

With our special prayers and deep gratitude,

Sister Kay Burton, SNJM and Sister Agnes Ly Thi Le, SNJM

Lam Bich Dong Ha Center

By Sister/Dr. Anna Hien Tran, LHC

The Lam Bich Dong Ha Center is a place where handicapped and orphaned children live and receive care from the LHC Sisters and a place where mountain children come to live so they can attend school.

Right now, we are raising 40 boys and girls ranging in age from 6 months to 17 years old. We care for the babies and young children at the center; the older children attend elementary and high school in Dong Ha city.

I have been working at this center for about 25 years. I take care of everything that the children need, from organizing work to teaching, to providing care for the children.

We are particularly proud of two young men who recently finished their vocational studies and returned to their families, and two girls who entered the Lovers of the Holy Cross community in Hue after they finished high school.

One local family helped us build a bakery.



Now we can serve bread to the children, Sisters and poor people in this area. One of our ministries is to feed family members who are helping to care for people in hospitals. We are glad to be able to provide bread to them now.

We also took on the sad task of creating a cemetery where we can bury the babies who were aborted at the hospital in Dong Ha city. We raised the funds and bought land so that we could provide a proper resting place for these young souls.

On behalf of the Lovers of the Holy Cross and the children of Lam Bich Dong Ha Center, thank you for your generosity for so many years. Caring for God's children is a big task, and we cannot do it alone.

The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary are dedicated to the mission of education and within this mission promote justice and create community. They have heard a call to collaborate with the religious community of the Lovers of the Holy Cross, Hue in Vietnam to:

- Support ministry to handicapped children, pregnant teens, mountain people, children unable to afford an education,
- Educate young women entering Religious life, particularly in acquisition of English language skills.

Bringing Vietnamese Culture to Children

Participation in the SNJM English conversation program with the Lovers of the Holy Cross made a difference in my life as well as in the lives of each student. In 2007 Dung Huynh, LHC was one of my eager students. As my student in 2016, she was very determined to learn more about the English language and to study in the United States. Her dream has been realized through completing a MA in English at Heritage University in Toppenish WA where she was welcomed, encouraged, and tutored by the Holy Names Sisters. Another dream Dung Huynh had was to publish her very own book, helping children learn about the Vietnamese culture. *A Trip to Vietnam* with illustrations was published in 2021.

—Mary Annette Dworshak, SNJM



In my Children's Literature class, I learned that there is a shortage of diversity in children's books. Children need to see themselves reflected in books and to read about other cultures. With my professor's encouragement, I decided to write a multicultural children's book with illustrations. I'm very grateful to Terry Mullen, SNJM, and Anh Truong, LHC, who contributed to the collaborative ministry of our two congregations in the publication of my book, available on Amazon.com.

By writing a story about a little girl's first trip to Vietnam to visit her grandparents, I wanted to introduce Vietnamese people and culture to children like my niece and others who don't know much about their ancestors, language and traditions. I hope this story will be a mirror that allows Vietnamese children to see their own lived experiences, as well as a window that will give other children the opportunity to see important aspects of another culture. The story introduces Vietnamese family life to young readers and teachers who are interested in learning about Vietnam.

—Dung Huynh, LHC



20 Years of Blessings!

It was in the summer of 2001 that the Sisters of the Holy Names and the Lovers of the Holy Cross Sisters first met in Hué to talk about how they could work together in a mutually beneficial way. They wanted to create bonds of understanding and mutual respect while they began a collaborative project to improve the lives of the most marginalized Vietnamese people.

This year, we celebrate 20 years of teamwork, a partnership that includes not only the two religious congregations, but also each one of you who has made a financial gift, attended a fund-raising event, travelled to Vietnam to help with English-language learning or grown in your love and



appreciation of the Vietnamese people and their culture.

As our 21st year begins, we rededicate ourselves to continued collaboration, to give and to receive. The work is not done. And there are further blessings of friendship and goodwill to be given and

received, more families to support on their path to dignity and well-being. Our gratitude for your participation is boundless! Join us as we begin our 21st year, knowing that we will be blessed in "... good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, poured into your lap." (Lk 6:38)

—Linda Riggers, SNJM

Thank you!

This is a thank you letter from Paul Hoan Pham, a student who received a university scholarship made possible through A Call to Vietnam.

Dear Sisters of the Holy Names and Benefactors,

My name is Paul Hoan Phan. I am a 4th-year student at the Da Nang University of Technology, majoring in Information Technology.

When I passed the university entrance exam, I faced difficult conditions and needed help with tuition fees. Thank God, during those difficult times, I met Sister Agnes Le Thi Ly, SNJM, who told me how to request help.

Thanks to the scholarship, I was able to attend

university these past years with good results. I hope that after graduating from university, I will enter the seminary to continue my studies to become a priest serving in the mission field of the Church of Vietnam, my hometown.

I write these words to sincerely thank the Holy Names Sisters and benefactors who have given generously and sacrificed to help me achieve my wish.

May God, through the intercession of Our Lady of LaVang, grant all blessings to the Holy Names Sisters and benefactors.

My sincere thanks,

Paul Hoan Phan

SPIRITUAL GIFTS FOR OUR BENEFACTORS of A Call to Vietnam: On the first Saturday of every month, a special Mass of Thanksgiving for our benefactors is being said by a Vietnamese priest at the An Lang Mother house chapel of the Sisters, Lovers of the Holy Cross, Hue, Vietnam. And the Sisters of the Holy Names in the United States pray every day for the needs of our benefactors. Please call (206)725-7164 or email agnesthile@gmail.com if you have a special request.