

LIN

NARROW
THE GAP

CAMPAIGN
HIGHLIGHTS

2014 EDITION

“

It is a worrying fact that economic development often accompanies social classification. The living conditions of vulnerable groups have not improved, but worsened instead. To help them, not only do we give them our hands for a moment, but we have to organize as well, aiding them along in the process of social inclusion.

”

Professor NGO BAO CHAU

Head, Vietnam Institute for Advanced Study in Mathematics
Professor, Mathematics Department, University of Chicago

Ambassador of Narrow The Gap Community Fund 2014

RAISE YOUR HAND *for* EDUCATION

LIN
www.linvn.org

NARROW
THE GAP

www.linnarrowthegap.org

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THE GAP**
www.linnarrowthegap.org



NARROW THE GAP 2014

Total amount collected: Over VND 1.2 Billion

Over VND 325 million donated to the Narrow the Gap Community Fund (VND 300 million tripled by one Anonymous donor)

25 companies provided in-kind support to the Narrow the Gap campaign 2014.

207 individual donors and **15 organizational donors**

93 stories collected during the Ideas Contest

Over 1,720 fans on the Narrow the Gap Facebook page (up from 656 before the start of the campaign)

Over 800 photos of people from all walks of life raising their hands for education in support of this campaign.

28 proposals submitted by local nonprofits

6 semi-finalists selected, which participated in an online vote

over 2200 votes, submitted from July 22nd to August 2nd

3 finalists advancing to the Narrow The Gap Community Event



2014 EDITION ACCESS TO EDUCATION

OUR APPROACH

Community-driven philanthropy

As important as we all know that education is, it has never been equally accessible to all people.

In Vietnam, nonprofit organizations are working to bridge this gap. Some of these programs can be expanded while others can be enhanced. All of these initiatives would benefit from broader community involvement and support.

Solving problems and preventing escalation of existing issues requires **collaboration** and **planned philanthropy**.

LIN's Narrow the Gap Community Fund brings local resources together to support local nonprofit organizations that are tackling the most pressing problems in Ho Chi Minh City.

By engaging people with a shared vision, by pooling available resources and by investing together in projects that address local needs, a Community Fund helps make it easier and more rewarding for people to become more strategic with their giving and build a strong community.

KEY FACTS*

52% of children with disabilities do not attend school.

30% of ethnic minority households reported that at least one child dropped out of school before completion.



* UNICEF, "An Analysis of the Situation of Children in Viet Nam" (2010)

RAISE YOUR HAND, SHARE YOUR VOICE!

IDEAS CONTEST

93
SUBMISSIONS

COLLECTING IDEAS

As part of the Narrow The Gap 2014 campaign for Education, LIN organized a contest to collect stories and ideas that can help nonprofits to design programs to improve access to education for marginalized groups in and near Ho Chi Minh City.

93 ideas were submitted from April 14th to 30th. The contest offered a forum for community members to think about barriers to education and strategies to overcome those barriers.

It was a truly difficult task to select just a few ideas to receive special prizes, particularly given the variety of ideas submitted. The final decision was made based on eligibility for a prize, number of likes and quality of comments on Facebook as well as a volunteer's evaluation of the ideas submitted.

Thank you to the ILA Community Network, Starbucks, www.mothegioi.vn and Irish Aid for their contributions to the Ideas Contest.



The following winners were announced at a ceremony, held at ILA on May 16th.

First Place

Nguyễn Thị Yến Nhi

Second Place

Nguyễn Thành Nữ Yến Nhi

Third Place

Hoàng Quốc Huy

Fourth Place (TIE)

Trần Thụy Ngọc Anh & Nguyễn Ngọc Mỹ Linh



Winners of the stories contest receive their prizes from ILA

"Every school should have a psychologist, who can schedule regular meetings with children to build each individual's confidence, to provide timely and appropriate advice and to help at the right time so that no one should have trouble on the road to education."

