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EFED

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE DESK OF....

Welcome to our second newsletter of 2008.

Wandering through Ho Chi Minh City these days, you can see Christmas time is approaching. Stuffed Santa Clauses and plastic Christmas trees decorate the stores and Christmas Carols are playing in the supermarkets. Also at EFD, you can feel the Christmas spirit. Our Christmas Cards are lying around the office and the first ideas for our yearly Christmas party are shared amongst staff.

Everybody is aware though that there are children for whom this time of the year is just like other days. Children whom have never heard of Christmas, because they are too busy working to support their family. Thinking of this inequality, EFD staff and volunteers seem even more inspired to work harder to improve the situation of these underprivileged children.



Ms. Kirsten Theuns
Country Coordinator of EFD Vietnam

We hope that we can also inspire you by providing some details of our work in this newsletter. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you feel the spirit and want to work with us to ensure children will have a better year in 2009.

Enjoy reading!

Kirsten Theuns - *Country Coordinator EFD in Vietnam*

OUR MISSIONS & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Education for Development (EFD) believes education improves the quality of life for disadvantaged children and youth. EFD strengthens and empowers local organizations enabling them to improve and expand their educational services for disadvantaged children and youth. Through their development, disadvantaged children and youth can gain fair and equal access to education and training thereby developing themselves to their full potential. EFD also believes that services that assist local children and youth directly should be implemented by local organizations. Accordingly, EFD identifies areas where we can assist local service providers so that the local organization can plan and develop these activities independently.

EFD is guided by the following principles:

- **Sustainability:** All projects that EFD starts should have the potential to continue serving the disadvantaged children and youth after EFD stops its support.
- **Participation:** All projects of EFD should include the participation of the stakeholders and of the children in particular.
- **Information sharing:** EFD will share its experiences with all interested parties.
- **Rights of the child:** In all its projects, EFD stresses the rights of the child, especially the right to go to school.

EFD has no political or religious affiliations.

EFD'S PROGRAMS

EFD operates under three main programs; the Infrastructure Program, the Training Program and the Management and Advisory Service Program. Through these three programs EFD supports local social organisations to improve their educational services for disadvantaged children and youth.

Infrastructure program

Through the Infrastructure Program EFD provides local organisations with the opportunity to obtain small scale funding for projects that create or strengthen educational opportunities for disadvantaged children and youth. The funding provided through this program is intended to support the local organisations in improving and developing the infrastructure needed for the functioning of their organisations. Each year local organisations can apply for the support under this program. In all cases, recipients of a small grant are selected on the merits of their proposal and its potential contribution to advancing EFD's mission.



Training program

EFDs Training Program focuses on two methods of supporting local social organisations.

First, EFD provides staff of local organisations with the opportunity to participate in trainings to build their capacity to deliver quality education. Each year local social organisations can apply for the support under this program.

Secondly, EFD supports educational providers to improve the services that they provide to local social organisations. An example of this component of EFD's Training Program is the support that EFD provides to the Social Development Training Center (SDTC). In 2004 SDTC has been set up as an agreement between EFD and the Ton Duc Thang University and EFD has been supporting the Center ever since. SDTC provides relevant and affordable training courses to staff of social organizations working directly with disadvantaged children in Ho Chi Minh City and the nearby provinces. Trainings are conducted by specialists in their fields and the choice of topics is decided upon as a result of feedback received from social workers.

Management and Advisory Service (MAS) program

At the moment EFD is developing a third program to achieve its goal of supporting local social organisations in improving their ability to provide access and quality education to disadvantaged children and youth. Through this program EFD will provide Management and Advisory support to LSO's to build their capacity at an organisational level. The focus of the MAS program of EFD will be on the overall organisational needs of LSO's. One of the specific activities to be conducted through the MAS program will be one-to-one coaching to individual recipient organisations.



A CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER!

This year EFD took on board a small project to raise funds for our programs. With the help of volunteers and staff, EFD created Christmas cards. These cards depicted the children who access the local social organisations EFD supports and explained the type of work EFD is involved in.



Greeting cards for fundraising of EFD

Over the months of October and November, EFD volunteers worked very hard to design, print and package over 3000 cards, making up packs of 10 to sell for \$10 per pack. During this time the office was covered in stacks of cards and each volunteer that would come into the office would help with the packaging to complete the project. The cards were sold in Vietnam, Australia, Belgium and The Netherlands and we would like to thank everyone that supported EFD in both selling and purchasing the cards. It has been a great way to not only raise money but also raise awareness about EFD and disadvantaged children in Vietnam. To date we have raised US\$1,500 from the sales of the cards. If you are interested in purchasing cards we still have some left and the best part is that the inside of the cards were deliberately left blank for people to use for any occasion. Simply send us an email at admin@educationfordevelopment.org if you would like to buy some cards!

All proceeds made from the cards will be put directly towards EFD programs. We would also like to thank Trung Chanh Printing Company for supporting EFD with the printing of the cards.

