

The D.O.V.E. Fund is a non-profit corporation founded by several Vietnam veterans, Rotarians, and other concerned citizens in January 2000, in Toledo, Ohio.

Our goal is to provide humanitarian and development assistance to areas in Vietnam; to promote communication, education, and cultural exchanges that reflect the best qualities of both cultures; and to create an environment brightened by hope and sustained by peace.

The D.O.V.E. Fund is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and is incorporated under the laws of the state of Ohio. Contributions are tax deductible.

Since its founding, the D.O.V.E. Fund has built 40 schools, including 11 daycare centers, 3 medical clinics, 5 major water projects that have provided clean water to thousands of children, built 150 latrines, conducted several medical missions, implemented an Emergency Medicine Residency Program, and started 2 micro-finance programs for the poorest women in Quang Tri province.

We have also funded tuition assistance for 230 students, conducted workshops for English teachers, purchased computers, industrial sewing machines and other equipment for Phu Hau vocational school, provided braille computers and a braille printer for the Hue School for the Blind, and funded 2 computer centers for the local high schools.

Please take the time to visit our website at [www.dovefund.org](http://www.dovefund.org) to see the beneficial work that we have done in the short period of our existence.



## SCHOLARSHIPS: GROWTH FOR THEIR FUTURES

By Bob Durbin

One of the many challenges the Scholarship Committee and the D.O.V.E. Fund faces is how to handle the ever growing demands we face annually. As the D.O.V.E. Fund continues to build schools we start a chain reaction of future responsibilities to the children of Vietnam which cannot be met by one person or a small committee. We need an infusion of new ideas and talent every year if we want to continue our level of success in helping the children.



Bob Durbin with scholarship students at Trieu Long Elementary School



Scholarship students at Hai Lang High School



John and Gail Craven with Quang Tri High School scholarship recipients

This year the scholarship committee added four advisory members to help us meet our goals for the future. I feel this is a good start but we need to continue to grow in members and assets if we want to reach our full potential. I am excited about the possibilities the four new members can bring forth in the coming year.

I think the other exciting event in 2008 is the financial assistance to fifteen students at another school, Hai Lang High School. In the 2008-2009 school years we will assist an additional fifteen students at Hai Lang.

This will bring our total high school student scholarship recipients to 120 students in two high schools. In addition we will be assisting 20 university students and 58 elementary and junior high school students in the Young Dove Scholars program. Our challenges continue to grow but so does the future of all of these students.

In summary I would simply say 2008 was a year of growth for the scholarship committee - growth in members and growth in students receiving assistance. ♦

## MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

### 2008 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Tim Kearney, *Board Chair*  
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William Reineke  
Toni Lynn Sarna  
Norm Van Ness

### PERPETUAL HONORARY MEMBERS

Robert Mehring  
Chuck Oswald  
Tom Saam  
Mark Sathe

### VIETNAM REPRESENTATIVE

Cam Nhung



Tim Kearney

Dear Friends of the D.O.V.E. Fund,

The sunsets are coming way too early in Ohio letting us know gradually that the summer is over and the winter is on its way. We had a great summer and hope you did too. By the time you read this, you will probably be very busy preparing for the excitement that Thanksgiving and Christmas bring. Even though we are busy, let's not forget our veterans, especially those serving on active duty today protecting our liberties that we sometimes take for granted. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

The D.O.V.E. Fund is yet another year older on Veterans Day making it nine years old. We are still having fun helping the children of Vietnam even as we grow older too. We have had a very successful Auction and Golf Outing again this year and our "little charity" has now passed the \$1,600,000 donation mark. We are very thankful for all of you who helped us grow over these years.

We are reminded that we are in a constant state of "change" and must adapt. The same is true for the D.O.V.E. Fund. Nine years ago we were able to build a small school in Vietnam for \$6,000. Now the same school costs close to \$15,000. Inflation is rampant in Vietnam with the country feeling the effects of a 25% increase in all their living costs just this year alone. Interest rates are over 22% in attempts to curb inflation but all this economic stuff is new to the Vietnamese who have been content living off the earth for centuries. Unfortunately their increases in annual income are not keeping up with their inflated costs. We need to continue our work in helping them.