MS. NHI
WINNER OF THE RAISE YOUR HAND, SHARE YOUR VOICE! CONTEST

INSIGHTS

The ideas submitted pointed to the importance of:

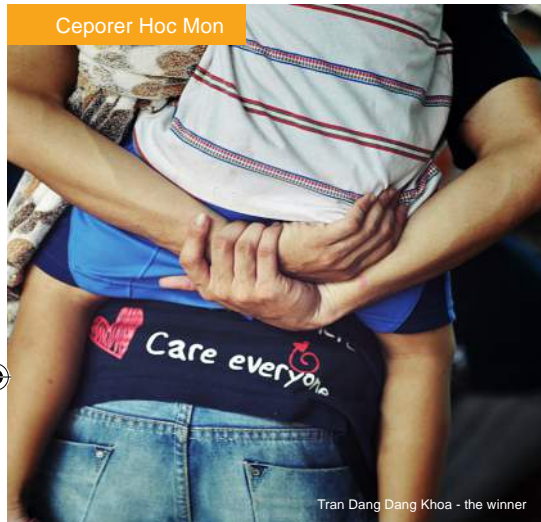
- the sensitization of society towards the needs of marginalized groups;
- the guidance (from peers, teachers, mentors or parents) that allows individuals to gain confidence in themselves and empowers them to explore and identify their own interests and passions;
- integrating practical applications of theories into the classroom experience;
- the adaptation to new technology in order to connect marginalized groups to information and resources that can help them overcome their difficulties; and
- the financial support in the form of educational loans/scholarships/grants so that cost will not continue to be a barrier.

Read the complete stories on www.facebook.com/NarrowTheGapFund



THE UNTOLD STORIES PHOTO CONTEST

Ceporer Hoc Mon



Tran Dang Dang Khoa - the winner

COLLECTING STORIES

Six photo albums by amateur photographers depicting the efforts of six NPO working to improve access to education for disadvantaged groups in HCMC were created, with guidance and support from professional photographer Na Son.

From June 23rd to July 7th, LIN invited public comments and sharing of the six photo albums submitted by the six photographers. "The Untold Stories" photo albums helped to convey the NPO's work in the field of education.

Winner of the contest: **Tran Dang Dang Khoa**

Thao Dan Organization for Street Children



Nguyen Doan Nam Anh

HCMC Deaf Community Organization



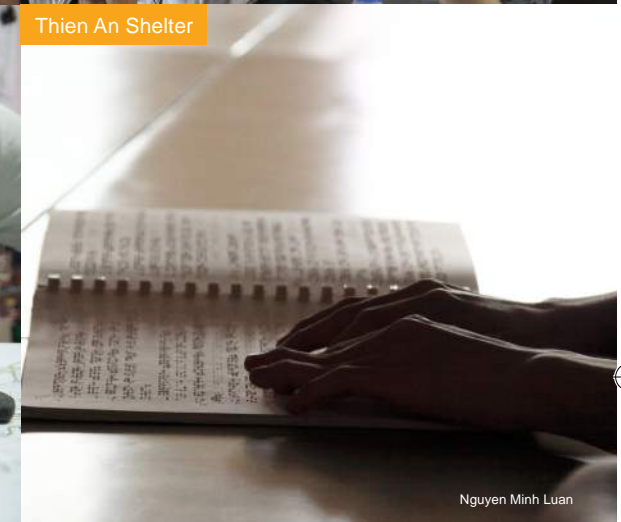
Nguyen Thi Luu

Huynh Tan Phat Foundation



Tram Khoan Nhat Quang

Thien An Shelter



Nguyen Minh Luan

Smile Group



Le Nguyen Tuong Uyen



RAISE YOUR HAND FOR EDUCATION! CAMPAIGN

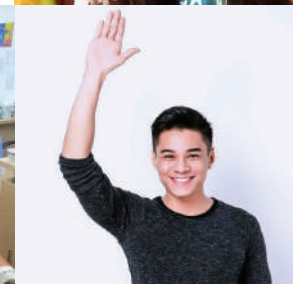
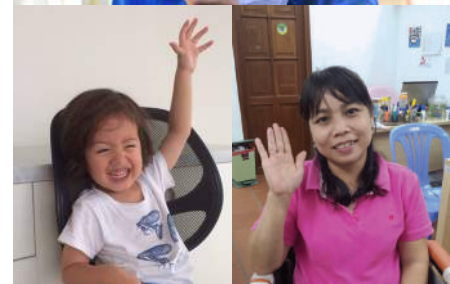


800
photos in
10 days

SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

From August 5th to August 15th, Narrow The Gap launched the **Raise Your Hand For Education!** Social Media Campaign, sponsored by Kinh Do. We received over 800 photos in only 10 days. Kinh Do is donating VND 50,000 for 500 of those photos.

