

Trung Tâm Bảo Trợ Trẻ Em Vũng Tàu/Long Hải

1st December 2015

Dear friends,

Each year as the end of the year draws nigh I wonder where the year has gone and this year is no exception. Once again Christmas is fast approaching and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support over the past year. I hope that this year has been a positive year and one of much happiness for you and your family.

In mid-July all children at Phan Boi Chau Centre relocated to the newly built centre on the grounds of the old Ngo Quyen centre. The new centre has many advantages in that it is very large and has a lot of open space and a yard in which children can run around and do activities. Unfortunately less visitors drop in because of the distance which is 7km from Vung Tau town. The centre was given unfurnished so we now need to find funds to equip it. Children regularly went on outings to the park and beach, which they now miss and have to be taken back into Vung Tau for activities such as swimming, movies, bowling, etc.

I must say I felt a great sense of sadness leaving the old centre as it is a place that holds many memories and is the place where my two sons were adopted from. The old centre has been given back to the government and will likely in time be demolished.

As a result of the move many children at Vung Tau centre had to relocate to new schools closer to the new centre. At the centre children continue to learn karate twice a week, some study in the computer training course and older girls are learning sewing. With a lot more space a new sewing training room has been set up, playground equipment has been installed, there is now a library and games room and in time it is hoped that there will also be an art room and music room. There are also two large rooms for physiotherapy and occupational therapy for mentally and physically handicap children. A physiotherapist from France has been working at the centre once a week with the nurses to develop better treatment programs for handicapped children.

At Long Hai centre there are currently 145 children attending school. Each year we have seen an increase in the number of children and without a doubt Long Hai centre is a haven for children from poor families who otherwise would never have an opportunity to attend school. The training programs, have been very successful and a number of children from the sewing, motorbike and hair salon training have found employment in these fields. The 18 children in the mentally handicap class are now using a special educational computer program called DoudouLinux. The children very much enjoy it, are engaged and it is clear to see the advantages of using computer assisted learning programs. Children at Long Hai centre also learn karate twice a week and during the summer period many craft, sports and other special activities were held at the centre.

The yearly festivals that children from both centres have participated in celebrating are TET, Children's Day, Women's Day, Moon Festival and Teacher's Day. These are all very special

events and are celebrated by eating much food and with children doing performances. Teacher's Day is very important in Vietnam as it is a day in which children honour their teacher. At Long Hai centre this was celebrated by children giving gifts to the staff and putting on a performance. Christmas being the next big event will involve a party and the giving of gifts.

If at any stage throughout the following year you wish to have an update on any of our projects or intend to visit please feel free to e-mail me directly at myhuongle@gmail.com

I sincerely thank you again for your valued support and generosity over the year and for bringing love, happiness, hope and a better future to the children I am so privileged to work with. I wish you and your families a joyous Christmas and much happiness, health, prosperity and peace for 2016.

Best regards,

My Huong Le
Vice-director TTBTRE LH