

LIN NHIP CAU December 2015

MESSAGE FROM LIN'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy Holidays LIN's friends and supporters!

Ho Chi Minh City started the holiday season with splendid decorations, gifts shopping, year-end parties and celebrations. I feel very excited with this festive atmosphere and even happier as CHANGE, one of LIN's grantees, was able to match a grant from Narrow the Gap Fund for the Environment 2015 with other funding sources and used those funds to organize a successful climate music festival called Power Up. In fact, Power Up attracted more than 1,500 attendees and spread the message on climate change, anti-coal, and pro-renewable energy to be sent to world leaders at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21).

Thank you for your support.
See you in 2016!

While it is exciting to share positive news from our partners, I am regularly in contact with nonprofits (NPOs) facing real and impending challenges like Ba Muoi Love Class – a volunteer-led project that enables access to education for migrant children and children from extremely disadvantaged backgrounds in District 7. Behind the vibrant holiday decorations and newly built skyscrapers, Ba Muoi Love Class uncovers the reality of nearly one hundred children whose families' per capita income is as little as VND 33,000 (US\$ 1.5) per day. The organization is about to lose the venue where it conducts its educational programs and trying to find a way to maintain its support services. I wonder whether the holiday season will bring some joy to these children? Perhaps their joy is as simple as being able to attend the Love Class?

LIN Team visited Ba Muoi Love Class with one of our new funding partners—Bread for the World. We were impressed by the high level of volunteer commitment, serving so many children each day with limited resources. At LIN we love to celebrate the volunteers that contribute to our NPO partners work. And, as December marks the United Nations International Volunteer Day (December 5th), we take advantage of the opportunity to promote skilled volunteerism – as connecting skilled professionals with local nonprofits to empower their staff is one LIN's core programs. Since 2009, LIN matched over 1,440 skilled volunteers with local NPOs addressing various causes. At LIN, it would be impossible to do our work without the huge contributions from a large number of volunteers handling all aspects of our work: from daily operations to strategic planning and organizational development. Our Board of Directors and Advisors also support LIN on a pro bono basis. Hence, we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all of the wonderful volunteers in our network for your invaluable contributions!

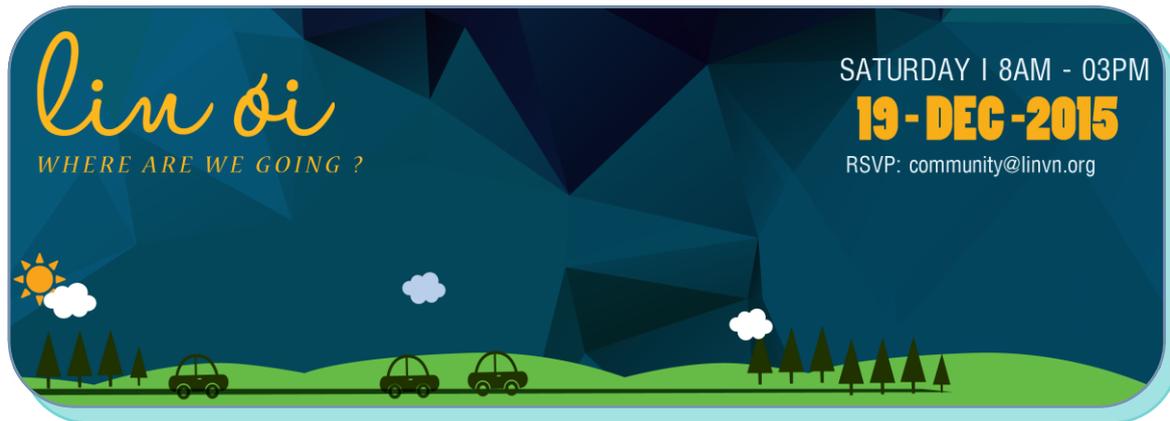
LIN is committed to promoting skilled volunteerism; we believe positive change can only happen when we work together, as a community! During this holiday giving season, we kindly ask that you give us more strength to perform our commitment by contributing generously to our "[Skilled Volunteers Empower Vietnam Nonprofits](#)" project on Global Giving. Please note that Global Giving allows you to make a recurring contribution, on monthly basis, which can help us to sustain our work. And, from now until December 31st, your first monthly recurring donation will be doubled by Global Giving. (Details can be found [here](#).)

