



News & Events of the LIN Center for Community Development

“Volunteer Stories” - Prize Allocation Ceremony



Ms. Chau, a panel judge, congratulates category winners

The warm and happy atmosphere at the Prize Allocation Ceremony for our first competition for **“Volunteer Stories”** was a great relief after the heavy rain, floods and traffic jams overcome by all who attended. Nearly 50 people joined the event including candidates participating in the competition, their friends and partner NPOs representing Ha Noi, Tra Vinh, Tien Giang, Ben Tre and Ho Chi Minh City. The event took place at the “Life is

Beautiful” DRD Clubhouse on 16 September 2010.

Ms. Thu Ha, from Horizon Capital Advisors, spoke on behalf of the competition sponsors: *“Enthusiasm, sincerity and heart-warming stories ...are what you all have contributed to this competition for Volunteer Stories. On behalf of LIN’s sponsors, I would like to express my deep gratitude for your participation. Your stories have inspired us and we know they will inspire other people to engage in volunteering...”*

Early in the ceremony, LIN announced the first four category prize winners to volunteers from Ha Noi, Ben Tre, Tien Giang and Ho Chi Minh City. Among them was the winner of the award for best story by someone under 18, which was presented to Mr. Nguyen Phuc Minh (16 years old) for a video-photo montage about his volunteer work in Tien Giang Province (his hometown) and how the work impacted his life and perspectives. After sharing his video with the crowd, Phuc Minh announced that he would donate his prize money to the Tien Giang Red Cross (LIN doubled the prize amount for a total VND

2,000,000 donation). *“When I was in 5th grade,” shared Phuc Minh, “my friend told me about a volunteer group in town so I joined them. Since that experience, I have found that volunteer work gives me opportunities to make more friends and gain practical experiences...”*

Other category award winners, including (1) age 18-30, (2) most dedicated, (3) high impact, (4) most resourceful volunteer stories were handed out to three individuals and one volunteer host organization from Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City. A second video clip, “Close Relationship,” showed how volunteer work is not just for students but also for the poor, people living with HIV and young people living in poor residential areas in Ho Chi Minh City. These volunteers support communication, care-taking, organizing recreational activities for people living in similar conditions in their community.

The prizes for the most beautiful photo and the most inspirational photo were handed to two candidates from Ho Chi Minh City. One winner, Ms. Ho Le Thi Xuan, a member of the volunteer group Thuy’s Dream, told the participants about her photo, *“This photo was taken the first time I volunteered at Ho Chi Minh City’s Tumour Hospital. At that time, I met Little Hai who really liked it when people would read stories to him. I read him many stories and he gave me a cheerful smile even though he had just been through five days of fever, vomiting and exhaustion after his cancer treatment.”*

Before announcing the Grand Prize winners, everyone present participated in a networking game, challenging people to meet three new people over the course of three minutes. It was not surprising that volunteers were quick to make new friends with other volunteers.

The Grand Prize to an Individual was awarded to Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Hang for her touching story of an experience volunteering with 365 Degree Volunteer Group. Her story, “Me A” (Dear Mom) was read aloud by Ms. Huong, representing the Panel Judges. Ms. Huong also helped to read the Grand Prize Story by a Volunteer Host Organization, “A teacher’s diary”, which was awarded to the Blue Dreams Volunteer Group. The writer shared with the audience that, *“Blue Dreams Volunteer Group is engaged in many activities. This story is about one activity, tutoring for poor children living in small boats and other poor residential areas. The group also supports street children, people with disability, centers for street children, and more.”* When asked about the qualifications for becoming a tutor, the Blue Dreams volunteer explained, *“The most important thing is that you have enthusiasm. It is not necessary to have high tutors with high educational levels as most kids are illiterate and enthusiasm goes a long way in this kind of job.”*

By the end of the competition, LIN received **90** written stories, **10** video clips and **234** photos, which were submitted by **78** volunteers and volunteer host organizations throughout the country. We also received 4 stories written in English. Over the coming months, LIN plans to share these inspirational stories through the media, our website/blog and – who knows – we may even put together a compilation of stories for a booklet to inspire future volunteers.

We are so grateful to the twelve Volunteer judges (3 in Ha Noi and 9 in Ho Chi Minh City) who worked with great passion and commitment to undertake the difficult task of evaluating the stories and deciding the winners from among all of the submissions. We would also like to thank our kind sponsors for the competition: **Vinausteel Company**

(main sponsor), **United Nations Volunteer Programme, Viivue, Exotissimo, The Word Ho Chi Minh City, Megastar Media, Annam Group** and **Xu Restaurant**.

