Dear LIN’s friends and partners,

August marks LIN’s 8th birthday of operation in Vietnam! It’s a great time to reflect on the contribution LIN, local NPOs, skilled volunteers, individual and institutional partners have made in helping to build a sustainable community. We would like to take this chance to THANK YOU for all your trust and support for LIN in so many different ways that enable us to stay true to our mission of “helping local people to meet local needs” in the last eight years.

LIN continues to face some key challenges to operate effectively, similar to many other local and international NPOs in Vietnam, we have been struggling with finding and retaining staff; the process for obtaining official approvals to receive foreign funding continues to require a lot of our patience and resources, this makes it challenging in raising fund internationally. Despite the challenges, LIN continues to evolve with our programs and services opening not only for the NPO partners, skilled volunteers, but also for the local based individual and corporate/institutional donors. Our focus is to help build and strengthen the local philanthropy sector and can share with you our work in the coming months.

A key area of focus for the LIN team at the moment is Round 2 of Narrow the Gap Community Fund. Over the last four weeks, we launched the “20 Years from Now, I Want...” campaign, which challenged you to think about what changes you want to see in Vietnam in 20 years times and what you commit to do today toward such changes. There was a great response with 1,260 wishes shared publicly. We thank you for making it an exciting and committed month!
We are now calling for your support to help us to enable the local NPOs to realize their initiatives toward the sustainable community in Vietnam in 20 years time. We all are different but we all share many common wishes for our community – we hope you can contribute generously to join hands to make our wishes happen. Narrow the Gap Community Fund is still in need of **VND 544 million** to meet our target of supporting up to **15 different projects** this year (focusing on Education, Environment, Microfinance, and Public Health). Further information about the projects is found below in this newsletter or [here](#). Every dollar counts and together we can make the difference! Please click [here](#) to make the donation.

Last but not least, we were sad (yet happy) when Dana Doan, our Founder and Strategic Advisor, relocated to the USA last month to pursue her Ph.D. study in Philanthropic Studies that aims to guide and support LIN’s work and the philanthropy development in Vietnam. We all miss Dana physically but it is not goodbye; she still serves and guides LIN as a member of our Board of Advisors. Dana sends along this newsletter her message from Indianapolis. Please join the LIN team in wishing her every success with her study and we look forward to seeing her again in 2018!

As we said goodbye to Dana, we welcomed Jenny O'Brien from Australia. Jenny joined our team as a volunteer early this year and LIN’s vision and mission has captured her commitment and calling, she has eventually become a new citizen of Ho Chi Minh City and leading LIN’s strategy in developing our services of providing consultation and working with corporate and individual philanthropists toward strategic giving. Jenny's inspiring journey from volunteer to specialist in such a short time is also shared below.

Thank you for all your support again; and special thanks to friends, old and new, who have been supporting us financially and non-financially in the last months: vsorce, Premier Oil, FWD, HSBC, GFCF, Bread for the World, CCIFV, Isobar, Dale Carnegie, Bizzon, Viivue, The Purpose Group, Hoa Sen University, Next Good Things, MM Soft, EyeOpenerWorks, and 100 individuals.

We appreciate your generous donation to help LIN to narrow the gap in Vietnam!

Regards,

Tran Vu Ngan Giang
Xin chào from Indianapolis!

by Dana R.H. Doan, Founder and Strategic Advisor

As some of you already know, I recently made a big move to Indianapolis to pursue a Ph.D. in Philanthropic Studies from the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University – Purdue University of Indiana (a.k.a. “IUPUI”). Over the past nine years, I struggled with the scarcity of quality research on community philanthropy even though there is an increasing number of community philanthropy organizations around the world and more donor organizations recognizing the importance of community-led development.

Through the process of attaining a Ph.D., I aim to produce and disseminate unbiased, comparative research on locally-led development initiatives that can inform and guide the work of LIN, civil society organizations, governments, and donors in our respective efforts to invest in models that build local assets, capacities, and trust in developing countries. More specifically, I hope to develop, or at least contribute to the development, of a practical framework for measuring and comparing the quantitative and qualitative outcomes of community philanthropy initiatives, while taking account of similarities and differences in the practices and experiences of community philanthropy organizations in different countries.

While I am in Indianapolis, I will continue to serve as an Advisory Board Member of the LIN Center for Community Development. I will also continue to support and advise the LIN Team with their research efforts, including the annual NPO, Donor, and Volunteer surveys. I hope you will all stay committed to building strong communities and join me in making sure that LIN’s important work can continue. It can be difficult to bring people together to establish common ground, to solve local challenges, and to facilitate locally led development. We need your help to make sure it happens! So, please stay involved. And, if you have the capacity, please take a moment to contribute to LIN’s 2017 Narrow the Gap Campaign.

