

*Mission Statement:*

*Bridges to Learning provides education, health and social development programs to empower impoverished Vietnamese children to change their world.*

The past fiscal year has been a rebuilding one for Bridges to Learning. Several long serving board members took their leave and we had to begin new searches for qualified board members to fill those large shoes. Support for Anh Linh School and our new school, Viet Anh continued without a hiccup.

Current Board members and our Executive Assistant are listed below:

Anjie Flowers
Joe Hellman
Jerri Hirsch (Chair)
Bryan Huang
Robert A. Mac Murdo
Linh Phan
Sharon Wang
Stacy Phan Administrator

**Community Served**

Since our inception in 2004 we have focused on the support for Anh Linh School in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and the children who receive their education and care from the staff at Anh Linh Free School. In 2016, a former principal at Anh Linh assumed the management of a new school, Viet Anh Primary School in the central highlands of Vietnam. Bridges responded to the director's need for support and granted the school \$3500 annually to augment their resources which provide for the education of minority children in the province.

**Major Programs**

Bridges to Learning's primary focus of providing for the education for underserved children is carried out through sponsorships funded by a large group of our constituents, our Sponsors.

A sponsorship of \$500 annually provides the student with daily classes that meet the State requirements as well as the following:

- Two nutritious meals a day
- Two new uniforms a year
- School books and supplies
- Monthly haircuts
- Health, dental and vision screening, and treatment as needed
- Special programs and activities throughout the year
- English classes, open library and games when not in scheduled classes

A sustaining sponsorship is a three-year commitment to help the students and sponsors become invested in the relationship that develops with the sponsor. The relationship becomes an important part of an individual's decision to sponsor rather than simply donate. A student is carefully selected based on the principal's belief that he/she would significantly benefit from having a relationship with a sponsorship. Sponsorship provides the unique opportunity to:

- Develop a relationship with their sponsored child by exchanging photos and letters
- Know that they are supporting the happiness of a specific child who would otherwise face a bleak and limited future
- See the amazing difference that a small amount of caring can bring

### **Breakfast Fund**

The Breakfast Fund was created early in our involvement with Anh Linh when our Founder, Jerilyn Hirsch taught at the school in 2004-2005. Jerri noticed that many of the children were hungry in the morning. She discovered that many children were from circumstances that could not afford a breakfast meal. Searching about in the ex-pat community in Ho Chi Minh Jerri found someone who could provide high protein supplement for the kids and the Breakfast Fund was created. Now all elementary students receive a healthy breakfast each morning.

### **Goals**

#### **Sponsorships**

Bridges to Learning commits 100% of every dollar received as sponsorship funding to Anh Linh School for the specific child sponsored as these are considered restricted funds. We have strived to maintain a base of 70 sponsored children and through attrition and new sponsors we have been able to maintain that level consistently over the years. Basically, that translates to about \$35,000 annually for the 70 children. In 2017 the final remittance to Anh Linh for sponsorships was \$33,915.

#### **Breakfast Fund**

Bridges to Learning primarily draws from unrestricted funds to support the Breakfast Fund to the level of \$7,500 annually.

#### **Viet Anh**

Since 2016 Bridges to Learning has provided a grant of \$3,500 annually to Viet Anh school to support the mission of providing underserved minority children an education and a caring environment in they may develop.

#### **Financial Statement**

The 2017 financials reflect the rebuilding mentioned in our opening statement. We had one major event in 2017, the Vietnamese Gala which was a success, raising over \$7,000. A smaller event, the Fall Wine Tasting, was a smaller venue but very rewarding from a financial perspective netting over \$10,000 for the schools. We began the fiscal year with just over \$48,000 in reserves and forecast a revenue for the year at \$71,000 against an Expense forecast of \$60,000. Anticipating the leaving of our Executive Director our salary commitments were significantly lowered.

We exceeded our revenue forecast by almost \$10,000 which was partially offset by an increase in expenses which totaled \$76,481. We ended the year with a net increase of \$3,537 bringing our reserves in 2018 to \$51,539. We exceeded our forecast support for Anh Linh School by almost \$5,000 for sponsors and \$2,000 for the Breakfast Fund and other minor programs. You can find the formal documents at [www.bridges2learning.org](http://www.bridges2learning.org) in the “Documents” section under “About Us” on the home page of our website.

## **2018**

What to look forward to? At the time of this writing we are well into 2018 and meeting our forecast goals and objectives. We have added directors to the board and explored new event strategies which have made a difference. The support for Anh Linh and Viet Anh is progressing. We appreciate all that you, our sponsors, donors and volunteers do to make the lives of the children at these schools hopeful that a better future of them is just ahead.