

October, 2007

And then the big night arrived - the ROF 15th Year Anniversary /Charity Dinner

Driving down on Yorba Linda Boulevard this Sunday morning is such a pleasure one can ask for. The hilly boulevard with the tree lines on my two sides is quite friendly. The Cherry blossom season was over and had left these trees standing with bare branches that appeared to lean to one another for friendship and support. Here and there, I found yellow leaves swept over by the wind-blow and were lying comfortably on some corners. I guess this is what fall is all about. At the end of the boulevard, Jo Ann - America's favorite fabric store with the sign "Closed" displayed at the window, was already inviting its customers to stop by. I remember just less than two months ago, I found such a pretty fabric for my "ao dai", selectively chosen for the ROF's 15th charity event. Of course, red was the color of my choice, and my Vietnamese dress turned out just as perfect as I would have expected. In fact, each and every member of the ROF also carefully chose the shade for each ao dai and collectively, when standing next to each other, these shades formed a bright and beautiful rainbow. A rainbow of hope - the hope for ROF to achieve another successful funds raising dinner.

ROF held its 15th charity dinner this year in late August when the temperature was still warm and when the excitement of summer days was still lingering in the air. The annual charity dinners have always been ROF's biggest event, but this year's charity night was one that represents the organization's greatest accomplishment after being involved for more than a decade with the philanthropy work.

As big as this event can be imagined, after months of anticipation and planning, all members of the ROF proudly put out an unforgettable charity night. Below is the English version of a report clipped from the Viet Bao magazine dated 8/27/2007.

The Reaching Out Foundation celebrated its 15 year anniversary and also held the charity dinner at 7 pm on August 25, 2007 at Seafood Kingdom restaurant in Anaheim, California. Similarly to previous years, this non-profit organization recognized for being trustworthy, received great support from the community. Nearly 700 people attended, many famous singers came to help entertain, and the raffle tickets along with the auction program were well received.

Mrs. Nguyen Thi Thanh My, the president of the Reaching Out Foundation commenced the program with her greetings and expression of her gratitude to the guests for their support throughout all these years as well as for their presence at the celebration of ROF's 15th year anniversary. She said that the overwhelmed number of people attending was an encouragement to the ROF members, helped provide financial opportunity to the organization to accomplish many charitable programs with the hope to alleviate somewhat the misery and pain for the poor, sick, and the unfortunates.

Besides Mrs. Thanh My - President of the ROF and the Co-Founder Pham Dang Khai - Secretary and Treasurer, ROF also comprised of nearly 20 members who volunteered to assist wherever they can.

The Reaching Out Foundation, formerly known as "Nhom Thien Hoi Glendale" began its charitable work since 1992. ROF has reached out to help ease the pain for the needy

such as the orphans, the handicapped, the elders without shelters, the less fortunate people, and the flood victims. ROF has provided the abilities for the Buddhist nuns of the Messengers of Love organization to help people in need, thus at the same time to carry-out ROF's mission. These nuns had been able to provide care and shelters to those suffering people.

The activities of the ROF carried its wish that those unfortunates would have a chance to have normal life just like ordinary people. ROF also encourages the younger generation to participate in charitable and social activities.

In order to raise funds, ROF held annual charity dinners as well received monetary contribution from the generous individuals as well and corporations.

The ROF band had visited various nursing homes in Orange County on a weekly basis in an effort to bring some joy to the residents at these homes. The band has also voluntarily provided entertainment program to non-profit organizations such as schools, other Vietnamese community in the East part of California. ROF published the quarterly news letters to report information as well as staying in touch with friends and supporters.

The entertainment program for the 15th charity dinner was very enriched with many well known singers such as Quoc Anh and wife Kim Kim, Lilian, Cong Thanh & Lynn, My Thuy, Ngoc Hieu, Ngoc Anh, Thanh Chau, Elvis Pham, Linh Phuong, and many more. Entertainer Lilian, with her powerful voice, has taken the audience's breath away with the song "Stand By Me". Cong Thanh & Lynn created an enlightened atmosphere throughout the room. Quoc Anh also stood out with his song describing the admiration of Mother's love. The entertaining program continued with many other wonderful voices by Thanh My, Thanh Chau, etc.

The program continued with a fun-filled atmosphere with guests participating in the auction as well as the raffle prizes. ⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾Translated from the article written by Ms. Tuyet Mai
Reaching Out Foundation 15th Year Anniversary - Viet Bao Magazine, Monday, 8/27/2007, 12:02:00 pm.

Only through you all that ROF has grown and lasted until today. While it was ROF's 15th anniversary, it was truly OUR joint celebration for a combined effort of reaching out, years after years, to help out others in need. Thank you for your continued confidence and trust in the work of the ROF. We hope that you all enjoyed the Charity Dinner, and certainly look forward to seeing you all at our next charity event.

Thanh Nga