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SCHOOL ROOM COMPLETION REPORT

Country: Vietnam

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Donor: Global Hope & Families with Children from Vietnam

NAME OF SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY Quoi An Preschool			PARTNER ORGANIZATION N/A			PROJECT ID NO. VN-SR-07-19		
PROVINCE Vinh Long		DISTRICT Vung Liem		COMMUNE Quoi An		VILLAGE Vam An Hamlet		
<p>LOCATION</p> <p>Vinh Long Province is situated between the Tien and the Hau Rivers. Vinh Long is close to the Tien River in the north. It is bordered on the north by Tien Giang; on the southwest by Can Tho; on the northeast by Ben Tre; and on the northwest by Dong Thap Provinces.</p> <p>The new Quoi An Preschool will be built in Vam An Hamlet, Quoi An Commune which is located in the Vung Liem District in Vinh Long Province. It is about 10 kilometers from the center of Mang Thit District in the north. The road leading to the construction site was made of asphalt.</p> <p>The new preschool will be bordered by the Co Chien River to the east, by Tan Quoi Trung to the west, by Trung Thanh Tay Commune to the south and by the Mang River to the north.</p>				<p>MAP</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vinh Long Province is indicated above in red.</p>				
NUMBER OF STUDENTS/CHILDREN				NUMBER OF TEACHERS				
FEMALE 36	MALE 26	TOTAL 62		FEMALE 2	MALE 0	TOTAL 2		
GRADE/LEVEL OF STUDENTS Preschool				AGE RANGE OF CHILDREN 3 – 5 years old				

DESCRIPTION OF COMMUNITY AND LIFESTYLE

Vinh Long Province is situated between the Tien and the Hau Rivers. Here the soil is rich in alluvium, favorable for rice and fruit cultivation. The majority of inhabitants engage in farming, the remaining work with small enterprises. Vinh Long is close to the Tien River in the north. It is the home to 1,023,400 people including Kinh people and Khmer and Chinese who follow different religions.

Vinh Long Province has 6 districts: Binh Minh, Long Ho, Mang Thit, Tam Binh, Tra On, and Vung Liem. It is overwhelmingly agricultural. The province is developing economically due to the tourism industry and strong agriculture. However, these economic developments do not affect all of the districts equally. Those that border the main town have many more employment opportunities than those farther from the town. The people living in the rural areas tend to be very poor and lack many opportunities to improve their lives. Many children living in these areas do not get the opportunity to go to school because their parents cannot afford it or because the children themselves have to work to earn money and support their family.

Rice is harvested twice a year. In addition to rice, there are many big gardens growing durian, mango, pomelo, banana, and papaya. However, the fresh water supply system does not sufficiently meet the farming demand. The changeable weather has also influenced the fruit harvesting. In addition, lack of funds, production facilities, education, and agricultural skills combine to produce constraints affecting farmers.

Vinh Long has many beautiful natural sights such as An Binh - Binh Hoa Island and Phuoc River, which emerges from the middle of the Tien River, just opposite to the town of Vinh Long. The island's area covers around 60 square kilometers and has four villages: An Binh, Binh Hoa Phuoc, Hoa Ninh and Dong Phu. Its soil is fertile and rich, and there are fruit trees and fresh water.

Vinh Long is located 136 kilometers south of Ho Chi Minh City and 70 kilometers southwest of My Tho. There are scheduled bus services from either Cho Lon (District 5) or Mien Tay Bus Station in Ho Chi Minh City. The inter-province bus station is 4 to 5 kilometers from downtown with scheduled service to Ho Chi Minh City, Can Tho, Long Xuyen, My Tho, Rach Gia, Sa Dec and other Mekong Delta destinations. There are also waterborne services to various parts of the Mekong Delta, even as far as Chau Doc to the west and Ho Chi Minh City to the north.

Quoi An has approximately 1,179 ha of natural land with 10 hamlets including agricultural land, rivers and tunnels. The population of Quoi An Commune is 10,251 including 2,242 households. Over 78% of the population lives on agricultural products (such as growing rice and fruit trees) or handicrafts (such as mat weaving, knitting or joinery). Agriculture is the main industry, but farmland is scarce and since there are very few families that actually own land, many people must work for hire year round. Therefore, their lives are very difficult. The average income is only about \$340/person/year. The rate of poor households (income less than \$200/person/year) is about 12.6%.