***Give Monthly, Double your Impact Today
and LIN Team will Work Twice As Hard to ensure your meaningful contribution Everyday!***

On behalf of the LIN Team, I would like to thank you again for your fantastic support to LIN as well as our NPO partners in 2015. We wish you a joyful holiday season and a successful 2016. See you next year!

Tran Vu Ngan Giang

UPCOMING EVENTS



“LIN OI, WHERE ARE WE GOING?” FOR THE COMMUNITY

At 8.00 AM, on Saturday, Dec 19th, LIN Center for Community Development will organize exciting site visits to NPOs for 40 individuals with an interest in social activities.

The event includes three main activities:

INTRODUCTION: Participants will be grouped into teams and play a game to find out which NPO they will visit.

VISITING NPOs: Groups will travel to local NPOs to talk with the manager, beneficiaries and complete challenges designed to build greater understanding about the cause and quality of the NPOs' programs.

CONNECTION: The groups will come back together to share their experiences and brainstorm effective actions that can be taken to support our community.

Purchase your ticket for the event (including the cost of travel, by taxi, to NPOs, lunch, beverages and event supplies):

·General ticket: 200.000 VND/ticket

·Student ticket: 100.000 VND/ticket (please show your student ID card at the event).

LIN Team will send you information, including the venue, via email to registered participants.

If you have further questions, please contact (Ms.) CẩmTiên via community@LINvn.org or 08-3512-0092.

[CLICK TO WATCH TRAILER OF THE EVENT](#)



23/12: NPO MORNING COFFEE

The NPO Morning Coffee will be back on 23 December at LIN Center (180/47 Nguyen Huu Canh Street, Ward 22, Binh Thanh District).

This month, we will discover different perspectives and visions of individuals who are working directly in community development in HCMC.

RSVP: npo@linvn.org.



12/12: LEADERSHIP CIRCLE 2015 PARTICIPANTS JOIN IN NPO RETREAT

This month, 15 participants from the Leadership Circle will join an NPO retreat with over 100 NPO representatives on Saturday, 12 December. The retreat is a chance for young leaders to meet and share their experiences with fellow NPO leaders. The event aims to promote NPO networking in South Vietnam. It is co-organized by LIN, CECEM and ICS.

NEWS FROM NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

FROM COMPASSION TO ACTION



On 14 November, LIN organized the event, "From Compassion to Action", which honored 40 Human Resource Management professionals who supported nine NPOs through the Community Partnership Initiative (CPI) program in 2015. The event took place on the morning of the 14th November at the Institute of Cultural Exchange with France (IDECAF).

Former Diplomat Mdm. Ton Nu Thi Ninh, was the special guest and keynote speaker for the event. In her remarks, she stressed that money is not the main answer in humanitarian work and that humanitarianism is not simply about giving.

"I think over the concept of give and take, and I prefer that we use the concept of sharing. When we talk about giving and receiving, although it is correct that this is a two-way process, reciprocity, the word "give" comes across as though it is an action of a superior, someone who has the upper hand; while the receiver is viewed as being inferior, as if they are in a weaker position... Instead, we can use the concept of sharing, which is a more empowering concept." shared Madame Ton Nu Thi Ninh.

"From Compassion to Action" was the culminating event for the CPI 2015, which launched in July. The first prize to the most efficient team, in terms of operations, was awarded to the team of ProSelf and Thien An Shelter. The second prize to the most supportive volunteer group was awarded to a team of skilled volunteers who partnered with the Breast Cancer Network of Vietnam. The NPOs in both teams each received a small grant to support continued HR improvements (VND 40 million and VND 30 million respectively). Following the event, Ms. Fiammetta Mancini, UNV Programme Officer in Vietnam, shared her views on the CPI program and volunteerism in Vietnam:

"As a global advocate for the recognition of volunteerism, the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme in Vietnam would like to show appreciation to the skilled volunteers who have contributed their time and expertise to support local NPOs within LIN Center's Community Partnership Initiative (CPI), as well as encourage those who are considering volunteering for the first time or will continue volunteering following the "From Compassion to Action" Event organized by LIN Center on 14th November.

The CPI is indeed an example of how everyone can play a role in the healthy growth of our communities, and thus our countries, and of how volunteering can become part of a lifestyle.

