It was an action packed Sunday morning at Saigon Pearl International School on 5 December as over three-hundred volunteers and would-be volunteers gathered together in honor of International Volunteer Day (IVD). The school’s basement auditorium was packed with representatives and volunteers working with fifteen HCMC not-for-profit organizations (NPOs), who set up exhibition booths, led volunteers in games and encouraged experience sharing to promote volunteerism in Vietnam.

"Our event today honors all those who have been or who would like to be volunteers. I am impressed at the effort of local NPOs to make this a meaningful event," said Son Pham at LIN Center for Community Development, one of the event co-hosts and coordinator. He went on to explain that the celebration provided an opportunity for NPOs of various backgrounds and experiences to work together. Members of different organizations were put into four groups to prepare for the event which helped to strengthen relationships across organizations.

Interest in the event was greater than anticipated and the number of participating NPOs went from three to twelve and finally to seventeen. During the three-hour
celebration, volunteers participated in team building games, such as one challenge to build the highest tower of people; while others took the stage to share their volunteer experiences. Among the highlights of the program was the exchange of souvenirs among participating NPOs and volunteers acknowledging their commitment to community service by signing the event’s giant poster.

Among the three-hundred participants present were a dozen foreign volunteers and mid-level professionals. Some people said that they came to interact with other volunteers, others wanted to learn more about volunteerism or sign-up to volunteer.

Although the event was deemed a success, the committee recognized room for improvement. Some volunteers recommended that a future event last longer. Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Ha, a volunteer for Disability Resource and Development, and the event MC, suggested that each NPO take the stage and introduce their work. She added, “I hope that the event next year would… permit more time for us to get to know the NPOs and volunteers better.”

- Nguyen Thi Thanh Truc (LIN Center)

Note: Click here to see more Pictures of the Volunteer Day event

The International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development (IVD) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 17 December 1985. Since then, governments, the UN system and civil society organizations have successfully joined volunteers around the world to celebrate the Day on 5 December.

International Volunteer Day is a day for volunteers from all walks of life working in communities around the globe. IVD offers an opportunity for volunteer organizations and individual volunteers to make visible their contributions - at local, national and international levels - to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

LIN Center would like to wish a Happy Birthday to LIN’s friend and Advisory Board Member, Mr. Doan Manh Kham.
Legal Updates for NPOs

In October and November, the Ministry of Home (BNV) issued new regulatory documents, which provide detail on new requirements for associations (hoi) and social and charitable funds (quy xa hoi tu thien).


2. Decision 68/2010/QĐ-TTg (1 November 2010) appends the current list of 28 approved, national-level "associations with special characteristics":

3. Decision 1288/QĐ-BNV (5 November 2010) and Decision 1074/QĐ-BNV (16 September 2010) are two recently promulgated guidelines for Decree 148 (issued September 2007), indicating the forms in which domestic social and charitable funds/foundations should organize themselves through their bylaws or articles of association (quy che).

For analysis (English only) of recent regulatory developments affecting Vietnam’s third sector, please check out the following reports by Professor Mark Sidel (mark-sidel@uiowa.edu):
   http://www.icnl.org/knowledge/ijnl/vol12iss3/art_1.htm
   http://www.usig.org/countryinfo/vietnam.asp

LIN WELCOMES A NEW TEAM MEMBER

Ms. Nguyen Thi Thanh Truc joined the LIN Center for Community Development in December, 2010 as Office Manager/ Volunteer Coordinator. Truc graduated from the Foreign Trade University and worked for AVC Marketing & Communications as a PR Executive before moving to Tuoi Tre newspaper in 2005. During her five years at Tuoi Tre, she was sent to Indonesia, China and Japan, among other countries, to report on international events. In 2007, Truc was awarded Third prize at the HCMC Journalism Awards for her feature on the reunion of a father and son separated in the Vietnam War. In 2009, Truc was promoted to the position of Acting Manager of Tuoi Tre’s World News Desk. Apart from her professional career, Truc co-founded and co-runs Ket Noi Yeu Thuong - a local, volunteer led charity group, since 2008, which provides books and school supplies to needy children in Vietnam.
LIN participates in the RMIT Career Fair 2010

RMIT’s Career Fair is an annual event organized at RMIT International University Vietnam’s District 7 campus in Ho Chi Minh City. This year, the event attracted over 2,200 RMIT students and alumnae. Over XX companies joined the fair by setting up booths and sending representatives. The LIN Center’s booth turned out to be a bit hit among the RMIT students and alumnae. had fun Our dart game and activities invited guests to demonstrate their commitment to the community and express their ideas about volunteerism. Many signed up to volunteer with the LIN Center and our NPO partners.

