

# GREENCROSS



SAP-VN's mission is to improve the quality of life for the poor and the disabled in Vietnam and locally with services in healthcare, education, and social welfare. Fundraising for SAP-VN programs comes from private donations and fundraising proceeds. All donations are tax deductible as permitted by law.

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FALL 2025  
**#077**

SAP-VN NEWSLETTER

## GIFT OF HOPE 23 CHO EM NIỀM HY VỌNG



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# 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## (JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024)

**A Nonprofit Organization**  
**Founded in 1992**  
**EIN: 33-0539755**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHI-LAN NGUYEN  
 HIEU TRAN  
 NGOC-HUONG LE  
 QUYNH TRAN, DDS  
 THINH NGUYEN  
 THUAN TRAN, MD  
 TRINA THUY NGUYEN, OD

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HUONG-ANH LONG, MD  
 KHANH DANG, PharmD  
 TRUNG DOAN, DDS  
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CHILAN NGUYEN  
*Secretary*

JONATHAN KUO  
*Treasurer*

ANH HOANG  
 CRYSTAL CHAU  
 KATHLEEN VO  
 LINH WANG  
 NGA NGUYEN  
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 THAO LE  
*Officers*

THU-LUONG PHAM  
*Director of Vietnamese Programs*

KAITLYN DANG, PharmD, MS, MPH  
*Director of USA Programs*

NGHIA NGUYEN  
 HUE TANG  
 HA DZOAN NINH  
*Associates in Vietnam*

### MAIN OFFICE

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|                                                  |                  |                |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                                    |                  |                |
| Direct Public Contributions                      | \$260,221        | 34.03%         |
| Fundraising Net Proceeds                         | \$311,784        | 49.96%         |
| Bank Interests                                   | \$8,478          | 3.28%          |
| Mobile Care Registrations                        | \$42,401         | 5.54%          |
| Miscellaneous Income                             | \$259            | 0.03%          |
| <b>Total Cash Income</b>                         | <b>\$623,143</b> | <b>81.48%</b>  |
| <b>Total Non-Cash Income (In-Kind Donations)</b> | <b>\$141,600</b> | <b>18.52%</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                              | <b>\$764,743</b> | <b>100.00%</b> |
|                                                  |                  |                |
| <b>EXPENSES (USA)</b>                            |                  |                |
| Bank Services Charges                            | \$3,044          | 0.68%          |
| Dues and Subscription                            | \$200            | 0.04%          |
| Insurance                                        | \$2,428          | 0.54%          |
| Licenses and Permits                             | \$100            | 0.02%          |
| Office Supplies                                  | \$64             | 0.01%          |
| Rent                                             | \$28,240         | 6.27%          |
| Supplies                                         | \$200            | 0.04%          |
| Telephone                                        | \$790            | 0.18%          |
| Miscellaneous Expenses                           | \$28             | 0.01%          |
| <b>Subtotal (Management &amp; General, USA)</b>  | <b>\$35,946</b>  | <b>7.80%</b>   |
|                                                  |                  |                |
| <b>PROJECT FUNDING</b>                           |                  |                |
| Vietnam Operation Expenses                       | \$10,783         | 2.40%          |
| Bicycles for Students                            | \$33,792         | 7.51%          |
| Cataract Surgery Program                         | \$62,788         | 13.95%         |
| Education                                        | \$14,098         | 3.13%          |
| Heart Surgery Program                            | \$40,234         | 8.94%          |
| Miscellaneous Programs in VN                     | \$7,074          | 1.57%          |
| Mobile Care Expenses in VN                       | \$53,635         | 11.92%         |
| Mobile Care Expenses in USA                      | \$22,371         | 4.97%          |
| Orthopedic Surgery Program                       | \$144,471        | 32.10%         |
| Scholarship                                      | \$8,508          | 1.89%          |
| Wheelchairs                                      | \$2,272          | 0.50%          |
| Local US Projects                                | \$14,958         | 3.32%          |
| <b>Subtotal (Program Services, VN &amp; USA)</b> | <b>\$414,983</b> | <b>92.20%</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                            | <b>\$450,078</b> | <b>100.00%</b> |
|                                                  |                  |                |
| <b>REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES</b>             | <b>\$314,664</b> |                |
| <b>BEGINNING OF 2024 BALANCE</b>                 | <b>\$454,697</b> |                |
| <b>ENDING BALANCE (DEC. 31, 2024)</b>            | <b>\$769,361</b> |                |

# LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This year, we celebrate 33 years of the Social Assistance Program for Vietnam (SAP-VN). Since our founding in Orange County, California, in 1992, our mission has been to support underprivileged children and disadvantaged individuals in Vietnam and, more recently, in our local communities in the U.S. We are incredibly proud of the impact we have made together.

We have sponsored 14,228 corrective orthopedic procedures for disabled children, 129 life-saving pediatric heart surgeries, and restored sight to 16,575 patients through our Cataract Surgery Program. The cost of a corrective orthopedic procedure is approximately \$500, and a pediatric heart surgery is about \$3,000. This may seem like a small amount to most of us, but it may be an impossible dream to a disabled child and his/her poor family. Since 1994, our annual Mobile Care Clinic in Vietnam has provided primary and follow-up care to 78,732 adult and pediatric patients.

We have donated 2,895 bicycles to students, enabling them to attend school, and funded vocational training for 6,941 handicapped students in Hoc Mon and Khanh Hoa. We also provide tuition scholarships and thousands of care packages to needy families and children in orphanages annually.

In Orange and San Diego counties, our dedicated volunteers organize monthly events to provide food and bring laughter to those in our local communities by operating soup kitchens events and visiting nursing homes. We have

provided over 12,000 meals to the homeless, 80 duffle bags and supplies to children in foster care, and 175 back-to-school lunch boxes and supplies to critically ill children since 2017.

This year we are proud to report that we have expanded our activities to reach the poor and underserved communities in the high mountains of Dak Lak. Our 2025 Mobile Care mission, involving 180 healthcare professionals and volunteers, treated 5,609 patients and distributed bicycles, scholarships, school supplies, and food packages. We also continue to sponsor post-mobile care for patients requiring advanced treatments, such as cataract surgeries, advanced dental procedures, and heart surgeries, all at no cost to them.

These achievements would not be possible without the unwavering support of our dedicated volunteers, generous sponsors, and trusted partners. On behalf of those we serve in Vietnam and the U.S., we extend our sincere gratitude for your contributions over the past 33 years. As we look forward, SAP-VN will continue to "Rise Above and Go Beyond" - this year's theme for our annual Gift of Hope fundraising event—to further our mission. We hope you will continue to support our commitment to helping those in need.

Together, WE are making a difference.

Sincerely,  
The Board of Directors of SAP-VN

## SAP-VN ACTIVITIES (OCT. 2024 - SEP. 2025)

HOẠT ĐỘNG CỦA SAP-VN (THÁNG 10 NĂM 2024 - THÁNG 9 NĂM 2025)

| Program                                                                   | Locations                                                                                                                       | Number of Recipients                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mobile Care Clinic                                                        | Xã Phú Xuân & Xã Liên Sơn Lắc, Đắk Lắk                                                                                          | 3047 medical + 648 dental + 1,914 optometric + 9102 prescriptions = 5,609 total patients                             |
| Orthopedic Surgery, Prosthesis, Orthosis Equipment, & Wheelchair Donation | Bắc Kạn, Cao Bằng, Thái Nguyên, Tuyên Quang, Quảng Nam, Gia Lai, Kontum, Khánh Hòa, Saigon, An Giang, Trà Vinh, Cần Thơ, Saigon | 362 patients + 115 wheelchairs                                                                                       |
| Heart Surgery                                                             | An Giang, Trà Vinh, Sài Gòn, Quảng Nam                                                                                          | 29 patients                                                                                                          |
| Cataract Surgery                                                          | Cần Thơ, Sài Gòn (for patients coming from surrounding provinces)                                                               | 285 + 717 = 1002 patients                                                                                            |
| Bicycle Donation                                                          | Khánh Hòa, Đắk Lắk, Gia Lai, Kontum, An Giang, Trà Vinh, Cần Thơ                                                                | 458 bicycles                                                                                                         |
| Education for the Disabled                                                | Khánh Hòa, Sài Gòn                                                                                                              | 45 students                                                                                                          |
| Scholarship                                                               | Gia Lai, Đắk Lắk                                                                                                                | 196 students                                                                                                         |
| Miscellaneous Donations                                                   | Cần Thơ, Khánh Hòa, Saigon, Đắk Lắk, Gia Lai                                                                                    | 1000+ food gifts to needy families, orphanages.                                                                      |
| Local Projects in the US                                                  | Homeless shelters, soup kitchens, nursing homes in Orange and San Diego counties                                                | 3000+ hot meals & lunch<br>30 duffle bags for foster kids<br>50 back to school kits<br>Countless seniors entertained |

# MOBILE CARE MISSION & THANK YOU

## AUGUST 4-8, 2025

### PHÚ XUÂN & LIÊN SƠN LẮK DISTRICTS, ĐẮK LẮK PROVINCE, VIỆT NAM

*A Message from Mobile Care Team Leader, Dr. Trung Đoàn, at the Conclusion of the Mission*

Dear team SAP-VN mobile care 2025,

Congratulations to our team this year for yet another successful medical mission. This is the first time our Mobile Care program is carried out in Dak Lak, and I am happy to report that the locals in Dak Lak were pleasantly surprised of the magnitude and comprehensiveness of our services, and they expressed times and again how appreciative they were to what we've done for the people in our mission. All our team members, medical and non-medical alike, should be proud of the services we provided to the needy people here.

