



## NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 20, Mar 2012

TOGETHER WE MADE IT HAPPEN

### Interview with SAVICE Volunteer Nguyễn Văn Thuận

In our very first interview with a valued SAVICE volunteer, we introduce you to Mr. Thuận, who is responsible for SAVICE operations in the Central and Highlands of Vietnam.

**Q: How much time and/or resources do you devote to SAVICE?**

**A:** By popular demand, SAVICE scholarship program has achieved widespread distribution, and operation efficiencies that are effective and equitable. When I am on my disaster relief missions or visiting remote rural areas, I find ways to make contact with teachers and people of goodwill in the locale, where I also take the opportunity to observe and note the circumstances in which elementary students live. When summer arrives, I find ways to meet the students, examine their academic records, and survey the family's background and living situation. Then I consolidate my lists of students with those of other SAVICE volunteers and send them to the central office in Saigon where scholarships are allocated. The time I develop to SAVICE is usually one to two months each academic year.

**Q: How did you become introduced to SAVICE?**

**A:** Mr. and Mrs. Vĩnh Đào are close friends of mine since childhood. 5 years ago when we happened to meet again, Mr. Vĩnh told me about this program and I willingly volunteered to participate.

**Q: What motivated you become involved with SAVICE?**

**A:** My ambition in life has always been to have meaningful exchanges with people and be helpful to people. Volunteering for SAVICE is my way of living this ambition.

**Q: What is the best part of SAVICE?**

**A:** SAVICE selects impoverished children of a studious nature, support them, and give them opportunities to rise up and change their lives.

**Q: What can SAVICE do better?**

**A:** During the current difficult economic climate, it is comforting to know SAVICE maintains its annual fund-raising targets. Aside from funding for scholarships and construction of schools, it would be great if SAVICE can set aside a small amount of funding for clothing for impoverished elementary school-aged children in the midlands of Vietnam.



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**Q: How is SAVICE similar to or different from other charities you know?**

**A:** I am involved in many other charitable groups, but these charity campaign drives are usually short-term and not sustainable. SAVICE has long-term objectives, systematic organization, and clearly delineated workload [for all those involved]. SAVICE attracts many compassionate volunteers and this is my favorite: SAVICE is not gimmicky or ostentatious.

**Q: What is your most memorable experience in your involvement with SAVICE?**

**A:** Here is an excerpt from my diary for the "Travels to hand out scholarships in 2011." It is easy for passion to forget the hardships of travelling over thousands of kilometers in 2 days to arrive on time and promptly place scholarships into the hands of the children. "...Students in Central Vietnam were to begin receiving scholarships in 2011-2012. All my initial worries and anxiety gradually faded as I prepared to travel from Nha Trang to Quang Binh by bus to meet with students as scheduled. There was hardship and fatigue at each segment of the journey, but as I arrived at each destination, and met with friendly faces of our dearest students, who gave me a radiant welcome, it was like I had a new body. SAVICE scholarships for the academic year 2011 - 2012 were received by students with hope energy in the form of learning effort. These children will have a brighter future, a chance of an early escape from deep poverty."

**Q: What is the best advice someone gave you that has helped you through life that you would want SAVICE students to know?**

**A:** When students and I meet, I usually tell students the difficult circumstances that my own family had to overcome to keep children in our family fed and schooled. I tell this story in the hopes that students realize the sacrifices and expectations of all parents, who wish for their children a bright future at the end of an academic path.



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**To make a donation, please make check payable to SAVICE**  
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## Cordial exchange of thanks and wishes marked the end of 2011

### From the US to Vietnam:

“SAVICE volunteers,

We wish to thank you for your immense sacrifice. You selflessly give our organization many long hours, you endure arduous travel, all at your own personal expense to do charitable work purely without any considerations of personal gain or advantage.

You sacrifice and suffer all for the future a minority of impoverished children we are able to help!

Your great work is vital. Education will help change the lives and futures of our children and everyone around them.

With deep admiration,  
The US SAVICE Team”

### From Vietnam to the US:

On December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011, SAVICE team members in Vietnam handed out 12 (of a total of 33) university scholarships to students from Year One of SAVICE operations.

At the end of 2011, the team in Vietnam selected a representative to send wishes to the US: Đào Nguyễn Trúc Kha, a grade 10 student of Chu Van An Secondary School, Ninh Thuan Province. SAVICE will stay with her in the hopes of seeing her become one of the few to receive a SAVICE university scholarship. Trúc Kha writes:

“In the last semester, I strived for and achieved the honor of “Excellent Student” in my studies. I was very happy to have received a SAVICE scholarship. When it was handed to me, I made a pact with myself to always work hard, to always be disciplined, so that I will be deserving of your caring expectations.

Soon, the New Year will knock on every door. I wish for everyone at SAVICE a New Year of good health, prosperity, and hopes and dreams coming true.

Respectfully yours,  
Đào Nguyễn Trúc Kha”

