

News and Events of the LIN Center for Community Development

Networking for a Cause and Community Grant Event

On Sunday, December 18 2011, the Networking for A Cause event entitled, “Supporting migrant workers and their families in Ho Chi Minh city”, at the Hard Rock café, district 1, attracted 135 guests from the private sector, academic circles, not-for-profit organizations and individuals who were interested in the good cause of the event. The event opened with an introduction



on current situations of migrant people in Ho Chi Minh city, from Mr. Le Van Thanh, Head of the HCMC Culture and Society research Department. Next were the presentations of the three selected projects from among 13 applications for the Community Grant in December 2011 by LIN center, and which will support migrant workers and their families. Prior to the event, all three projects had been consulted one-on-one with an expert on how to develop project ideas and implement them effectively. By matching one selected project with a professional advertising firm or expert, the three presentations made major improvements and the effect was mostly on the appealing images by adding more concise messages.

All participants had 45 minutes for networking and voting for the best project of their interest, and which they believe can make the most significant impact on the life of migrant workers and their families. This voting activity created a meaningful mark, and distinguished our event from other existing philanthropic events in the country. “The opportunity for all guests to vote for the project that will get funded is a really great idea, which I have never seen in any event like this before. It carries a positive meaning and also shows the transparency in the selection process for the project that deserves the big grant”, said by an anonymous guest.

By the end of the event, LIN center raised 22,550,000 VND in cash and 195 million VND from in-kind donations. With the significant amount of in-kind donations, Global Fund for Community Foundation (GFCF) has increased the grant for the projects. The total money is allocated to two of the projects that support migrant workers. Specifically, 80 million VND will be granted to the winner, SPI House from Ho Chi Minh Child Welfare Foundation, with the project of vocational training for migrant children who are vulnerable victims of exploitation and abuse; and 40 million VND granted to vocational training and job placement for 30 migrant children with disabilities, project of the Thien Tam Huong Shelter, the second place winner. For the third place winner, A New Day, their project will be reapplied for next year's Community Grant in April. During the event, Mr. Son Pham, LIN's Deputy Director and NPO Liaison, stated that: "We wanted to offer the people in our community an opportunity to engage in the process of finding solutions to important socio-economic issues. LIN's Community Grant does this by defining an important issue, presenting three viable projects that seek to address that issue, and inviting community members to vote for and get involved in supporting the best projects."

In March 2012, LIN will be organizing a half day capacity building workshop for the staff at community based not-for-profit organizations, including the three winners of the Community Grant. The workshop will focus on best practices in project reporting and evaluation, using one or all three of the grantees as case study examples. In June 2012, the two granted projects will be submitting their mid-term reports on their progress-to-date, and the final report is in October 2012. LIN will also conduct a project evaluation with the two grantees to understand the impact of the capacity building workshop and to organize an event to publicly announce the outcome of the grants.

LIN Center

Presentations of migrant worker issue: [NPO RESOURCE](#)
Networking for A Cause topics 2012: [N4C 2012](#)



**LIN Center would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to:
Mr. Kham Doan, LIN board member.**

We truly appreciate your input and support to the LIN Center!

Volunteer Stories 2011 Award Ceremony



On December 4th, 2011, an award ceremony for the Volunteer Story Competition 2011 was held by LIN Centre at Press café. Approximately 70 guests, who were individual and organizational competitors and LIN's sponsors, attended this event. As a presenter of the Judith Carey Zesiger Family Foundation,

the main sponsors, Mr. Carey Zesiger appealed: *“There is a perception about Vietnam that Vietnamese, maybe the culture of volunteering in Vietnam, is not very well-developed yet. In other words, Vietnamese are very generous in helping other people, indeed, but i think the needs of Vietnamese organizations are much more than just mine.”* Mr. Zesiger also shared, *“The stories play an important role here. They are raising awareness and express the words and maybe set an example for other volunteers as well”*. ([Click here to watch Mr. Zesiger's talk](#)).

The ceremony started by giving the weeks' award ([Please click here for the full list](#)). The final result had been kept secretly until the last minute. The panel of 12 judges had cooperated for a week to choose the best works from 24 in the final round. After the video about a judge's discussion was shown ([follow this link to watch the video](#)), nominations for each award were presented. To read the full list of nominations, please click [here](#).