CURRENT SITUATION AND REASON FOR SUPPORT

Currently, Quoi An has 10 hamlets with 7 satellite preschools. Vam An Hamlet where Room to Read will build the new Quoi An Preschool has 1 inadequate satellite preschool. This preschool is located next to a dump for waste material. The stench from the dump is very pungent and is very uncomfortable for the children and teacher. Moreover the classroom itself is in bad condition. It is not safe, lacks adequate space, and is located very far from the children's homes. The parents have had no choice of schools and they were forced to take their children there because they must go to work to earn their living.

Quoi An has 372 children from 3 to 5 years old but there are only 274 children going to preschool. The rest of children must stay at home because either there is no preschool or it is located too far from their house. Therefore, parents in this area are really longing for a new preschool so that their children can

learn and play while they go to work to earn their living.

Understanding the urgent needs of having a new preschool, the local People's Committee allocated a piece of public land which is in the center of Quoi An Commune and very convenient for the children at Vam An, Truong Din Hang 1 Hamlet. However, the local People's Committee can't afford to build the preschool with their available resources. Therefore, they have called for the support of non-government organizations.

Room to read is committed to being part of this effort.

DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT:

January 28, 2008

DETAILS OF FINISHED PROJECT

Quoi An Preschool has 2 classrooms, 1 kitchen, indoor toilets, and a long corridor in front of the classrooms.

In each classroom there are 4 double lights and 2 ceiling fans. The water (water tank, sink, taps) and electricity (ceiling fans, lights, sockets) systems work properly. The floor is covered with ceramic tiles. Many windows and two doors in each classroom allow in a lot of light and fresh air. Indoor toilets allow the teachers to keep better track of all the students.

The shelves in the classrooms are lined with new books and toys. Many of the toys were handmade by the teachers.

CHALLENGE GRANT

COMMUNITY OR SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT: 55%

- Provide the preschool design..... 2.8%
- Provide funds for construction 14.6%
- Assist in preparing for construction approval..... 0.12%
- Assist in supervising the construction progress..... 1.6%
- Provide land for construction and assure no land disputes..... 14.5%
- Provide the furniture for the classroom 4.8%
- Management and maintenance of the new school..... 0.45%
- Collection and maintenance of quality certificates 1.00%
- Provide toys, a fence, and a playground 12.5%
- Provide the electricity and water systems..... 2.13%
- Holding the groundbreaking, handover, and opening ceremonies 0.5%

ROOM TO READ CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT: 45%

- Provide funds as requested
- Assist in improving the preschool design
- Monitoring and supervision of construction progress

USAGE TO DATE

Quoi An Preschool's new classrooms officially opened in December 2007. There are 62 children split into 2 classes; the four-year-old class has 28 children and the five-year-old class has 34 children. The teachers have several years of experience: Ms. Nguyen Thi Mai Trinh has 7 years of experience and Ms. Huynh Thi Thu Nga has 2 years of experience.

Ms. Luong Nguyet Chung, the principal, has 20 years of experience as the principal in Quoi An Preschool.

The teachers have worked hard to create a stimulating environment for the students. Potted plants fill “nature corners,” storybooks and toys fill the “library corner,” and special equipment used to learn new skills fills the “occupational corner.”

Currently, Quoi An Preschool has only morning classes. They will organize full-day classes during the next school year, says Ms. Nguyet.

COMMENTS

Quoi An Preschool is located on a piece of land behind a pond and surrounded by rice fields. Although Quoi An Commune is one of the poorest communes in Vung Liem District, the local government realizes the importance of preschool education for their children before going to primary school. With the support from Room to Read, they now have a new preschool. With the support of the local government, the community was able to build a fence around the new school to help protect the students, a concrete playground, and a small bridge to access the school. The school is a great example of teamwork between the local community and government.

The Department of Education and Training (DET) provide playground equipment in 2008.

On behalf of the teachers and parents, the principal thanks Room to Read and its donors.

Photos:



Quoi An Preschool.



A strong fence and a bridge were built with the cooperation of the local government and local community to keep their children safe while they are going to school.



“Nature corner.” The children can learn about plants and trees.



“Fruit corner.” Here, children can play and learn about different fruits.



The donor dedication plaque affixed to Quoi An Preschool.