Thank to all the participants for raising their hands, and thank you to Kinh Do for supporting the campaign!





THE 3 FINALISTS

28
APPLICATIONS

OVER
2200
ONLINE VOTES

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECTS

This June, LIN received 28 applications from local not-for-profit organizations (NPOs), each proposing a project to improve the access to education for disadvantaged groups in or near Ho Chi Minh City. A Volunteer Grant Evaluation Committee selected six project proposals they felt were the most impressive based on needs, objectives, viability and impact.

Then, LIN invited the online community and an expert panel of judges to help narrow the six projects down to just three.

Over 2200 online votes were received.

On the following pages, you will read a brief description of the three project finalists. Visit their respective booths and join the panel discussion in order to learn more and decide which one will win your vote.

The other three projects, which are not selected for the final round, will each receive a small grant – valued at VND 42 million – to be applied to one of their projects or organizational development.

The 6 semi-finalists



FINALIST



Your understanding lightens our life

Thien An Warm House (MATA)

By publishing a handbook on 'The basics of visual disability', by offering 500 sighted people an opportunity to experience a day in the life of 200 visually impaired persons and by encouraging ideas for communication products that can support visually impaired people, MATA hopes to change perceptions and behaviors so that visually impaired people can live independently and integrate well into the society.

Total Project Budget: VND 454,500,000



REPORT FROM NARROW THE GAP 2013 GRANTEES [FOCUS ON CHILDREN]

1st PLACE: Ceporer Hoc Mon
GRANT AMOUNT: VND 150 million
155 Votes (out of 325)

Clean Water Tower for Children in the Rural Village of Long Thuan (Long An Province)

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Long Thuan is a remote village, located north of Thu Thua District. Travel to and from the hamlet is difficult, the area is prone to regular flooding, drinking water systems are limited and most poor households rely on rain water, rivers and canals for bathing and cooking. Due to aluminum in the river water, it was necessary to do something to provide the 160+ children in this area with safe water.

ACTIVITIES/OUTCOMES

Construction of one clean water tower that can serve 86 households in the hamlet.

After implementation of the project, 161 children now have access to clean water throughout the year, avoiding infections, skin and gynecological diseases for girls and women. Children have a safer, more stable and sanitary environment and family life. In addition, project staff and volunteers working on the project enhanced their capabilities through participation in the project and with this experience, they can apply the model of this project to other communes in the province.



Before the project



The water tower constructed thanks to the grant



"We are very happy to have clean water to use instead of alum contaminated water or wait for rain water to fill our tanks, as before. We now have a more convenient and clean water at home, which saves us time and is safer."

MR. TRAN VAN THOI,
ONE OF THE RESIDENTS WHO IS BENEFITING FROM SHARED WELLS

"My house and the other houses around here were very concerned about the water. We proposed several times, to the Provincial Committee and to the Commune, for clean water but we did not receive a satisfactory answer. So, when I heard about the Fund's intention to build a water tower for our community, I volunteered to donate some of my land for the water tower project as I knew it would support my children and the other children in the area. I would like to thank the Narrow the Gap Fund and other supporters who showed their care for the people of Long Thuan, a poor commune in Long An Province."

MR. NAM,
DONOR OF LAND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF
A CLEAN WATER TOWER



Washing up with clean water

"How wonderful to have running water well before the Lunar New Year!"

MR. TRAN VAN BINH,
COMMUNE PARTY PRESIDENT

For more information visit the following link
<http://lincenter.wordpress.com/2014/03/10/site-visit-to-the-clean-water-tower/>



REPORT FROM NARROW THE GAP 2013 GRANTEES [FOCUS ON CHILDREN]

2nd PLACE: Nhan Ai Social Work Club
GRANT AMOUNT: VND 100 million
98 Votes (out of 325)

Accompanying Children in Difficult Circumstances

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The goal of the project: To support and assist children in difficult circumstances and street children by offering basic education, future orientation and counseling so they can rise above their difficult lives; provide basic skills to help protect themselves against risky situations, such as the risk of abuse that regularly occur in the lives of these children.

Includes more than 200 children:

Group 1: 60 children in Cau Muoi Ward (District 1) including street children, homeless children and children in difficult circumstances.

Group 2: 60 children in So Thung (Binh Thuan District), including homeless children living in slum areas who are sorting garbage to make money, without the help and support of authorities.