Thank you! And, if you happen to visit or pass through Indianapolis, I hope you know that you have a friend who would love to receive visitors from Vietnam.
Narrow The Gap 2017

In March 2017, LIN started calling for proposals for Narrow The Gap 2017, Round I, and received over 20 applications and we were impressed with the amount of high quality proposals. The projects were screened by the Grant Allocation Committee (GAC) comprising 17 skilled volunteers. The shortlisted 7 projects progressed to the pitching day on July 16 where they presented to the GAC and members of the community.

Three projects were selected for grants of up to VND 50 million each, including:
- JAS project by G.A.P Institute, which aims to enhance skills for disadvantaged students
- Gieo project by Toa Tau, which aims to bring art experience to disadvantaged community throughout Vietnam
- Teach for Vietnam, which aims to improve education quality through English teaching in education system

From left to right: JAS project by G.A.P Institute; Gieo project by Toa Tau; Teach For Vietnam

Left: Huynh Tan Phat Foundation sent students to teach children of Khanh Hoi Center to draw their dreams
Right: A dream drawn by vedieuoc to response the "20 Years from Now, I Want..."

Narrow The Gap 2017 - Round II has received 32 applications addressing various community issues including Education and training, Environment, Micro finance, and Public health. On 6 August, 2017, the GAC and community members selected the top six projects to go to the next round including:
- Happier
- Selfhelp project
- Thiên Chi Center
- Friends For Street Children association
- Future Center
- Vui’s House

Read more about these six projects by clicking here.

Carrying on the theme "Creating Shared Value for 17 SDGs", Narrow The Gap 2017 started the social media campaign called "20 Years from Now, I Want..." and asked the community to share their vision of a better Vietnam for the next 20 years in terms of People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and Partnership. The campaign was a great success with over 1,260 wishes sent to LIN.

NARROW THE GAP COMMUNITY FUND 2017

#NTG_2017

20 I want...
Every year, Narrow The Gap community fund grants up to **15 projects** to support social initiatives that benefit the community. This year, LIN needs aims to raise **1.7 billion VND (~$75,000 USD)** in order to provide grants, training, community campaigns and awareness building activities. We has obtained 70% of total budget, help LIN to fulfill the fund for community by clicking [here](#).

**RESOURCE MATCHING DAY - 20 AUGUST 2017**

With the top six projects of Narrow The Gap - Round II being announced, we now need skilled volunteers.

A resource matching day is scheduled on 20 August to welcome all volunteers who would like to be a change maker, and contribute their skills, to help the project leaders improve their proposals and go further to the final day.

Click [here](#) to register for the RESOURCE MATCHING DAY. More information about the matching day:

**Time: 8.30 - 12.00, 20 August 2017**

**Location:** Will be informed in confirmation email

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**COMMUNITY DAY - 23 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Online voting for Round II will soon be open. LIN invites the everyone to vote for the projects they support and spread the word to others. LIN believes that the more people to get involved and be aware of local needs the better the solution to be implemented.

The Community Day is an annual event where you can meet the top 6 projects and hear about their programs and you can make a final vote for the project you care about.

**Save the date: 23 September 2017**

**Location:** Soul Music and Arts Performance Academy, 214 - 216 Pasteur, District 3, HCMC
Follow the steps of the impact accelerators

The Impact Accelerator Program is designed for the nonprofit leaders in Ho Chi Minh City and aims to sharpen leadership skills including self-orientation, management, critical thinking of social issues locally and globally. The program helps non-profit leaders in solving social concerns by participating in 22 workshops providing 14 fundamental concepts about leadership and each participants is matched with a mentor for 7 months to develop a personal action plan – The Impact Accelerators are also encouraged to take part in all other programs and services by LIN

FWD and HSBC support
Congratulations to Under The Tree and Vui’s House won the sponsorship from FWD for their project pitching, as well as, Niêm Tin for receiving the grant from HSBC, members of 2017 - 2018 cohort

If you would like to learn more about our Impact Accelerator Program, please contact:

Mr. Pham Truong Son, Director of NPO Services - son@linvn.org
Ms. Le Thanh Phuc, Volunteer Coordinator - phuc@linvn.org

