

We want your Volunteer Stories! LIN launches a competition for stories by and about Volunteers...

We want...

Your Volunteer Stories



- You have unforgettable memories as a volunteers?
- You have priceless pictures or drawings about volunteerism?
- You have videos to show a volunteer's spirit that could withstand the test of times?

PLEASE SHARE WITH US FOR MANY EXCITING PRIZES!!!!



Hạn nộp: 31/8/2010
 Chi tiết xem tại: <http://bit.ly/volunteerstoriesvn>
 Liên Hệ: Volunteer@LINvn.org và info@LINvn.org

In an effort to highlight individuals that help make our communities stronger, the LIN Center for Community Development is holding a competition for volunteer stories – written narratives, photographs and/or digital videos that illustrate the depth and breadth of Volunteer work taking place in Vietnam.

Whether you are spending time cheering up patients in a hospital, tutoring disadvantaged children, advising a start-up organization, cleaning up the environment, protecting endangered species, designing a website for a charitable organization, or playing football with street children, we want to hear your story! Whether you are

young or old, a housewife or a CEO, a local resident, a tourist or an expatriate; volunteers come in many shapes and sizes, representing the diverseness of the people in Vietnam.

By sharing volunteer stories - the joys, the challenges, the outcomes and the impacts, LIN seeks, first and foremost, to appreciate the work that is being done by volunteers and, second, to inspire others to try volunteering in their own

community, each in his/her own way. That's because Volunteers help build strong communities.

Let There Be Prizes!

To recognize the different types of people and the different types of jobs that volunteers are doing in Vietnam, we are offering two grand prizes (worth VND 5 to 15 million) and ten category prizes (worth VND 1 to 2 million). Volunteers that win a prize will have an opportunity to double their winnings if they would like to donate their prize to a not-for-profit organization in Vietnam.

So, to all the Volunteers, past and present, and to all the not-for-profit organizations that benefit from volunteers, we invite and appeal to you to share your story with us before August 31st.

More details, including the application form, competition terms and conditions are all provided on LIN's website at: <http://bit.ly/volunteerstories>. Or you can contact LIN at: info@LINvn.org.

[LIN team](#)

Staying Alive Foundation Announces its 2nd call for proposals for 2010

The Staying Alive Foundation is all about empowering young people who want to make a difference in their communities. We look for youth-led organizations that raise awareness about HIV and AIDS and that have received little or no previous funding. Our grants are a maximum of US\$12,000.

The application process happens in two stages, and begins online at <http://foundation.staying-alive.org/en/grants/apply> with a short online form. The deadline to apply is August 23rd.

Grants will be announced on 1st of December 2010.

Please send this to all your networks. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at: foundation@staying-alive.org



LIN Center would like to wish a Happy birthday to Ms. Dana Doan, founder and advisory member of LIN board of directors. Her passion, energy and talents are contributing for the successes of LIN Center.

Recent LIN Center Events

The LIN Center for Community Development Commemorates its First Anniversary



Speech of Ms. Nguyen Tran Hoang Anh, Brand Maker Co. and a founding member of LIN's Board of Directors

Ho Chi Minh City – To commemorate the LIN Center for Community Development's first year of operation, Horizon Capital Group hosted a social gathering for staff, supporters, and a small group of friends at Xu Café in District 1 on Thursday night, 29 July 2010. The event presented an opportunity for LIN to report back on its accomplishments and challenges over the past year, to recognize and thank sponsors and raise awareness and mobilize support for on-going programs and new initiatives.

Over the past year, LIN supported over fifty-five not-for-profit partner organizations and other NPO friends by facilitating: 4 workshops for 262 participants; 6 roundtable meetings for 113 participants; 12 grants (worth nearly VND 218 million); and the dissemination of this monthly e-newsletter since September 2009, which now reaches over 900 friends, sponsors, volunteers and partners.