There seems to be interest in a Volunteer Stories competition in 2011 so keep writing and stay tuned... In the meantime, or in case you need a little inspiration, check out of the links below to read/view some of the winning stories:

1. [Pictures of the Prize Allocation Event.](#)
2. [Video clip of Volunteer Stories competition.](#)
3. Winning stories, video clips and photo at: www.LINvn.org

[LIN Center](#)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF VOLUNTEER STORIES COMPETITION

- Grand Prize Winner (Volunteer Host Organization):
Blue Dreams Volunteer Group (HCMC)
- Grand Prize Winner (Volunteer):
Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Hang (365 Degrees Volunteer Club - Hanoi)
- Category Prize Winners:

Over 50 years old	Dang Hoang An
Advisory Role	Nguyen Minh Thinh
30 – 50 years old	Hoang Kim Thoa
Under 18 years old	Nguyen Phuc Minh
18 – 30 years old	Nguyen Thi Mai Khuyen
Great Devotion	Pham Anh Thu
High Impact	Nguyen Thi Loan
Resourceful	AIDS program
Most Inspiring	Do Tue Tam
Most beautiful	Ho Thi Xuan Nguyen



LIN would like to congratulate Ms. Ngo Quynh Nhu, Director of the LIN Center, who gave birth to a baby girl this month. We believe that the birth of her baby girl will play a tiny part in rectifying the alarming imbalance between the male and female population in Vietnam.

Roundtable: “Staff, Volunteers and Donors Working Together to Fundraise for your NPO”



Mr. Dick Schmitt advises on setting up a fundraising team

Hochiminh City –LIN invited Mr. Dick Schmitt, founder of the Landon Schmitt Memorial Fund and senior advisor for Brown Schroeder & Associates Group, to lead a discussion on, “**Staff, Volunteers and Donors Working Together to Fundraise for your NPO**” which took place on 18 September in the meeting room at the offices of Horizon Capital Advisors.

Mr. Schmitt, who has amassed a great deal of experience in the private, government and not-for-profit sectors, explained that an organization benefits from building a fundraising team that

includes: employees, volunteers, members of Board of Directors and even Donors. He offered strategies for identifying people to help, bringing them together and setting roles and responsibilities for each member, whether staff or volunteer. Participants were given a chance to brainstorm possible team members and share their ideas with the group.

Training is not only important for the full-time fundraising staff, but also for any member of the organization’s fundraising team. Such training can be offered, in-house, focusing on the organization’s goals, its resources and its needs.

The keys to successful fundraising is knowing when to seize upon opportunities, knowing how to listen to potential donors, and maintaining optimism, enthusiasm and a strong commitment to the organization. Another key to successful fundraising is establishing and regularly updating your donor database. The database might include the following information: family, children, hobbies, sports and other interests, etc. Such database will be very helpful to the fundraising team in preparation for their face-to-face meetings with potential donors, to

“...there is nothing better than having a past donor participate in your fundraising efforts. They have already demonstrated that they trust your organization, which is a powerful tool for convincing other potential donors to give.”

Mr. Schmitt shared his many years of experience with not-for-profit fundraising.

engage them in an interesting conversation and attract their confidence. The database will also help you with the important task of keeping in touch and reporting to past, present and future sponsors, which will help to strengthen your network and sustaining interest in the organization's activities.

Asking donors to support your fundraising efforts is one way to leverage the support that they already provided and to keep them engaged in your organization. Past donors offer clear proof that the organization is trusted. When a past donor talks to a potential donor, it provides a measure of credibility that is more difficult to achieve when the appeal comes from a staff member.

Towards the end of his presentation, Mr. Schmitt presented a video clip from a fundraising event his NGO organized in Hochiminh City earlier this year. He then gave the participants a chance to share their opinions about the event, thus demonstrating the value and importance of evaluating each and every fundraising event undertaken by an NGO. To better illustrate how this is done, Mr. Schmitt shared his own evaluation of a fundraising event that he attended in the US, pointing out its strengths, weaknesses and other observations, which provided useful guidance as his team planned their own event.

"Don't hesitate to ask somebody to sponsor your proper purpose. Remember," Dick added with a wink, "People do not give if they are not asked."

LIN Center

Link to : [Dick Schmitt's presentation on fundraising.](#)

WELCOMING ELIZABETH PHAM TO THE LIN CENTER

LIN Center would like to welcome its newest member to the team, Ms. Elizabeth Pham, who will advise the team on its strategic plan and organizational assessment.



Elizabeth Pham is a multidisciplinary management professional with over 10 years of experience working in both the social and business sectors. Her most recent work at the Ford Foundation encompassed grantmaking focused on the New York City area, budget management for programs worldwide and monitoring operational effectiveness for overseas offices. Prior to that, she worked on an HIV/AIDS capacity building project while at Community Resource Exchange, a New York City based nonprofit technical assistance provider. She holds a Master in Public Administration degree from the Wagner School of Public Service and a Bachelor degree in Finance and Marketing from New York University.