The Peer Advisory Service

Every year, LIN provides nearly 100 pro bono peer advisory sessions for nonprofit workers, volunteers, and donors who would like to understand nonprofit sector including legal frame, operation, communications, etc.
LIN team commits last Friday of every month to carry on the service toward the community.
To reserve a slot for coming Peer Advisory Day, contact Ms. Ngoc via bichngoc@linvn.org

“Gaia concerned on how to compose a financial report annually including tax report. The advisor from LIN was very enthusiastic in sharing knowledge and carefully showed me how to fill in tax report. However, because Gaia uses a manual accounting system, the advisor, therefore cannot give more technical support on this.
After the session, the advisor continues to support, and advise to help us accomplish our financial system.
-Gaia, Non-profit Organization-
From skilled volunteer to Director, Corporate & Strategic Partnerships

I left my hometown Melbourne in November 2016 and my intention was to have what I called a ‘productive pause’ for 6 months to study, travel and volunteer for a community based organisation. I’ve been in Ho Chi Minh City since February and was introduced to LIN through a mutual friend, Ms Khanh Linh, Chairman & CEO, Dale Carnegie. My plan was to volunteer for three months and then head back to Australia but my plans have changed and I feel very privileged and excited to have officially joined the LIN team in May.

I’ve had quite a diverse career in Australia having worked for and partnered with non-profits, ASX listed companies, governments and community groups in the design and implementation of corporate responsibility strategies and programs, establishment of long-term partnerships, major events and leading stakeholder engagement activities.

I strongly believe the best way to influence positive long-term social and environmental change is through partnerships involving communities and business. I really enjoy being part of projects where there is collaboration to see communities thrive!

I believe in LIN’s mission to help local people meet local needs and have seen first-hand the incredible work done by the LIN team and local NPO’s supporting communities and the environment. My role is to assist in growing and facilitating public – private partnerships that can contribute to LIN’s mission and for LIN to become the trusted partner for local and multinational companies in areas of corporate social responsibility and creating shared value programs.

I have loved my time with the LIN team so far and already feel part of the family. I’m incredibly grateful for the opportunity and hope to meet more of LIN’s supporters over the coming months.

If you would like to talk to me about how I can support you in your work in effectively addressing social and environmental needs, please do not hesitate to call or email me.

I hope to meet you soon!

Being volunteer is wonderful experience, especially using your skill to help others. At LIN, we promote the concept "skilled volunteers" which means you don't only come and help, you contribute your talent with the organizations.

Find more opportunities to be part of the "skilled volunteers" community by follow this page:

https://www.facebook.com/tinhnguyenchuyenmon/

http://www.philoinhuan.org/

Contact with Ms. Jenny O’Brien for Corporate partnerships as following:

@ jenny@linvn.org

+84 (28) 351 20092
UPCOMING EVENTS

20.08.2017 - Meet and Match top six Narrow The Gap Round II.2017 projects

24.08.2017 - NPO Morning Coffee

25.08.2017 - Peer Advisory Day

23.09.2017 - Community Day - Learn about the causes and vote for your favorite projects
LIN NUMBERS

- Since 2012, Narrow The Gap Community Fund has provided fund to 99+ projects.
This year, Narrow The Gap has received 52 applications. Join LIN to enlarge the fund here.

- 276 is the number of LIN’s nonprofit partners. Our new members:

Viện nghiên cứu kinh tế môi trường DNA
Tổ chức giáo dục và phát triển cộng đồng DOP
Nhóm SV thiện nguyện Pháp Vân
CLB Kết nối trái tim
Trung tâm nghiên cứu & phát triển giáo dục Trust & Love
Sunflower
Nhóm Kiến tạo
Ánh sáng hành phúc
Yorganic
Self-help
MHX Long Bình
Save Son Doong
Zero plus
Trung tâm Thiện Chí
Amazing me
Đôi TNTN Vĩnh Long

- 2,122 members of NPO Online Forum on Facebook facilitated by LIN. The forum receives approximately five posts a day. Join this network to keep yourself updated with the community information.

LIN {wish list}

🌟 New office space: LIN is looking for a new office space that would simultaneously serve as a community center. An accessible location with at least 100m2 is preferred.

🌟 New laptop(s) for LIN team for meetings and special events, communications, and design work - videos, posters, etc.

🌟 A photocopy machine for LIN and the NPOs that share our office space.

🌟 Increased Google Drive storage for the LIN team.
THANK YOU
To our donors and volunteers

Donors

Brot für die Welt

Global Fund for Community Foundations

vsourse

PremierOil

CCI FRANCE

FWD

ANONYMOUS DONORS