In an effort to support philanthropic activities in Vietnam, LIN has advised over 61 individual, corporation and foundation donors on their grantmaking activities; facilitated 12 indirect grants (worth over VND 281 million); and published a research report on "Corporate

"...3 years ago, I was just an individual who would like to do something meaningful in our community; especially for those who are less fortunate. At that time, I was wondering if my help actually reached the people in need. So, when [I learned about the] vision for LIN, I was quite excited....

Having lots of conviction for what LIN would like to do, I have been LIN's board member for a year now. One year is not a long time but I am pleased and proud to say that LIN has had quite few achievements and on the occasion of LIN's 1st anniversary, we hope to continue to receive your sharing and support for LIN to make our community a better place to live in..."

A quote from Ms. Nguyen Tran Hoang Anh, a founding member of LIN's Board of Directors.

Philanthropy in Ho Chi Minh City” in December 2009. Meanwhile, LIN organized 6 meetings with over 100 prospective volunteers; matched 66 volunteers with opportunities to support local NPOs; and began disseminating a monthly Volunteer Newsletter, in Vietnamese and English, since March 2010.

In her remarks last night, LIN’s Chairwoman, Ms. Nguyen Tran Hoang Anh explained, “We all want to do something good for our community, but sometimes we need a little inspiration. That’s why I am particularly excited to launch the Volunteer Stories competition... It’s a chance to draw attention to all the great things, big and small, that individuals are doing to make our community a better place to live.”

The host for the event, Horizon Capital Group, is a founding benefactor of the LIN Center for Community Development. During his remarks, Horizon’s Group Chairman, Mr. Doan Manh Kham, explained why the company decided to support LIN, “As part of Horizon Capital Group’s corporate mission, we believe we serve three key stakeholders: our shareholders, our staff and the communities in which we work. As such, we have committed to giving a portion of our profits to develop the community. Horizon works to strengthen Vietnamese companies by providing sound advice and capital investment. Similarly, LIN works to strengthen Vietnamese not-for-profit organizations. Both efforts are necessary to create access to opportunities and an improved quality of life in our community.”. LIN

First meeting of the core team of grandmaker forum

On 07/27/2010, a Tuesday morning, LIN Center for Community Development hosted the first for members of the Core Group from the HCMC Grantmaking Forum. As Vietnam transitions to a middle-income country, community engagement becomes more important in an effort to address on-going and future community needs. By hosting a forum for area grantmakers, bringing people together in their joint efforts to make life better in our communities, the LIN Center for Community Development believes we can help improve the effectiveness of grantmaking in and around Ho Chi Minh City.

Participants in the meeting are all main sponsors of the forum and government agency – PACCOM, Intel, Saigon Children’s Charity, and U.S. Ministry of Public Affair, with a representative from Cass School of Business in England. The group discussed many topics such as purposes, methods, venue and key speakers for the forum.

Everyone once again emphasized on the good cause of such a forum as it will enable grantmakers in the city to communicate and share lessons learnt from their work to better serve our community. However, although the group has reached an agreement on the number of participants as well as the body of ideas for the forum, there are many other tasks to be done: identifying location, constructing a directory of grantmakers, narrowing down the target audience, looking for key speakers, etc. With all of these existing challenges, the group decided to meet again on Tuesday 08/24/2010.

LIN Roundtable meeting on Roles of Board of Directors

On Saturday, 10 July, LIN organized a roundtable meeting with 20 NPO representatives on the "Roles and Responsibilities of a Not-for-Profit Board of Directors". As it was the first meeting on this topic, the focus was on the basics: what are the inherent roles and responsibilities of a member of a Board, what is the difference between different types of Boards (e.g., Governance, Advisory, Trustees, Management) and what is the current situation in Vietnam.



Participants in the roundtable

It was an interesting discussion. It revealed that there is a great deal of confusion over the differences between different types of boards in Vietnam (e.g., the difference between a management board and a governing board). Among Vietnamese NPOs, there are few examples of governing boards and mostly just managing boards. While participants may have a better understanding about the differences between a governing board and a management board, it was clear that we could all benefit from more examples. The discussion also revealed some of the challenges NGOs face in attracting and retaining community members to join an NPO Board and finding ways to engage their board in a way that truly supports the organization.