This last week we provided various medical services to over 3200 patients, gave out about 25,000 USD worth of essentials to our patients, as well as scholarships and bicycles to students in Dak Lak. You provided them with gifts and services, accompanied by a smile and kindness from your heart. I want to thank our volunteers on behalf of the people

of Dak Lak and SAP-VN's board members and Mobile care leaders. My special appreciation goes to our youth volunteers whose participation showed maturity and kindness beyond your age, and I wish for your volunteerism to continue beyond this mission.

I also want to express my appreciation to our fearless Mobile Care leaders who have worked tirelessly for the last 8 months to organize this medical mission. Since December, our Mobile Care leaders have spent countless hours on meetings, emails, SMS, to navigate the difficult bureaucracy of Vietnam, and to organize the logistics of the mission. At the risk of leaving out important contributions, I would like to specifically acknowledge these individuals:

My co-team leaders, Drs Thu-Luong Pham and Quynh Tran: They are our mobile care veterans and many-years mobile care leaders, whose roles are arguably the most

| Year                              | Local Partners                               | Province              | Medical | Dental | Eye    | Prescription | No. of Patients |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------------|-----------------|
| To-date number of patients served |                                              |                       | 45,169  | 12,841 | 18,278 | 154,485      | 78,732          |
| 2025                              | Hội Chữ Thập Đỏ Tỉnh Đắk Lắk                 | Dak Lak               | 3,047   | 648    | 1,914  | 9,102        | 5,609           |
| 2024                              | Thanh Bình & Cao Lãnh District               | Đồng Tháp             | 2,754   | 542    | 1,853  | 11,903       | 5,149           |
| 2023                              | Hội Bảo Trợ BN Nghèo Tỉnh Quang Nam          | Quang Nam             | 2,258   | 792    | 1,376  | 8,510        | 4,426           |
| 2019                              | Hội Bảo Trợ BN Nghèo Tỉnh Quang Nam          | Quang Nam             | 3,200   | 1200   | 1550   | 13,939       | 5,950           |
| 2018                              | Hội Bảo Trợ BN Nghèo TP Can Tho              | TP Can Tho            |         |        |        | 8,323        | 2,444           |
| 2017                              | Thạch Mỹ Tây and Bình Chánh District         | An Giang              | 2,530   | 420    | 2005   | 8,614        | 4,955           |
| 2016                              | Sơn Tây, Tây Trà                             | Quang Ngãi            | 2,113   | 831    | 1203   | 7,018        | 4,147           |
| 2015                              | Sóc Trăng City, Vung Liem                    | Bình Minh             | 1,653   | 226    | 1558   | 4,934        | 3,437           |
| 2014                              | A Luoi & Quang Dien Clinics                  | Thua Thien Hue        | 1,721   | 622    | 1024   | 5,706        | 3,367           |
| 2013                              | An Phu Clinic & Children Charity             | An Giang              | 1,982   | 514    | 1299   | 8,753        | 3,795           |
| 2012                              | Can Tho Eye & Oromaxillofacial Hospital      | Vinh Long             | 2,380   | 868    | 1020   | 8,871        | 4,268           |
| 2011                              | Bac Binh Clinic & Red Cross                  | Binh Thuan            | 2,991   | 955    | 1147   | 10,957       | 5,093           |
| 2010                              | Bac Binh People & Health Committee           | Binh Thuan            | 1,992   | 562    | 618    | 6,145        | 3,172           |
| 2009                              | Can Tho Eye & Oromaxillofacial Hospital      | Vinh Long             | 2,732   | 736    | 1185   | 9,344        | 4,653           |
| 2008                              | The Sisters of St Paul's Free Clinic         | Quang Nam             | 2,387   | 518    | 876    | 6,268        | 3,781           |
| 2007                              | The Sisters of St Paul's Free Clinic         | Quang Nam             | 1,600   | 635    | 519    | 5,000        | 2,754           |
| 2006                              | Dong Thap Cmt. Family, Population & Children | Dong Thap             | 2,098   | 747    | 745    | 5,500        | 3,590           |
| 2005                              | An Giang Children's Assistance Fund          | An Giang              | 1,972   | 663    | 300    | 5,200        | 2,935           |
| 2004                              | Hoi An Clinic                                | Quang Nam             | 1,400   | 432    |        | 4,000        | 1,832           |
| 2003                              | Hoi An Clinic                                | Quang Nam             | 1,038   | 558    |        | 3,500        | 1,596           |
| 2001                              | Dieu De Clinic                               | Thua Thien, Quang Nam | 2,000   | 220    |        | 4,000        | 2,220           |
| 2000                              | Kim Long & Dieu De Clinics                   | Thua Thien            | 1,070   |        |        |              | 1,070           |
| 1999                              | Khanh Hoa Health Department                  | Khanh Hoa             | 668     | 100    |        | 2,000        | 768             |
| 1998                              | Ca Mau People Committee                      | Bac Lieu              | 830     |        |        | 2,000        | 830             |
| 1997                              | SEARAC's                                     | Khanh Hoa             | 800     | 300    |        | 2,000        | 1,100           |
| 1994                              | La Nga Group                                 | Binh Thuan            | 1,000   | 400    |        | 2,000        | 1,400           |

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

# MOBILE CARE MISSION & THANK YOU AUGUST 4-8, 2025 (CONTINUED)

**PHÚ XUÂN & LIÊN SƠN LẮK DISTRICTS, ĐẮK LẮK PROVINCE, VIỆT NAM**

*A Message from Mobile Care Team Leader, Dr. Trung Đoàn, at the Conclusion of the Mission*



Mobile Care Mission Team in Dak Lak Province  
August 4-8, 2025

crucial in organizing this year's and past Mobile Care missions.

Dr. Trina Nguyen, Dr. Phuong-Trang Cao, and Mr. Thinh Nguyen: these leaders are instrumental in navigating the administrative work in Dak Lak to secure our permission and cooperation of Dak Lak government for our mission to happen. Dr. Phuong-Trang is also credited with connecting our team with her niece, Ms. Le Diem Thuy, who enthusiastically helped us with performing 4-month worth of prep work in 3 weeks, and made the seemingly impossible logistics possible.

Dr. Tam Nguyen has been so instrumental in procuring and organizing medications for our medical missions, not only this year but also many years in the past. Besides ordering medications, she was also the main person, sometime the only person who sorted out medications and distribute them among team members to bring for our mission.

Mr. Jonathan Kuo and Mr. Hung Vu: These 2 leaders helped our team to carry out the logistics flawlessly for our mission. In my opinion, they would be great replacements for Quynh and myself in future missions if they choose to accept the assignment.

Ms. Kathleen Vo: At the young age of 21, Kathleen is our youngest leader who oversaw many logistic assignments, not only in this mission but in the previous two missions as well. Despite having to keep up with schoolwork, Kathleen did not refuse any task assigned to her, and got it done very well too. I admire her maturity and capability, and I hope that one day she will be the future of our organization.

I hope you will all enjoy some relaxed time after the busy work week, and I look forward to seeing you at SAP-VN's next event.

## SAP-VN EXPERIENCE

**AMY PHAN**

Volunteering is often defined as the act of freely offering to do something but with SAP-VN, I learned it's so much more. This was my first time volunteering with the group, and I joined the dental team because I was certified to perform periodontal cleanings. While I expected to use my skills, I didn't expect to be so deeply moved by the kindness, teamwork, and compassion I witnessed from both the volunteers and patients.

From the moment we began, I was struck by how warm and supportive the team was. Each volunteer, whether a student, a professional, or another brought not just their time and skills, but also genuine kindness and empathy. Even though we each had specific tasks, I constantly witnessed team members checking in on one another. The environment was very different from anything I was used to, more chaotic at times, but filled with a shared sense of purpose.

Communication was sometimes a challenge for me, as my Vietnamese isn't strong. Still, I found that a simple bow or a smile could go a long way in expressing respect and

gratitude. Many patients responded with smiles of their own, and their appreciation made every long hour worth it.

An unforgettable experience involved a young child who was clearly terrified of receiving dental care, likely for the first time. The dentist and I did our best to comfort him and his parent, gently explaining that we were just going to "brush his little teeth." Despite his tears, he bravely opened his mouth and let us proceed. Afterward, although still a bit upset, he quietly said, "Cảm ơn, cô và bác sĩ." It was the sweetest, most heartwarming moment, and one I'll always carry with me.

This mission reminded me how fortunate we are, not just to have access to healthcare, but to be in a position to provide it. It renewed my passion for dentistry and solidified my desire to pursue a career that allows me to serve others. I truly hope anyone who has the chance to volunteer with SAP-VN takes it. It's a life-changing experience that opens your eyes to the impact of empathy, teamwork, and the power of simply showing up for those in need.