Group 3: 70 children at public sector workers in Tan Lap Commune, Thuan University Village. And outreach to many children in other areas of Ho Chi Minh City.

Group 4: 20 children living around the Binh Triu Bridge area.

ACTIVITIES/OUTCOMES

220 children were supported, among whom 150 children participated in all project activities.

Nhan Ai supports 137 children who are studying in public school or night class, Nhan Ai also supports more subjects than in the project proposal. Following the last annual report, 3 children were ranked from fair to good students; 110 children were ranked from average to fair; 27 children were ranked weak to average and others increased their academic achievement at school. With more than 45 children over 6 years old being illiterate, by the end of 2014, they all can read, write and make basic



calculations. Nhan Ai supported 20 scholarships for 20 disadvantaged children who could not afford tuition fees.

For the Cau Muoi class, we could not find the venue initially and the classes were temporarily halted, however other activities were still carried out. Now the classes are re-opened and has made good progress. The teachers organized an award ceremony when students have attained academic achievements through preliminary midterm and final grades. Students with good grades will participate in entertainment trips like watching movies, visiting museums or the zoo. Cau Ong Lanh Ward (District 1) has also agreed to provide venue to support organizing the awards ceremony to close-out the academic year.

To motivate children and teachers to make better progress, So Thung class opened a martial arts class. The So Thung martial arts class is taught at the appropriate level for the children to learn. On Sunday, the volunteers also taught them drawing so they can relax after a long week of studying. Besides, they also taught origami for the children to encourage their creativity and critical thinking.

"I would like to thank the teachers who came to teach us."

TRẦN THIÊN ĐĂNG KHOA

"I have found my dream after participating in a drawing class."

VÕ TRỌNG NGHĨA



REPORT FROM NARROW THE GAP 2013 GRANTEES [FOCUS ON CHILDREN]

3rd PLACE: Kim Tu Dien Multilingual Data (KMDC)
GRANT AMOUNT: VND 50 million
68 Votes (out of 325)

**"Let's Learn" E-book for visually impaired children
at shelters, clubs and schools in HCMC.**

PROBLEM STATEMENT

There is a lack of relevant learning conditions and facilities for visually impaired children who are of school age, especially with regards to textbooks for studying English. With the help of this grant, KMDC is in the process of nalizing a "Let's Learn" English language learning E-book for visually impaired children.

Direct Bene ciaries: Bung Sang Shelter and Mai am Thien An Shelter
Indirect Bene ciaries: Any visually impaired person who has access to the Internet.

ACTIVITIES/OUTCOMES

The Let's Learn curriculum includes 12 units of content to teach English.

2/2014 Implementation of the demonstration model for Unit 1 (90% complete)

[28/2/2014: Narrow the Gap site visit to KMDC.]

3/2014: Edit information for Units 2,3 and 4 (including structural additions to the lesson content, edit the structure to address the needs of visually impaired children)

4/2014: Edit information for Units 5, 6 and 7

5/2014: Edit information for Units 8, 9 and 10

6/2014: Edit information for Units 11 and 12

7/2014: Integration of the contents into a lesson program, test for bugs and make necessary corrections



"This project is the first project of great significance to help make it easier for visually impaired children to learn English using a computer. Educational software for children with visual impairment is quite limited. Through implementation of this project, we have a better understanding about the situation of people with visual impairment and their difficulties especially with regards to learning. The project is still in the process of review and testing.

We have not completed the project on schedule due to a number of difficulties. I hope, after deployment, the project can help visually impaired children to learn English and we hope that there may be more initiatives like this one, to support learning by visually impaired children. I would like to thank the Narrow the Gap Community Fund for making it possible to implement this project."

MR. NGUYEN MINH TRI, IT PROJECT OFFICER

For more information visit the following links

Website: <http://www.kmdc.com.vn>

Article on March site visit: <http://linvn.wordpress.com/2014/03/05/chuyen-tham-thuc-dia-den-trung-tam-du-lieu-da-ngu-kim-tu-dien/>



OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you!



DEDICATED TEAMS

This event would not be possible without the help of the following, amazing individuals who devoted countless hours of their time to help design the campaign, engage supporters in person and online, review projects, photograph events and projects, coach NPO staff, design and disseminate marketing materials, organize logistics, contact sponsors and manage all of the activities that are taking place during the event today.