Information workshop of the Justice Initiatives Facilitation Fund (JIFF)

The Justice Partnership Program (JPP) is the result of a decision of the European Union, Sweden and Denmark to harmonize their efforts to support justice sector reform in Vietnam. **The Justice Initiatives Facilitation Fund (JIFF) is component 3 of the JPP aiming to build the capacity of Non-State Actors to contribute to enhancement of awareness of rights, access to justice and to support judicial reforms.** JIFF will call for proposals twice per calendar year from this call to early 2015.

Applicants invited to apply include any organization which:

- Is non-state, non-international and not for profit
- Has a Charter, registered for more than one year, and has a bank account operated by more than one signatory. (Organizations applying for small grants, or media or universities may be waived from some of the above criteria)

Both hard and soft copy (CD written) of proposal in JIFF forms in Vietnamese (or English) shall be delivered before 17:00, 5th November 2010, to the following address:

Justice Initiatives Facilitation Fund (JIFF)

Unit 708, 11 Tran Hung Dao, Hoan Kiem, Hanoi

E-mail: info@jpp-jiff.org.vn

Phone: (04) 39336034/35

Fax: (04) 39336040

Please visit the JIFF Website at www.jpp-jiff.org.vn to view more information about the selection criteria, application process and to download application forms.



Reps. from the JIFF management team at the workshop

On the morning of September 28, 2010, at Tao Dan Guest House in District 1, the management team of JIFF lead an informational workshop for 30 participants from HCMC and Ben Tre Province to introduce the funding mechanism and detailed guidelines for their recent call for grant applications from non-state actors.

Mr. Nguyen Khanh Ngoc, from the Ministry of Justice informed participants that the: *“Main purpose of this program is justice reform, which consists of three components: (1) support to governmental offices - The Supreme People’s Procuracy, The Supreme People’s Court and the Ministry of Justice); (2) support to Vietnamese Lawyers Association and; (3) support initiatives by non-state actors.”*

After Mr. Ngoc’s speech, the JIFF team presented the mechanisms and guidelines for completing the grant application forms and fulfilling the requirements of JIFF. In the afternoon, the JIFF team focused on proposal writing while providing specific examples of justice. Proposal budgeting was explained along with standards, regulations and other budget issues. Many questions were raised by participants, relating to the guidelines and proposed initiatives.

JIFF is offering three levels of support:

- (1) under 230 million, (2) from 230 to 580 million, and (3) under 2,3 billion VND. These grants are available to non-state actors (please find more information in the text box at left and/or on the JIFF website).

The 6th ASEAN People's Forum (Hanoi)



Panelists at the ASEAN People Forum 6

The ASEAN People's Forum 6, "Solidarity and Action for A People Oriented People," was organized from September 24 to 26, 2010 in Hanoi with over 700 delegates representing mass organizations, NGOs and consultation organizations from ASEAN countries.

The Forum presented 6 plenaries and workshops discussing important topics ranging from economic integration and cooperation to children, climate change, human rights and poverty alleviation.

During the fifth plenary session, delegates gave comments and agreed to a statement on the sixth ASEAN People's Forum. This statement certified that the members would carry out the ASEAN charter and build an ASEAN community for the people; it also proposed that ASEAN country members push for effective mechanisms and agree to maintain peace and security and to prevent conflicts. For more information about this Forum, visit the official website at: <http://apfvietnam2010.org.vn>

LIN team



LIN Center would like to wish a Happy Birthday to Ms. Tran Thi Thanh Huong (member of LIN's Board of Directors). LIN team would like to wish you a nice and joyful birthday with your family and friends

☑ **Donor's corner**

Now Accepting Applications to the HCMC Grantmakers Forum

The LIN Center for Community Development, with support from Intel Vietnam and the US Consulate General in HCMC, are pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for participation in the [Ho Chi Minh City Grantmakers Forum 2010](#), taking place on 21 October 2010 in District 1, Ho Chi Minh City.

This is the first forum of its kind – bringing together not-for-profit, corporate and government grantmakers to impart knowledge, share experiences, identify common goals and possible synergies while building a better understanding about the community in which we operate.

To date, confirmed Panel Speakers include Senior Executives from the following grantmaking organizations:

AmCham-United Way Vietnam	Intel Vietnam
Australian Consulate General (Direct Aid Program)	Saigon Children's Charity (Working With Others)
Centre for Social Initiatives Promotion	Irish Aid
Education for Development	Mast Industries
Ernst & Young	LGT Venture Philanthropy
Justice Initiatives Facilitation Fund	And more...