# SAP-VN REFLECTION

ANDREW NGUYỄN

My name is Andrew Nguyễn, and I am a rising second-year undergraduate student studying Biology at UCLA. I am also a second-generation immigrant, raised in what I wouldn't call a very Vietnamese community, Encinitas, California. While my last name might be Vietnamese and I look the part, growing up, my ties to my Vietnamese heritage were quite weak.

I grew up never speaking Vietnamese; to me, it was just a language my parents spoke when they didn't want us to understand them, or what bà ngoại and ông ngoại spoke in when greeting me. My Viet vocabulary was limited to chores, my favorite foods, the numbers 1-10, and "Chúc mừng năm mới, sức khỏe dồi dào," which always earned me my lì xì every year. Having the privilege of being a youth leader for SAP-VN without knowing any Vietnamese was daunting, to say the least. While I'd gone the past two years as a general volunteer, I always had my brother and father to help translate and to stick by. This year, I came into the mission nervous yet resolved. I realized my mission experience depended entirely on my own initiative. Join me as I reflect on the life-changing experiences and lasting friendships I discovered at SAP-VN 2025 - moments and connections I never thought possible.

## The Youth Volunteers:

Throughout the mobile clinic, I found myself constantly surrounded by the radiant and kind students who made up the youth volunteers. Ranging from young teens to medical and dental students, these volunteers were from all walks of life. Justin was a biology teacher, Kimberly was studying for her MCAT while being in a foreign country, and my co-youth leader, Brandee, worked in the gaming industry! I was constantly astounded by how SAP-VN brought these people together, all dedicated to serving those in need.

From the start of the mission, I quickly realized that my job as a youth leader wasn't to simply lead, but to connect them. Each volunteer had their own experiences, passions, and skills; by creating a community filled with deep friendships, an individual was able to let those unique qualities impact us all.

On Sunday evening, during the youth meeting, I saw this firsthand as I met my group for the first time while making gifts

and letters for the elderly. One of the volunteers, Keira, knew how to make origami flowers and taught many of us, leading to a bouquet of flowers being built and a collection of new friendships being made.

During the first day of the mobile clinic, I was able to contribute my part in teaching others. With the sounds of dental equipment being set up and people bustling around to set up triage, patients began to file into the vitals station. I saw that while the electronic blood pressure machines were quick and easy to manage, there weren't enough for each volunteer. With the support and help of individuals like Son-Ha and Terena, who had also been recently EMT certified, we helped teach others how to manually osculate blood pressures using stethoscopes. Passing along the knowledge helped to speed up the flow of the medical team; it was a powerful reminder that collaboration creates something larger than the sum of its parts.

This constant teamwork and learning from others created a tightknit group of friends, strengthened further by the large group dinners filled with laughs, stories of the day, and promises to hang out in California after the mission. Experiencing Vietnam together made this mission full of unforgettable memories. Reflecting on purely the youth aspect of SAP-VN, everyone found their own niche group of people, a group to laugh with, eat with, sing karaoke on the buses with. For me, my group became so much more than just my friends; they became my SAP-VN family.

## Shadowing:

During the tiring yet fulfilling workdays, I had the privilege of shadowing talented physicians from various specialties. My most memorable was shadowing Dr. Kim Tang, a dermatologist. While we saw some interesting skin cases, most patients suffered from back and joint pain, which was managed with xylocaine injections.

When Hưng Nguyễn, a 76-year-old man from the neighboring village came, I was told that he couldn't work anymore due to his upper neck pain; I was tasked with drawing up the syringes, sterilizing the skin, and assisting in the injections. After the shots and massaging the tender area, he stood up and noticed he could stretch his neck further, and without pain. He had been feeling this constant pain for weeks, now he was hopeful and excited that he could return to work, to provide for his family. Hưng



# SAP-VN REFLECTION (CONTINUED)

ANDREW NGUYỄN

completely changed my perspective on how this mobile clinic helps others. While we treated just one patient, my small part may have improved his livelihood and ability to work, impacting his loved ones for much longer than our mission lasted.

I realized that by serving these people and shadowing, I had gained trust. Dr. Kim trusted me with direct patient care and assisting her patients, SAP-VN had given me their trust to represent their organization with my actions, and Hưng Nguyễn had entrusted me with his pain and vulnerability. Moments like this refuel my passion to give back through SAP-VN, who help me make the biggest impact I can through the mobile clinic.

## Learning From the Locals:

At the start of the week, I quickly found enjoyment in taking vitals at the start of patient processing. It was at this small table



filled with constantly dying blood pressure monitors, pulse oximeters, and hard-at-work volunteers that I was taught a lasting takeaway by the patients of Vietnam. At vitals, I was able to have direct patient interaction, spending time with each individual and getting a brief history. While before the mission began, I was intimidated by the prospect of my lack of Vietnamese fluency

coming to light, I found that it instead opened my eyes to the kindness and beauty of Vietnam.

Elderly patients politely corrected my broken phrases I had just learned from my friends, cheering me on when I used the proper intonations. This reinforcement filled me with pride, this was my language too, not just my parents. I was able to have a conversation with Thanh, a child working on his English. We taught each other new words to communicate, both learning the other's language and culture. I was struck by how I felt understood by them, despite our language barrier. In the short five minutes I had with each patient, they had imparted a sense of belonging onto me that will continue to impact me far into the future.

## Conclusion:

Reflecting on my experience as a youth volunteer and leader for SAP-VN, I am deeply appreciative of the opportunities and unforgettable memories that have redefined my understanding of providing care. Each day of the mission offered its own lesson that showed me the kindness, resilience, and warmth of the Vietnamese culture. W

Thank you to SAP-VN for allowing me to experience all that this Mobile Care trip has to offer, and the Ryan Dang Scholarship for making my trip possible. Whether it be from seeing the mountains of medications and supplies donated, or the seemingly unending rows of patients, SAP-VN's generosity and dedication to help those in need never cease to amaze me. Thank you to the people of Buôn Ma Thuật for helping me find pride and belonging with my Vietnamese heritage, and for reinforcing that my lack of fluency does not detract from my ability to give. To the passionate physicians and eager youth volunteers I worked with (especially my youth leader cohort: James, Brandee, and Kathleen), you all strengthen my resolve to become a physician who reflects the ideals of this mission: to improve the lives of those in need.

I am so grateful to be part of the SAP-VN family and will always jump at the opportunity to come back again for Mobile Care in the coming years. Thank you!

Sincerely!

# TÔI VÀ CÁC BẠN

NGUYỄN THỊ TUYẾT LIÊN

Tôi và các bạn từ 2 nơi địa lý khác nhau, gặp nhau ở quê hương tôi: Việt nam. Dù ngôn ngữ khác nhau, dù làm việc bằng nụ cười, bằng ánh mắt, bằng những ký hiệu tay; nhưng chúng ta cùng làm với cùng một mục đích: lòng nhân ái, chăm sóc cho người dân Việt nam quê tôi.

Cám ơn Bạn, đã đến và giúp đỡ người dân nghèo, người dân tộc quê hương tôi.

Cám ơn Bạn, những người bạn Việt kiều đã về với Quê hương Việt nam, bằng sự chăm sóc về vật chất và tinh thần

với người dân Việt nam mình.

Cám ơn Bạn, tất cả những người Việt nam cùng làm việc và giúp đỡ Đoàn, chúng ta đều chung một mục đích vì người dân của quê Việt nam mình

Chia tay các bạn, với tất cả tấm lòng lưu luyến. Mong và hẹn gặp các bạn một ngày không xa vào năm sau. Chúc các bạn đều bình an và sức khỏe để cùng gặp nhau trong chuyến thiện nguyện năm sau

# A JOURNEY – A LESSON IN GROWTH

**PHAM THI DIEU**

There are experiences that cannot be measured in numbers, only felt with the heart.

The Mobile Care 2025 medical volunteer trip with SAP-VN in Đắk Lắk was one such experience.

As a first-time participant, I met strangers who shared the same warm and passionate hearts. Despite many challenges in preparation, the journey unfolded as planned - a reminder that with compassion, every obstacle can be overcome.

In the remote mountains, where scarcity touches every aspect of life, I witnessed the stark difference between city life and rural communities. Dirt roads, humble houses, and especially the anxious eyes of villagers waiting for medical care - all reminded me of the true responsibility of healthcare: not only to cure illness, but to bring trust and peace of mind.

I will never forget the gentle smile of an elderly man leaning on his cane for a check-up, or the innocent eyes of children waiting for each small dose of medicine. Amidst the mountains and simple homes, I saw hardship - but also resilience and faith.

At times, the exhaustion of working nonstop was overwhelming. Yet a child's smile after receiving medicine, or a grateful nod from an elder after a health consultation, instantly lifted the fatigue. I realized that sometimes, a warm

word of encouragement can be as precious as any medicine. Every smile given, every wheelchair delivered - is proof that healthcare is not only about treatment, but also about sowing hope. And the duty of those in this profession is not confined to modern clinics but extends to the places where help is least expected.

I am deeply grateful to Ms. Thuy Vo - head of the Pharmacy team, who gave me the chance to learn, experience, and grow through such a meaningful endeavor.

The journey has ended, but its echoes remain: gratitude, appreciation, and the reminder that every smile restored is a step toward a brighter future.

Warm regards!



# THE VO FAMILY TRADITION OF GIVING

**ELLA VO**

Four years ago, I would have never imagined getting on a 15-hour plane ride to the other side of the world to help with a mobile care mission. Now, after my third year in a row with SAP-VN, I can't imagine my summers without it.