GRANT EVALUATORS

Nguy n Qu nh Anh
ng Th Ng c Dung
Thái Nh c ôn
Tr ng ông Khôi
Lê Thùy Linh
Th Hi n
Nguy n Thùy Vân
D ng Minh Tu n
Thái Thanh S n
Nguy n Hoàng Kim Thu
Tr n B o Ng c

EXPERT PANEL

Benny Tr n
Tr n Công Bình
Nguy n Thanh N Y n Nhi
Liêu Thi Ng c Hi u
ào Minh H ng
Vân Nguy t
V• Th C•m H ng

NPO ADVISORS

Benny Tr n
Th Hi n
Th nh Nguy n
Lâm Qu nh Anh
Nguy n Quý c
Hoàng Th Huy n Trang
Ph m Th Ái Vân
Hoàng Ki u Trâm

AMBASSADORS

GS Ngô Bảo Châu

Mme. Tôn Nữ Thị Ninh

Na Son Nguyen

LEADERSHIP TEAM

oàn B o Châu
Dana R.H. Doan
Lê Khánh Duy
Võ Qu c Huy
Jessica Schmidt
Lê ng Khoa
Tr n Th Thanh Mai
Nguy n Th Ánh Nguy t

Nguy n Th Thúy Nguy t
Bùi Nguy n Thanh Nhi
Ph m V n Ninh
Olivier Llouquet
Lê Thanh Ph ng
Tr m Khoan Nh t Quang
Nguy n Thanh Th o
Ph m Nguy n Minh Th

ng Th Thanh Vân
Võ Ng c Trà
L u Thanh Tú
Nguy n Th y Th c Uyên
Nguy n Th y Lâm Uyên
L i H ng Vân
L i H ng Vy
Lê Th Hoàng Y n

PLANNING TEAM

Nguy n Tr n Hoàng Anh
Nguy n Nam K Châu
Tr n D ng Ti n t
Nguy n Hoàng B o Dung
Nguy n Hoàng Anh Duy
Nguy n Phi Hùng
Kean Ng

Nguy n Trúc Ly
Nguy n Th Trúc Ly
Nguy n Th M Ngân
Hà Th Thu Ngân
Nguy n B o Nhi
Th Ph ng Anh
Ph m Tr ng S n

D ng Thùy Vân
B c C m Tĩ n
D ng Thùy Vân
Hà Th Kim nh
Võ Th M H ng
Nguy n Huy B o Trần
inh Th Qu nh Anh

PHOTO CONTEST TEAM

Tr n ng ng Khoa
Nguy n Minh Lu n

Nguy n oàn Nam Anh
Nguy n Th L u

Lê Nguy n T ng Uyên
Tr m Khoan Nh t Quang

EVENT TEAM

Nguy n Hoàng Anh
Nguy n Th An Bình
Hà Th Kim nh
Nguy n Minh c
Ki u M Duyên
Elizabeth Ph m
Tr n Th Hoàng Giang
inh Qu nh Th o Giang
Ngô Ph m Khánh Hân
Chu Th Thúy H•ng
Phan Th Ng c Hi n

Võ Th M H ng
Nguy n Hoàng ng Huy
Nguy n Th Ng c Huy n
Nguy n Tr n B o Khánh
Lê Ph ng Loan
Tr n Thanh Qu nh Mai
Nguy n V n Minh
Ngô Phúc Nguyên
Nguy n ình Nguyên
Nguy n Minh Nh t
V• Th Thanh Phát

Lê Th Nam Ph ng
Tr n Th Quyên
Ph m Nguy n Minh Thi
Tr n Th M Th nh
Nguy n Th C•m Tiên
Nguy n Huy B o Trần
Võ Nguy n B o Trần
Lê L Trang
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Võ Th Ánh Tuy t
Mai H ng Xuân