Among Vietnamese NPOs in HCMC, there are less than a handful of organizations we know of that have operating governing boards. Instead, it seems that most NPOs have managing or advisory boards.

Future trainings on this topic are needed, as are some good examples of well functioning boards. LIN is looking into the possibility of organizing more practical trainings on this topic such as how to set up a board, how to identify and attract members that will be able to fill the roles of an NPO board (focusing on good governance), how can board members help your NPO to raise funds, the appropriate relationship between managers and members of the Board, procedures for board meetings, etc.

As the LIN team connects with local and international experts on NPO Boards of Directors, and as we consider a follow-up event to further develop this topic, we welcome any thoughts and suggestions from our partners and friends. Please feel free to call and/or email to LIN at: 3824-6091 or NPO@LINVn.org.

LIN Supports the Charity Cabaret 2010 - ALICE

In June, a group of nine volunteers, each previous charity ball committee members and long term residents of HCMC, who have a passion for good entertainment as well as ensuring that the proceeds from their events go towards a good cause, engaged the LIN Center for Community Development to serve as an independent consultant in the group's process of selecting beneficiaries for their big fundraising event. "Alice in Wonderland," is the theme of the event, which will take place on Saturday September 11, 2010, at the Sheraton Saigon Hotel.

Over the past month and a half, the LIN team has been busy helping the group set out a viable plan for selecting beneficiaries for the funds that will be raised through The Charity Cabaret 2010 – ALICE. Although the timeline was short, the group was dedicated to a transparent and fair process of selection. After a thoughtful conversation about needs in the community and available resources of the group, the group selected three categories for grants:

- Empowerment of children through arts and culture;
- Protection of animals, particularly endangered species; and
- Solutions to basic environmental needs, specifically in terms of clean water and sanitation.

30 not-for-profit organizations responded to the group's call for proposals. During the first round of reviews by the group, the group engaged in deep discussion and made difficult decisions to narrow the list down to just six proposals, two from each category, which they felt best fit with the group's selection criteria, goals and priorities. One week later, a final Q&A with the applicant - via email, helped the group to select just three organizations that will benefit from the funds to be raised on 11 September.

- **Te Phan Love Family (Gia Dinh Tinh Thuong Te-Phan)**
Their proposal is to offer a variety of opportunities for their children, the majority of whom are mentally or physically disabled, to engage and open their minds to various arts and cultural activities including: singing, playing musical instruments, magic, dancing and painting. Most of these classes will be taught at Te-Phan, which means that even for the children who are unable to directly participate, they too will benefit from the arts and culture taking place around them.
- **Young Creative Group (YCG), Department of Scientific Research & International Relations, Ben Tre College**
The YCG project will raise awareness around the need to protect rare birds in the Vam Ho Bird Ground, which is located in Ba Tri District of Ben Tre Province. Among the proposed activities, the YCG will engage community members in activities to protect their environment, with a specific focus on the protection of birds, and they will develop and disseminate informational resources about the Bird Ground.
- **Thịen Chí Centre for Community Development**
Thien Chi will build/replace "water sealed" latrine blocks (a latrine and a washroom combined) at Kindergartens located in three rural districts: Đức Linh, Tánh Linh and Hàm Thuận Nam Districts. In addition the project will promote good sanitation and hygiene for children, involving the local community (school leaders and local authorities) who will share in the project costs.

Over the next six weeks, LIN will support The Charity Cabaret 2010 – ALICE in raising awareness about the three selected beneficiaries and their proposed projects through their event website, social and professional networks. Actual funding amounts for each beneficiary will be announced in mid to late September.

Full details of the process is available on the group's website at: www.thecharitycabaret.com/charities.php. For more information, please feel free to contact LIN Center.

Exchanging meeting between LIN Center, AIDS program and students of SEO-IIV 2010



Group Photo – SEO IIV Interns with LIN & AIDS Program Staff

“Một nụ cười làm quen, Hai ta nhìn nhau nhé, La La La Là Lá La...”