I came to know about SAP-VN through my grandma, Tuyet Vo, a veteran of the program. She has volunteered with



SAP-VN for 21 years, going every year and only taking a break when the pandemic forced the program to cancel. Three years ago, she asked if she could extend the tradition of giving to me, leading to my first mission in 2023. On the fourth day of the mobile care mission this year, she turned 80 years old. She is my biggest inspiration along with my aunt, Thuy Vo, who you may know as the leader of

the best team in the program: the pharmacy team. I may be biased because she is family, but seeing her firsthand working tirelessly to organize the countless medications during not only during work but also free time hours, humorously connecting with the team, and constantly checking to make sure everyone is doing alright in the Vietnam heat while she herself skips lunch to keep work flowing is what draws me to the mission each year.

What I also love about SAP-VN is being able to directly help people and see the effects of what we do in the children happily clutching their stuffed animals and working mothers receiving a pair of eyeglasses. Along with the meaningful impact of the mission, the friends I have made through the program will last a lifetime. SAP-VN is built on its volunteers, and the people I have met during each mission embody the values it stands for. While every friend I have made is here for a different reason, whether it be to gain medical experience or to give back to their community, they are all kind, passionate, and driven.

SAP-VN has given me the chance to make a tangible difference in the lives of others, and I am grateful for the people, the purpose, and the unforgettable memories.

# MÙA YÊU THƯƠNG!

THỊNH NGUYỄN

Cali Tháng 7, ngày...

Chúng tôi bắt đầu hành trình trở lại với Quê hương như mọi năm, cùng mang trong mình những hành trang yêu thương từ SAP-VN, nơi hội tụ những con người cùng nhau hướng về Đất Việt. Cùng nhau chia sẻ sự yêu thương đến những mảnh đời khốn khó, những mảnh đời đang cần những bàn tay dang ra - trao đầy tình thương.

Từ Tuy Hòa Chúng tôi bắt xe để lên Buôn Ma Thuột, nơi năm nay SAP-VN sẽ tổ chức công tác thiện nguyện. Nặng vàng chạy theo từng cung đường đưa chúng tôi về vùng Cao nguyên đầy gió. Khí hậu thật là khô nhưng ẩm thấp, cảnh vật hai bên đường thật khác lạ so với ngày trước. Sự bê tông hóa nông thôn và đốn hạ rừng để làm rẫy đã tạo ra một diện mạo mới cho vùng đất cao nguyên! Biết rằng có tiện lợi, nhưng nó làm khí hậu nóng hơn, chưa nói việc mất đi những mảng xanh rừng núi làm ta cứ ngỡ như đang bước vào những thị trấn vùng duyên hải.



Rồi chúng tôi cũng đến điểm hẹn! Những gương mặt của từng thành viên SAP-VN ánh lên sự vui mừng, những tiếng chào hỏi thật là ấm áp, sự mệt mỏi trong lúc di chuyển gần như tan biến. Buôn Ma Thuột như nở hoa trong buổi chiều cuối ngày.

Đoàn chính thức đến Buôn Ma Thuột có khoảng 170 thành viên tham gia, trong đó có sự tham gia của những bác sĩ, y tá, cùng những em mới ra trường, có sự tham gia của các anh chị lớn tuổi làm các công tác hậu cần, phát quà... Các công tác sắp xếp được ban nhân sự SAP-VN phân chia cụ thể trong ngày tập trung đầu tiên, nên mọi việc đều đầu đủ sẵn sàng cho ngày đầu tiên.

6h30 Xuất phát!  
Những bộ đồ đồng phục màu xanh hải quân di chuyển lên xe trông đẹp làm sao, những gương mặt của tuổi trẻ như khuấy đảo cả một không gian tại điểm tập trung, những mái đầu điểm sương với từng nụ cười và những cái choàng vai trông thân thiện làm sao!!!

8h00!

Từng dòng người đổ về điểm hẹn, Bà Con đã đến trước khi chúng tôi tới điểm khám. Chúng tôi phải chuẩn bị và sắp xếp vật dụng, thuốc men, quà cho mỗi khu vực được chỉ định. Khu vực khám mắt, khu vực khám và nhổ răng, khu vực phát thuốc, khu vực khám bệnh, khu vực phát quà...! 8h30 mọi thứ đều xong và bắt đầu vận hành.

Đông quá...! Nhìn bà con đến với Đoàn, ai trông cũng thật là tội nghiệp, những bước chân trông thật nặng nề làm sao!

Những đôi mắt ánh lên khát vọng trên đôi vai gầy guộc, có những gia đình 5,7 người cùng ngồi lên chiếc xe Công Nông để đi đến điểm khám, có những bà cụ nói đặng đặng... nghe đặng tây nhưng vẫn nở nụ cười trông thật hạnh phúc, có những mảnh đời bất hạnh vì những di chứng sau chiến tranh và những em bé không đủ điều kiện sinh hoạt dù đó là sự tối thiểu mà một con người nên nhận được.

Ngày... thứ 2...thứ 3...thứ 4!...

Mỗi một ngày qua đi, lại thấy thêm nhiều mảnh đời cơ cực nhiều hơn, họ khổ quá, bộ đồ trên người cũng không gói gém được sự bần hàn. Sự thật thà và lương thiện thể hiện bằng những ánh mắt đến với từng thành viên SAP-VN. Trông họ vui lắm, nhất là khi khám bệnh và nhận quà ra về, những bước chân có vẻ bớt nặng nề hơn trước, không biết họ vui vì những món quà Đoàn mang đến cho họ hay họ vui vì thấy tình người vẫn hiển hiện trên thế gian này. Có lẽ cả hai nhĩ!

Ngày cuối, sau khi phát những phần quà sau cùng, Đoàn kết thúc hành trình trong năm 2025 tại Đắk Lắk, tất cả các thành viên tạm chia tay nhau. Sau những cái ôm nồng ấm, những cái bắt tay, là một lời hẹn cho mùa hè năm sau, chúng ta sẽ cùng đồng hành với nhau tại một miền đất khác trên Quê Hương!

Cali 09/2025



# SAP-VN MEDICAL MISSION 2025 REFLECTION

## BRANDEE NGUYEN

As a Ryan Dang Scholarship recipient, I joined SAP-VN this summer for our mobile care mission in Đắk Lắk, Vietnam. Over 5 days, from August 4th to August 8th, I worked closely with the optometry team to service patients in the Krông Năng and Liên Sơn Lắk districts. For our youth excursion on Wednesday, we visited the local orphanage, senior center, and Khu Du Lịch KôTam for our cultural activity.

### My Role

As an optometry team member, my responsibilities included measuring visual acuity, assisting with the autorefractor, and ushering patients to the following optometry stations.

Specifically for our youth activities, I boosted team morale during cultural activities and ideated a skit for my youth team!

### What motivated me to join SAP-VN in Đắk Lắk this year?

Before this mission, I didn't feel a strong community around me. Or rather, I felt as though I wasn't contributing enough to one. I was navigating post-graduate life alone with uncertainty and a lack of purpose, rushing myself into commitments without slowing down to be present. I yearned for something meaningful that made me feel grounded in my day-to-day. In many ways, I joined SAP-VN's Mobile Care mission to search for that purpose.



This trip changed the way I see myself and the world around me. I've grown more patient and empathetic toward others, especially myself. I no longer feel like I need to rush through life or have everything figured out at

once. Instead, I've learned to be intentional with my actions and recognize that purpose doesn't have to be complex or singular. It can be as simple as leading a gentle life, smiling at strangers, and making someone else's day a little brighter.

### What were my most memorable interactions?

This year, working on the optometry team allowed me to engage with more patients, exchanging conversations and small gestures that filled my heart. A moment I think of fondly was when I spoke to a young girl who was waiting for her grandpa to finish his eye exam. For a moment, we set aside our roles of optometric assistant and granddaughter and simply spoke as two girls. We talked about her curiosity for China, movies, life in America, and even exchanged a few words in Chinese. I also pointed out that we were twins because of our bangs, and she laughed shyly. Her excitement for the future reminded me that all of us are living for the first time, and that we are not all that different from one another. I thank her for bringing out my inner child and reminding me of

how beautiful childlike wonder is.

I also realized the impact of small acts of care. On the fourth workday, the optometry team had difficulty directing patients due to the physical layout of our second worksite. There were stairs at every corner, and I noticed elderly patients getting lost or struggling to walk after their exams. In the rush to see as many patients as possible, it was easy for others to move ahead, but I wanted every patient to feel seen. So, I slowed down, offered my hand, and walked with them at their pace. The dialect in Đắk Lắk was difficult for me, but action transcended any need for words in those moments. The warmth of holding their hands comforted me as much as it reassured them.

### What were my challenges as a Youth Leader?

Not all the challenges I faced were in patient care. My notable experience was planning and leading the youth skit at our group dinner. I approached the week with anxiety, exhaustion, and the pressure of wanting to improve on last year's experience as a youth leader. But instead of letting fear take over, I worked with what I had: organizing prizes, playlists, backstage access, judges, and even MCing the entire skit. The result was an entertaining fashion show with 18 youth volunteers who walked away saying how much fun they had. I'd like to give a special shoutout to Cô Phương Trang, Cô Cynthia, Chú Hà, Chú Jonathan, and Chú Daniel for being the best judges! Seeing everyone laugh and bond taught me to trust my ability to lead, step out of my comfort zone, and have fun in bringing people together.



