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MONTHLY UPDATE FROM GIANG - OUR DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

In the first quarter of 2017, the LIN Team worked on our new 3-year strategy, addressing needs and concerns shared through focus group discussions and survey feedback from NPO Partners, Volunteers, and Donors ([click here](#) to read the NPO and Donor survey reports). Key strategies moving forward include: (1) Improve the quality of LIN services to NPO partners; (2) Enhance and expand LIN services to the donor community; (3) Increase the quality and quantity of our communications with key stakeholder groups; and (4) Build LIN's internal capacity to implement the first three strategies.

LIN's core services are now structured under the following headings:

- **Information Exchange:** This includes networking events; online forums and seminars to share information of interest to nonprofits, skilled volunteers and donors; promotion of CSR and particularly shared value initiatives; as well as conducting and sharing research relating to community philanthropy.
- **Capacity Building:** LIN will increase peer-consulting opportunities for nonprofit partners on organizational development, leadership and social issues. We will improve the Young Leaders Circle and Community Partnership Initiatives (through a new accelerator program – see below), while continuing to roll out and maintain 10 online, e-learning courses in Organizational Development for Nonprofits ([click here](#) to register for one of the 7 courses already published on Kyna.vn).
- **Resource Mobilization:** Given LIN's commitment to local people solving local problems, the Narrow The Gap Community Fund will work harder to increase the number and value of contributions from within our community.

This year, LIN will be asking our NPO partners to connect their outcomes to one or more of the [17 Sustainable Development Goals](#). In addition, LIN will host customized and public versions of our "LIN oi, Where Are We Going?" event, which aims to bridge the gap and promote partnerships between nonprofits and community members. The Vietnam Causes online directory of nonprofits and the BlueBees volunteer matching platform will be merged this year to provide a one-stop resource for identifying prospective partners and responding to current needs.

- This year, LIN is excited to launch an "**Impact Accelerator**" program, which offers comprehensive support to newly launched nonprofits as well as new nonprofit initiatives by existing organizations. The 12-month program will support a dozen nonprofit leaders with root cause analysis, program design, organizational development, network building, and resource mobilization.

In just a few months, the LIN Team has welcomed a large number of new social initiatives addressing local needs and introducing new approaches. LIN is facilitating collaboration and information sharing among these groups, both new and experienced and we appreciate the opportunity to catalyze partnerships for the common good. And collaboration and sharing is proving to be contagious...

I hope you will continue to join with LIN and our partners to promote locally led development, and convert "charity" from merely giving what you have to creating shared value.

TRAN VU NGAN GIANG

Executive Director

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

NONPROFIT FORUM:

The Nonprofit Forum, launched by LIN in 2012 using a google email platform, was transferred to a Facebook Group at the start of 2017 - [NPO Forum \(Diễn đàn phi lợi nhuận\)](#). The NPO Forum already has 549 members, representing nonprofit organizations, including registered and volunteer organizations addressing a variety of social issues. Most of the information shared and enjoyed by members of the Forum concerns project funding opportunities, cooperation opportunities, trainings events, as well as news, event announcements, and information pertaining to nonprofit professionals, nonprofit organizations, and/or social enterprises.

WORKSHOPS FOR SPONSORS:

DOING GOOD IS GOOD FOR BUSINESS

On May 19th, LIN will co-host a half-day conference for members of the business community in Ho Chi Minh City who are interested to share and learn about impactful CSR programs and shared value initiatives implemented by local and foreign companies operating in Vietnam. During the event, companies will share diverse examples of community initiatives that brought about social or environmental benefits as well as business benefits. There will also be a panel discussion on building effective partnerships between companies and nonprofit organizations.

An event announcement will be sent out in April via email and Facebook. Until then, please contact Ms. Nguyen Thi Thanh Truc (Vietnamese) truc@LINvn.org or Ms. Jenny O'Brien (English) jenny@LINvn.org for further information.

NETWORKING EVENTS:


LIN TALK - MANDALA EVENT FOR VOLUNTEERS



The topic "Corporate Day of Service – Love It or Leave It?"

Date: 25/05/2017

LIN TALK - NPO MORNING COFFEE



The topic "Linking non-profit organizations in the Ho Chi Minh City" (5 sessions)

Date: 30/05/2017

LIN TALK - DONORS EVENT



The topic "Doing Good is Good for Business"

Date: 19/05/2017

CAPACITY BUILDING

1-ON-1 PEER-SHARING:

LIN hosts peer-sharing activities every month to create opportunities for nonprofit organizations to access and share information, and experiences with their counterparts at LIN. On 24 February, 5 nonprofit organizations met

with LIN staff to learn about setting up a legal entity, governance, financial management, and applying to the Narrow the Gap Community Fund. Peer sharing meetings last between one to one and a half hours.

The next peer sharing event will take place on Friday, 31 March. It is open to nonprofit organizations, as well as local philanthropists, including individuals and institutions. Please contact Mr. Pham Truong Son at son@LINvn.org or Ms. Nguyen Thi Bich Ngoc at: ngoc@LINvn.org to register for a peer sharing session. Or you can fill out our online meeting request [form](#) to register your interest.

E-LEARNING FOR NONPROFIT PROFESSIONALS:

On the 13th of May, LIN will launch the 7th in a series of 10 online, e-learning toolkits focusing on Organizational Development. "Program Evaluation for Nonprofits," is designed to help nonprofit staff learn how to assess new and ongoing programs with the goal to improve the quality and impact of programs and services for their beneficiaries.

The e-learning toolkit is suitable for nonprofit professionals as well as individuals who are interested to join or support a nonprofit organization. The time commitment ranges from 2 to 4 hours per week over the course of 5 weeks. The Program Evaluation Toolkit, along with six previously published toolkits, are free of charge and available for enrollment when you register on Kyna.vn. Check out the toolkits [here](#).

MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES

NARROW THE GAP COMMUNITY FUND:

This year, LIN organized site visits to several projects receiving grants from the Narrow the Gap Community Fund in 2016:

On 18 February, LIN accompanied **CEPORER Hoc Mon** on a site visit to Long An Province to visit the **"Building a Clean Water Well Collector Project"**, which is now supplying clean water, free of Aluminium, to 48 households in Hamlet 1, Thu Thua District. The project received a VND 150 million grant from Narrow the Gap Community Fund in September 2016. Check out photos and a short report posted on the Narrow the Gap page on Facebook [here](#).

On 14 March, LIN accompanied donors and volunteers to check out a live demonstration of a blended English language learning course for the hearing impaired. The course is part of a project designed by **Hear. Us. Now**, which received a VND 300 million grant from Narrow the Gap Community Fund in September 2016. to build a platform of online education materials for hearing impaired people throughout Vietnam. Check out photos and a short report on the visit, which was posted on LIN's Narrow the Gap page on Facebook [here](#).

And, on 25 March, LIN visited another grantee project which is building a garden of medicinal plants and introducing South Vietnamese herbs to community members in An Giang Province. The project is implemented by two partners - the Southern Medicinal Garden Group (nhóm Vườn Thuốc Nam) and the My Thanh Southern Medicinal Garden Group (Phòng thuốc Nam Mỹ Thạnh). Photos and a short report will be posted on the Narrow the Gap page on Facebook soon.

Do you want to join LIN on future site visits? Register your interest by clicking [here](#).

NARROW THE GAP COMMUNITY FUND GRANTS IN 2017:

In 2017 NARROW THE GAP COMMUNITY FUND is asking our NPO partners to apply for grants for projects that support the [United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals](#). And, to help our NPO partners prepare for this year's grant application process, LIN partnered with the Service-Learning Center of Hoa Sen University and CSDS to organize a seminar about the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which was led by CSDS Founder, Mr. Don Tuan Phung. Click [here](#) to read a short report on the seminar.

"LIN OI, WHERE ARE WE GOING?" EVENT FOR THE HCMC COMMUNITY:



The poster features a young girl smiling through a window. Text on the poster includes: "lin oi MINH ĐI ĐÁU?", "Chương trình đi tìm hiểu và học hỏi từ những tổ chức phi lợi nhuận tại TP.HCM", "CHỦ ĐỀ: Tăng tiếp cận bình đẳng", "8:00-14:00", "Địa điểm xuất phát: 180/47 Nguyễn Hữu Cảnh Phường 22, Bình Thạnh", "Ngày 11 Tháng 3", "Email: vicao@linvn.org", "Điện thoại: 08-35120092 (ext. 107)", and "Đăng ký tham gia: bit.ly/LMOD1103". Logos for "lin oi" and "LIN" are also present.

As part of an effort to help community members gain a better understanding about the variety of causes and the diversity of work by nonprofit organizations operating in Ho Chi Minh City, LIN organized a public version of "LIN oi, Where Are We Going?" The theme for the public event was "Increasing Access to Opportunities." Participants visited three different nonprofit organizations: ICS Center, DRD, and Tinh Than Group, all long-time partners of LIN, each addressing a different cause and with their own distinct operational models. Participants had an opportunity to meet organizational leaders and learn about their organizations and core programs. They also learned about the impact each organization is making, as well as the difficulties they face.

The public version of the "LIN oi, Where Are We Going?" event was made possible thanks to support from Irish Aid, Bread for the World, and Grab Taxi.

Check out the event report, which summarizes feedback from participants [here](#).

Click [here](#).to register for the next "LIN oi, Where Are We Going?" event, which focuses on "Green Living".

To learn more about "LIN oi, where are we going?", please email Ms. Cao Hoang Tuong Vi at vicao@LINvn.org

INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, & BUSINESSES OFFERING SUPPORT OR DONATIONS

Individual donors:

Anonymous donors	Ngô Quang Trường	Nguyễn Nhật Huyền
Carey Zesiger	Tăng Nguyệt Minh	Trần Phương Linh
Cynthia Le	Nguyễn Thiện Toàn	Nguyễn Hoàng Yến
Trần Thị Phương Anh	Nguyễn Diệu Hà Anh	Ngô Đức Cường
Dana Doan	Trần Thị Hồng Nhung	Bùi Quốc Việt
Vũ Khánh Trường	Bùi Đức Huy	Angelique Masse Nguyen
Cao Hoàng Tường Vi	Trần Hoài Thương	Đậu Thi Hồng Anh

The organization sponsors and businesses:

Anonymous donors	Hoa Sen Service Learning
PACGO fashion co., Ltd.	SEO Vietnam
Suntory PepsiCo Vietnam Beverage (SPVB)	Global Giving
SIT Study Abroad Vietnam	Genuine Partner Group
CIMIGO Vietnam	TECHSOUP Global

VOLUNTEERS

Linda Looise	Thắm Trần	Trần Uyên Chi
Graeme Alexander	Nguyễn Cẩm Tiên	Nguyễn Trần Bảo Yến
Nguyễn Bảo Ngọc	Võ Đình Thi	Vivian Le
Phương Tri	Đinh Thị Quỳnh Anh	Tống Mỹ Linh
Nguyễn Phương Thảo	Nguyễn Thị Kim Thuận	Kayla Paton
Nguyễn Thái Thanh	Lisa Wyndels	Nguyễn Thiện Toàn
Chữ Mỹ Thùy Linh	Dan The Dang	Loan Nguyễn
Phùng Thế Kiệt	Jenny O'Brien	



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