







# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Theresa Tran, President Messengers of Love



"Speak tenderly to them. Let there be kindness in your face, in your eyes, in your smile, in the warmth of your greeting. Always have a cheerful smile. Don't only give your care, but give your heart as well" - Mother Teresa of Calculta

Dear Messengers of Love boards, members and friends,

I hope you are doing well. It has been awhile since I reached out to you personally and give you an update on MOL's activities. Well, COVID gave us a couple of years vacation and extended time off, didn't it?

# **Program updates:**

Due to several reasons such as Hurricane Harvey, COVID, death in the family... MOL has not been able to host the Christmas fundraising dinner in the last 5 years. However, I am happy to report that we have been able to continue our yearly support to many of our Vietnam programs to help the children and poor, up to this very day without stopping, even in light of COVID. Thanks to the support of you all, of our donors and supporters, and UNAVSA for the generous grant. Thanks to US Capital Advisors for doing such a good job managing our reserve accounts and generating our investment income to help fund our programs.

# **Current programs:**

Except for the Holiday Care Package program which we were not able to implement because of COVID, we have over the last 5 years been able to continue with our programs in Vietnam which include:

- "Food for the Poor":

Provide daily meals to 90 - 150 poor people and poor patients at "Quán Cơm

Nhân Ái" in Hue. This program is run by Messengers of Love's board member Father Le Van Nghiem in Hue and supported by Mr. Thuy Nguyen, MOL's long term member. It was established in 2016 and continues without stopping until today. Please see attached Father Nghiem's report.

# "Home Building for the Poor":

- In 2020 and 2021, each year we built 8 houses for the poor ethnic families in Kontum. We also repaired and rebuilt 4 homes in Hue that were destroyed by the flood in 2021. In 2022 we have built 6 houses so far. The last two will be completed before year end. This program is led by MOL's Dominican Sister Nguyen Thi Nghien of Rosa Lima - Thu Đuc and sponsored by Mr. Kevin Truong and friends. It was established in 2004 and continues without stopping until today.

## - "Yearly Summer Schools":

MOL provides funding to support yearly summer schools for 600 students at two locations: Thanh Hoa and Kontum. The summer program in Kontum is run by Father Phan Đai Dương of Kontum and Dr. Hien Van Tran, MOL's board member. Here, we serve and teach 450 ethnic students each summer. The summer program in 2 locations of Thanh Hoa is run by Sister Nguyen Thi Hong of St. Paul convent and Father Nguyen Tien Dzung. Here we teach and serve 75 - 150 students. Both programs started around 2017. Due to COVID, we could not hold the summer school program in 2020 and 2021. We resumed the program in 2022. The latest 2022 Summer School program just ended in August 2022.

#### - "Medical Mission":

We completed a medical mission trip to Vietnam to teach the local doctors and treat more than a hundred poor patients in 2019. This program is run by Dr. Thu Ba To, MOL's medical director. Personnel on this mission trip include the following Physicians (from Vietnam and US, pro bono service):

1) Quang Le MD, PhD, Chief General Surgeon of VN, 2) Diep Pham MD, ObGyn French-Vietnamese hospital, 3) Hoang Lan Vo MD, PhD, Opthamology, 4) Trinh Pham MD, Pediatric, 5) Thach Nguyen MD, Gastrointestinal Internal Medicine, 6) My Phuong, MD. Nurses (paid service) include all nursing staff from Lien Tam clinic and 20+ volunteers from VN and US. Please see attached Medical Mission report.

Due to COVID, we were not able to continue this program after 2019. We hope to continue our Medical Mission program on a yearly basis starting in 2023.

- "Medical Services":
- a) We provide funding for medicine to treat poor patients for a Medical clinic in Xom Moi, South Vietnam. The funding provided will be used to purchase medicine yearly from 2018 2023
- b) We also built a Mobile clinic to treat patients who are home-bound. These projects were initiated by Bishop Nguyen Thai Hop and sponsored by Father Hoang Minh Toan of Houston.