### Will I continue working with SAP-VN?

This second trip deepened my connection to SAP-VN. I noticed my Vietnamese improving and loved joking around with patients or dancing with them to lighten the atmosphere. I felt more integrated with both the local community and the SAP-VN family. My fondest memories came from the little things: chaotic karaoke on bus rides, shared snacks and lunch breaks during shifts, fried bananas on the ride back to the hotel, late-night walks for chè, and the simple joy of patients' smiles. That, to me, is what life is all about: finding joy in the small moments. I understand why more than 150 volunteers are drawn back every year, uniting in Vietnam for one meaningful week. Last year, I told myself I wouldn't come back. Yet, I already feel a magnetic energy pulling me to return next year.

# SAP-VN MEDICAL MISSION 2025 REFLECTION (CONTINUED)

**BRANDEE NGUYEN**

## What is my biggest takeaway from this year's mobile care mission?

The most significant shift I've noticed is how I view and define purpose. Before, I felt scattered and pressured to find something grand that would define my life. Now, I realize that



my "purpose" is found in the small things I choose daily: to live each day with kindness and intention, make others smile, and face challenges even when I'm tired or afraid. These are what make me feel alive and human.

During the mission, I faced moments of emotional and physical stress. I had sleepless nights, bruises, tension, and the fear of not living up to expectations. But choosing to move forward despite those struggles taught me resilience. Meditation, reflection, and the support of friends like my roommate, Vicky, reminded me that vulnerability is not weakness, but grounding.

This trip reminded me of what it means to be human. To care, to laugh, to struggle, and to grow. I carry with me not only the smiles of patients and memories of the week, but also a renewed sense of self. I may not have all the answers about my future, but I now believe that purpose is not something to be found; it's something to be lived, moment by moment. For that, I am forever grateful to SAP-VN, the patients we served, and the community that continues to draw me back.

# REFLECTION ON SAP-VN MISSION TRIP – SUMMER 2025

**PAUL NGUYEN**

It was 5:30 AM when the alarm sounded in my hotel room. I quickly jumped out of bed, preparing for what I knew would be another long and meaningful day ahead. As our group hurried downstairs for breakfast, the bustling sounds of motorbikes and the vibrant street life reminded me just how alive the city was, even at such an early hour.

By 6:15 AM, our team was already aboard the bus, heading deep into a remote part of Đắk Lắk province. The journey took us through an endless stretch of lush rice fields, framed by rolling mountains covered in a thick green blanket of vegetation. Despite the bumpy two-hour ride, the energy on the bus was high—we all knew what awaited us at our destination.

When we arrived at the village, we were met with the humbling sight of hundreds of people, patiently waiting for our arrival. Some had traveled for hours on foot or motorbike just to be seen. Without hesitation, and as if we had rehearsed it many times before, we got to work. Each team member took their place—some setting up medical, dental and optometry stations, others organizing supplies, triaging patients, or preparing medication.

The process was efficient and well organized. Patients were calmly directed to the appropriate lines. They waited without complaint, even in the sweltering heat, for the chance to receive treatment, medication, and small gifts we brought

along. What struck me most was the look on their faces—not desperation or frustration, but deep gratitude. No matter how long they waited, it seemed worth it to them. That quiet appreciation spoke volumes.

Throughout the mission, our team provided care to between 700 and 900 patients each day, including both children and adults. We worked tirelessly, often losing track of time, fully immersed in caring for those in need. The harsh weather, long hours, and limited resources faded into the background when compared to the purpose that brought us there.

This mission was more than a volunteer trip—it was a powerful reminder of the impact compassion and teamwork can have. I feel incredibly thankful to have been part of a dedicated group of professionals, all united by a shared goal: to bring care and hope to those with limited access to healthcare.

Personally, this experience was both humbling and transformative. It taught me valuable lessons in humility, patience, and self-discovery. I was reminded that true happiness doesn't come from material wealth, but from meaningful connections and the simplest acts of kindness.

As I reflect on our days in Đắk Lắk, I carry with me the stories, smiles, and strength of the people we served. I am inspired to continue this work and look forward to participating in next year's mission.

# SAP VN REFLECTION

**SOPHIE CAMPOS**

"Good health is a crown that the healthy wear, but only the sick can see." This quote stuck with me during my time with SAP-VN in Vietnam. As someone who's grown up with access to regular healthcare, I've taken that crown for granted more times than I can count. But through this experience, my first time in Vietnam and my first time volunteering to this capacity in a medical setting, I began to understand the true weight of that invisible crown.



My aunt, a dentist who had previously volunteered with SAP-VN, encouraged me to join. To be honest, I originally saw it as a good resume builder. Coming into the trip, I didn't know what to expect. I knew I wanted to help, but I didn't realize how much I would learn, not just about medicine, but about empathy, service, and human connection. From the start, I realized that the more heart I put into each moment, the more meaningful the experience became. For example, even at the least clinically active and interesting positions, as an usher, I could have simply pointed patients in the right direction. Instead, I chose to engage, offering smiles, light conversation, and silly moments that brought laughter to children during difficult visits which guided how I approached the rest of the trip.

This was my first time volunteering in a clinical setting abroad. In just four days, I was able to shadow family physicians, cardiologists, and pain management specialists. Compared to my past shadowing experience with a gastroenterologist in a U.S. clinic, this program showed me the diversity of care and the power of connection in medicine. Rather than passively observing, I asked questions and gained hands-on experience by listening to breathing and heart rhythms, interpreting EKGs, and administering pain shots, while also paying close attention to how doctors built trust with their patients. I was especially drawn to how they preserved dignity, even when providing free healthcare.

One of my favorite memories was observing a doctor administering a pain shot to an older man with sciatica. He came in walking gingerly, clearly in pain. After the shot, he

stood taller and smiled, a mix of disbelief and joy that I'll never forget. That smile reminded me that medicine isn't just about diagnosing or treating. It's about giving people back their comfort, their dignity, and sometimes even their hope.

The days were long. We woke up at 5 a.m. and didn't return to the hotel until after 6 p.m. I sat outside for hours in Vietnam's humid heat, something my Napa-raised body wasn't used to. It would have been easy to let the lack of sleep and the physical discomfort be an excuse to give less than my best. But I reminded myself that the patients we were seeing also woke up early, sat in the heat, and made sacrifices to be there. If we didn't give them our full attention and effort, their health could be at risk. That thought kept me motivated. Every patient deserved my maximum effort and care, no matter how tired I was.

I also learned that communication goes beyond language. As a mixed Vietnamese-Mexican American who barely speaks Vietnamese, I was nervous about connecting with patients. But I found that smiles, laughter, waves, and eye contact were universal. The doctors I shadowed also helped translate, which made me feel more included and allowed me to engage more deeply. Despite the language barrier, I still felt like I made an impact, and I definitely felt one made on me.

Beyond the clinical work, one of the most fulfilling parts of the trip was building community. Being a mixed kid, I worried about feeling out of place. But I was met with nothing but kindness and warmth. The other volunteers, many of them strangers at first, quickly became friends. Everyone shared the same goal: to learn and to serve. By the end of the trip, I was belting out karaoke, laughing over meals, and feeling fully at home. That community made it easy to be myself, which was just as powerful as the clinical experience.

By the end of the summer, I'll be certified as a medical assistant. The technical skills I practiced in Vietnam, taking vitals, administering and reading EKGs, administering shots, will directly carry over into my work. But more importantly, the values I gained, respect, compassion, and joy, are what I'll carry with me throughout my career. This experience reinforced the kind of healthcare provider I want to be someone who sees every patient as a person first and who shows up with full effort, no matter what.

This experience reminded me that while textbooks can teach anatomy and diagnosis, they can't teach the importance of compassion or the art of making someone smile when they're at their most vulnerable. I'm incredibly grateful to SAP-VN for giving me the opportunity to serve, learn, and grow. It's a memory I'll carry with me not just as a future healthcare provider, but as a human being.

# CẢM NHẬN TỪ MỘT CHUYẾN ĐI Y TẾ THIỆN NGUYỆN

DAN HOANG

Làng hẻo lánh và những ánh mắt không thể nào quên!

Phải nói thật là nếu không có chuyến đi y tế thiện nguyện do SAP-VN tổ chức thì tôi sẽ không chọn Đắk Lắk là điểm đến ở Việt Nam. Lúc đầu, ngay cả cái tên Đắk Lắk tôi cũng đánh vần sai. Sau một chuyến bay ngắn, chúng tôi đáp xuống sân bay Buôn Ma Thuột (thành phố chính thuộc Đắk Lắk) lúc trời chạng vạng tối, thời tiết cao nguyên tương đối mát mẻ. Trái với tưởng tượng của tôi, Buôn Ma Thuột phát triển hơn tôi nghĩ, với những tòa nhà lớn, siêu thị to, các hàng quán san sát, xe hơi xe máy tấp nập và đèn đường giăng sáng trưng.

