

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 to hundreds of poor students since 2001, including 254 during the 2008-2009 school year, 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 3 computer centers for local elementary and high schools.

Please take the time to visit our website at www.dovefund.org to learn more about us ♦

PERFECT PARTNERS: BANDAGE BRIGADE, D.O.V.E. FUND & EVA AIR

By Tom Treece

I love it when a plan comes together!

It all started with a telephone call from Linda Stocker, Personal Effects Coordinator (along with Vietnam vet/husband, Gary) of Tours of Peace, an Arizona-based organization that takes war veterans back to Vietnam. As the group also returns artifacts left behind, Linda was calling to inform me they had one of my dog tags lost 40 years ago, which they sent to me in a beautiful display box.



D.O.V.E. Fund delegation members delivering bandages in Saigon, March, 2008

In turn I told them of my involvement with the D.O.V.E. Fund, in which the Stockers were excited and interested. Linda informed me that she also coordinates a worldwide group called The Bandage Brigade, consisting of mostly women who knit and crochet bandages for Vietnam's leper colonies. One problem they were having was actually getting the bandages to Vietnam as often boxes that were shipped never found their destination. Linda asked if the D.O.V.E. Fund might be able to help and last spring our group hand carried nearly 1,000 bandages to Vietnam.

Coordination for that action involved Linda shipping seven large boxes (at her expense) from her west coast state to me in Michigan where I dispensed the bandages among our group. We stuffed the bandages in every nook and cranny of our suitcases before flying to San Francisco and then on to Vietnam in March, 2008.

The Bandage Brigade has obviously grown since then and this year has prepared nearly 2,500 bandages for us to take to those suffering the open sores of leprosy. Realizing the folly of having bandages cross the country twice, Linda and I – along with D.O.V.E. Fund Honorary Member and San Francisco bay area resident, Dianne Van Voorhis – devised a plan and approached EVA Air, the Taiwanese airline the D.O.V.E. Fund uses exclusively for our annual flights to Vietnam. Our request was that they partner with us by donating fees associated with flying these boxes to Ho Chi Minh City from San Francisco for us, and they have agreed.

As such, Linda will now ship the bandages the short distance to Dianne where she will then coordinate transporting them to EVA Air at the airport.

Perhaps D.O.V.E. Trustee Sharon McKisson described it best when she said, "A dove of peace in the form of an EVA Airways jumbo jet provides free transport of eight 50 pound crates of specialized bandages to ease the suffering of lepers in Vietnam."

continued on page 5

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

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VIETNAM REPRESENTATIVE

Cam Nhung



Tim Kearney

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

I have to start with a big "Thank You" for your continuing support of our mission to help the children of Vietnam. Because of your generous support we have raised another \$200,000 in 2008. Be assured that we are committed to making sure your donations are spent wisely to do the most possible good in Vietnam.

Our Board of Trustees met the last Saturday of January for our annual retreat to reflect at length on the organization – where it is and where it is going. For me it was a time for rejuvenation of the board's conviction to stay on course and do the right things. There is much room for improvement and growth, however, and I will mention a few of the issues that we will be focusing on in 2009.

The discussions held at the retreat clearly show our primary focus is - and will continue to be - the children of Vietnam. Our original mission statement is still very relevant! If anything has changed it is a desire to focus more on the second part of our mission statement: **Humanitarian assistance to the people**, especially for the children in our schools! Students at our schools need bicycles, socks, sweaters, jackets, better nutrition, improved sanitary conditions and more education regarding these issues.

The other mission focus is to continue helping through micro-finance projects. It was suggested the tailor shops created by such projects could be contracted to make badly needed clothing for the children, which would mutually benefit the two groups we want to focus on most.

Joyce Woodworth, host of the television program, "The Spirit of the Heartland" in Winona, MN, attended our retreat. Joyce shared some great ideas, her passion for what we are doing and a video, "The Journey Back," a documentary film she produced about her trip to Vietnam with our D.O.V.E. Fund group last August.

