



# Bridges to Learning

*From poverty to promise*

## Mark your calendar!

Bridges to Learning will host a wine-tasting fundraiser **Thursday, April 23**, from 6 – 8 p.m. at Loring Green West in downtown Minneapolis. Besides tasting and learning about five less familiar, but interesting wines, there will be a small silent auction which will include original art produced by students at Anh Linh School. Cost? \$65. Get more information and register at the Bridges to Learning website:



[www.bridges2learning.org](http://www.bridges2learning.org)

or call Jerri Hirsch or Bob MacMurdo:

**612/381-1990**

We can accommodate 100 persons, so invite your friends.

Guests won't learn only about wine. They will learn about the kids of Anh Linh and why we are important in their lives and futures

**April 23 - 6-8 p.m.**

## *In the fall*

- October 17, 2009
  - Hotel Sofitel, Bloomington
  - BTL Gala for Anh Linh School
- Stay tuned for more details!*



*Jerri Hirsch joined S. Tecla to cut the dedication ribbon.*

## New School Dedicated

Seven Bridges to Learning sponsors visited the Anh Linh Free School in January to celebrate the dedication of the new elementary school. All were pleased to join in an inspirational and creative dedication program.

Sponsors attending were Pat Benn, Ned Crosby, Jerri Hirsch and Bob MacMurdo (Minneapolis), Annette Dixon and Ross Grantham (Bangkok), and Martin Dockery (Ho Chi Minh City). (Visit [bridges2learning.org](http://bridges2learning.org) to see photos of the new school.) In addition, Anh Linh past and present students, teachers and parents; government officials; and sisters from the Congregation of Notre Dame came together to celebrate the building.

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*Anh Linh students attended dedication ceremony.*



# “I wish that we all could have shared the experience.”

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Anh Linh Principal S. Cam Thuy invited Jerri Hirsch to speak at the dedication. With the assistance of a translator, Jerri explained that many people around the world cared about the children of Anh Linh, and she described their hopes for the children’s future as well as the future of the school and country. She emphasized how much respect we have for Anh Linh School’s effectiveness in having an impact on its students’ lives.

Cam Thuy also asked Jerri to cut the ribbon that officially opened the new school. “It was a moment of profound joy for me,” recalls Jerri. “As I thought about all the love and support of people who have invested their time, love and resources, I wished that we all could have shared the experience.”

Bob MacMurdo was deeply moved when the father of one of the sponsored students thanked him in halting English for giving his child a chance for an education.

***There are moments when it all comes together. . .***

Students from each class entertained guests with a performance that ranged from ballet to rock and roll. It was inspirational to see the colorful acts the teachers and students created for the dedication of their splendid new building.



*Student dancers performed at dedication ceremony.*



*Students did a Vietnamese dance in traditional attire.*

## **Other News**

1. *Soon Cam Thuy will begin the process to obtain authorization to add a high school at Anh Linh. The school’s ninth graders will be ready for high school in the fall of 2010. We believe it will not be necessary to build a separate high school because the current facilities have ample space to offer high school classes.*
2. *In June, 2009, Delta Airlines will begin a non-stop flight from Tokyo to Saigon. Consider a visit to Anh Linh.*



*First-graders were dressed in their new uniforms for the new year and the new school.*