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

GOLD SPONSORS



PARK HYATT SAIGON™

THE PURPOSE GROUP

Individual

Mr. Son Nam Nguyen - VND 21,000,000

SILVER SPONSORS



Individuals

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Bronze Sponsors

Ladies Night Event at Tam Hao (21 Guests) - 1,320,000 / World Cup Event at Hog's Breath Café (26 Guests) - 1,300,000 / Friends of Cristina NuaArt (10) - 1,120,000 / Dao Minh Thuy - 1,089,000 / Anonymous - 1,000,000 / Do Bich Thuy - 1,000,000 / Kim Nhung - 1,000,000 / Mdm. Lê Thị Bang Tam - 1,000,000 / Lina Tran - 1,000,000 / Ngoc Phuong - 1,000,000 / Nguyen Hoang Huyen - 1,000,000 / Nguyen Thi Tuyet (Be) - 1,000,000 / Nguyen Thi Tuyet Lan - 1,000,000 / Nguyen Tuong Oanh - 1,000,000 / Tran Lan Huong - 1,000,000 / Tran Thuy Anh - 1,000,000 / Anonymous - 600,000 / Nguyen Hong Quan - 550,000 / Anonymous - 538,050 / Jaclyn Luo - 538,050 / Olivier Llouquet - 538,050 / Professor Mark Sidel - 538,050 / Anonymous - 500,000 / Mdm. Dang Ngoc Dung - 500,000 / Dinh Le Tuy Vy - 500,000 / Hoang Lan Anh - 500,000 / Le Hoang Van - 500,000 / Le Nguyen Ngoc Tram - 500,000 / Vu Tu Anh 500,000 / Participants at VietAbroad (10) 420,000 / Sarah Cook 358,700 / Nguyen Thu Thuy 300,000 / Pham Truong Son 269,025 / Bui Thi Loan 200,000 / Friend of Le Hoang Yen - 200,000 / Le Thi Thanh Yen - 200,000 / Nguyen Khac Anh Kiet - 200,000 / Nguyen Thi Bao Nhung 200,000 / Nguyen Thi Xuan Huong 200,000 / Nguyen Viet Anh Ha 200,000 / Phan Uyen Nghi 200,000 / Tran Thi Ngoc Thu 200,000 / Vo Ngoc Tra 200,000 / Nguyen Thi Ngoc 179,350 / Hoang Anh Huy 120,000 / Anonymous 100,000 / Duong Anh Kiet 100,000 / Nguyen Phan Manh Long 100,000 / Nguyen Thanh Hung 100,000 / nonymous 50,000 / Bui Nguyen Thanh Nhi 50,000 / Lam Thi Giang 50,000 / Le Duc Thang 50,000 / Le Trung Hieu 50,000 / Anonymous 20,000 / Bich Phuong 20,000 / Bui Dieu Huong 20,000 / Do Minh Tri 20,000 / Fiona 20,000 / Hoang Long Nhat 20,000 / Hoang Ngoc Thanh 20,000 / Le Chi Minh Khanh 20,000 / Luong Quang Dat 20,000 / Luong Thu Thu Van 20,000 / Minh Dao Thuy 20,000 / Nguyen Duc Thanh 20,000 / Nguyen Huy Bao Tran 20,000 / Nguyen Khanh Van 20,000 / Nguyen Minh Ngoc 20,000 / Nguyen Ngoc Phuong Anh 20,000 / Nguyen Thi Hieu 20,000 / Nguyen Thi Quynh Nhu 20,000 / Nguyen Tran Tuong Giang 20,000 / Nguyen Tran Thanh 20,000 / Nguyen Tuan Anh 20,000 / Pham Thanh Giang 20,000 / Quyen Ngoc Khanh 20,000 / Vo Thi Kim Ngan 20,000

We also thank everyone who purchased a ticket to today's event or took part in any of the activities during the campaign – the Ideas Contest, Pack Your Lunch, Online Voting, Sell e Campaign. Your support drives this campaign and makes it possible to invest in projects that help disadvantaged groups overcome barriers to accessing a quality education.

August 23rd 2014

COMMUNITY EVENT

NPO ACTIVITY & INFORMATION BOOTHS

We would like to recognize and thank the following not-for-profit partner organizations that joined the Narrow the Gap campaign by preparing information and activity booths for your entertainment this evening:

CEPORER HOC MON



CEPORER Hoc Mon helps orphans and poor children have a secure environment to live and overcome their complex situation to build up knowledge, good health and stable career when they grow up.

CENTER OF HANDS-ON ACTIONS AND NETWORKING FOR GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT (CHANGE)



CHANGE was born to create sustainable changes in the fields of environment and development through innovative communications, capacity building and by providing opportunities for young people to build a local movement. At the same time CHANGE aims to mobilize and connect businesses, communities and governments in devising solutions and appropriate environmental and development policies.