It was an amazing meeting. Eleven interns and staff from the leading companies in Vietnam, including Horizon Capital, VinaCapital, Standard Charter Bank, VietThai International, ... sitting on the floor with LIN staff and friends from the AIDS program, a local not-for-profit organization working on HIV and AIDS issues affecting poor community members (and a LIN partner). Together we sang the above

song, which is often sung by people living with HIV during their regular meetings here. A revealing experience...

This was one part of the required program for Interns participating in the [Sponsorship for Educational Opportunities](#) – Interns In Vietnam 2010 Program (SEO-IIV 2010), which brings together top students from top universities/colleges around the world to share their skills and gain work experience with some impressive organizations in HCMC. This year, 12 students joined the program. 11 are working in business and finance and one, me, is working with the LIN Center as a Social Media Intern.

The meeting was an opportunity for my colleagues in the program to better understand the motivation and passion of the LIN team and to learn more about one of LIN's partner organizations - the AIDS Program team. Both organizations work in the community with the aim to promote quality of life in Vietnam. We all came away from the experience with memories of successes and challenges faced by NPOs and volunteers and advice from the social workers and not-for-profit professionals. These messages will remain with us like the lyrics to the song, *“Một nụ cười làm quen, Hai ta nhìn nhau nhé...”*.

Nghĩa Hoàng

☑ Donor's Corner

We've added this new section to our monthly newsletter in an effort to recognize our donors and to provide information, which may be useful for their current and future grantmaking efforts.

A. New Regulations for NPOs Receiving Funds from Overseas

As many of our NPO partners may already be aware, Decree 93 (issued in October 2009) and Circular 7 (issued in March 2010) provide new rules on the management and use of foreign non-government aid (it refers specifically to aid that is provided for not-for-profit purposes to achieve development and humanitarian objectives in Vietnam). Decree 93 provides more detailed provisions than in the previous version of this law.

The Decree and Circular detail the approval mechanisms for programs, projects and other forms of aid to Vietnam. Approval levels are set for different amounts and types of aid. The laws also explain that an organization may not conclude program or project aid documents until the designated government agencies have approved such activities. In addition, the laws contain articles that govern the monitoring and evaluation of project implementation, which receives foreign aid.

The LIN Center had its first experience applying this law into practice after we were able to raise money from a US based NPO. In order to receive the funds that were raised, the LIN team submitted our application dossier to our partners at VUSTA. Within twenty working days, as prescribed in the law, LIN received an official decision from the Government permitting the organization to receive these funds.

B. LIN Sponsors

In the month of July, LIN was fortunate to receive investments from two new and one repeat donor:

NEW DONOR! The Zesiger Family Foundation donated to LIN via Give2Asia, an NGO based in the USA. (We are currently in the process of preparing an application dossier to receive their contribution.)

REPEAT DONOR! Since April 2010, Mr. Landon Carnie has provided support to the LIN Center for Community Development in the form of a monthly donation.

NEW DONOR! A group of Executive MBA students from the Cass Business School (City of London) surprised LIN on the occasion of our first birthday with a donation of over 21.4 million Viet Nam Dong. LIN was fortunate to have had the opportunity to host two Cass Business School EMBA students - Ms. Krupa Patel and Ms. Susan Islam, who rallied their classmates to make this very generous contribution.

Without support from donors like The Zesiger Family Foundation, Landon Carnie and the Cass Business School students, LIN would not be able to sustain our programs. We thank our July donors and all those that came before them! A full list of funds raised in 2010 and how they will be allocated will be made available in LIN's 2010 Annual Report (LIN's 2009 Annual Report is already available for download from our website).