Ngày đầu tiên ở Đắk Lắk, lúc ăn sáng tôi gặp thêm một số bạn quen từ trước, và từ đó quen thêm vài bạn mới - những người đã đi thiện nguyện với SAP-VN nhiều lần. Sau đó, mọi người xúm vào thu dọn chuẩn bị cho những ngày làm việc sắp tới. Nhìn gần 200 người đứng ngồi chật cả một khoảng rộng của khách sạn, tôi cũng có chút lo - không dễ gì điều khiển gần 200 con người, già trẻ lớn bé, từ chuyên viên các ngành nghề cho đến các sinh viên đủ mọi lứa tuổi.



Ngày hôm sau, chúng tôi dậy sớm ăn sáng để kịp lên xe lúc 6:15 sáng khởi hành đến nơi làm việc. Bốn xe buýt lớn đưa đoàn chúng tôi đến xã Krông Năng, địa điểm làm việc trong hai ngày đầu, cách khách sạn cũng hơn một tiếng rưỡi. Lúc đến nơi, tôi đã thấy các cô chú, anh chị và các em nhỏ chờ đông nghịt

trong sân của bệnh viện huyện. Không khí lúc đi đường vui vẻ là vậy, nhưng khi đến nơi đoàn chúng tôi, ai cũng mặc đồng phục xanh đậm, đồ xuống, nghiêm túc bắt tay ngay vào việc. Nhóm y khoa, nhóm nhân khoa, nhóm nha khoa, nhóm dược khoa bắt tay vào dựng lên những phòng khám dã chiến; các nhóm khác thì bắt đầu tiếp khách, phát quà, vân...vân... ai có việc của người ấy, rất khẩn trương, nghiêm túc và kỷ luật; tôi rất ngạc nhiên! Không khí làm việc vui vẻ nhưng không kém phần chuyên nghiệp. Tôi để ý thấy rằng, lúc ra về, các bác lớn tuổi thường cảm ơn rí rít, các anh các chị thì bắt tay thật chặt, còn các em nhỏ thì rất vui vì có thật nhiều quà. Có ở đó mới thấy được niềm vui của cả người nhận và người trao ra.

Sau hai ngày đầu, chúng tôi có một ngày nghỉ, trong ngày đó tôi đi cùng các em thiếu niên trong đoàn đi thăm và tặng quà cho một trung tâm chăm sóc người già, người tàn tật và các trẻ em mồ côi. Thật là cảm động khi thấy những bao gạo, những chiếc xe đạp, xe lăn, vân...vân... của SAP-VN trao tặng cho trung tâm. Càng thấy cảm động hơn khi thấy các em trong đoàn tặng những món đồ chơi, và ngồi chơi với các trẻ em mồ côi. Lúc đó, tôi bỗng cảm thấy thật ấm cúng, và hy vọng là trong khoảnh khắc đó các em mồ côi cũng có được cảm giác ấm cúng đó của một gia đình, một gia đình rất lớn.

Hai ngày cuối, chúng tôi cũng dậy sớm và di chuyển đến xã Liên Sơn Lắk, một vùng xa có nhiều người dân tộc thiểu số sinh sống, nhiều người còn không nói rành tiếng Việt. Chúng tôi cùng làm việc suốt ngày và thay nhau ăn những bữa cơm trưa vội vã. Một thì có mệt, nhưng chúng tôi rất vui khi nhìn thấy được những cái nhìn chờ đợi của người lớn và những niềm vui trong mắt trẻ thơ. Điều tiếc nhất là chúng tôi đã không có thời gian để giúp thêm được nhiều đồng bào.

Bây giờ, Đắk Lắk, đối với tôi, đã không còn là một thành phố du lịch, nơi có những thác nước đẹp, những bầy voi thông dong bên suối, hay khói tỏa từ những góc bếp nhà dài của người Ê-đê; Đắk Lắk trong tôi là những làng quê đường như bị bỏ quên, nơi đó có những ánh mắt mà tôi sẽ không thể nào quên. Cảm ơn SAP-VN đã cho gia đình chúng tôi có cơ hội được làm một việc nhiều ý nghĩa trong mùa hè vừa qua, và những kỷ niệm có lẽ sẽ còn đọng lại rất lâu trong tôi.



# CHIA SẺ VÀ CẢM NHẬN - MOBILE CARE 2025 TẠI TỈNH ĐẮK LẮK

## DZOÃN HÀ

Tôi là Dzoãn Hà hiện đang là CTV Hội SAP-VN tại VN.

Chuyến đi Mobile care 2025 vừa qua đã để lại cho tôi nói riêng và cho tất cả mọi người trong đoàn nói chung thật nhiều cung bậc cảm xúc và thấu hiểu thật nhiều với từng hoàn cảnh khó khăn khi các bệnh nhân đến khám bệnh và nhận quà tại 2 xã Krông Năng và Liên Sơn Lăk, tỉnh Đắk Lắk.



Vào 1 buổi sáng với không khí trong lành yên ả của 1 vùng quê khi đoàn vừa đến để chuẩn bị các khóa phòng làm việc khám chữa bệnh và phát quà. Khi tôi vừa bước ra cổng chính khi làm việc thì điều đầu tiên tôi thấy là những chiếc xe máy cày.. máy kéo..đang chạy

đến ầm ầm.tiếng xe kêu rất giòn giã và phía trên tiếng kêu ấy có rất nhiều bà con người đồng bào đang ngồi trên chiếc xe máy cày ấy để được đến khám bệnh và nhận quà.

Tiếng cười và tiếng nói rất rôm rả và niềm vui phấn khởi khi được đến nơi....Tuy tiếng đồng bào tôi không hiểu nhưng tôi cảm nhận được trên khuôn mặt họ đang rất hạnh phúc vì trong hoàn cảnh khó khăn nhưng vẫn có rất nhiều bàn tay dang rộng chào đón họ và được trao yêu thương của hội SAP-VN.chỉ bấy nhiêu thôi cũng đủ làm cho họ vui đi nỗi nhọc nhằn, vất vả, thiếu thốn để họ có được tinh thần và cố gắng hơn trong cuộc sống.

Điều đáng vui mừng hơn nữa trong chuyến đi này. Hội SAP-VN đã đón nhận và hỗ trợ rất nhiều ca mổ cho những hoàn cảnh đặc biệt khó khăn để đem lại cho bệnh nhân 1 sức sống mới và tương lai mới.

Có nhiều cảm xúc mà tôi không nói được thành lời. Lúc

đó tôi và anh Jonathan đang đứng ngay cổng để xem có hỗ trợ được gì cho mọi người khi đến khám bệnh và nhận quà không. khi ấy có 1 cô đến khám bệnh và nhận quà nhìn tôi và nói nhìn con cô nhớ đến con trai của cô quá. Lúc đó bao nhiêu cảm xúc đã ùa về trong suy nghĩ của tôi. Cảm ơn anh Jonathan đã kịp cho tôi 1 khoảnh khắc thật đáng nhớ này.

Còn hoàn cảnh của 2 mẹ con này thật éo le và đáng thương vì bị chồng bỏ rơi khi sắp sinh con. Với cái tâm sự nhỏ của 2 mẹ con, tôi cảm nhận được cái khổ đè lên cái khó mà 2 mẹ con phải gánh



chịu. Em bé con của cô ấy tên là Y Du Thiên cũng đang bị bệnh Thoát Vị Bìu và đã được hội SAP-VN hỗ trợ mổ kịp thời và đây cũng là niềm vui được nhân đôi.



Sau cùng tôi rất cảm kích với tất cả mọi người của hội SAP-VN trong chuyến Mobile Care 2025 đã hết sức tận tâm và luôn thấu hiểu những hoàn cảnh khó khăn của người đồng bào 2 xã tại tỉnh Đắk Lắk.

Tôi xin gửi lời chân thành cảm ơn tất cả hội SAP-VN!

## MOBILE CARE 2025 EXPERIENCE

**BRIAN MAI**

Sitting in the taxi and driving to the hotel from the airport, I heard the rain drumming its rhythm onto the roof, as if signaling to me how much there was to come in its own strange code. In the couple of days in Buon Ma Thuot, leading up to the start of the mission trip, I did not know what to expect. Nervousness built up over those days that was only exasperated by the heat.

Yet the mission would not be as scary as I felt it would be. Braving the long rides and the hot weather, we had many experiences that made it all more than worth it. The

experiences we had were nothing short of eye-opening and I got to do so much more for people than I could ever imagine. Even when it was through the repetitive process of vital signs, exhausting my feet as an usher, or listening and paying careful attention while shadowing, I felt like I couldn't have such an experience anywhere else. Even when I was tired at the end of each day, only to have to wake up early the next morning, I looked forward to the next day. Not only was I helping people, but I also had my own sense of self-fulfillment from this trip.

# ONE'S CAPACITY TO LOVE – A TRANSFORMATIONAL EXPERIENCE

**THU-THAO TRAN-CHANG**

This past summer's Medical Mission in Dak Lak, Buon Ma Thuot marked my third mission with SAP-VN. With each mission, I learn more about my beloved Vietnam and I learn that I have a greater capacity for love. As a Vietnamese refugee, it means so much and I feel very blessed that I have these opportunities to give back in meaningful ways. Many left our war-torn country between 1975 through the mid 1980's and never made it and that makes me sad. That is why when I find opportunities to give, love, volunteer, serve; I give it my all. And I teach my girls that love knows no boundaries.