“It was a great opportunity for LIN to connect with RMIT students, as well as locally based companies participating in the Fair, to attract a wide range of volunteers to fill the needs of our local NPO partners. It also gave us a chance to raise awareness about community needs and volunteerism among students who represent the future of our country,” shared Mr. Pham Truong Son, LIN Center’s Community Liaison.

Below are some photos taken during the RMIT Career Fair 2010:

- Students ask for information about the LIN Center
- This young woman is really committed to her community, as evident by her dart playing skills
- Thoughts on volunteerism by RMIT students and staff from participating companies
- Visitors register to volunteer with LIN
Holiday Networking Event: Meet the Specialists and Skilled Volunteers
(22 January 2011)

Before Tet, LIN is inviting our NPO partners to a fun-filled networking and sharing event with other community development specialists and individuals committed to supporting the not-for-profit community. The purpose of the gathering is to:

1. Provide an opportunity for NPOs to strengthen their local networks;
2. Meet and share experiences with people working in the not-for-profit sector, community development and volunteer individuals;
3. Exchange ideas and for future support and collaboration; and

The event will be all about MEETING - EXCHANGING – NETWORKING - COLLABORATING and HAVING FUN. Finger foods and beverages will be provided.

Venue: To be confirmed, upon registration.
Time: 6:30pm to 9:00pm
Date: Saturday, 22 January 2011

Please RSVP to: npo@LINvn.org or by telephone at: (84 8) 3824-6091.

Upcoming Events

Auditing and Accounting Support for NPO Partners

Does your NPO want to attract larger grants? Is your NPO looking to raise funds from international organizations? If so, you will likely be asked to provide financial statements and, increasingly, audited financial statements. Sometimes these statements are even requested before a grant can be made.

With support from Irish Aid, the LIN Center for Community Development is preparing a special capacity building program on “The Preparation of Audited Financial Statements”. The training will be conducted by a professional, international standard auditing company in HCMC.

The proposed training topics include:

- Understanding the main components of NPO financial statements
- Accounting for Contributions
- Accounting for Expenses
- Dealing with assets and depreciation
- Comparative information (year-by-year)
- Working with Independent Auditors
- Best practises in NPO financial management

Space is limited. If your organization is interested in joining this training course, please contact the LIN team at: npo@LINvn.org or (84 8) 3824-6091.
Respect for Donor Intent

Earlier this month, I participated in a course on Ethics and Laws for Nonprofits offered by NYU's School for Continuing and Professional Studies. While the class was geared towards not-for-profit professionals operating in New York State, there was much to be learned and applied to not-for-profits anywhere in the world. And, among the many takeaways from this class, I wanted to share with you some thoughts on the important issue of donor intent.

In the past, you may have read about high-profile disputes concerning donor intent. For example, in the aftermath of 9/11, the Red Cross was found to be allocating some of its relief funds to other programs. In 2009, KIVA, a not-for-profit microfinance organization, was caught up in accusations that it misrepresented the direct relationship between donors and loan recipients. More recently, several private universities such as Princeton, were taken to court over perceived changes to the original terms of an endowment.

In many of these cases, the problem could have been avoided with better communication. In some cases, the NPO never consulted the donor before changing the terms of their gift. In other cases, the information provided was incomplete or ambiguous. In an effort to avoid such conflicts, a donor could benefit from knowing his/her rights and establishing expectations. For this purpose, I copied below a donor's bill of rights, drafted by the Association of Fundraising Professionals1:

1. To be informed of the organization's mission, the way the organization intends to use donated resources, and of its capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes.
2. To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organization's governing board, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgment in its stewardship responsibilities.
3. Access to the organization's most recent financial statements.
4. Assurance that gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given.
5. To receive appropriate acknowledgement and recognition.
6. To be assured that information about their donation is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law.
7. To expect that all relationships with individuals representing organizations of interest to the donor will be professional in nature.
8. To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organization or hired solicitors.
9. To have the opportunity for their names to be deleted from mailing lists that an organization may intend to share.
10. To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive a prompt, truthful and forthright answer.

- Dana R.H. Doan, LIN Center

ATTENTION DONORS/VOLUNTEERS!
Complete our online Giving Survey for a chance to win a $50 gift voucher!
It only takes 10 minutes. Just click on the link below to get started:
https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dGVDd29Vc19nTk14bnNDMldoT3AyekE6MQ

1 Source: http://www.afpnet.org/ethics/enforcementdetail.cfm?itemnumber=3359
Holiday Giving

It's getting closer to that time of the year in Vietnam, when people start thinking about the upcoming Tet holiday and many are looking for ways to support those who are less fortunate in their community. In this act, many donors are concerned about making a difference and want to ensure that their hard earned contributions are allocated where it will do the most good.