Tra Lien Dong Nursery School

My thoughts focus on "how do we keep the D.O.V.E. Fund going" when many of the D.O.V.E.'s veterans are approaching retirement and the "last third" of our lives. Especially with the latest financial crisis, most of us are very concerned about our savings, our retirements and our families and friends who are suffering through unemployment, loss of homes, and worse. Part of our response is to build a working model of a successful charitable organization that will attract other like-minded individuals who are generous with their time, talents, and treasures to perpetuate helping the less fortunate in Vietnam. We believe our successors will even be some of our children as we already have several serving as Board Members and Advisory Board members now. Why not!

Thank you for all your generosity to the D.O.V.E. Fund. I hope that this newsletter will confirm to you once again that your donations are spent wisely and inspected by our associate on the ground there, Cam Nhung. Also, we assure they are used only for projects that are validated to fulfill basic needs in Vietnam.

Have a great holiday season and help us spread the news about the good work of the D.O.V.E. Fund to those you love.



Nursery school students in their new school uniforms

Tim Kearney, Chairman

# RICH BEYOND MEASURE

By Dan Gregg

I was sleeping over the South China Sea when a tug on my shoulder awakened me. Our charter flight of soldiers was on final approach to Cam Ranh Bay, my home for the next year. Minutes later I shuffled from the plane and looked up from the darkened cabin and felt like I had walked into a giant oven. It was my first day in South Vietnam; July 6, 1969.

Thirty nine years later, I'm again on a plane over the South China Sea, but this time I'm with the D.O.V.E. Fund. For years I thought I could come to terms with my lingering sadness and confusing feelings of war's guilt by reaching out to the Vietnamese people. The D.O.V.E. Fund was a perfect way for me to return; just talking with other supportive D.O.V.E. veterans is a great opportunity for healing. They hear your stories and allow you to fearlessly face ghosts of the past. Tears flow at every meeting and hearts are opened. D.O.V.E. is a loving family that believes that by giving to others you give to yourself.

A few days later as we drove to our schools I looked out the window trying to absorb everything. Thirty nine years ago I was looking at things through the eyes of a naive soldier; today I was seeing Vietnam for the first time.



Dan Gregg & Tracy Elkins with nursery school students

As an armor crewman on an APC I often got annoyed when water buffalo crossed our path as we moved through the farmland. Now, I smiled and noticed the grace and beauty of these animals with their swept back horns as they trudged through the fields. I was glad the war was over.

Later that week, in a meeting with Vietnamese officials it was clear that the D.O.V.E. Fund is an important part of Vietnam's rebuilding process. Our work is carefully planned and nurtured with the grateful assistance of the Vietnamese government. There are many projects and issues to discuss. Once fierce enemies, we now meet as friends building toward a common goal. At lunch our Vietnamese hosts raise their glass and proclaim a brotherhood of understanding between our countries, the shared values of love, family and hope for the future. It is a rare and tender moment.

Afterwards, I stopped into a little roadside café for an espresso. I was the sole customer and the smiling woman eventually understood my request. I sat outside in a tiny plastic chair and reflected on the past week, grateful to have had this experience. We are making a real difference and helping the lives of children. Although its people have endured war for centuries, Vietnam is now a country more of hope and less of despair and I'm proud to be part of its future. Later, as I sipped the last of my espresso, I remembered thinking in the back of my mind I would someday come back to Vietnam, and here I was.

I've known for some time that I would never be a wealthy man; however, because of the D.O.V.E. Fund and what we do, I'm rich beyond measure. ♦



Dan shares bread with local villager in Quang Nam Province



Dan handing out school supplies to nursery school students

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## **AN UPDATE FROM OUR TREASURER...**

*By Doug Welch*

Because of you, our donors, and your generosity, our financial results for 2008 are on course to allow us to continue our mission in support of the children of Vietnam. Your donations through September 2008 total \$180,000, which includes our golf outing receipts of \$22,000 and our auction receipts of \$78,000. This makes our total funds raised from inception at just over \$1,569,000.

Our direct expenses for 2008 to fund our projects in Vietnam total \$203,000. This includes fund raising costs for the golf outing of \$2,900 and auction of \$11,500. From inception to date we have spent over \$1,342,000 in support of the D.O.V.E. Fund mission.

As of September 30, 2008 we have approximately \$85,000 in reserve for scholarships for students in Vietnam and \$142,000 in reserve to complete our 2008 projects and to partially finance 2009 projects.