Each award category was presented by our judges and sponsors. One of the first winners was Nguyễn Châu Ngọc Phú, who is studying the Social Work program at the University of Social Sciences and Humanities. Phú won the Best Listener's prize with the story 'Growing up quickly, my pride'. *“That is my story when I taught a group of children at January 1st School in District 4, who lived in poor conditions and were facing the risk of giving up their studies”,* Phú shared with a little surprise and sympathy. *“I want to change the behaviours and thoughts of those unlucky children, who have a large number of difficulties and usually think of the case of dropping out of their school. For as much as I worked with them, I felt more sympathetic and loved them more.”*

The award ceremony would have been more perfect if there was the presence of all winners. Many could not come to the event because of the far distance to the venue from where they lived. Nguyễn Hương Đạo, who won the Best Story's prize with the story “Proud to be a recycling boy”, was one of the cases. On the clip recorded when

he had been interviewed via Skype by LIN Centre, the student from class 12A6 of Trần Hưng Đạo High School in Nam Định appealed: *“The Ve chai Nam Định (Nam Định recycling) group is funded by ourselves for helping unlucky people without sponsors from business companies. We go to families to collect unused items, categorize them, then sell them to buy rice for the poor people. We have helped 13 families each month.”*

With their story “Skilled Volunteers Improve Social Organizations’ Work”, 5 Giờ Sáng (5 a.m.) got the convincing first prize for an organization. The writing shared the organization’s experience to collaborate with skilled volunteers. They stressed, “If you want to help our community, just only heart is not sufficient, we also need skills”, and emphasized the important role of skilled volunteers in constructing NPO’s efficiency. Illustrations of this are the volunteers supporting 5 Giờ Sáng personnel advisory or programme advisory.

LIN Centre has prepared for design and printing the collection book of the competition’s best stories. When the book is issued, we will announce to the public as soon as possible.

To view all the award ceremony’s pictures, please visit the competition’s facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/cachuyentinhnguyen>

Follow this [link](#) to read the prized writing list.

LIN Center (Translated by Ta Minh Nhat, LIN volunteer)

LIN Centre would like to thank Nguyen Thi Thu Hang for her sponsor of 1 million VND from her full award value for LIN’s activities.



SMS Service 2012 from LIN Center:

“Access to information anywhere”

To secure our NPO partners, volunteers and donors (rarely using emails and internet) access to information and keep in contact with us, LIN Center introduces a new SMS information service, namely “Access to information anywhere” starting from January 2012. All the workshops, trainings, events, newsletters, grant opportunities, and necessary information will be sent to your mobile (register voluntarily) through the SMS mobile service.

You can send a message with your Name and Company/Organization to our number **01256409291**. We will save your number in our database and send all the information to you.

“Commit to transfer comprehensive resources to community” (LIN team)

4th NPO Advisory Group “advantaged and disadvantaged of CSOs’ activities in HCMC”



In the morning of 15th December 2011, at a coffee shop in district 1, 18 members from HCMC's and Ben Tre's non-profit organizations had an informal meeting to share their feelings, concerns and experiences working in NPOs at Ho Chi Minh City. This is the 4th NPOs group meeting held by LIN.

The meeting was started by sharing advantages in highlighting the plenty

of community volunteer spirit in non-profit work. This is a dynamic, creative environment and each organization has their own strength that they can use to promote their activities. The enthusiastic youth force along with the development of Social work is now an advantage for these activities in HCMC.

However, there are still difficulties and obstacles ahead. Budget is the main difficulty for all organizations in this field. With a limited budget, human resource development, especially gaining good personnel, has become a challenge that very few organizations can overcome. Even the use of young volunteers to help cover this gap is still difficult and not enough. This also is a chance for Lin Center to promote its skilled volunteers service.

Also, participants mentioned a lot about difficulty in legal entity - how this affected organizations in developing activities as well as approaching international funds. However, there were some other opinions saying that organizations should first proceed with activity for the community, supporting their clients before thinking about applying certificates from government agencies. Proving that the organization is working efficiently and helping the government through community support is a living proof to be recognized by the government, and then the government can issue license for such organizations.