UNV, present in Vietnam since 1990, and LIN Center have now been collaborating for several years, as UNV supports the cause of LIN Center in providing a valuable platform for volunteering in Ho Chi Minh City, and we commend their efforts in strengthening communities through volunteerism. Such efforts are even more needed in the new era of Sustainable Development, which has just started with the adoption on [the Sustainable Development Goals](#) to guide us in the achievement of more equitable and sustainable societies by 2030. This new set of common goals, established through an extensive and inclusive process of consultations, is very ambitious and comprehensive, ranging from the eradication of poverty, to quality education for all, gender equality, taking urgent action to combat climate change, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, and other important areas, with the underpinning principle of "leaving no one behind".

If we count exclusively on government policy, private and public investment to make things happen, we probably will not have enough resources to reach everybody. You cannot ensure we leave no one behind without volunteers. It is in this context of enhanced commitment to work together towards shared goals of Sustainable Development that I congratulate LIN Center and all the skilled volunteers for the good work side by side with NPOs who are striving to improve communities. With my best wishes and the hope to hear more stories of skilled volunteers in Vietnam".

[CLICK TO SEE MORE EVENT PHOTOS](#)

NPO MORNING COFFEE: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AT HO CHI MINH CITY



On 11 November, 38 participants came to NPO Morning Coffee Talk at LIN Center, Binh Thanh District.

The topic was community development and this was the first morning coffee in the series of activities related to the topic. Mr. Pham Thanh Van, Founder of the Tinh Than Program/AIDS Program (with over 20-years experience working with NPOs on community development) was the guest speaker for the morning coffee talk. [Read more](#)

15 HR MANAGERS EXPERIENCED WITH "LIN OI, WHERE ARE WE GOING?"



"Understanding what the not-for-profit organization is, the difficulties they are encountering and how team-building activities of companies can align with society are the three biggest

takeaways that I got from participating in [the "LIN oi, Minh Di Dau?" event] today. I plan to recommend this event to my General Director as a way to offer strategies to engage our staff in social activities in the future," shared Ms. Lien Thi Thuy, HR Manager of CIMIGO, after joining the Demo Day version of our "LIN, Where are we going?" event, which took place in the afternoon on 26 November. [Read more](#)

NARROW THE GAP COMMUNITY FUND

REPORT ON ROUND III/2015



Narrow the Gap Community Fund is in the process of the third and final grant round of 2015.

Skilled volunteers who have been supporting LIN since Round 1, met with LIN staff in October to collect ideas, from other volunteers and from NPOs, on the process of evaluating projects in an effort to analyze and find ways to strengthen the evaluation and grantmaking process.

The final round took place on the 6th of December in a “community” atmosphere filled with positive energy when NPO staff received and responded to questions and feedbacks, which was intended to help NPOs to strengthen their projects. [Read more](#)

CHALLENGING COMPETITION “TELLING YOUR STORY BY DIGITAL MEDIA”



After the Workshop on “Digital Storytelling for Nonprofits”, which was organized on 17 October by LIN and Vietnet-ICT under the sponsorship of TechSoupAsia and the Community Learning Center at Hoa Sen University, LIN launched the competition “Tell your NPO story by Digital Media.”

The competition created conditions for NPOs to apply their knowledge in digital storytelling by creating and submitting a video that relates to their work. Nine digital stories were submitted and the following three received an incentive prize:

- First prize – 10 million VND : The VaVa-Cu Chi ([watch video](#))
- Second prize – 7 million VND: Ba Muoi Charitable Class ([watch video](#))
- Sharing third prize – 3 million VND: Ceporer Hóc Môn ([watch video](#)) and Happier ([watch video](#))

A SITE VISIT TO BA MUOI CHARITABLE CLASS



Photo: :

[Ba Muoi Charitable Class Fanpage](#)

On the 23rd of November, the LIN Team and one of our donors, visited Ba Muoi Charitable Class (Lớp học Tình thương Bà Mười), a new NPO partner of LIN, at the Community Learning Center in Tan Thuan Ward, District 7.

The manager of the project—Ms. Huynh Thi My Phuong introduced herself as a recent graduate from the University of Law. She has been dedicated to the Charitable Class for more than two years.

Ms. Phuong said that since the Class had more and more students, there would more difficulties managing them. The budget was also limited and so Ms. Phuong and the management board had to find different funds, including a grant from LIN to pay for part of the bus fee, teachers' wages, stationaries, electricity and water bills as well as other fees for facilities operations until today.

