



# DOVE DILIGENCE

*Constant, Careful Effort*

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## SCHOLARSHIPS

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### MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

*Education is not filling a pail, but lighting a fire!*

William B. Yeats

The D.O.V.E. Scholarship Program has been a dream of the D.O.V.E. Fund board of trustees for some time. D.O.V.E. has built more than forty schools and not all of “our kids” in the area are able to attend school because they are in desperate need of tuition assistance. Your contribution will enable more children of poor, rural families to attend school. Please support D.O.V.E. in our mission to light as many fires as possible!



*Pho Phong Elementary class in session*

Vietnam is still a third world country with many isolated villages where subsistence farming prevails. The average annual income for a family is about \$400 USD, which does not always accommodate the annual tuition fees required by the government for each school age child:

\$50 per student in grades 5 – 7

\$75 per student in grades 8 – 9

\$100 per student in grades 10 – 12

College Tuition \$250 per student.

The total expense of books, fees, lodging, and tuition is in excess of \$600 per year, costing approximately \$2,500 to acquire a degree in four years.

Marian Grems, Scholarships and Grants Committee Chairman, has examined our program with great care and established protocols for Vietnamese school administrators to monitor each student’s financial needs, academic achievement, and attendance. Our D.O.V.E. representative in Vietnam, Cam Nhung, also conducts site visits to meet with students and track their progress. D.O.V.E. provided more than 300 scholarships last year and research conducted by Cam Nhung reveals there are many more children in need of tuition assistance so they too may attend school.

Bob Durbin, Chairman



*Thank you, D.O.V.E. family, we love you!*

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## The lighting of such a fire

is described in the poetic and heartfelt words written by Hoang Thi Bich Lien, a senior at the University in Ho Chi Minh City [Saigon]. Lien is the older sister of Lan, a former D.O.V.E. Scholarship recipient. Her words impart the positive consequences of the scholarships given to her sister Lan that enabled her to complete her high school education. Lien sent her story attached to a recent email to Fred Grimm, D.O.V.E. Vice-Chair Vietnam Projects.



Dear Mr. Fred,

*I want to thank you again for all that you give to my sister Lan and me. I finished my story and I send it to you now. I wrote it in Vietnamese and in English. I don't know how correct my words are but I tried my best. I just wrote what I felt. I hope you like the gift of my story. It is also my hope to see you again during your next visit to Vietnam. Good luck and good health to you and your family.*

*Yours sincerely,  
Hoang Thi Bich Lien*

## TO WHOM I WANT TO BECOME

*by Lien*

Life is a chain of meetings. There are opportunities to exchange compliments or sometimes just a glance, but some of them leave a deep impression.

In life there are many things, which are born, grow, and pass away. Some things fade away quickly but some things grow larger with greater meaning over time. I want to tell you a story about my sister and me in which I describe the central character as an angel. His name is Fred Grimm.

Four years ago, a D.O.V.E. angel visited the high school in Quang Tri province to give scholarships to poor students including my sister Lan, who studied very hard. At that time she spoke very little English and the angel did not know Vietnamese ...but his kind voice and smiling eyes spoke in the universal language understood by all people. Lan wanted to speak to him like a daughter would speak to her father, but the proper words in English were unknown to her then, so tears of joy from her eyes silently spoke her immense gratitude to him.

One year later, the angel returned to the high school and presented my sister with another scholarship for her senior year.

This time Lan was determined to tell him how much a high school education meant to her. When the scholarship presentation was over, the students and parents stayed to have lunch with the D.O.V.E. Fund members. Lan and four other students were seated at a table with the angel and his friend - Vietnam veteran and D.O.V.E. trustee Dan Gregg. After lunch the D.O.V.E. visitors quickly boarded their van for departure. The angel was leaving and my sister had not told him that no father could have given a daughter a greater gift than the scholarship he gave to her. Suddenly, Lan was so overcome by the desire to convey her message that she ran to the vehicle and called out; the driver stopped the van and opened the door.

She was face-to-face with the angel and was so filled with emotion - all Lan could do was smile and hand him the orange she carried. He accepted the humble orange as a most precious gift and then the angel hugged her with polite gratitude. The orange placed in his hand became a symbol to my sister of her own future – it would be safe and sound and bravely protected. Lan knew the angel understood exactly what was in her heart and the meaning of her sincere gesture.



*Lan and Lien in Ho Chi Minh City*

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In November of 2009, the angel came back again to check on many schools the D.O.V.E. Fund had built in Quang Tri. He asked about the former student named Lan, who presented him with an orange two years ago. He was told that she had joined me, her older sister, at the University in Ho Chi Minh City [Saigon], where Lan is in her sophomore year. He got her phone number and decided to invite her to dinner with himself and his fellow traveling companion John Abbey. He called my sister and asked if she could bring a friend. I was able to meet the angel Lan had spoken of with such reverence. We both greeted him with very happy hearts.

In the angel's eyes there was sadness from past war memories that disappeared when he talked about the boys and girls D.O.V.E. is helping in Vietnam. Whenever he spoke of them his eyes sparkled because he placed the images of these children in the most solemn place in his heart.

The angel has an elevated soul. He said many great things to Lan and me. He told us to face the challenges of education and life with great effort and to have faith in ourselves and in others. He explained that in life there are times when we all need assistance from others and that even we can help during this time in our young lives by listening to others and opening our hearts to their suffering. A smile and encouraging words may seem small but to a person in need they can fill a day with light and hope and even change a person's life. Helping people so they can help others too is the most important thing to the angel.

I thank the angel very much for bringing such wisdom to my life. To me, he is not only a benefactor, he is whom I wish to imitate. My greatest wish is that I will be successful and help others as he has helped my sister Lan and me. I tell many, many people about the D.O.V.E. angel ~ the person I wish to become.

**NOTE:** Fred Grimm, the angel in Lien's story, is a Vietnam veteran and founding member of D.O.V.E. He was Chairman of the D.O.V.E. Fund and is now our Vice-Chair of Vietnam Projects. Fred and his wife Jill have been delegates on several D.O.V.E. trips to Vietnam. In March of 2010, they will return to Vietnam with other friends of D.O.V.E. to actively engage the humanitarian mission they so strongly believe in.



*The Scholarship Program is just one facet of D.O.V.E. Each issue of DOVE DILIGENCE will highlight a different type of project and describe how the featured committee works to engage our mission. Your generous support of our Scholarship Program will provide more children like Lan and Lien with an education. We believe that with insight and understanding of the personal life-changing consequences of our projects - you will choose to support D.O.V.E. and bring the spirit of peace and hope to the children of Vietnam.*



*John Abbey spreading the warmth of D.O.V.E.*



*We want children like this to succeed*



*John Abbey & Fred Grimm with a future D.O.V.E. student*