There was also extensive discussion about the future growth of the D.O.V.E. Fund and the means to broaden our local committee structure to take on more work if we were to expand. To that end, we plan to strengthen our internal organization by making our committees more accountable and responsible for gathering information and proposing solutions by enlisting the assistance of additional advisory members. Perhaps you may want to become an advisory member and if so, please visit our website at www.dovefund.org and contact any one of our board members listed there for details.

Speaking of our website, we are grateful to advisory member Toni Lynn Sarna who was a great help to Chairman Fred Grimm during the last year in the improvement of our site! I encourage you to visit it from time to time to learn more about our work; informative updates are in progress and will be added periodically.

Please support D.O.V.E. in our continuing mission to diminish the struggles faced by some of the most impoverished children on earth.

Tim Kearney
Chairman

SCHOOL DEDICATED TO FALLEN COMRADES

By John Craven

Forty years ago I was deeply immersed in what would become one of the most difficult yet meaningful experiences of my life, the Vietnam War. That year brought several highs and lows; yet one event - the death of three of my 70th Combat Engineer platoon mates - impacted me the most by far. A sudden bunker collapse took their lives just moments after I was ordered to clear out of that area. There but for the grace of God...

I've carried that hurt in my heart since and struggled to understand, "Why them and not me?" Years of seeking answers - combined with my faith - has revealed that divine intervention determined that outcome. My wife, Gail, and I have since resolved to build a school in their memory so their legacy may live on.



Gail, Wayne, Jr., Tracy, and John with photo of Wayne, Sr. in the background

George Davenport Jr., Wayne Elkins Sr., George McLaughlin and their families will be honored April 29, 2009 during the formal dedication ceremony of the D.O.V.E. Fund's first junior high school. I am thrilled the son of Wayne Elkins Sr., Wayne Jr., and his wife, Tracy will be attending the ceremony as well as his mother, Wayne Sr.'s widow, Patricia. My emotions and excitement are unbelievably high for them as they prepare for the significant experience of cutting the ribbon!



Wayne and Tracy congratulating scholarship students

The cost of the two-story, six classroom school is \$63,000. The local district has contributed \$13,000 while Gail and I committed to raise the remaining \$50,000. We are nearing the home stretch as we need just \$18,000 to reach our goal. After the funding is complete we will raise additional money to help support a scholarship program for the area's poorer students based on need and maintained by performance. The first eight recipients have already been chosen and received \$50 each for the 2008-09 school year.

I humbly thank everyone who has assisted us in any way to further the progress of bringing this school to fruition. Perhaps you may never fully realize how important your donation is to the D.O.V.E. Fund, and, more importantly, the extent to which you ensure these poor children are able to enjoy a brighter future.

If you are so moved to help with a donation, we welcome your generosity. Please specify your donation be applied to the "D.E.M. School". In return - should you so choose - I would be delighted to send you an autographed copy of my book – *A Legacy of Hope: One Veterans Journey – Turning My Disadvantage into an Advantage for Others* – which chronicles my journey. Please designate your desire to receive this book with your donation. More information about this book and a link to my personal website can be found on the D.O.V.E. Fund website. ♦

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!

2009



P.O. Box 350741 – Toledo, OH 43635

JANUARY 31 ANNUAL RETREAT

A synopsis is presented in the *Message From Our Chairman – Tim Kearney*, in this edition of DOVE DETAILS.

APRIL 17 – MAY 5 DELEGATES VISIT VIETNAM

Vice-Chair - Vietnam Projects, **Do Nguyen** and his wife Theresa escort the delegates and are their interpreters as they meet with children and teachers, province elders, medical personnel, regional dignitaries, and make new friends in cities and along the paths of isolated, impoverished villages. The men and women committed to serve as D.O.V.E. delegates along with Do and Theresa are: Past Chair - Fred and Jill Grimm, Trustee - John and Gail Craven, Jr. and their daughter, Adrienne Bell, Wayne and Tracy Elkins, Jr., Trustee - Dan Gregg, Trustee - Jim Taylor and his brother John Taylor, Patricia Youngs, Patti Longbrake, Trustee - John Abbey, Treasurer - Doug Welch and his son David Welch, and Dr. Kenneth and Patricia Kropp. Members of the delegation travel at their own expense. Look for trip highlights in the next edition of DOVE DETAILS.

