

November 27, 2007

Dear CHEER community of friends and supporters,

The leaves turn colors and the autumnal air, infused with sweet fragrance of cinnamon, nutmeg and chrysanthemum, reminds us that the season of thanks is near. We would like to send our humble gratitude for your continued support and wish you a holiday season of joy and peace.

CHEER is taking solid strides with our programs in Viet Nam. Our VTTP team and board members returned from the 2007 Summer Institute impressed by the determination of the people of Viet Nam to improve their lives, moved and elated by CHEER programs and energized with the possibilities.

I am writing to ask you to continue your support for CHEER for Viet Nam with a donation to our Winter Campaign. By funding our campaign you will assure that hundreds of children will be able to attend and excel in school, families will be empowered and improve their living conditions and teachers will advance their teaching profession and forge life-long connections with U.S. teachers.

Education is the foundation for social equity and progress. In the summer of 2007, CHEER kicked off our PROJECT FOR A THOUSAND STUDENTS AND CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES by delivering hundreds of study corners and books to disadvantaged children in remote villages. CHEER built three new kindergartens for 255 children. CHEER rewarded over 250 exemplary K-16 students with scholarships. Your donations provided skills training to 500 children at Thanh Giong and Tay Linh Vocational Schools, Duc Son Orphanage and Kindergarten and Thanh Xuan Peace Village. Families in remote villages continue to improve their living conditions because of CHEER's annual no-interest revolving loan fund.

Our PROGRAM FOR HUNDRED TEACHERS, "Traversing Borders: Viet Nam Teacher Training Program," has served over 400 Vietnamese teachers who have participated in the institute since 2001. Each teacher represents 150 students, thus, over 40,000 Vietnamese students are benefiting from our program.

Over the last five years, through the annual VTTP summer institute, CHEER has brought together teachers from Viet Nam and the United States to build a community of learners who create knowledge and understanding through shared dialogues, reflections and actions.

CHEER brings teachers from Southern California to Hue University to develop language teaching strategies and build professional as well as leadership skills of high school and college-level instructors of English as a foreign language. Dr. Tran Xuan Thao, director of Fulbright Viet Nam, highly commended our program, "CHEER for Viet Nam VTTP is a vital and essential contribution to the education foundation of the new Viet Nam as the country joins the rest of the world."

With limited resources, CHEER focuses on small, achievable projects that can be the turning point in the life of a child, a student, an artist or a teacher. Phan Bao Uyen, an English teacher at Hue College of Education, after attending three VTTP sessions, now feels "more confident" and has "bigger dreams for myself."

Your continued support will help keep the dreams and hope alive:

- \$20 pays for an annual K-5 tuition
- \$25 provides a life-long study corner [a desk, chair, bookcase]
- \$65 provides a scholarship to a senior high school student
- \$80 provides seed money for an impoverished family to become economically self-sufficient within 12 months
- \$100 brings a teacher to the teacher training program
- \$150 provides college tuition for a university student
- \$1,500 pays for a reading-room
- \$8,500 pays for a two-room kindergarten for 85 students

We are inspired by our work with children and families who are less fortunate. We are motivated each year to return because as educators, we know that our contribution to the teachers we work with in Viet Nam is unique and special. We have traversed borders and the experience, indeed, has transformed our lives as well as theirs.

Please join us to plant a seed of peace and revitalize human compassion and kindness. Renew your support and make a difference.

Peace and Love,

Doan Thi Nam-Hau  
Founder/President