Should you have any questions regarding the D.O.V.E. Fund finances, please email a note to Welch@LublinSussman.com.

Thank you for your generous support for the children of Vietnam. ♦

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## **MEET OUR NEW TRUSTEES**

*By Tom Treece*

The D.O.V.E. Fund is proud to announce the addition of two new trustees to our board of directors, Marian Grems and Richard Carr.

Marian is a former D.O.V.E. Advisory Member whose work ethic, wealth of ideas and energy quickly dictated her elevation to trustee status. She brings to the board her willingness to research and write grants pursuant to our mission. Marian is employed by the Lucas County (Ohio) Educational Service Center at Ursula Academy where she manages the auxiliary services budget. Tragically, Marian lost her husband to an extended illness last year; she has three children and lives in Maumee.

Richard - a graduate of the University of Toledo with a B.A. in Political Science and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from their College of Law - is unique to the D.O.V.E. Fund in that he drafted the original by-laws for the organization. The current partner in the law firm of Balk, Hess & Miller of Toledo is a Rotarian with a rich history of community service, including his current position as President of City Council of Maumee, Ohio, where he and his wife, Laura, reside. They have two children. ♦

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## **D.O.V.E. DINNER AUCTION EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS**

*By Sharon McKisson*

After months of detailed planning, chair-person Julie Oswald was all smiles on the evening of August 22, 2008, when the enthusiastic and excited crowd arrived from as far away as Maine to participate in D.O.V.E.'s largest, annual benefit. Guests were charmed by Masters of Ceremony, Jerry Anderson and Chrys Peterson, enthralled by the touching video created by Norm Van Ness, entertained by John Craven's musical ensemble, and they opened their hearts as they listened to Bob Durbin, Do Nguyen, Dr. Hang Tran, and the D.O.V.E. Fund Chairman, Tim Kearney.

The live auction items brought spirited, high bids and to everyone's delight many of the exquisite objects in the silent auction were created in Vietnam. The beauty of their display is attributed to Jill Grimm, Raynell Fish, Renee Treece, and Theresa Nguyen. Marian Grems and Paula Mehring made a great team of raffle ticket sellers. The exotic, fragrant centerpieces of flowering jasmine were gifts from Ben Sell Greenhouse. Our Treasurer, Doug Welch, his wife and daughter, and the rest of his committee warmly thanked the departing guests as they left their generous checks to D.O.V.E. behind – totaling well over \$72,000. ♦



*Do Nguyen, Tim Kearney, Julie Oswald & Bob Durbin at the auction*

# TO SOME PEOPLE D.O.V.E. MEANS LOVE

By Sharon McKisson

At the August 22<sup>nd</sup> Auction benefit dinner, the 50/50 raffle winner gifts her entire prize to the children of Vietnam and reveals her own poignant childhood history to the audience.

The winning raffle ticket belonged to Hang Tran, a Vietnamese American woman, who is currently a resident physician at St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center in Toledo. When called to the podium to accept her winnings, she graciously donated the entire amount to D.O.V.E. for the Vietnamese children, who, not unlike herself when a child, are in desperate need of a better life.

Dr. Tran seemed to glow as she briefly described the catalyst of her charitable act – in turn, mesmerizing the entire audience. Her parents, driven by the desire to give their soon-to-be-born child a better future, left Vietnam in the summer of 1979. The journey abroad for the poor fisherman and pregnant woman was riddled with perils on the overcrowded, barely seaworthy vessel. Food and fresh water were limited and sharks seemed to circle the tiny boat incessantly. Thai pirates raided the vessel taking the few valuables and personal effects the Vietnamese emigrants possessed.

Days later the physically depleted passengers arrived at a refugee camp near the docks of Air Raya in Indonesia, where Hang Tran was born. Several thousand sea miles later, the family of three arrived in Honolulu, Hawaii - their home for two years - and the birthplace of another daughter. Her family then moved to Texas, where she grew up and eventually attended medical school. To learn more about this remarkable woman go to [www.dovefund.org](http://www.dovefund.org) and click on MY STORY by Dr. Hang Tran. ♦



Bob Durbin, Dr. Hang Tran & Angie Wingerd at the auction

## D.O.V.E. 2008 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

By Do Nguyen

Fifty poor families in Hai An commune in Quang Tri Province now have new latrines for the first time in their lives. The improved sanitary conditions will greatly reduce illness in the region thanks to D.O.V.E. in cooperation with Pulpay Company in Vietnam.

