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**COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT
PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL
TOTAL NEEDED: \$100,000**

THE NEED

Today, many displaced people who are still struggling towards self-reliance. Factors include poor infrastructure, limited employment opportunities, lack of natural resources as well as financial resources, low-level of knowledge and skills, and illiteracy. There are communities of displaced people who have received little NGO or government support apart from some initial emergency relief. The process of rebuilding livelihoods, and of rebuilding community spirit is a long one. All of these issues continue to constrain the person's abilities to secure food, education and health care for their families.

Catalyst Foundation works in one of the poorest sectors in Kien Giang Province. There are over 200 families living on a garbage dump in extreme poverty. Families salvage garbage for scraps to sell, earning about \$1.50 per day. Their fight for daily survival is even worsened by racism, sexism, domestic violence, and human trafficking. The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that over 1.3 million persons have been trafficked into forced labor within Asia, representing over 55% of the world's trafficking industry. For many years, Vietnam has been known as a "source country" for child trafficking. Trafficking, as we know it today, involves the sale, extortion, and abuse of children. In our Kien Giang community, it is focused on girls aged 6-17 year old.

Poverty tricks parents into giving their child to a "friend" for offering education, or a job opportunity, or just enough cash to get out of debt. However, the reality is much more sadistic. Too poor to visit, their parents are often completely unaware of their child's plight, sold into slave owners and brothels. The child is broken, not understanding why their parents have not rescued them. This nightmare continues for years, as the girls have to pay back their costs: rent, food, transportation, and other extortionate bills that enslave her. These girls suffer wounds both externally and internally. These girls are physically and mentally abused from the moment they are sold as a consumable item.

In order to save the lives of these girls we must also address the root of the problem – extreme poverty. Catalyst Foundation firmly believes that the most effective way to break the cycle of poverty in an individual child's life is to strategically empower whole communities by educating, providing training and employment, building safe dwellings, and empowering children to stand up with dignity.

The Catalyst Foundation program in Vietnam already provides a primary school, community education trainings, and home visits from trained social workers. For the first time, the children from these families are enrolled in school and are finally learning not only how to read and write but valuable life skills as basic as attending to personal hygiene.

PROGRAM SCOPE

Our vision is to build the **Catalyst Foundation Community Center** with ten different buildings and areas to provide families with access to services and facilities that contribute to their community's long-term growth and sustainability. Local officials who have seen the positive impact of our work have already provided the land to us.

It will be a safe and accessible environment for adult education, childcare, computer classes, and mental health counseling. Vocational courses will include handicrafts, embroidery, grass mat weaving, bike repair, and beautician training. Trainees will ultimately receive microloans to develop small businesses.

In addition to these essential services, the center will also offer temporary housing for women and children in crisis. A community garden will be used to teach about growing and eating nutritious and wholesome local produce. There will also be an open-air marketplace and cafeteria that will serve as a gathering place for community members to discuss social and community topics.



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YOUR PARTNERSHIP

Catalyst Foundation is asking our key partners like you to help us raise \$100,000 within the next 6 months. Your gift will have a direct impact on children who might otherwise suffer the consequences of extreme poverty.

Your investment in the Catalyst Foundation Community Center will be used for:

- \$45,000 – 2 Story Building for Temporary Housing and Crisis Nursery
- \$20,000 – Reclaiming swamp land
- \$10,000 – Kitchen & Restaurant/Cafeteria
- \$10,000 – Computer Learning Classroom
- \$10,000 – 2 Vocational Training Classrooms
- \$ 5,000 – Co-op Garden for Vegetables and Medicinal Herbs

THE IMPACT

Catalyst Foundation is halfway through its 10-year plan in Kien Giang. In the last few years we've provided:

- Sponsorships for over 200 children
- Vocational training for 50 adults and teens
- Microloans for 10 small businesses
- Weekly community education training
- Basic medical care for 1500 people in the city
- A new playground for the school AND the neighborhood

The community Center will directly impact the 100 families and children we currently serve and future generations in an area that is mostly Khmer. Our goal is for the community to eventually sustain itself through success, solidarity, and community cooperation.