

*A Foundation
for Peace*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

One of the great traditions of our Armed Forces throughout the years has been its willingness to help others in foreign lands recover from the ravages of war. This tradition is, today, being carried on by the men and women of our Navy who, voluntarily, are giving the families of South Vietnamese sailors a chance for a better life through "Operation Helping Hand." This program and the private foundation which provides the needed financial backing are in perfect keeping with our policy of helping those who help themselves and merits the encouragement of our fellow citizens.

RICHARD NIXON

“The economic problems plaguing the Vietnamese Navy personnel today may well be as detrimental to their cause as the enemy himself. With the extremely low salaries, the very high cost of living, and the inability of the Vietnamese Navy or government to meet the needs of its Navy veterans, widows, and orphans, something must be done to improve the squalid living conditions and to overcome rehabilitation and vocational training shortcomings. The humanitarian work of American sailors, together with the financial assistance of the Helping Hand Foundation, will resolve these problems and help create a viable naval force, fully capable of withstanding future threats of infiltration and communist aggression in the Republic of Vietnam.”

— E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.

“In accordance with the policy of the United States to phase our personnel out of Vietnam, our Navy has been turning over ships and equipment to the Vietnamese Navy so that they can protect their own country. As a result, the Vietnamese Navy has had to expand rapidly and at the same time maintain a high combat effectiveness.

The pay of the Vietnamese Navyman is not much — not enough to maintain his family.

The U.S. Navymen have helped greatly to keep up the combat effectiveness and the morale of their brothers in arms of the Vietnamese Navy by providing work and money for food projects, housing for dependents, and housing for disabled Vietnamese Navy veterans. This has helped, but more money is needed than can be provided by contributions from the U.S. Navy. We hope that other Americans will support the Helping Hand Foundation in this great humanitarian cause.”

— ARLEIGH BURKE

Operation Helping Hand

In the fall of 1969, while serving as Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, Admiral E. R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN, instituted Operation Helping Hand, a program designed to improve the extremely poor living conditions of the Vietnamese Navyman by assisting the Vietnamese Navy in the construction of basic housing and in providing additional protein foods for the sailor and his family. Another most important part of this program is to establish livable communities for the widows and orphans of deceased veterans, and for wounded Navy veterans, so that they have hope of becoming productive in a post war society through an effective rehabilitation program.

Helping Hand Foundation

Upon learning of Operation Helping Hand and the need for additional non-government support to advance the humanitarian efforts of U.S. sailors, a group of American civilians living and working in Saigon formed the Helping Hand Foundation. A major milestone in the growth of the Foundation was reached recently when its directorship was assumed by a group of prominent business and professional people here in the United States.

The original Board of Directors became the Advisory Committee, whose function is to keep the Foundation apprised of current needs and to oversee the expenditure and utilization of private contributions.

The Helping Hand Foundation, chartered in the State of Delaware, in March 1971, with non-profit, tax-exempt status, will play a vital role in the success of the U.S. Navy's humanitarian efforts in the Republic of Vietnam.

A One Million Dollar Program

The initial programs include the following:

Food Supplement Projects

The goal of this program is to establish viable self-sustaining projects at all VNN and VNMC bases through an initial purchase of stock, material, and equipment and instruction in techniques. The projects include: animal husbandry, agriculture, and fishing.

- a. In animal husbandry, U.S. sailors share their knowhow in the construction of facilities and the care and breeding of livestock, while the Vietnamese provide the labor and materials.
- b. In agronomy, U.S. sailors provide the knowledge and advice to their Vietnamese counterparts in modern crop raising techniques.
- c. Initiated first as a pilot project to assess its feasibility, the fishing program is now being enlarged with an eventual goal of providing low cost fish (1/15 of local market price) to all Vietnamese Navy bases and commissaries.

Housing for Dependents

The vast expansion of the Vietnamese Navy and Marine Corps in just a short period of time has caused a critical shortage of housing and community facilities at newly established bases. Approximately 26,000 housing units are needed. The Helping Hand Foundation will provide much of the material and funds to build these shelters.

Disabled Veterans Housing Project

Although the Government of Vietnam realizes the shortcomings of its present veterans' program and is attempting to correct the various inadequacies that now exist, the lack of a viable rehabilitation program is still plaguing wounded veterans. In an effort to make vocational rehabilitation a reality for Vietnamese Navy veterans, the Helping Hand Foundation is financing the construction of a 500-unit hamlet adjacent to the vocational rehabilitation school at Cat Lai, thus enabling disabled veterans to live in the area of the Center and take advantage of its facilities. They will receive training in carpentry, auto mechanics, electricity, refrigeration, welding, plumbing, and typing — trades that will enable them to be useful in their communities.

Completing the \$1 Million Initial Program

The response of the U.S. Navymen, interested individuals and corporations, has enabled the Helping Hand Foundation to launch this tremendous program. The progress achieved to date has been encouragingly successful.

However, time is of the essence and your help is greatly needed now.

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1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
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Payable as follows and beginning in the month of _____, 19____

- Monthly Quarterly
 Semi-annually Annually

Paid herewith
Balance

\$ _____

\$ _____

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Please make checks payable to the Helping Hand Foundation
Gifts are tax deductible

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RIGHT — South Vietnamese sailors tending their chickens at a project established by the Helping Hand Foundation.

LEFT — Dependent housing being built for South Vietnamese sailors at Ben Luc Naval Base.



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Contributions are tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and received and acknowledged with sincere appreciation. Checks should be payable to "Helping Hand Foundation" and mailed to the address on the back panel. Special categories of contributors have been established to recognize individual and group donations, they are: Pacesetter Patrons: \$5,000 and above; Leadership Patrons: \$2,500 to \$4,999; Support Patrons: \$1,000 to \$2,499; Support Donors: \$100 to \$999.

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