☑ Upcoming events

M&E Workshop on: “Measuring your Organization’s Performance” (05 August 2010)

LIN Center is hosting a half-day workshop on “**Measuring your Organization’s Performance**” which will take place from 8.00 AM to 11.30 AM on Thursday, 5 August 2010 at Xu Restaurant (71-73-75 Hai Ba Trung, 1st floor, Ben Nghe Ward, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City). We are pleased to announce that Ms. Gail Nordheim of Gail Nordheim Consulting, LLC, will lead this workshop with the support of an experienced translator. [Based in the USA, Ms. Nordheim has over 30 years experience helping not-for-profit organizations to improve their quality and cost-effectiveness (www.gnconsulting.us).] In addition, we are honored to have Dr. Nguyen Anh Thuan join this workshop and share his own knowledge and experiences with using performance measurements.

The objectives for this workshop include:

- To identify measurable goals and process measures for your organization;
- To set goals that are measurable and to understand the difference between goals that are and are not measurable;
- To share experiences and promote best practices in monitoring and evaluation of not-for-profit project; and
- To network and share your experiences and best practices in monitoring and evaluation with colleagues representing other not-for-profit organizations.

Please RSVP for LIN team by email at: npo@linvn.org or phone: (84 8) 38246091.

Roundtable: Conducting Effective Meetings (07 August 2010)

A half-day roundtable training on “**Conducting Effective Meetings for your Not-for-Profit Organization**” will take place from 8.00 AM to 11.30 AM on Saturday, 7 August 2010. (The location will be confirmed upon registration). We are pleased to announce that Ms. Gail Nordheim of Gail Nordheim Consulting, LLC, will lead this workshop with the support of an experienced translator. During this roundtable, Gail will provide some tools and share her experiences in planning and organizing effective meetings with different stakeholders.

The objectives for this workshop include:

- To improve your ability to plan and carry out effective meetings;
- Understand the principles of planning and running an effective meeting (how to prepare, who to invite, setting the agenda, encouraging participation...); and
- Prepare a preliminary meeting plan for your NPO; and
- Exchange experiences and best practices with other NPO colleagues.

Be aware that this workshop is just for 20 participants and we would like to save our seat for local NPO partners as a priority. Please RSVP for LIN team by email at: npo@linvn.org or phone: (84 8) 38246091.

Opportunities for NPOs

Global Fund for Women

The Global Fund for Women is an international network of women and men committed to a world of equality and social justice. We advocate for and defend women's human rights by making grants to support women's groups around the world.

The Global Fund for Women supports women's groups that advance the human rights of women and girls. GFW grants help strengthen and link women's funds based outside the United States by providing flexible and timely grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000 per year for operating and re-granting expenses. First-time grant awards generally range from \$5,000 to \$25,000 per year. We value local expertise and believe that women themselves know best how to determine their needs and propose solutions for lasting change.

The Global Fund receives over 3,000 proposals a year and is able to award about 600 grants annually. Due to the large number of applications we receive, please allow seven to nine months to review your request. We accept applications throughout the year and award grants every three months.

We have three types of grants:

- 1. General Support Grants**
- 2. Travel Grants**
- 3. Organizing Meeting/Event Grants**

You can find more information in below link:

<http://cambodiajobs.blogspot.com/2010/07/global-fund-for-women.html>

2010 Emerging Leaders International Fellows Program & U.S. Diversity Fellowship

Are you a Third-Sector professional? Do you

- aspire to lead your sector in new directions?
- want to increase the sector's impact in your country or region?
- seek networking opportunities with colleagues in the field globally?
- aim to strengthen community philanthropy?

If you've answered yes to any of the above, consider applying for the ***Emerging Leaders International Fellows Program & U.S. Diversity Fellowship*** (February 28 – May 27, 2011)

This is a professional development opportunity for Third-Sector practitioners to support community philanthropy and help build capacity in their home countries.

- Participate in a three-month-long seminar, including lectures and intensive sessions with seasoned practitioners.
- Visit community foundations and philanthropic organizations to learn about their day-to-day workings.
- Meet prominent figures in the nonprofit field.
- Join a network of over 145 alumni from 54 countries.
- Expand your national and international networks;
- Produce a position paper to further your work.

Applications accepted through September 22, 2010.

Interested and want to learn more? Visit

www.philanthropy.org.

[**cpcs@gc.cuny.edu**](mailto:cpcs@gc.cuny.edu)