JUNE 9 GOLF OUTING AT SOUTH TOLEDO GOLF CLUB

An 11:30 A.M. Shotgun Start begins the day of charity golf at 3915 Heatherdowns Blvd., followed by a 50/50 raffle, door prizes, and an excellent meal of prime rib catered by HJ's Prime Cut of Toledo. Chairmen **Bob Culp** and **Greg Fish** invite you to participate in this enjoyable, annual event of golf and fellowship. Complete the form and mail it in early with your check payable to The D.O.V.E. Fund.

Golf Packages & Hole Sponsorships

Registration Form

___ **\$125** Golf and Dinner for One **Player 1** _____ **Player 2** _____

___ **\$750** HOLE SPONSOR includes: Address _____ Address _____

Golf and Dinner for Four, and the Name: City _____ State _____ Zip _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ Email or Phone _____ Email or Phone _____

to be printed on a Hole Recognition Sign.

Even if you don't play golf – want to join us? **Player 3** _____ **Player 4** _____

___ **\$ 25** Dinner for One Address _____ Address _____

Unable to attend – want to contribute?. City _____ State _____ Zip _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

___ In the amount of \$ _____ Email or Phone _____ Email or Phone _____

AUGUST 21 DINNER AUCTION

To request an invitation to this enchanting and memorable evening at *The Pinnacle* in Maumee, Ohio, send your mailing address to: The D.O.V.E. Fund, Attn: **Julie Oswald, Chair - Dinner Auction**. Plan to attend and bid generously in the silent auction and for the extraordinary items presented by celebrity auctioneers: Jerry Anderson and Chrys Peterson. The proceeds from the festive dinner auction will brighten the lives of children in Vietnam with education, clean water, medical assistance, and hope for the future. ♦

MAINTAINING MY FATHER'S LEGACY

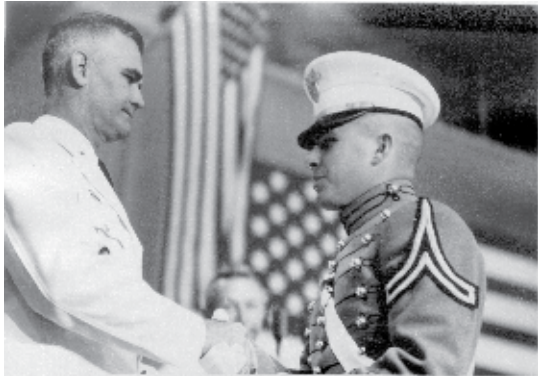
By Bob Culp

I am not a veteran; so it humbles me to serve on the board of such a great organization as the D.O.V.E. Fund. The passion shown by the Vietnam veterans that serve on this board is something to behold. Anyone who has ever met them or attended one of our functions, has witnessed first-hand their compassion and resolve. I was introduced to the D.O.V.E. Fund in 2004 by then board member Geof McKisson. Geof, veteran Tom Treece and I met at one of the Vietnam traveling memorials, often referred to as the "Moving Wall". They asked me to attend a board meeting and tell my story to the Board of Trustees. Shortly thereafter, I was asked to join the board and without hesitation, I said "yes".



Captain Thomas Culp on an airboat in the Mekong Delta

My connection to Vietnam really began at birth. I was born in Hawaii, August 13, 1967 while my father, Captain Thomas D. Culp, was serving in the Mekong Delta region of Vietnam. I have a brother, Tom, who is two years older than me and I imagine the two of us kept our mother rather busy while our father was away. On September 11, 1967 my mother received the devastating news from the Army officers who regretfully informed her that my dad had been killed. He was on an airboat patrol mission along with five other boats when they were ambushed from the shoreline. Dad was a member of the 5th Special Forces Group; and a 1962 graduate of the Military Academy at West Point. He loved the military and he loved his country. I never got to see my father.