Here at the LIN Center for Community Development, we tend to take the long-term approach. We are working with local not-for-profit organizations that want to improve their programs. We work to promote transparency, best not-for-profit management practices and accountability. At LIN, we encourage prospective donors to look at the organizations that are addressing a cause that concerns them and to ask the staff some questions about their mission before making a decision to give. For example, you might ask:

- What does the organization aim to achieve?
- How do they go about achieving that change – what programs and activities are employed to make this happen?
- How will the organization know if it is achieving its goals?

Consider reaching out to one or more of LIN's current NPO partners, listed below by thematic area, and asking for further information about the organization and programs.

**CHILDREN**
1. Cau Han social work project / Dự án công tác XH Cầu Hàn, D. 7, 38-721-980, kientienhcwf@gmail.com
2. Binh Loi Social Organization / Cơ sở xã Hội Bình Lợi, D. Bình Thạnh, 3805-5179, binhloi@hcm.fpt.vn
3. Dieu Giac Orphanage / Nhà mồ cơ chua Điều Giác, D. 2, 3740-0530, dieugiacvn@hcm.fpt.vn
4. Foundation Marina Picasso / Làng Picasso, D. Thu Duc, 08 3896 6563
5. Friends for Street Children / Chương trình Bạn trẻ đường phố, D. 3, 8-829-6951, ffsc-hcm@vnn.vn
6. Future Project / Dự án Tương Lai, D. 3, 8-824-9497, tranminhhai@inbox.com
7. HCMC Child Welfare Foundation / Hội Bảo Trợ Trẻ Em TP.HCM, D. Bình Thạnh, 38-401-406, hcwf@hcm.vnn.vn
8. Hospitality School of HCMC / Trường nghiệp vụ nhặt hàng cho trẻ em đường phố, D. Bình Thạnh, 3899-3378, 153xvnt@hcmc.netnam.vn
9. Little Rose Warm Shelter / Mái ấm hoa hồng nhỏ, D. 7, 3872-0308, Littlerosestory@hcm.fpt.vn
10. Ms. Do’s class for poor children / Lớp học cô Đỗ dành cho trẻ em nghèo, D. 7
11. Smile Group / Nhóm Nụ Cười, D. 3, 8 3526-7727, info@smilegroupvn.org
12. Shelter in District 8 / Mái ấm Q.8, 3850-2088, lintrin@yahoo.com
13. Boys Shelter District 8 / Nhà mồ Quản 8, D. 8, 3850-2088, lintrin@yahoo.com
14. Green Bamboo Shelter / Mái ấm Tre Xanh. D. 1, 3821-0199, Dothibachphat@yahoo.com and/or gbwarmshelter@vnn.vn
15. Long Hoa School for Orphans / Trường nuôi dạy mồ cơ Long Hoa, D. 7, 785-1881, Longhoa50@yahoo.com
16. Thang Long English and Vocational Training School / Trường dạy tiếng Anh và dạy nghề Thăng Long, D. 4. 3826-2713, Thanglongschool03@gmail.com
17. Ba Chieu shelter / Mái ấm Bà Chiểu, D. Bình Thạnh, 35-150-556, maiambachieu@yahoo.com.vn
18. Thao Dan Organization for Street Children / Chương trình chăm sóc trẻ em đường phố Thảo Đàn, D. 1, 3846-5699, thaodan.thuy@gmail.com
19. Orphanage Khanh Hoa Orphanage Center / Trung tâm bảo trợ trẻ em mồ cơ Khánh Hội, D. 4, 3941-5304, ttmocoikh@hcm.vnn.vn, ttmocoikh@gmail.com
DISABILITY
20. Anh Minh Special Education School / Trường khiếm thính Anh Minh. D. Binh Thanh, 3840-124, trinhtithuong@yahoo.com
22. Nhat Hong Shelter / Mái ấm Nhật Hồng, D. Binh Thanh, 8-8-400-207, nathongschool@yahoo.com
23. Thien Phuoc Disability Children Protection Shelter / Cơ sở nuôi dưỡng và Bảo trợ trẻ em khuyết tật Thiên Phước, D. 12, 3719-5997, thienphuoc20012004@yahoo.com
24. Disability Resource and Development / Chương trình Khuyết tật và Phát triển, D. 10, 3868-2771, info@drdvietnam.com
25. The HCMC Association for the support of the handicapped and orphans / Hội bảo trợ người tàn tật và trẻ mồ côi TP HCM, D. 1, 3827-3045, Hoibaotrontt-tmc@hcm.vnn.vn
26. Thien Tam Vocational Training Center / Cơ sở Dạy nghề Thiên Tâm, D. Binh Thanh, 3840-8670, thientamvuong@gmail.com
27. Phu My Orphanage / Trung tâm bảo trợ XH Tị Nghè, D. Binh Thanh, 3899-6593, tongkimphung@yahoo.com
28. Audio Books for the Blind / Thư viện sách nói dành cho người mù, D. 3, 3930-1429, huongduong@hcm.vnn.vn