These group meetings will help LIN Center have a better look inside the non-profit community. Therefore, LIN can go in the right direction to help improve skills as well as meet demands of NPOs in HCMC. LIN representative, Mr. Son Pham shared, *“These informal meetings held by LIN center quarterly to help members working in non-profit fields and have a chance to meet and share their experiences as well as their difficulties during their work. This is also a way for LIN to listen to opinions from organizations to help us improve and promote our activities for the non-profit community.”*

LIN Center (Translated by Ngo Tu Nghi, LIN volunteer)

Upcoming Events

Meeting with committed NPOs participating in audit training 12 January, 2012

Nine committed NPOs who participated in the audit training will have a meeting with Mazars Company to discuss and plan for their audit next February 2012. The meeting aims to finalize the procedure of auditing and answer all the concerns and questions.

Date and time: 09h00 – 10h30 a.m. Thursday 12 January 2012
Venue: We will inform the representatives of NPOs

Please contact LIN team at npo@LINvn.org or tel us at [\(08\) 38246091](tel:0838246091).

Year End Networking Event for NPO Community 14 January, 2012

With the support from Irish Aid, LIN Center would like to invite all the NPO partners, LIN volunteers, donors and individuals who supported us in 2011 to participate in a special event to welcome the new year. “Mingle for not-for-profit community” networking event aims to:

1. Provide an opportunity for NPOs to strengthen their local networks;
2. Meet and share experiences with people working in the not-for-profit sector, community development and individual volunteers;
3. Exchange ideas and for future support and collaboration; and
4. Celebrate the accomplishments of 2011 and share goals for 2012.

Date and time: 08h30 – 11h30 a.m. Saturday 14 January 2012
Venue: Horizon Capital Group office, Vincom Center
72 Le Thanh Ton street , D.1, HCMC

Please RSVP at npo@LINvn.org (NPO partners) , volunteer@LINvn.org (Volunteers) or donor@LINvn.org (donors) or ring LIN team at [\(08\) 38246091](tel:0838246091).

Grant Opportunity for NPOs

USAID Pathway project “Strengthening the Civil Society Response to HIV in Vietnam”



In the afternoon of 15 December 2011, at Epoch hotel, district 1, Pathway project organized a “Call for Proposal from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)” workshop with the participation of over 60 participants from international NGOs, local CSOs, institutions and training centers working in HCMC and the Southern provinces.

Representatives of AIDS division (Health Ministry), HCMC AIDS Committee, US

AIDS and RTI gave speeches about the project and answered questions from the participants. In this workshop, the first call for proposal aimed to Pathway Leading Partners (PLP) who are experienced in capacity building and well-structured and professional local NGOs. Three to Five PLP will collaborate with RTI and other international NGOs to build a sustainable capacity plan with the aim to help other local CSOs upgrading their capacity within 5 years.

This is a great opportunity for CSOs to build their capacity and to develop their organization’s sustainability as well as to contribute their efforts for protection, caring and treatment of HIV/AIDS in Vietnam.

For more information about the call for proposals, please visit www.rti.org/pathways_eoi.

LIN Center

RTI International in partnership with CARE has been funded by the USAID to implement the Pathways for Participation: Strengthening the Civil Society Response to HIV in Vietnam Project (Pathways Project) in Vietnam. This is a 5-year project that commenced in October 2011. The project will implement activities in nine provinces: Quang Ninh, Hai Phong, Hanoi, Nghe An, Dien Bien, Lao Cai, Ho Chi Minh City, Can Tho, and An Giang.

The aim of the Pathways Project is to improve the sustainability of CSOs by developing their organizational and technical capacity and governance systems, promoting models that achieve measurable results, increasing CSOs participation in HIV/AIDS forums, and establishing systems and platforms whereby CSOs can contribute as valued participants in the national HIV/AIDS response.

Donor's Corner

A. LIN Philanropy Advisory Services



MAERSK LINE COMPANY AND THE COMMUNITY GRANT FOR A CLIMATE CAMP AT BEN TRE

In July 2011, LIN supported Maersk Line Logistics, a global leader in shipping and logistics, on their call for a partnership proposal from local NPOs with the thematic area of environment. Two months after receiving many applications of various environmental organizations in and near HCMC, Maersk Line Vietnam agreed to offer more than 100 million VND to 350 Vietnam, a not-for-profit organization, which conducts educational, informational and research activities to support environmental protection. The sponsorship funds were used mainly to implement a 350-Maersk Climate Camp to Ben Tre Province from December 16 to 17, 2011.