Nevertheless, the Charitable Class has made great efforts to help students obtain basic skills and to attend art, music and English classes so that they are on comparable levels with other students in public schools. [Read more](#)

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION



Ms. Nguyen Thanh Nga in the meeting with member of Advisory Board, CPI 2015 Program

On July 2015, thanks to LIN, our Decathlon group matched with Thiện Tâm Hưng, an NPO (not-for-profit organization). This is the first time we participated in the event as skilled volunteers.

At first, we learned that three months preparing for this program was a long time compared to other social works that only took place in the course of one day. However, after starting the work with Thien Tam Hung, we realized that three months was not long enough. While some charity or social works such as blood donation or cleaning up offers immediate results, this project took an entire process to get to that point.

After our very first experience cooperating with LIN, we recognized that this is a very meaningful activity indeed.

Though it took time to get real results, we realized that if NPOs themselves figure out and solve their own problems, this self-actualization will help them improve their capacity in the process. In some cases, this program helped to raise awareness and that in itself has very long term effect on developing organizations.

We are worried about NPOs nowadays that first started out as a small size organization with a great mission for the entire community yet often times have a shortage of resources to implement their programs and activities. When these same NPOs have transitioned to a bigger scale, many new problems may arise particularly with management and team capacity. Will their NPOs' leaders have strong enough visions to change, adapt or transition to new leadership when new situations or challenges arise?

As volunteers, we have learned a lot of things while consulting for NPOs. Besides understanding more about different activity models, we realized there are many communities' values that were aimed by various NPOs' activities. We also learned how to work more flexibly in order to adapt to our NPO partner's individual challenges and realities.

Above all, we were very happy when our partner received their achievements. That is one of the many ways for us to contribute back to the community.

Ms. Nguyen Thanh Nga (CPI 2015 Skilled Volunteer)

Community Partnership Initiative (CPI) 2015

LIN's Community Partnership Initiative (CPI) is an invitation to companies and skilled professionals in HCMC to apply their professional skills and experiences to help benefit the community. We place a team of three to five skilled professionals on one team to work with one local not-for-profit organization (NPO).

We also organize training and coaching on common challenges for many of the teams. Each team of skilled volunteers and NPO professionals compete for the best results within a period of time, about three months. At the end of the initiative, the most effective partnership between a company and NPO is recognized and rewarded.

LIN's Community Partnership Initiative 2015 focused on Human Resource Management skills. The program was generously supported by Irish Aid, Embassy of Ireland.

► Learn more about CPI [here](#).

THANKS TO OUR NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS

SKILLED VOLUNTEER

Supporting CPI 2015 Bùi Đức Liêm Chế Thị Thu Thảo Đặng Hoàng Trung Đào Lê Duyên Hopeace Ngo Hopeace Ngo Huỳnh Thị Thu Nga Huỳnh Thị Thu Nga Lâm Ngọc Ánh Lê Minh Triết Lư Trọng Hiếu Mai Thùy Trang Mao Tường Vân Mr. Edwards Tran Mr. Matthieu Ghins Ngô Thị Bích Nga Nguyễn Bích Thuận Nguyễn Đức Quý Nguyễn Liên Khả Nguyễn Phước Cát Phượng	Nguyễn Thành Danh	Trần Thị Thu Hương	Nguyễn Khang An	Hà Xuân Trường
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WELCOME 10 NEW NPOS THAT RECENTLY JOINED THE VIETNAMCAUSES WEBSITE!

VietnamCauses.org is an online, searchable directory of local nonprofit organizations. The website is designed to help local nonprofits create bigger networks of support while giving donors and volunteers useful information to connect with causes they care about.

1. [Chi Hội tâm lý Ứng Dụng- Giáo Dục Cộng Đồng Hoa Súng](#)
2. [Rainbow Foundation](#)
3. [VietHope Incorporation](#)
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10. [MUA DONG AM Volunteer Group](#)

Do you know a nonprofit that should be on VietnamCauses? Or, do you want to give a shout out to a fantastic nonprofit on the website?

If so, please contact Ms. Tien to make a referral and/or testimonial: community@LINvn.org.



180/47 Nguyen Huu Canh, Ward 22, Binh Thanh District, HCMC



info@linvn.org



08-3512-0092



www.LINvn.org