CHARITY MAP



Our mission is to be a bridge between social enterprises and donors. We aim to support social enterprises in planning effective and explicit fundraising events.

COI VIET



We are bringing real daily stories about old Saigon to create a new educational method for the learning about local history and cultural traditions to our environment.

GREEN BAMBOO SHELTER



The Green Bamboo Shelter, a project of the Ho Chi Minh City Child Welfare Association (HCWA), provides care, education and assistance to teenage boys who live on the streets. By adopting a flexible approach and a caring environment, the Green Bamboo shelter aims to help young boys return home, re-integrate with their family and society.

HAPPIER GROUP OF SOCIAL WORKERS IN HOSPITALS



Happier works to support children who must stay in the hospital for a long-time by offering companionship and support for their physical, social and mental well-being. In addition, Happier helps to raise awareness about social work among the hospital staff at Nhi • ng 1 Hospital.

HUYNH TAN PHAT FOUNDATION



HTP Foundation's mission is providing equal opportunities and development for determined students and excellent individuals to contribute to the Vietnam architecture community. At the event, we would like to introduce our Foundation to the community through the young and talented architecture students that we support.

MY FUTURE



My Future is a group of adult people who are mentally disabled. Our mission is to become more and more stable and confident in life.

NHAN AI SOCIAL WORK CLUB



Nhan Ai Club has been operating as a volunteer social work club for the past few years. Our focus has been on doing educational projects. Currently, Nhan Ai is working to support and teaching 210 children from low-income neighborhoods in Ho Chi Minh City.

SONG PHO CENTRE FOR APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY



SPAP is a science and technology organization operating as a social enterprise out of Dong Nai Province. Services include assessment & early intervention of children with autism, psychotherapy, counseling, research projects and activities to raise public awareness.

SONGXANH.VN / LIVEGREEN.VN



SốngXanh.vn is a social network connecting people and organizations by activities that develop and support green-life style and create a sustainable and happy community. Green life style is a progressive, humanistic and harmonious relationship between people, community, nature and generation.

VOTING FOR NARROW THE GAP 2015 THEME

Use the second part of your ticket to vote for the theme you care about most or write-in a theme of your own. Cast your vote before 7:00pm (19:00) so your vote can be counted. At the end of the event, LIN will announce the theme that has the highest number of votes. This theme will then be the focus of the Narrow The Gap Campaign and Community Event in 2015!

ARTS AND CULTURE

Arts and culture are an integral part of life and can contribute to positive and enduring economic, social and cultural change in communities. How can we improve the arts and cultural offerings in HCMC for disadvantaged groups?

DISABILITY

Disability affects access to education, employment, telecommunications, government and private services, such as businesses, transportation and non-profit services. How can we help to improve access to such services for people with a disability?

ELDERLY ISSUES

Senior citizens need independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and to society as a whole. How could we provide security, protection and empowerment to older persons in need of our support?

ENVIRONMENT

Climate change, waste management, land use, water scarcity, beautification or improvement of parks and public spaces are just a few of the many burning issues relating to our environment.

GENDER

Women, girls, men and boys are entitled to equality as a right but equality is also good for development. Gender oppression is inextricably linked to social and economic justice. How can we come together to promote gender equality and empowerment?

HEALTH

Many health problems can be prevented with proper measures. Others can be treated more effectively with affordable care and medicine. Meanwhile gaining access to quality health care remains a challenge for many individuals in HCMC.

POVERTY AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Have you ever let yourself wander through one of HCMC's small alleys or distant suburbs and witnessed, first-hand, the difficulties that some of our fellow residents face every day? Some are migrants, sleeping in rooms shared with many others. Some are forced to send their children to work instead of school. Others live or work in unsafe conditions...

SOCIAL INNOVATIONS

A focus on new strategies, concepts, ideas and organizations that meet various social needs, from working conditions and education to community development and health. Is it time to come together to find NEW solutions to the challenges in our community?

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Although the World Bank classified Vietnam as a middle-income country, inaction and a poor economy means that many individuals earning the average income still struggle to make ends meet. Vocational training and career services can help people increase their income and their quality of life.

[ENTER YOUR IDEA HERE]

Do you have an idea for a theme for Narrow the Gap 2015? If so, we want to hear from you. Please write your idea and drop it in the voting box.