#### - "Disaster Relief":

We provided food, aid and medical service to the hurricane victims in two villages: Quang Tri and Rao Trang, in Central Vietnam, in November 2020. This program was led by Dr. Thu Ba To, MOL's medical director.

- "Scholarship for a Poor Student":

This program started in 2010 with 10 scholarships and grew to 215 scholarships each year as of 2018. The students we sponsored mostly graduated and have jobs. Currently MOL are sponsoring 15 students with yearly scholarships.

# Future new projects:

We hope to be able to have enough funding to support the following future projects.

Christmas 2023: Resume the Holiday Care package program where we will be visiting orphanages and give the orphans their care package. Santa Claus will be handing out the gifts and our team will be telling the children about the meaning of Christmas and sing Christmas carol with them. They will be receiving not only the basic needs such as food, rice, toiletries but also a toy and a happy Holiday meal to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

# Within 1-2 years:

- Establish an online English learning program to teach the students in Vietnam using volunteers from the USA. We will be using software and

technology such as Zoom and video conferencing equipment.

- Add an orphanage in Lao to provide food and Holiday care package

## Within 5 years:

- Build a school which includes several classrooms, offices, playgrounds, teacher rooms... to accommodate up to 600 students for our Summer School at our Kontum location. Estimate cost: \$250,000 USD. Father Phan Đai Duong is in the process of applying for a license from the government to build, which could take a few years, if not more.
- Provide opportunities to earn an American GED for poor students. Cost: \$10,000 \$20,000 USD for three years of High School per student. Dr. Hien V Tran and Ms. My Le Vo of MOL's board of directors are researching into what it takes to implement this program.

#### Within 10 years:

- Build a Home for the Elders to provide low rental housing for the elders who have no family or cannot live with their families. It will be for local Houston area. Estimate cost \$1,200,000 USD

## Past projects:

- Our past project include Scholarship for poor students, Orphanage and School remodeling, Sponsor an Orphan, Well and Clean water systems for ethnic villages. These projects are currently supported only on a case by case and as needed basis.

# Financial updates:

I am happy to report that Messengers of Love was chosen by the Union of North American Vietnamese Student Associations (UNAVSA) out of several charities competing to receive a \$56k grant toward the 2022 and 2023 Summer School program. UNAVSA recognized the importance of education toward our ethnic children to reduce drop out rate and improve their futures. Thanks for believing in us.

MOL continues to be chosen to participate in the Combined Federal Campaign year after year since 2015. This is a program that allows federal employees to contribute to MOL's causes through payroll deductions.

Also, in spite of market setbacks, our reserve accounts which are invested in

"growth & income" securities, opened with US Capital Advisors, independently managed by a US Capital's Senior Managing Director, have continuously enjoyed tremendous growth. The investment income generated has been used to fund our Vietnam programs. The reserve accounts were established with the specific purposes: 1) to allow MOL to continue to fund our programs in the case when we cannot hold our fundraiser (as in the last 5 years), and 2) to provide capital for future projects that require large capital investment, such as school building, residential compound for the elders ...

Note: MOL's asset numbers including cash and investments are stated in our financial reports and also reported on our tax returns. The financial reports can be found at MOL's website: <a href="www.messengersoflove.com">www.messengersoflove.com</a>

## Other updates:

Lastly, I want to announce that our 20th anniversary is coming up in 2024. Hopefully we can celebrate our Journey of Love 2004 - 2024 with all of you.

Latest program pictures, letters and reports will be sent out and posted on our website soon. Please stay tuned. <a href="https://www.messengersoflove.com">www.messengersoflove.com</a>

Thank you all for your love and support for the misfortunate people all these years.

Sincerely,

Theresa Tran,

Messengers of Love

therenton

"It is in giving that I found my true happiness"

www.MessengersofLove.com, www.SuGiaTinhYeu.com, Combined Federal
 Campaign Code 34043, Federal Tax ID: 11-3730103
 "We can do no great things, only small things with great love" - Mother
 Teresa of Calculta

\_\_\_\_\_\_

#### Click to view this email in a browser

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: <u>Unsubscribe</u>

Messengers of Love P.O. Box 590936 Houston, Texas 77259 US

