

The Charity trip to Vietnam of Reaching Out Foundation (ROF) in the Summer (July) of 2010

Dear Benefactors, Brothers and Sisters.

There are too many people who meet insurmountable challenges; they are the blind, deaf, dumb, handicap, and the loneliness elderly. In addition, many children became orphans because the lost of their parents or have been dropped off at the door of Buddhist Temples because their parents were too poor to take care of them; in hope that their children will be taking care and grown-up in the hand of those heartened, loving care people.

To lend a hand to all these unfortunate people, suffering in mind and body, the not-for-profit Reaching Out Foundation (ROF) is an organization that was approved by Federal and State to be tax-exempt under IRS section 501 (C) (3), and has been recognized as a Public Support Organization. With all the support from friends and donors, ROF was able to help and doing its charity works all over places in the world.

The money contributed by ROF donors helped many causes worldwide, from the Cleft Lips Reparation program in many countries, including Vietnam, through the charity organization Smile Train, to the American Red Cross, to the disability organization Special Olympics, to the Los Angeles Mission USA; you can read their thank you letters posted in the ROF website. Due to nostalgia, ROF put aside a large portion of the donation to assist the needy in Vietnam.

In July 2010, ROF visited eleven locations, from Thua Thien, Hue, to Saigon, to the regions of Mekong Delta, Tien Giang.

During this visit, Reaching Out Foundation had direct contacts with both Catholic and Buddhist Nuns to buy the teaching tools and equipments to help teach the orphans and the disabled children some skills not only to support themselves, but to be independent as well.

Together with those Nuns, ROF helped, and took care of many difficult, emergency cases from place to place.

In addition, ROF helped financially those in need of surgery but couldn't afford to pay for their medical costs in Cho Ray hospital, Trauma centers and Children hospitals, so that they can be treated, and return home, as soon as possible.

ROF offered financial support for the elderly in serious condition, in order for them to receive their immediate medical treatments, as their time was running out.

ROF also helped the discharged patients, who are in financial difficulty in order for them to return to their normal lives.

Beside that, in the US, every weekend the ROF volunteer band, including the volunteer singers used their songs to comfort the desperate.

From the year 2000 to today, the ROF volunteer band have been performed 252 shows in the Orange County Nursing Homes.

Dear Benefactors,

ROF has seen the happiness faces of the recipients, the heartfelt thanks mixed with tears, the sincere hand shakes. Because as the recipients; they couldn't believe that they were so lucky to have ROF on their side, to help and support them in the most difficult days of their lives.

Those scenes deeply heartened all the ROF and volunteers. They are the motives to encourage ROF to overcome difficulties and continue with its mission. Your donations and support kept alive faith in countless unfortunate people and in the ROF volunteers as well.

Once more, ROF thanks all the donors, who believed in ROF and gave ROF an opportunity to help the unfortunate people in the last 20 years. Together, we will bring light to brighten up the darkness in those needy people's lives.

During this trip, in 11 cities/towns, ROF helped, and took care of, forty six (46) urgent, emergency cases on the spot.

Thank You very much, and see you soon.

The 11 places visited by the ROF in July 2010.

1. Nhóm Từ Thiện Bác Siêu-Bac Sieu Group
Phường Phú Cát
Thua Thien, Hue
2. Bệnh Viện Nhi Đồng II-Children Hospital
Đường Lý Tự Trọng, Q.1
TP HCM
3. Bệnh Viện Chấn Thương Chỉnh Hình-Rehabilitation Center
4. Bệnh Viện Chợ Rẫy-Cho Ray Hospital
5. Trại Già Ba Thôn-Nursing Home in Ba Thon
P. Thạnh Xuân, Q.12

- 400 người, già và khuyết tật-400 elderly and disabled
6. Chùa Phật Minh-Phat Minh Temple
Thích Nữ Ngộ Mai
Tỉnh Ben Tre
65 trẻ mồ côi-65 orphans
 7. Trường nuôi trẻ câm và Điếc-Mute and Deaf school
Dòng Nhân Ái Phao Lồ
Tỉnh Tiền Giang
80 trẻ em-80 orphans
 8. Nhóm Già Bệnh tật, nghèo và cô đơn-Disabled elderly
Xã Gocong
20 người già-20 elderly and disabled
 9. Chùa Từ Ân-Tu An Temple
Thích Minh Hải
Bà Rịa Vũng Tàu
76 trẻ Mồ Côi-76 orphans
 10. Tu Viện Thanh Long
Tỉnh Bà Rịa Vũng Tàu
25 tiểu sinh-25 orphans-desire to become monks
 11. Trường Bùng Sáng
Visionary Handicapped Children
HCMC
45 trẻ khiếm thị-45 blind children

Sincere thanks to our friends of Huong Thien Bac Sieu group in Thua Thien, Hue. The Huong Thien group, who has had the same mission as the ROF, and sharing the same love for the poor, came to help and work with the ROF. Although with limited time, the group has achieved great results.

Many thanks also to Buddhist nun Tue Dung, Soeur Theresa Duong Thi Hien, the Soeurs in St. Paul My Tho convent, and all the benefactors who have helped Reaching Out Foundation during our charitable activities in Vietnam.

ROF

Translated by Sơn Lê