



FRIENDS FOR STREET CHILDREN ASSOCIATION (FFSC)

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I. GENERAL ASSESSMENT

From January to December, 2008, through the great supports from Donors, volunteers and visitors who helped Friends for Street Children organized especial and useful programs for 1500 disadvantaged children in Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam... In addition, there are some special activities involving the children's parents into these activities such as: Managing family life, Savings, Sharing knowledge regarding Child care and education, to ensure sustainability of the studies of the children in public school. Especially, we would like to highlight this report about a specific program concerning Training, Health Care of FFSC staff and organizational development which aimed at the long term sustainability of FFSC. At this time, we are in reaching the objectives through the results of the following achievements.

I. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

2.1. Warm Shelter

There are 33 children, who are orphans, street children, and foundling, etc, have lived in Warm Shelter at Binh Trieu Development Center. They are very happy to live in this place, because they receive love, concern and full rights to develop their skills and life. In particular, children have enough nutritional food, good conditions to study and to live, and good environment to help them to have a bright future.

2.2 Education

In the school year 2007-2008, there was 1000 disadvantaged children who are studying from Kindergarten to Grade 5 at FFSC centers (Binh Trieu, Binh Tho, Thu Thien, Hy Vong...). Thanks to many generous people's supports and especial concerns have created easier conditions for poor families to let their children to study at the development classes in school year.

In the final results of the school year 2007-2008, there were 98% children who moved up higher grades. There were 100 children who participated in the Primary Final Examination passed (100%) integrated them in Junior public high schools. There were a little few children who dropped out of the school, because the cooperation of the school, the center and pupils' parents has been very well in taking care and educating children.

2.3 Making Home Visiting

The social workers at centers have carried out the home visiting of 525 children's families in sponsorship and scholarships programs and 800 children's families in development programs, there were 25 children who wanted to drop out of the schools, because their parents moved to find job opportunities in other places. Thanks to the social workers' timely intervention, children's parents were encouraged to let the children to go to school by buses. The transportation fees for children are from the centers' financial support. Beside that, to prepare for children in the next school year 2008-2009, the social workers have intervened with judiciary bureau to help 100 children make birth certificates and guided for parents and children to make files for children to integrate them into Public schools.

2.4 Sponsorship

From January to December, 2008, there have been 525 disadvantaged children at public schools receiving sponsorships from foster parents' financial supports such as: school fees, tutorial and summer classes for a year, Skills courses, etc. Especially, the children also receive uniforms and sportswears for two cloth suits, textbooks and notebooks, health and accident insurances before beginning the new school year on September 5th, 2008. Especially, thanks to great supports from **L'Olivier du Monde in France** for a long time, FFSC have helped around 40 children from Primary to University to achieve their education and life skill development. In this year, we have 4 children passed their exams to enter into different universities in Ho Chi Minh City.

2.4 Entertainment

- In January 2008, the cooperation between the Centers and FFSC organized the Lunar New Year Festival for all children of the centers through activities such as: Fair, Performance competition, Popular games... These activities help children to have opportunities to share, to play and to understand together. And then, disadvantaged children also received the Tet Gifts. The children really had a great and meaningful day before Lunar Tet of Vietnam.
- On May 30th, 2008, the THDC also cooperated with the To Vinh Dien Primary School to organize a Quiz Program for children to get more general knowledge about Vietnamese Culture and to create for children to develop skills in their learning environment. There were 80 disadvantaged children participated in the Quiz and 18 children got rewards.
- On July 2nd, 2008 The Friends for Street Children Association organized the Summer Camp for 1,500 disadvantaged children of all centers who belong to FFSC at Dam Sen Water Park. FFSC offered awards for all children who got the best results in their studying. Especially there are five students who passed exams to enter different universities in Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam received the honored rewards on the same day, Kim Yen who is one of Tan Huong's children also honored and receive a reward on that day. All children had a great and happy day to relax and to exchange with others children in FFSC.
- FFSC also organized the painting pictures competition for FFSC children from October, 2007 to May, 2008. One of children in THDC received the highest reward about "The environment around us". On July 2nd, 2008. At Dam Sen Water Park, FFSC displayed the painting pictures which were got the highest marks.

Through above recreational activities, disadvantaged children have been got opportunities to develop their skills. Especially, those activities help children to feel respected and more confident in their studying and living.

2.5 Raising awareness for children

On January 15th, 2008 THDC cooperated with To Vinh Dien Primary school organized the training for 80 children about “The ways of wearing neatly and suitably for their age group”. There were 70 children participated and played their roles. 100% children knew how to wear the clothes tidily and suitably. Children also understood that the beauty of people is not only in the clothes they wear but also in their hearts: kind- hearted, polite and respect.

In next time, we will go on training courses for 80 disadvantaged children in the new school year.

2.6 Raising awareness for parents

One of the highlights in this project which should be considered was the cooperation between the school, the center and pupils' parents very well in taking care and educating children to have better lives. Beside, the parents also knew how to organize family's life, savings for families' living effectively. We had 3 times to meet pupils' parents to mention about the following details:

1. On February 24th, 2008, 78/80 of the parents took part in scheme “Receipts and expenses management”. After training course, the parents knew the ways how to manage family's life better.
2. On April 20th, 2008, THDC organized the workshop with topic “*Savings for the New Year season*”. That means parents save money from January to the end of the year in order to have a capital to use for New Year Festival in their family and their studies better in future.
3. Monthly, the parents have a chance to meet together, they can share and learn their experiences in good ways to take care and to educate children to have better lives. Especially, we also carried out the evaluating activities of the project in school year 2007-2008.