Four new D.O.V.E. daycare centers opened their doors to poor infants and toddlers this year. The two centers in Thua Thien Province were sponsored by Kentucky Blue Grass Academy, and Danh



Two students receive gifts and uniforms at the Richard Wolfgramm school

Pham with his Vietnamese-American friends; the two centers in Quang Tri Province were sponsored by students of Winona High School, and trustee John Abbey's family and friends.

The first Junior High School in M'Drak commune of Dak Lak Province has been completed. The new school will be dedicated at a special ceremony in the spring of 2009. ♦



D.O.V.E. Delegation with students & teachers of the Huong Xuan Daycare Center, February 2008



One of the new latrines

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## **AN AMAZING, UNFORGETTABLE TRIP**

*By Do Nguyen*

This summer, I had the honor of leading a group of 22 people to Vietnam, including four high school students and retired teachers of Winona High School in Minnesota. They represented the Winona High School Global Class of 2009, which sponsored a daycare center - an idea brought to life by D.O.V.E. and the inspiring words of Vietnam Veteran John Borman.

During the trip we also dedicated a daycare center sponsored by Richard Wolgramm, a former Green Beret, who served in Quang Tri Province during the war.

The schools that the honored guests helped to build are now beautiful memories they will carry forever. ♦



*Jillian Blank and Steven Geibel plant trees in front of their new daycare center*

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## **TIFFIN ROTARY TEAMS WITH D.O.V.E.**

*By Bob Durbin*

The Tiffin, Ohio, Rotary Club has teamed with the D.O.V.E. Fund to construct a school in Vietnam. Recently we spoke with Past President Bill Reineke and asked what led his club to make the decision to build a school in Vietnam; here is his answer:

“During my term as president of Rotary I had a strong desire to have our club participate in an “international” project. Rotary International encourages local clubs to get involved in overseas projects to help those less fortunate than ourselves. The main reason we chose to build this school was due to our relationship with one of our members – D.O.V.E. Trustee Bob Durbin and his wife, Linda - who passionately shared D.O.V.E.’s message with our club.”

“I’ve also enjoyed additional exposure to D.O.V.E. through your annual auction. Having personal contact with members, hearing their stories and reading books they’ve written have been influential. Being able to communicate with those who’ve been to Vietnam and seen results of their efforts is very persuasive. Also, being able to see our project to completion is very helpful as many times we fund projects but never know if we truly made an impact.”

“The D.O.V.E. Fund’s commitment is also very inspirational. We are all a product of our past and the generosity of D.O.V.E. members – as well as their ability to deal with the past - is most admirable.”

“Economically speaking, it’s a great deal as our money goes so far in Vietnam. What we get for the money we invest is incredible! The result of what we spend allows us to achieve tremendous satisfaction.”

“This project has been perfect for all of the above reasons. Our goal now is to continue helping by providing scholarship assistance and fulfilling other needs.”

The D.O.V.E. Fund is honored to team with the Tiffin Rotary in this venture! ♦

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## **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

If you would like to help the D.O.V.E. Fund make a difference in the lives of Vietnamese families, please fill out this form, enclose your donation and mail it to the D.O.V.E. Fund at P.O. Box 350741, Toledo, Ohio 43635

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Donation made in Memory/Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support!

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# WE ARE ALL VIETNAM VETS!

By Marian Grems

The draft lottery was kind to my family and neither my husband nor my brothers were called to serve in Vietnam. The longest war in American history has linked us heart and soul to the people of Vietnam. Over time I've come to realize that, in reality, we are ALL veterans of the Vietnam War.

Whether you served in combat or marched in protest, waited for the mail or longed for home, prayed for a loved one's safe return or mourned the loss of a comrade, the war in Vietnam touched lives, wounded hearts, and left an open sore on a generation of Americans.

The D.O.V.E. Fund has created a *battle plan for healing* that provides humanitarian and development assistance to areas in Vietnam; promotes communication, education, and cultural exchange that reflects the best qualities of both cultures; and creates an environment brightened by hope and sustained by peace.

You may be asking, "But how can I help the D.O.V.E. Fund?"