ELDERLY / SR. CITIZENS
29. Camillo Shelters for elderly / Mái ấm Camillo dành cho người già không nơi nương tực, D. 8, 3850-7846
30. Lam Quang pagoda / Chùa Lâm Quang (nuôi dưỡng người già không thân nhân), D. 8, 3854-9467, chualamquang@yahoo.com
31. Vinh Son house for the elderly / Nhà dưỡng lão Tình Thương Vinh Son, D. Binh Thanh, 3805-5477, gialinh000@yahoo.fr

ENVIRONMENT
32. C4E / Nhóm tự nguyện vì môi trường, D. 1, lathuydiemhang@gmail.com
33. ECO Vietnam Group / Tổ chức Môi trường Cộng đồng Việt Nam, D. 7, 098 8107703, ecovietnamgroup@gmail.com
34. SIFE University of Economics HCMC / Đội SIFE ĐH Kinh Tế TP.HCM, D. 5, 098 5556702, sife@ueh.edu.vn

HEALTH
35. Health Volunteer Organization / Nhóm TNV sức khỏe, D. 5, 3508-1553, cyt.hcm@gmail.com
37. Drug addiction Counseling Program / Tư Vấn Nghiện Online. D. Binh Thanh, hoangphong@tuvannhung.com
38. Hope and 567 Coalition Group / Liên minh niềm tin và nhóm 567, 0918 447556, phamduongchi@yahoo.com
39. AIDS program / Chương trình Tình Thận, D. Binh Thanh, 3841-6158, aidsprogram@hcm.vnn.vn
40. ONLINE group / Nhóm Online, D. Phu Nhuan, 3846-2386, nhomonlinehcm@gmail.com

WOMEN
41. Women’s Charity Association (WOCA) / Hội phụ nữ từ thiện, D. 3, 3930-4081, woca@vnn.vn
42. Anh Sang Shelter / Cơ sở Anh Sang, D. 10, 3865-9135
43. Mai Lien shelter / Mái ấm Mai Lien, D. Binh Thanh, 3841-1272
44. Mai’s Vietnamese Handicrafts / Cửa hàng đồ Mỹ nghệ Mai, D. Tan Binh, 8440-988, maihand@hcm.vnn.vn, maihandvn@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER
45. Blue Dreams / Những Ước Mơ Xanh, D. 1, nhom_uocmoxanh@yahoo.com
46. Friends of Children / Bạn của Bé, D. Binh Thanh, (08)3601-6667, info@bancuabe.org
47. International Volunteer Club / Câu lạc bộ tình nguyện viên quốc tế. D. 1, 0937-988117, ivc@ivcvietnam.org
48. Youth Union Social Group volunteer Group / Đội CTXH Thành Đàn, D. 1, quancongtacxahoi@yahoo.com.vn
In addition to accepting cash contributions, many of these organizations would also welcome in-kind contributions. Please check out the Give/Request pages on LIN’s website, where many have already posted some of their needs:

http://www.linvn.org/?mod=npo&act=donation

If you already have goods that you wish to donate, please feel free to post a description of your goods on LIN’s website, using the online form:

http://www.linvn.org/?mod=donor&act=donate

New Report Analyzes Data on Urban Poverty in Ha Noi and HCMC

A new survey assessing urban poverty in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City was distributed on December 15, 2010. Data from the survey, which was supported by UNDP, clearly shows that while the two cities enjoyed tremendous economic growth, this growth has not benefited all residents. People living in the two cities face inequalities in living standards and access to services, such as education and health care.

Please visit this link to view a short version of this report (English only): Report on urban poverty in Ha Noi and HCMC
SIFE RMIT WANTS TO RECYCLE YOUR OLD BANNERS

The SIFE Team RMIT (http://www.sife.org/Pages/Default.aspx), a not-for-profit network of university students, academic professionals and industry leaders contributing their talents to help the community introduces a new project to recycle your used signs and banners.

Once collected, your used signs and banners will be transported to a site where they will be recycled into bags, which can be sold in the marketplace. The entire process will be monitored by SIFE RMIT members. The project represents an effort by RMIT students in general and the RMIT SIFE team in particular to protect the environment and contribute to sustainable development in HCMC. They would like to do something about the large amount of waste coming from banners and other forms of advertising while also persuading people to purchase bags made of recycled materials.

The project was successfully introduced in Hanoi by the RMIT SIFE team in Hanoi. This is the foundation for the RMIT SIFE team in Ho Chi Minh City to introduce the project here in the South. So, please consider donating your used signs and banners to the RMIT SIFE team HCMC by contacting Ms. Hoang Bao Chau, president of RMIT SIFE SGS, at site.rmitvn@gmail.com or 0938-810-939.

SIFE Team RMIT SGS.