With these above results which we have reached was also a main key to keep 100% out of 80 children to finish their studying at the school in the last school year 2007-2008.

2.7 For FFSC staff and teachers

2.7.1 Accident and Health insurances

On January 1st, 2008 FFSC have contracted with Bao Minh Insurance Company about Health Insurance and Petrol Accident Insurance Company for 54 FFSC staff within a year. All staff have been very happy to receive the accident and health insurances. Because this support is great encouragement for them to work harder and better. Especially, in this difficult economic situation, almost staff and teachers' families are in very difficult situation. With low monthly income, but they are happy and willing to contribute their time, kind hearts and love... to help disadvantaged children and their families to improve their lives.

2.7.2 Improve professional knowledge and skills for FFSC's teachers and social workers

- On February 23th, 2008 Friends for Street Children organized a workshop for 30 staff about “Non punishment for children”. At that time, all teachers shared their experiences when they have applied this method in last six months after attending this training course. Then they evaluated this topic which has been really useful for them to teach children effectively in studying.
- From March 5th to May 30th, 2008 FFSC sent staff to attend the Community Development (CD) course in Philippine. After returning in FFSC, the staff applied the methods, knowledge and skills in CD at Le Minh Xuan and Pham Van Hai Development Centers of FFSC successfully. All children and the parents' raising awareness have changed actively through the participation method which she always involve in her management in all activities at the centers.
- From March 31th to April 2nd, 2008 FFSC sent two staff to attend a training course “Child Rights” in Dong Thap province. There were 40 trainees who are leaders of polices, lawyers, judges, educators...from the south provinces to attend the course. Which was organized by the government and Save the Children. And from July 28th to 31th, 2008 Save the Children also invited FFSC managers to attend the topic: “Child Rights Programming”. Especially, on August 27th, 2008 all FFSC Officers and Center Managers participated the workshop to discuss about programming for children's participation in development activities in next year.
- Through participating technical and designing courses at the Women Cultural Center in Ho Chi Minh City, Ms. Hoa who has just designed some new products such: little embroidered bags with glass beads, which have attracted many customers to buy. FFSC has used these interests to support for staff 's transportations in this difficult economic situation.
- From July 9th to 11th, 2008 FFSC organized the training course for 30 teachers of the centers to participate at Binh Tho Development Center. FFSC invited two professional trainers from the Department of Education and Training in Ho Chi Minh City about topic “Apply new educational methods for children in the primary schools”. After attending the training, all teachers have time to practice together and set up a educational plan for the school year 2008-2009 at the centers. On July 12th, 2008 FFSC also organized the workshop: “Human Resource Management” for 35 the centers' managers, FFSC officers and teachers. FFSC invited a Professor Maxi Fernando from Philippine to train for this course. He is very good experience and skills in managing resources in economic, politic and society...After training, FFSC director and program manager had time to meet the professor to discuss and to share about the organizations' effective management toward organizational development.
- We would like to inform good news about a new FFSC program which has started in January, 2008. After evaluating about FFSC's activities in the final year, we realized that FFSC should set up a training team for all FFSC children in nine centers. So we have sent all members in this training team to attend different training courses such as: Training for trainers, Team building skills. We are going on sending other members to attend the courses: Practicing Education and Communication Skills, Living values, and life skills...This group really need financial supports from other organizations to sustain this activity in future effectively for FFSC children and other children in different organizations in Ho Chi Minh City or in the provinces of Vietnam.

All these above activities are also important to reinforce the skills of our staff and the development capability of our organization to ensure the long-term sustainability of our programs and our projects.

IV. WORKING PLAN

On June 10th, 2008 THDC organized the evaluation on this project's activities at To Vinh Dien School. There were 43/80 children's parents, the head, two teachers and some children of the To Vinh Dien School, and a social worker who participated in this evaluation. This project's objectives which have carried out in last eight months have brought many useful and effective results for children, the parents, teachers and staff toward to development in future. After that, we also mentioned the following working plan:

- Continuing cooperating with To Vinh Dien Primary School to support for children in especial circumstances to have a chance to continue studying and to help them to attend tutorial classes and skills courses at To Vinh Dien School.
- Support for children in the new school year 2008-2009: notebooks, books, uniforms, buying health insurance, accident insurance for all children.
- Encourage to organize medical check-up for all children's health.
- Organize training courses for all children and their parents.
- Organize the Lunar Mid- Autumn and teacher Day (November 20) for all children.
- FFSC continue sending staff to improve their professional skills and experiences.
- Organizing a project evaluation to draw lessons for Year 2009 – 2010.

V. CONCLUSION AND THANKS

Thanks to EMpower's financial supports, FFSC, THDC and To Vinh Dien School have cooperated to carry out the project's objectives successfully and effectively. We try our best to find the better ways to continue helping children and to create good chances for the poorest and the most disadvantaged children to integrate them into their learning environment and society.

On behalf of children and FFSC staff and THDC, we would like to extend our deep thankfulness to you, EMpower's board of directors, staff and supporters. Honestly, your kind and generous supporting is very meaningful for our children who lacked of chances to get access to social resources, and through your support is also a motivation and encouragement for us to serve the disadvantaged children. We know that we are not alone in achieving our mission, which is to bring better life for disadvantaged children and poor people.

We wish your Organization always successes and prosperity.

Thank you again for your kind and great support to FFSC and THDC.

Hochiminh City, Jan 28st, 2009

Sister Le Thi Thao

FFSC Executive Director