TRAINEE'S STORY ABOUT WOOD-BLOCK PRINTS CLASS

My name is Hoang Ngoc Binh, I was born in 1985, my address is Tho Loc, Xuan Tho, Xuan Loc, Dong Nai. I am a trainee of wood-block print class. Unfortunately, I was born in disadvantaged family and also have innate defect. My parent tried their best to treat me but nothing better.

Although, my parent worked very hard in order to bring me to school like other children. It was a long nine years, once day, an unfortunate accident happened and took my parent far away forever, only our brothers left. After that, I had to stop going school and helped my brother for small works. In a day, I just thought that what will I do in future, I cannot be a burden to my brother's family, so I decided to go to Sai Gon for a living. At the first time being in the big Sai Gon, I didn't know where I go but lucky that I met Ms Hoai Thuong – a leader of a disabled group. Understanding my situation, she made an introduction letter to send me HCMC Vocational Training Center for disabled and orphaned children. And I took part in wood-block prints class. At the first step to this class with other classmates having the same situation like me, I immediately thought that I have to study hard for not disappointing teachers at the this center. During in the class, we were taught by all my teacher heart. He showed us from the very simple thing to difficulty, especially having many equipments in this wood-block prints class, he had to separate us into small group and told us how to work with that. He also took care about each trainee and asked for many fans around the class to prevent us from woody dust. Besides studying in the vocational class, trainees are taught about life skills, behavior, and dormitory regulations. All the teachers hope us will have a good job when we leaving this center. And one more thing, we have enough food and drink during the training time here.

After finishing my courses, I want to find a job to earn money for myself, reduce burden for my brother's family. I promise study hard to please teachers, sponsors and other heart of gold people that help us an opportunity to change our life.

Mr. Hoang Ngoc Binh - *Wood-block prints trainee*

THUY'S STORY

To work for an international non-governmental organization (NGO) that benefits disadvantaged children and youth is a dream of many people. I am one of the fortunate people for whom this dream came true.

In 1999, I arrived in HCM City and started teaching English to disadvantaged children at the "Study while Working 15/5" School. At that time these classes were funded by the international NGO called Education for Development (EFD). I got to know EFD and started working there in 2001.

EFD is an organization using large numbers of volunteers, local as well as international. I have had opportunities to work and learn from my colleagues and all these volunteers. I have been trained and gained lots of skills in order to manage projects as well as skills related to working in an international environment.

I will not forget the words, gestures and times of happiness in working with coordinators, colleagues and volunteers of EFD. Another important reason, that has kept me working at EFD for more than 7 years, is of course the beneficiaries of EFD. Every time I visited projects or had the opportunity to spend time with disadvantaged children and youth, I felt an energy boost. It made me think of all the work EFD is doing to help improve the quality of educational services provided to this disadvantaged group.

Although I have left EFD officially at the end of October 2008, to spend more time with my precious daughter, I will not say goodbye to EFD. Wherever I go, I will take with me the experience, knowledge and skills that I have learned from EFD. I will always engage myself in doing more for disadvantaged children and youth.

I really thank EFD and wish all the best to the Board of EFD, the coordinator of EFD, the staff and all volunteers, international partner NGOs and local organisations... They have all supported me actively during the time that I worked at EFD. I hope that EFD will keep developing in order to support more projects for disadvantaged children and youth.

Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Thuy - *Former Staffing Project EFD*



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TRINH'S STORY

I felt very impressed after a trip in October with volunteers and EFD staff to visit some projects that EFD supports. I had visited projects previously with EFD but this year I entered one of the classrooms for disadvantaged children of Cau Han project in District 7 and a little girl exclaimed "I remembered you." At that time, I felt so happy that the child had remembered me from the last time I visited; I never thought that the child would have remembered me and the games we played last time I was here..It is said that when you give something to someone and see how happy it makes them then that is enough for you in return. but I think that the children show so much love that you get so much in return. These opportunities came to me from volunteering with EFD. By participating and sharing with my community it has been a very meaningful experience. Thank you EFD, for giving me the wonderful opportunities!

Ms. Tran Phuong Trinh - *EFD Volunteer*



Volunteer visit Cau Han project

HOW CAN YOU HELP US?

Please be a part of our work in Ho Chi Minh City. You can help create opportunities for disadvantaged children and youth by helping in one of the following ways:

- Make a donation online
- Make a donation directly to our bank account
 - Account number: 3037787
 - ANZ Bank, HCMC Branch
 - SWIFT No.: ANZBVNVX472
- Volunteer in Vietnam
- Receive regular updates highlighting the impact of EFD's work, and tell others about us
- Organise an event to raise money for EFD's programmes and services

CONTACT US!

If you have any comments or wish to receive further information about anything you have read in this newsletter, please contact us at:

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EFD's newsletter is published twice a year in order to report on our programmes, and to raise awareness of the work being done to assist disadvantaged children and young adults in Ho Chi Minh City and Mekong Delta. If you know anyone who would like to receive copies of our newsletter please let us know.

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