- ◆ Reach out to a Vietnam veteran, thank them for their service to our country, and invite them to log on to the D.O.V.E. website (<http://www.dovefund.org>).
- ◆ Remember the D.O.V.E. Fund as you work on your class reunion, company golf outing, or service organization project. Donations to fund a school, scholarship, or water well would be a fitting tribute/memorial to those who served in Vietnam.
- ◆ Join a future D.O.V.E. sponsored trip and march through Vietnam on a mission of healing, peace and hope.
- ◆ Spread the word. D.O.V.E. members are available to share their stories with service, church, and school groups.
- ◆ Make the most of your donation. Does your employer offer a "matching fund" program? Retirees often qualify.
- ◆ Keep D.O.V.E. alive! Remember the D.O.V.E. Fund in your will or living trust, name D.O.V.E. as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy, or donate on-line (<http://www.dovefund.org>). D.O.V.E. now subscribes to Pay Pal.
- ◆ Give the gift that keeps on giving! Sponsor a needy student by contributing to the Scholarship program and make education a reality. 100% of your donation is tax deductible.
- ◆ Be inspired! Order copies of *A Legacy of Hope* ([www.jecraven.com](http://www.jecraven.com)) and *The Ghost Closet* ([www.tomtreece.com](http://www.tomtreece.com)) by D.O.V.E. Fund authors. Book sale proceeds are used to fund schools.
- ◆ Join in the fun. Support D.O.V.E. fundraisers. **Auction**: fill a table, donate an auction item, bid generously; **Golf Outing**: sponsor a hole, provide prizes, recruit a team; **Bob Mehring Walk**: walk to support the Bob Mehring Daycare Center in Diom.
- ◆ Pass this D.O.V.E. newsletter on to a friend. ◆

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## NOTEWORTHY ...

D.O.V.E. trip to Vietnam is scheduled for spring of 2009. Dedications of new schools, project visits, building maintenance reviews, sightseeing and recreation are all on the itinerary reports Do Nguyen, Vietnam Projects Chairman.

The D.O.V.E. Website: [www.dovefund.org](http://www.dovefund.org) has a new look, thanks to web mistress - Toni Lynn Sarna. Special features now include Latest Headlines and Vietnam Veterans, with a video created by Norm Van Ness, and a slide show coming soon reports Fred Grimm, Website Chairman. ◆

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# 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GOLF OUTING A HUGE SUCCESS

By Bob Culp

Our annual fundraising golf outing ran into a bit of a snag being rained out on June 3<sup>rd</sup> yet we were able to reschedule and enjoy a gorgeous day of golf June 24<sup>th</sup>. This year's receipts for the D.O.V.E. Fund totaled nearly \$23,000!

Once again the event was held at the South Toledo Golf Club which was graciously donated by D.O.V.E. Fund Trustee Greg Fish and his wife Raynell. One hundred and twenty golfers were ready at their tees for the 11:30 A.M. shotgun start and we capped off the wonderful day with an excellent meal of prime rib catered by H.J.'s Prime Cuts of Toledo. A 50/50 drawing as well as many door prizes added to the excitement and during a special ceremony after our meal we honored Terry Nisley, Cecil Nisley, Todd Jones and Brian Reicker, the foursome from Monroe Bank & Trust who shot a 14 under 56 (for 70) to win the tournament.



*The Monroe Bank & Trust team of Todd Jones, Terry Nisley, Cecil Nisley & Brian Reicker*

We were honored to have 24 Hole Sponsors for this year's event. They were:

Monroe Bank and Trust, Brady Grimm, Impact Products, Lublin Sussman Group, Jim Moeller, DDS, Fifth Third Bank, Treece Investment, The Appliance Center, Signature Partners, The Mehring Co., The Nicholson Family, Eastman and Smith LTD, JPO/DOW, RemTec, Paramount Health Systems, John Wiley, DDS, Midland Title, Sigma Financial, Dussel Insurance, Hammill Manufacturing, Fred and Jill Grimm, Bob and Linda Durbin, National City Bank and Fremont Federal Credit Union.

We are so very grateful for the generosity of all our sponsors and participants. The money raised from this event each year does so much for bettering the lives of the children of Vietnam. We thank all of you for your continued support of this wonderful event and look forward to doing it again in 2009. ♦

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