While there is no fee to participate in this forum; space is limited to organizations that demonstrate a commitment to philanthropy, either through their past efforts and/or future goals. Interested individuals may apply via our [online application](#) before 15 October 2010.

For further information, please visit our website at:
<http://bit.ly/HCMCGrantmakersForum> or <http://bit.ly/DienDanCacToChucTaiTro>.

Please help us to spread the word about this event to other grantmaking organizations!

Attention all NPOs: A Special Opportunity Awaits ...

In the reception and break area, at the HCMC Grantmakers Forum, LIN would like to offer you an opportunity to display your organizational brochure and/or other marketing materials. NPOs with not-for-profit operations/activities in Ho Chi Minh City are welcome to participate.

If you would like to be included, please contact with Mr. Son at LIN to arrange delivery of your materials before the 20th of October 2010: son@LINvn.org or 848-3824-6091.

NPO partners are encouraged to visit the LIN website for opportunities to receive in-kind contributions via our [GIVE/REQUEST](#) pages. You will be able to request and respond to in-kind donations from individuals, schools/universities and more.

There are currently many in-kind donations on offer, such as books in Vietnamese and English; clothes; plates and bowls... as well as a voluntary art teacher, volunteer web designer, etc....

Please contact us at: npo@LINvn.org if you need any help accessing this information.

Upcoming events

Training: “Proposal Writing for LIN Grants”

(9 October 2010)

The training “**Proposal Writing for LIN Grants**” will be organized on Saturday, 9 October 2010 from 08h30 to 10h30. The training will be led by Ms. Elizabeth Pham, a LIN consultant and someone with great experience in both writing and reviewing grant proposals. This training is designed to support LIN’s local not-for-profit partners, particularly those that have applied for and/or are planning to apply for a small grant from the LIN Center. The objectives of this workshop include:

- Introduce the new and improved LIN grant proposal;
- Review guidelines for completing the LIN grant proposal;
- Offer tips for writing strong proposals;
- Share lessons learned and best practices from past proposals; and
- Exchange experiences in proposal writing.

If you have any questions or would like to register to participate in this training, please contact the LIN team by email at: npo@linvn.org or by phone: (84 8) 38246091. This workshop is limited to 20 participants on a first come, first serve basis.

Grant Opportunity for NPOs

Direct Aid Program of the HCMC Australian Consulate-General

The Direct Aid Program (DAP) is a small aid program funded by the Australian Government and disbursed by the Australian Consulate-General. The goal of DAP is to address humanitarian hardship through funding small-scale development projects. Outlined below are general guidelines for applying for a DAP grant.

Who may apply? In the past the Consulate-General has accepted proposals from Provincial and District People's Committees, local government departments/agencies, non-government organisations (local and international), community organisations such as youth and women's organisations, as well as local hospitals and schools.

What sorts of projects are considered? When considering project proposals, the Consulate-General would normally be attracted to applications involving small grants (up to approximately USD10,000; however, applications up to USD20,000 may also be considered) for clearly defined, stand-alone projects with specific outcomes which can be carried out within a defined time frame. Usually all projects must be completed by the end of the financial year in which they are funded (30 June 2011 for this year's program). Examples of areas where DAP grants may be given include: community health; education; small scale infrastructure; sanitation and rural development. In special cases, consideration may be given to contributions to disaster relief operations, activities of cultural significance and sporting equipment for disadvantaged communities. Special attention is given to projects providing direct benefits to those most in need, including those concerning gender issues, children and other disadvantaged groups, and to projects with environmental benefits.

DAP activities should be of high developmental impact and applications should clearly detail the expected development impact, for example in terms of promoting community development, education, health, gender (including the role of women), disadvantaged groups, and environmental sustainability.

The recipients of funds should be able to demonstrate commitment to the project and to its sustainability. In community groups, commitment is often best demonstrated by the provision of voluntary labour and resources from the community itself. In terms of sustainability, applications should demonstrate an applicant's commitment and ability to sustain their project beyond the period of DAP funding.

Applications must include:

- A clear and thorough cost analysis which accurately reflects the costs associated with the project and clearly identifies the component/s DAP funding is requested for;
- Three quotes for each major cost component of the project (if in doubt about what constitutes major cost component of your proposed project, please contact the Consulate-General);
- Specific criteria used by applicants to select beneficiaries;
- Photographs of existing facilities/equipment, where relevant.
- Design or layout for construction project only.

Application forms can be obtained from the Australian Consulate-General, 5th Floor, Landmark Building, 5B Ton Duc Thang Street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City (Tel: 84-8-3521 8100, ext.126), email: le.cat@dfat.gov.au or on our website: <http://www.hcmc.vietnam.embassy.gov.au/>