



A New Dawn

LIBRARY OF VIET NAM PROJECT

**A Celebration of the Spirit of America
in a joint project for posterity between
the Vietnamese and American peoples.**



Our Building

The Mark of the Americans

The Library of Viet Nam Project builds libraries, and includes shelves, furniture, a basic stock of books, computers and internet in the basic project. Each costs \$35,000. The local People's Committees and officials provide the land and site preparation to include unexploded mines and bomb clearance where necessary. From the day of dedication forward, the security, operation, and maintenance are paid for by the Vietnamese people.

The standard design is key to our concept. It features a distinctive roof line, handicapped access ramps, out-door balcony with an open study, meeting and assembly area on the first floor. Books and computers are on the second floor to avoid potential flooding in the monsoon season.

The distinctive look is unique and provides an architectural signature to our libraries. When you encounter the Library at Quang Ngai, at Quang Tri (or at any other site as we continue to build throughout Viet Nam) you know that you are in the cooperative, friendly presence of the American Library of Viet Nam Project. This recognition is essential to our larger vision of reconciliation, cooperation and peace!



Library #1, Pho Thuan, Duc Pho, Quang Ngai Province. Sponsor: Francis J. (Chuck) Theusch, US Army, 1969-70. Dedicated: October 13, 2001.



Library #3, Dak Rong, Quang Tri Province. Sponsor: Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. Dedicated: June 5, 2002.

Our Library

The Spirit of America

Dear Friends,

The current state of world affairs makes the American tradition of peace, generosity and freedom the true source of hope. This is not an armory filled with the weapons of war, but a national spirit that has always been rooted in the true business of America—the business of human dreams and hope for a better world.

And we are not alone in these aspirations. On every official document in Viet Nam are the words, "Duc Lop - Tu Do - Hanh Phuc," meaning, *Independence - Freedom - Happiness*. Very American! We are the same peoples.

Historically, there is nothing more American than to rebuild in the wake of war. Abraham Lincoln set down the ideals that all Americans have stood for since 1776—the ideals of generosity, love and world peace that define us as a people:

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all that may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations."

—Abraham Lincoln, March 4 1865

Every brick, every book, every computer, every program by any American, every relationship struck between an American and a Vietnamese is a small monument to the fallen. Perhaps by healing the wounds of others we help to heal our own.

Please join our family team as we build not just libraries, but the Final American Legacy of generosity and peace in Viet Nam—and the world's greatest monument to all who suffered and died. We need you. Thank you for your support.

Francis J. (Chuck) Theusch
Founder/Chairman, Library of Viet Nam Project



Our Philosophy

From Candles to Computers in One Generation

The Vietnamese cherish education, and understand its vital role as they journey together into the future of a shrinking world. As testament to their understanding of this most important personal element for a brighter tomorrow, the people are ever willing to spend so much of what little they have in pursuit of education.

During a recent visit to a Vietnamese family at Marble Mountain, Da Nang, Chuck asked if they owned a computer. He was escorted upstairs, where two old math books and a half-burned candle sat on a table across from a computer.

Why the candle? They had electricity to run the computer, so why not electricity for light? Electrical service was limited and expensive, so to conserve energy for computer literacy, the family would read by candle light. The Library of Viet Nam Project will lighten this widespread burden and satisfy a pressing national desire for access to books, technology and the drive for knowledge.



Mai at her computer amid candlelight at her desk to read

Contribution Form

I want to join the Library of Viet Nam Project family!

We thank you for considering The Library of Vietnam Project as a worthy recipient of your valuable resources.

If you choose to contribute money, please mail this form along with your check or money order to Library of Viet Nam Project to the address below, or, if you are interested in donating in other ways, please check the appropriate boxes and mail or fax to us—we will contact you soon to assist in any way necessary to complete your contribution. Thank you!

Money ☐ Amount enclosed: \$ _____

(All contributions are tax-deductible. A receipt will be provided.)

Books ☐

Volunteer work ☐

Bequest in will ☐

Travel to Viet Nam ☐

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Cell: _____

For information, or to donate, contact:

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Viet Nam

Our Work

Our Family Team

Independence • Freedom • Happiness

In 1986, the government initiated a policy of reform called Doi Moi. It triggered ongoing economic liberalization. The result has been a dramatic increase in foreign investment and economic growth. Viet Nam is now a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). On July 13, 2000, the United States and Viet Nam officially normalized trade relations.

A country of 78 million people, approximately the size of New Mexico, it has only started on the long road to economic prosperity. But the raw material and resources are there. The greatest natural resource is, undeniably, the people.

Last century, Viet Nam fought wars with France, Japan, the United States, China and Cambodia. The new millennium is ushering in a period of potential prosperity in the wake of peace. With the government continuing its enlightened policy of Doi Moi and freedom, Viet Nam has the real potential to be one of the great economic success stories of the twenty-first century. As we know, education is the key to success, and this is where you can help.



Peace and friendship with all mankind
is our wisest policy, and I wish we may
be permitted to pursue it.
—Thomas Jefferson

It's only the Beginning

We are grateful to the many who have already shown their support for Library of Viet Nam Project. But we know this is only the beginning, just as we know opportunities to help are diverse in nature and in scope.

That's why we extend our activities beyond new construction. We have created a "Small Dream" program to remodel and convert existing buildings into libraries with books, computers and internet access. *Small Dream* also works to furnish books for schools, orphanages, hospitals and others. What we may take for granted in reading a book is truly a dream come true for many Vietnamese students.

Through *Small Dream* projects your contributions are converted into the power of education and learning through books, often for a fraction of the cost of a new library building.



ABOVE, L-R: Mr. Pham Van Quyen, Vice Chairman, People's Committee of Nui Thanh District, Binh D. Nguyen, Chief Viet Nam Representative, FedEx; Mike Meyer, Administrator of Corporate and Foundation Development, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America, FedEx Tam Giang School, Quang Nam Province, Viet Nam is "Small Dream #1".

BELOW: Mary Eisenhower, (L) CEO of People to People International led a delegation to the Dedication at Thuong Hein School, Kein Xung District, "Small Dream #2" Thai Binh Province.

It's a Wonderful Life

Together with the Vietnamese people and you, we hope to build libraries throughout Viet Nam, creating a vibrant system of book exchanges, computer hardware and software, educational programs—on land mine and unexploded bomb safety awareness—medical and legal education, career days in medicine, and countless other fields. We also maintain and enhance the holdings and services of each library, and provide operational support for the librarians, local schools, community and government



ABOVE: Chuck with the extraordinary people who build and operate the libraries. Vinh Linh Library #4, Quang Tri Province. RIGHT: Computer delivery to librarian Dak Rong, Library #3.



officials engaged with us in this international endeavor. This is an ambitious project. To make it happen we rely on our steadfast "It's a Wonderful Life" appreciation of people—we need everybody in every capacity, every life touches many other lives! We go to see the librarians, because we know without them all our other work is for naught. And this is true of everyone that is a part of the Library of Viet Nam Project in every way. We are Americans and Vietnamese working together as a family team to realize the greatest potential of this program for us all.