Maersk's sponsorship funds to 350 Vietnam was to raise awareness about climate change issues among Maersk staffs and also engage them in

environment protection as well as supporting local community. Moreover, the company also made further donations on the site. Particularly, donations included free solar ovens and water filtration systems to 6 local families; support of 1,000,000VND each for 25 families who are victims of climate change; contribution of funds for building houses of gratitude; as well as scholarships grant, valued at 500,000VND each, to 4 students.

Ms. Duong Kim Khanh, Head of CSR group of Maersk Line Vietnam, said: *"With support from the LIN Center, we have found the right partner and the fruitful cooperation with 350 Vietnam - an experienced non-profit organization in environment issues - to implement a project that meets our CSR objectives. The organization of the Climate Camp was to raise awareness of climate change issues among Maersk staffs as well as stimulating practical actions from staffs to help local community in a most meaningful way."*

Earlier, in preparation for the Climate Camp, Maersk Line's employees attended training sessions provided by 350.org, to have the basic understanding of climate change and its impacts, as well as learning the skills to build a community campaign against climate change.

B. LIN's donors on December 2011

LIN Center would like to say thank you for following individuals and corporates who supported us in November 2011

Mr. Hùng and Mr. Long (friends of Ms. Pearl)! Donated VND 4,000,000 for LIN activities 2012.

Hard Rock Café, SRI Vietnam, Brand Maker, Red Brand Builder và Ogilvy One, L'Usine and Xu Lounge & Restaurant! Donated in-kind for LIN Center to organize successful Networking for A Cause and Community Grant event on Sunday 18 December 2011 at Hard Rock café.

The LIN Center is fundraising for our community programs in 2012. If you are interested in our efforts, we welcome your donation! **Please contact us at** : donor@LINvn.org, or ring us at [08-3824-6091](tel:08-3824-6091) for all the questions related to donation.

Welcome a junior accountant joining LIN team!



Ms. Gam Pham (1985) born in Ha Tay joining in LIN team on December 2011. Gam graduated Economic Governance department at National Economic University in 2003 and had 3 years experience working for health issues in a German collaboration project with the aim to build capacity for health staff and promote the quality of health services.

She hopes that she can apply her knowledge and experience to fulfill the task and the great mission which LIN is advocating.

NPO Networking

Love Coverage Program

“Everyone can contribute to the community”

(Translated by Ngo Tu Nghi, LIN volunteer)

During our long history, Vietnamese people have built and tempered a humane tradition such as “The good leaves protect the worn-out leaves”, “Oh gourd, love the pumpkin, Though of different species, you share the same trellis”. Many generations have passed, but that precious culture has never been lost in oblivion. On the contrary, it has been forged, honoured and has shined even in the modern society, where the pragmatism from the West has affected such an amount on our youth’s way of thinking and behaviour. In the family, parents teach their kids to help the elders, love the youngsters and help those in difficult situations and those who have no one to lean on. Those words “Soul” and “Virtuous” have become the first criterion in proper behaviour, the foundation to uphold the “Skill” and “Wisdom”.

It has passed those times when only rich people can do charity work. It also has passed those times when only retired people stood out to do social work. Social work in this modern society now is very diversified, quick, popular and convenient. Anyone can do charity and charity work can be carried out anytime, anywhere. These above achievements are by making the best use of the effect brought by technology’.

“Love Coverage” program was born based on those ideas. With “Love Coverage” program, charity work can cover from North to South, through out all parts of the country and can easily be done by just a click on your computer or an sms via your cellphone. The donation amount can vary from 1000 thousand Vietnam dong, such as a candy value, to dozens of millions dong and even more, depending on the sponsor’s ability.

Instruction to use Love Coverage Card:

1. Scratch the grey area to reveal the Card Number
2. Send a charging message to 8099 as below syntax:
TTT NAP 12 digits of the card number.
3. To donate, send a message to 8099 with below syntax:
TTT UH DonateCode*Your wish

For further information, please log on to <http://www.thetinhthuong.org/>

Contact:

+ Ms. Mỹ Chi – Tel: 0908 681 160

+ Ms. Bích Châu - Tel: 0909 291 286

“LIN’s NPO partners who wants to be the beneficiary of Love Coverage Program, please read information on website <http://www.thetinhthuong.org/> or contact with Ms. Mỹ Chi – Tel: [0908 681 160](tel:0908681160) for further information”