General Westmoreland with Thomas Culp on graduation day at West Point

However, I have lived with my father in my heart for 41 years now and have already lived 13 years longer than Dad. I believe that his legacy is living through me and is helping those that he was unable to finish helping in 1967; some of the poorest, most downtrodden people of Vietnam and their children. Today's children in Vietnam are thirty-three or more years removed from the war that tore our two countries apart; they have no recollection of war. The children we are helping are the grandchildren and possibly great grandchildren of many of the Vietnamese soldiers my father fought alongside, and in many cases, against.

Time heals all wounds and I strongly believe every child deserves a better future. The D.O.V.E. Fund strives to build an environment that is conducive to learning. Educating these children will help them, their families and their communities rise above the abject poverty that currently exists. A well-maintained building, uniforms, clean water and a bathroom are some very basic needs yet

the results of which are immeasurable. Through the education and support provided by the D.O.V.E. Fund, we can build a better future for these children who may not otherwise have the opportunity. I am proud to carry on my father's legacy. ♦

PERFECT PARTNERS: BANDAGE BRIGADE, D.O.V.E. FUND & EVA AIR *continued from page 1*

Special thanks to EVA Air (<http://www.evaair.com>) - the finest airline on which this writer has ever flown - and to Gary & Linda Stocker (and their legions of supporters) at the Bandage Brigade (<http://www.leprosybandages.blogspot.com/>) for their humanitarian efforts. Also, special thanks to Dianne Van Voorhis and our beloved D.O.V.E. Fund as we continue in our efforts to make a difference in the lives of the poverty-stricken people of Vietnam.

What a beautiful thing it is when a plan comes together, pairing perfect partners in unity to help change the lives of those less fortunate on this planet that we all must share; may this only be the beginning! ♦



The D.O.V.E. Fund, Bandage Brigade, and EVA Air join forces to help ease the suffering of ones such as this woman from Vietnam's leper colonies.

D.O.V.E. FUND 2008 FINANCIAL REVIEW

By Doug Welch

Total receipts for 2008 were \$224,000, which is down from 2007 by \$51,000 and down from our highest year in 2006 by \$81,000. This is an obvious reflection of the slow economic downward slide our entire country has experienced during this same period. Areas where we were down compared to 2007 were restricted donations (down \$37,000), unrestricted donations (down \$11,000), golf outing (down, net of expenses \$3500), and interest income (down \$6300). We were pleased, however, to see the net profits from our annual fundraising auction up \$8200.

Total project expenditures were \$218,000 for 2008 which is \$67,000 less than the prior year. However, on a total cash-in less cash-out basis for the D.O.V.E. Fund, we spent \$25,000 more than we took in. Thus we spent down our reserves by \$25,000 to further our mission.

On the administrative side, we spent \$16,000. The biggest expense is printing and postage of \$12,000, primarily for this bi-annual newsletter. We also had bank fees of \$1500 (that is about 37 wire transfers at \$40 each) and insurance equaling \$1400. Looking at the D.O.V.E. Fund from inception through December 31, 2008, we have raised over \$1,612,000 and have spent \$1,387,000 for the children of Vietnam. This is broken down on the revenue side as unrestricted contributions of \$245,000, restricted contributions of \$979,000, fund raising net of expenses of \$311,000 and interest income of \$21,000. On the expense side we spent \$1,291,000 for our projects in Vietnam, and \$41,000 in administrative expenses. (Board members continue to cover our administrative expenses through their individual donations.)

Our reserves of \$225,000 are invested in certificates of deposits and money market funds. Our goal has always been to safeguard these funds from risk so that your donated dollars are there to fund our future commitments and projects. ♦