Over the last 2 years, my older daughters joined me on the missions. I observed them with delight as they practiced love in action. Every vital sign they took, each tender touch, each attentive ear, each patient they walked, each conversation they held, demonstrated how far compassion can reach. The coolest part is that it's in their DNA! And we all have it; the capacity to love, even strangers.

There are so many ways to love and live purposefully. It's not strictly one thing or the other, it's a combination of things we can do. Some of it doesn't even cost us any money. We could give our time or talents, or we could teach a skill. We could listen or give constructive feedback or just serve as a sounding board. We could sing a song or help build a garden bed. We could lead by example, or we could inspire, through our words and actions. We could volunteer, give, donate or serve. The most important thing is, we do it with kindness and above all, with love.

This summer was a transformative experience for me because I got to work with some of the most giving, loving and talented volunteers and in a region where people needed us the most. There is just something so special about Dak Lak/Buon Ma Thuot. Maybe it was because this is the first time we worked in this region and therefore, it was a novelty. Or it was just the indigenous people and the ground in which they walked upon. I loved everything about Dak Lak. I had an opportunity to try their bun do, banh canh cua (the restaurant owner was originally from Da Nang) and macadamia, walnuts, coffee and cashews from the region. Everything was just so special, and I fell in love with this unique place!

I also enjoyed being surrounded by SAP-VN volunteers because of their generous hearts! They uplift me and I thrive being surrounded by their good energy. In Dak Lak, the first two days, weren't as intense. What really hit us hard was the last two days, when we saw the most severe cases. People arrived early and in huge waves and there just didn't seem to be an end to the crowds! You could see the crowd patrol team breaking sweat at the enormity of the crowds, but somehow, by the grace of our higher being, our team of 180 gave all our hearts to serve the most people we could! We all left this mission with a full heart, knowing we met SAP-VN's Mission to improve the quality of life for the poor and disabled in Vietnam through free medical, educational, and social welfare

services. Each volunteer gave it their all, and they did so with smiles and tears of joy. My daughter is anxious to come back next year with her older sister (who was home studying for MCATs) to serve again.

The experience was transformative for me because I got to learn more about one of the volunteers from the region we served. While petite in size, Thuy was a powerful force to reckon with! She knocked on doors every day up to the week of the mission, with hope, love and faith in her heart, that this Mission WAS GOING TO HAPPEN! She spoke with conviction and with kindness and powerful words about the impact SAP-VN could make and the people of Dak Lak listened! Not only that, SAP-VN volunteers DELIVERED on this mission and opened doors for future good work, for more organizations and more generations, who will continue to make an impact. WE are not done yet! I love that she was a woman, and I love that she changed the trajectory of this mission and for future missions to come. She is very inspiring and it's empowering for me to see what the power of love can do!!!

Another reason this mission was transformative for me is because I also got to work closer with a couple of the Vietnamese liaisons who transported the equipment for us and/or took care of the day-to-day operations. As I watched them give their all in their roles and responsibilities; no matter how long the day was or how tired they were, I was inspired. They did everything with love and with smiles and it was so contagious! Their enthusiasm and energy fueled my soul and no matter how hot it was or how tired I was, I kept going because I saw that they kept going!

Finally, this experience was so special because after the mission, my daughter and I got to spend time with my Vietnamese relatives who I hadn't seen in 45 years. Being the oldest in a family of 6 and my mother being a young widow, I shouldered much of her grief and the burdens she carried. But all the love she gave to family members and her community over her 70+ years, my daughter and I got to reap the benefits of her love, passed down 2 generations. Her example shows me every day that the more love you give, the more you get back in return, ten-fold. And for the reasons explained in this essay, made my 2025 Dak Lak, Buon Ma Thuot medical mission and Vietnam trip to see family transformational!!!



One's ability to demonstrate your capacity to love through your words and actions will change the world, will make a difference and will make an impact on the lives you touch!!

# SAP-VN REFLECTION 2025

**JAMES PHAM**

Time is the word that best encapsulates my experience as a volunteer with SAP-VN this year. From time spent working alongside dedicated healthcare providers to time listening to patients' stories, to time spent connecting with fellow volunteers united by a shared cause, I would relive this year's mission in a heartbeat if I could turn back the clock.

Although my objective was mostly the same as last year's, where I worked in a team to help provide healthcare and outreach to the less fortunate and medically underserved populations of

Vietnam, I felt more connected to SAP-VN's mission this year. I realized that my efforts as a dental volunteer not only buy patients time and spare them pain, but can improve their quality of life, allowing them to smile again. Patients come in with a broken tooth and knowledge gaps to dental hygiene but leave with a healthier mouth and information that they



can use to better care and advocate for themselves. Similarly, fillings done in older patients can last for the rest of their lives while fillings in children can reduce pain, especially associated with eating, and thus reduce the potential for malnutrition. Inspired by how a small action like a simple procedure can drastically improve the quality of life of an individual, I seek to practice this level of altruism in every aspect of my life.

In addition to the privilege of being able to volunteer with SAP-VN, I had the privilege of serving as one of the youth leaders where I shaped the experience of youth volunteers. I learned what it takes to better work in a team setting and expanded my interpersonal network. As a new member of the dental team, I was unfamiliar with protocols, equipment, and procedures. I asked experienced volunteers who may be on their second, third, or even fourth term with the dental team, what various pieces of instruments were and what was required for each procedure. This allowed me to optimize instrument setups and to anticipate what each dentist may need. I ultimately passed on this knowledge to other volunteers so that we can see as many patients as possible. By relying on the guidance of experienced volunteers and then sharing what I learned with other team members, I saw how collaboration creates efficiency and learned that effective healthcare depends on communication and the willingness to both learn and teach within a team.

Having previously treated SAP-VN Mobile Care as strictly

a work trip where I volunteered during the day and then stayed in my own bubble to rest until the next day, being a youth leader challenged my ability to connect and socialize with professionals, mentors, and fellow volunteers on this trip. Through teambuilding exercises and social gatherings, I found out that I am surrounded with team members who are driven by the same purpose. As a result, I had the opportunity to expand my interpersonal and professional network. I have current and future dentists, doctors, PAs, nurses, pharmacists, and mentors I can consult in my journey through professional school and in the future in the care of my future patients.

All in all, looking back at this year's team picture, I see the faces that made this mission. I saw what is possible when we work together. I saw the 3,200 patients that had their dental, medical, pharmaceutical, and optical needs tended to. It reminded me that healthcare is never a solo effort but the product of collaboration between providers, donors, and communities. I am hopeful that one day healthcare will be a right for all, not a privilege for some. Until then, we must work alongside others to bring that dream into reality.

I am ready to run it back! See you for round 3 in 2026, Vietnam!



**TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

# MY FIRST MOBILE CARE MISSION EXPERIENCE

**QUINCY NGUYEN**

The SAP-VN Mobile Care Mission 2025 trip was my first experience on a medical mission trip, and I didn't really know what to expect. The idea of helping Vietnamese communities in Đắk Lắk sounded great but while I was on the airplane to Vietnam, I started to feel nervous. What types of jobs will I have to do? What if I get in the way of the doctors? What if I need to speak Vietnamese to people (my Vietnamese unfortunately isn't the best)? I was worried about meeting new people and not knowing what to do and how to do it.

After waking up from my nap on the bus to start out the first day of the mission trip, I found myself at the first site, a hospital where we would treat the locals. I was overwhelmed, unsure where I should take my supply box labeled for optometry, what supplies needed to be taken out of the box and where, and how to ask a doctor if I could shadow them. This was all very new to me, and I think I may have spent the first hour doing more worrying than helping.

After asking to shadow Dr. Long Nguyen, I felt at ease and started to get into the groove of things. He was really friendly to me and explained everything in simpler terms for me to understand and occasionally translated some Vietnamese words I didn't know. Listening to people explain what pains they have been going through and hearing the doctor come up with a diagnosis and solution was really inspiring, and I learned a lot from him the first day. This really gave me a change in mindset and let me enjoy what I was doing.

The SAP-VN mission trip was a blast; I didn't view what I was doing as work but rather a chance to help people out. Being there and interacting with people made me feel like I really made an impact, even if it was a small task like ushering them to the right location or recording vitals of patients. I met a

lot of really cool people on the trip as well, like Dr. Trinh Tran, whom I had the opportunity to shadow. She was amazing at teaching and making me feel welcome with small talk. Other people on the youth team were also really nice, and I was glad to have people around my age to talk to. I didn't only interact with the SAP-VN team members, but I also made new friends with the local Vietnamese volunteer boys at our second site.

The end of the mission trip was a little bittersweet for me. Though I will not miss waking up super early every morning, I think the time I spent with my friends to help people who need it well made up for it, and I'm glad I was able to be a part of this amazing experience. I hope I'll be able to attend again next year!



# MY ENCOUNTER WITH A LITTLE GIRL!

**SOPHIA TRAN-DANG**

After ushering a patient, I overheard a few others gathered. I went over to see what the commotion was all about. There in the center was a little girl. She must've been around nine years old. They told me she is super talkative. While the others left, I went over to talk to her. Oh, she was talkative all right. We talked about ages, what it means to be that age. I learned that she wanted to learn English. She said she was too shy to practice, but I encouraged her anyway. I think the only thing she learned from my conversation was continuing the conversation one more sentence: "How about you?" She said her grandpa is usually mad at her if she's lazy or disobedient. She said it so calmly too, not with bitterness, just understanding that it's good for her. When her grandpa came back, she told me, "Nếu có duyên, chúng ta sẽ gặp lại," translating to, "If fate allows, we will meet again." What an unexpected depth and wisdom from a young little girl.

