



BRIDGES TO LEARNING
 Helping children develop into educated, productive and responsible adults.

News from Anh Linh School

The Story of Vang

A Student with Initiative, Responsibility and Intelligence



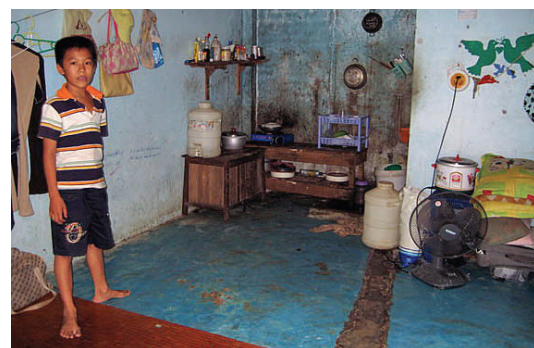
Vang Working

Diep Thanh Vang is 12 years old. He and his mother were abandoned by his father 3 years ago. They now live in a rented 12 x 12 foot room with Vang's aunt. His mother works in the kitchen of a restaurant. She works long hours and sometimes sleeps there too. When she misses Vang too much, she comes to school to see him.

This summer Vang worked every day at Anh Linh school to earn a little money to help his mother and aunt pay the rent. Cam Thuy, the principal, reports that he is a very good worker. "I've given him a key

to the school," Thuy said. "He comes on time every morning to open the school for himself and a couple of other kids who are also working at the school this summer. He wants very badly to stay in school, but he needs help. He wants to be an engineer when he grows up, but first he wants to buy a ring for his mom."

Vang's story is similar to so many of the children at Anh Linh. They are good kids, smart kids, responsible kids, but they need the break Bridges to Learning and you can give them to end the cycle of poverty in their lives.



Vang's Home

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You can make a difference in the life of a child like Vang. Please consider sponsoring a child and providing them with the education they need to fulfill their dreams. Fill out the enclosed envelope to contribute today!

Principal's Message

Dear Benefactors,

With a new school year ahead of us, the students, faculty and staff of Anh Linh School have a feeling of deep and fruitful enrichment. We all feel fortunate indeed, and I hope you will find in this thank-you message a bundle of flowers!

It is a joy to see the fruits of our labor together – yours and mine – and this past year all of the students in grade 5 passed their certificate of grade school. In our academic system, this is an important step.

More than that, thanks to your help our students are able to go to school and learn in a joyful and caring atmosphere that some have not experienced

before. Typically, new students come to us with shy and bewildered expressions on their faces. I often wish that you could share my experience of seeing their intellectual and physical development and a resulting new confidence in themselves and their future. It would fill you with joy.

The three story primary school is now rebuilt, but the grade school students will have to continue to study in the Middle School until November. They are joyfully looking forward to the new school year with splendid refurbished classrooms and a safe and spacious playground. Like the staff, the students are delighted that the

primary school will have designated classrooms to offer more English, music and art lessons.

On behalf of all of us here at Anh Linh, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. May you share our joy, and may you have good health, success and happiness in your lives.



**Sister Le Thi Cam Thuy,
Principal
Anh Linh Free School**

Student Achievement High as Academic Year Ends

Anh Linh School finished the academic year with achievement tests and, once again, all students received good to high grades and will advance to the next grade level. This is especially important for the 5th graders who must pass a government-issued test in order to move to 6th grade. Each student's spon-

sor will receive a copy of their achievement certificate. All sponsors can take enormous satisfaction in the accomplishments of the Anh Linh staff and the grateful children to whom they have given new hope.

On the final day of school, the children and teachers held a day of celebration to mark student excellence and accomplishment. The week before, kids from all 7 grades participated in a day of camping, with outdoor cooking, eating, games, and fun.

As Vietnam continues its extraordinary development, the

opportunities increase for Anh Linh graduates. The Bridges to Learning staff and board of directors are thankful for your partnership in our mission of providing impoverished children with hope for happy and productive lives



Camping & Eating!



Achievement Certificate

Primary School Reconstruction

In 2007 the new middle school was completed, thanks in large part to your contributions. The project was so successful that funds remained to enable Anh Linh to take another important step and rebuild the primary school.

Anh Linh began 17 years ago in a vacant pig sty and the next primary school was little more than a hodgepodge of small spaces cobbled together to serve as classrooms. No one would have imagined the wonderful facilities that will soon be available for study and learning. Bridges to Learning shared the dream of the Sisters of Notre Dame and generous people like you helped realize that dream.

Last fall, all the children took classes in the new school with primary students attending morning and the secondary students attending afternoon sessions.

The demolition of old structures on the primary lot began in March, and the new school is

emerging from the rubble and will be ready for occupancy this fall.

Anh Linh has added grade 8 to the school curriculum this fall, bringing the total number of students to 265. Only one new grade is permitted each year, therefore the school will not reach its full potential until the fall of 2009.



From this...



To this... with your help!



Keeping the new school clean

PAYPAL

We are determined to make all donors' gifts convenient and secure. You may now use Bridges to Learning's PayPal account to simplify the process of giving. From our website (www.bridges2learning.org) you can link directly to PayPal for a secure transaction. Under the main menu "Contribute" you will find two sub-menus for "Donations" and "Sponsoring a child," each with the appropriate PayPal link. It's easy and secure. We hope you'll try it.

Sisters of St. Joseph Awards \$7,500 Grant



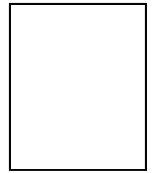
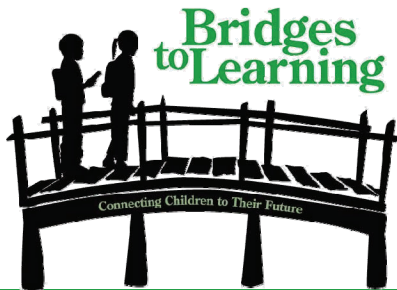
Peter Sammond, Bridges to Learning board chair, has announced a grant of \$7,500 from the Sisters of

St. Joseph of Carondelet Partners in Justice Fund. The grant will support 18 new first graders at Anh Linh School and will engage the families of the children in the school program through three evening family dinners and programs.

Sammond expressed his appreciation for the generous gift and ex-

pressed his belief that the involvement of the parents will result in a greater long-term commitment to their children's education.

The mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph includes serving God and neighbor alike. The Sisters' definition of "neighbors" extends to people everywhere in the world.



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Bridges to Learning is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit

Visit our website:
www.bridges2learning.org
to learn more about Bridges To
Learning and to contribute today!

Mark your Calendars

Bridges to Learning will host its first large-scale fund raising event October 25 at 6 PM at the University Club of St. Paul. The theme is "Investing in Hope". And we hope to see you there. For more information go to the BTL website.
www.bridges2learning.org.

Bridges to Learning on YouTube!

Want to learn more about Anh Linh School and its students? Visit www.bridges2learning.org or YouTube to see Bridges To Learning's new video "Children of Hope."

Make a difference in the life of a child today! For a little over a dollar a day, you can ensure a poverty stricken child in Vietnam will receive meals, clothing, and the education to build a future of hope. Give the gift of education today! Go to www.bridges2learning.org and click on donate!



Anh Linh educates children for the future!