I've met quite literally tons of people per day — adults, children, elderly. When I saw so many people in a day, things were starting to blur. Yet, in such a brief exchange, because

she was willing to be vulnerable and honest, I got a small glimpse into that little girl's life — and what a beautiful thing that was. I got to learn about her dream to improve her English, her interactions with her grandpa, and the philosophy she held about humans. I learned that while she is very outspoken, she is also a little shy too.

While I will likely not see her again, this encounter remains in my mind after the trip. It's a strange phenomenon: if I had not gone, I would not have met her, whose presence quietly shaped my mindset. Our journey is full of choices. It's definitely in times of chaos that it reveals who we are and what matters to us. What motivates you, what moves you? If our interactions must be limited, how would we spend that time? Well for me, these experiences remind me that it's not just about accomplishments or reduced efficiency. The moments that stick with us are ones where vulnerability is shared. Moments like these, amidst the busy work, are what reminds me that what sustains me is to intentionally hold space, to witness vulnerability, to connect, and to allow fate to bring serendipity.

## COMPASSION AWARD

Since 2003, SAP-VN has awarded the Compassion Award to individuals and organizations honoring their exceptional contributions to our mission. We would like to send our warmest congratulations to all the recipients since its inception.

|                                       |                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2003: Mrs. Trâm Anh Long              | 2016: Mr. Võ Văn Đạt                                                                                                       |
| 2004: Ms. Loan Nguyễn                 | 2017: Mr. Nguyễn Ngọc Thành<br>Dr. Nguyễn Phụng Châu                                                                       |
| 2005: Mrs. Phụng Amelie Riviere       | 2018: Mrs. Tuyết Võ                                                                                                        |
| 2006: Mr. Nguyễn Kim Hoàn             | 2019: Rock Revival                                                                                                         |
| 2007: Mr. & Mrs. Phùng Liên Đoàn      | 2020: Ms. Anh Nguyễn<br>Ms. Tâm Nguyễn                                                                                     |
| 2008: Mrs. Oanh Riss                  | 2021: Mr. Lê Duy Linh                                                                                                      |
| 2009: Nhật Báo Viễn Đông              | 2022: Three Generations of a Family<br>Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Anh Ly<br>Mr. & Mrs. Justin & Malinda Chau<br>Ms. Crystal Chau |
| 2010: Mr. & Mrs. Hồ Thành Đức & Bé Kỳ | 2023: Dr Mimi Catherine Lê,<br>Mr. Triết Nguyễn and Family                                                                 |
| 2011: Ms. Tôn Nữ Mỹ Linh              | 2024: Edward Bao Vo & Kathleen Bao Anh Vo                                                                                  |
| 2012: Dr. Tạ Tường Vi                 | 2025: Hưng Vũ, Trinh Nguyễn, Bảo Thy & Bảo Lâm                                                                             |
| 2013: Dr. Huỳnh Phước Dương           |                                                                                                                            |
| 2014: Dr. Hương Anh Long              |                                                                                                                            |
| 2015: Dr. Nguyễn Tống Nhuận           |                                                                                                                            |

## NEW OFFICER ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear SAP-VN community,

We are pleased to announce that Kathleen Vo was elected as SAP-VN's Mobile Care Coordinator Officer. Please join us in congratulating Kathleen.

*Kaitlyn Dang (SAP-VN Director of USA Programs)*

Hello! My name is Kathleen Vo and I am so honored to be named SAP-VN's Mobile Care Coordinator. I am currently in my fourth year at UCLA, majoring in biology and double-minoring in anthropology and global health. Aside from my academic endeavors, I have also worked at UCLA Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery for the past three years as an assistant. Recently, I have been incredibly lucky and blessed to volunteer alongside my resident and attending surgeons in Mexico for cleft lip and palate surgeries. In my free time, I like to do pilates, take spin classes, play with my cat, and drink boba!

I started getting involved in SAP-VN during Mobile Care 2018 when I was only 14 years old. We initially heard about SAP-VN through my pediatrician and when I was 15, I got to volunteer beside her in Hoi An. As the years passed, my passion for broadening access to healthcare grew and I knew I wanted to help lead the mobile care missions every summer. Responsibilities I have held in mobile care include managing the team roster, organizing hotel accommodations, and coordinating the youth team and activities. In the near future, I hope to continue my commitments and duties to SAP-VN as a healthcare professional!



# FROM TENDERFOOT RANK TO SAP-VN MOBILE CARE MISSION

**HENRY BẢO LÂM VŨ**

I wrote this essay about my participation in SAP-VN's mobile care mission to provide health care for poor people in Dak Lak, Vietnam this past summer as a part of my Tenderfoot rank in scout advancement.

During the mission, I lived by the Scout Oath by helping the poor people in my homeland of Vietnam wherever and whenever. This is something I also learned from visiting to the Buddhist temple with my parents.

I was being helpful at all times. I did this by helping out the patients to have their eyes checked to get free prescription glasses so they can see clearer. This means a lot to me because it shapes me into a better person and a better role model.

I was being friendly by bringing a positive and fun teamwork spirit while working alongside my teammates. I always maintained a happy mood even if I was exhausted from the heat or after seeing so many patients. This means a lot to me because it helps me have more friends which leads to more opportunities.

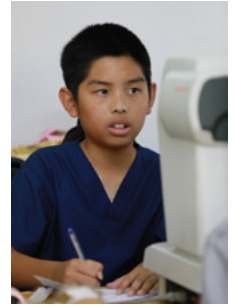
I was being courteous by showing respect to elderly patients whom I took measurements of their eyesight. I did this

by politely asking them to lean their forehead in the eye test machine while patiently waiting for them to do so. This means a lot because it helps me become a more polite and patient person in my everyday life.

I was being cheerful by bringing a smile to eye patients by giving them eye check-up so they can get glasses to see more properly. I also did this giving out toys and candies to the children and gifts to the elderly. And I cheered on friends in my team when we were doing fun competitions. This means a lot to me because I was doing something good for the poor people and for my friends.

In conclusion, I am happy that I was able to apply and practice Scout Oath & Law which I learned from being a scout in Liên Đoàn Hướng Việt (Irvine, CA) while helping out the poor people on the mobile care mission.

Thank you SAP-VN, my parents, my sister (Catherine) for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this mobile care mission which also shaped me into a more compassionate person!



## 2025 COMPASSION AWARD

**HUNG VŨ, TRINH NGUYỄN AND THEIR CHILDREN, BẢO THY & BẢO LÂM**

Congratulations Hung Vũ, Trinh Nguyễn and their children, Catherine Bảo Thy & Henry Bảo Lâm, for being awarded SAP-VN's 2025 Compassion Award.



Many volunteers have worked with or interacted with Hung and Trinh's family when they visit our office or join our medical mission trips. What most people don't know is that Hung and Trinh met through SAP-VN and first developed a friendship through their shared interest and dedication to humanitarian works. This

friendship later led to their marriage and two children - Bảo Thy (Catherine) & Bảo Lâm (Henry).

Hung and Trinh have been steadfast in their support for SAP-VN and committed to the many roles that they've taken on in the organization. Hung joined when SAP-VN was founded in 1992. He served as Secretary from 1996-2004. Hung also



serves as Mobile care crowd control and logistic leader, long time pharmacy volunteer, newsletter editor and many other roles. Many years later, Trinh joined SAP-VN. From 2008-2013, Trinh served as Treasurer. She has dedicated her time and efforts for many years to being SAP-VN's finance team member. Hung and Trinh are role models for their children. Both Bảo Thy (Catherine) & Bảo Lâm (Henry) are now volunteers with SAP-VN.

Recently, Hung was tapped to be Mobile Care Leader. For



2026, he will lead SAP-VN's mobile care team to Binh Dinh to provide primary care service to the poor and underserved people. This is an exciting venture as this will be SAP-VN's first time conducting mobile care in Binh Dinh.

In appreciation of their tireless contribution to SAP-VN, we are proud to present to Hung, Trinh, Bảo Thy (Catherine) & Bảo Lâm (Henry), the 2025 Compassion Award.



## SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR VIETNAM (SAP-VN)

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## FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS (SEP. 2024 - AUG. 2025)

Please scan QR code below to view the Financial Contributions from September 2024 to August 2025.  
You can also visit our website at [www.sap-vn.org/financial-statements/financial-contributions](http://www.sap-vn.org/financial-statements/financial-contributions)



## CONTRIBUTION FORM

Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Account # if known \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the following project:

- |                                                                                  |                                              |                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orthopedic Surgery (\$400/surgery)                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Healthcare   | <input type="checkbox"/> Cataract Surgery (\$80/eye) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heart Surgery (\$3,000/surgery)                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle (\$60/each) | <input type="checkbox"/> Most Needed Project         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vocational School for the Disabled (\$50/month/student) |                                              |                                                      |

**YOUR CONTRIBUTION DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE. THANK YOU!**