

June Newsletter

Vietnam Education Initiative | June 2026



Newsletter by
Thanh Tazumi,
ICO Lead

“Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference.”

Kathy Calvin (CEO of UN Foundation 2013-2019)

It is an honour for our team to walk alongside these resilient young men & women as they pursue their academic goals. Some we have supported for 4 or 5 years and others we have only known for a year or two. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to support each and every student, and we look forward to watching them explore and pursue their careers.

We are proud to share that two 4th year students and 1 recent grad taught weekly English classes over Zoom to 15 middle and high school students living in remote villages.



A few highlights...



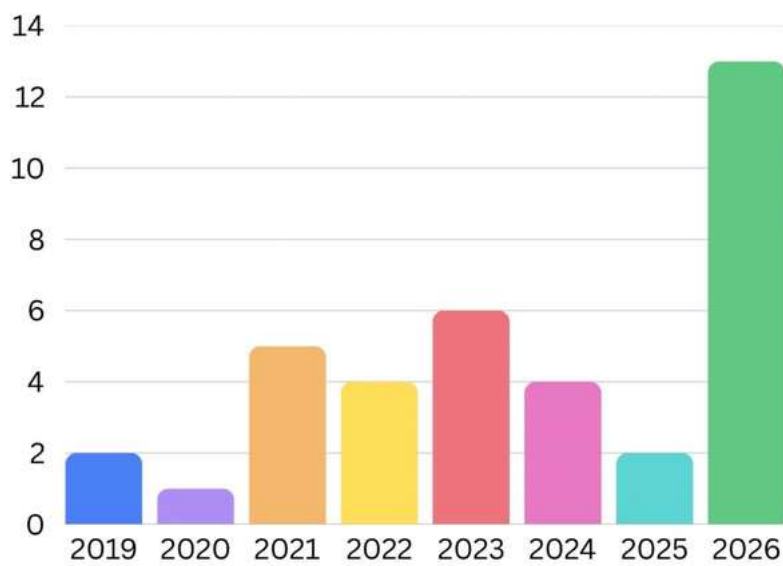
You will notice us sitting on the floor in a circle for most of our meals. This is quite common in our culture. During meals we are all equal, we are all connected...



2025/2026

- We provided scholarships to: 46 post-secondary students, and 50 grade 1-12 students.
- We hired 3 university students to teach 3 English classes via Zoom each week to 15 middle & high school students from remote communities.
- 5 post-secondary students are learning English on Zoom with 2 Canadian and 1 Vietnamese volunteers.
- Thirteen post-secondary students graduated this year

Post-Secondary Grads



- Graph shows number of grads for each year - in 2019 we had a couple of students who graduated from trade programs like HVAC & culinary
- Total # of grads to date = 37
- Total # of students who dropped out or we discontinued support = 10
- 2024-2025 - provided scholarships to 25 grade 1-12 students
- 2025-2026 - provided scholarships to 50 grade 1-12 students

CONGRATULATIONS!



EXPLORE & EXPERIENCE





Staying CONNECTED!



- **Building relationships with family members when possible**
- **Staying connected with alumni - support and network for current students (internship, career advice, referrals)**



Where are they now?

HELLO

- The majority of alumni are employed in their field of study
- 1 young woman completed a 1 year scholarship study in China
- 2 are studying in South Korea
- 4 are working outside of their fields of study

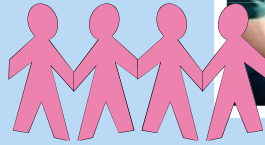


Nui Hong Village in October



During our time in the village, we performed home visits - to get to know scholarship recipients & their families and assess needs.

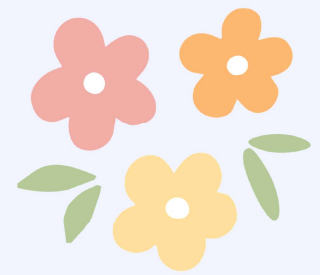
Nui Hong Village



- On our last trip Minh and Tu interviewed all 30 students, most in person and some over the phone or video calls.
- Tu graduated with a degree in graphic design - he helped design a bookmark, Mark's business card, and some booklets. Tu speaks the language and was seen as a great role model for students. Our hope was that Tu's presence would inspire these young students to pursue their educational dreams.



Nui Hong Village



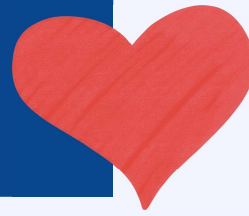
These are the students and guardians who came from other villages to meet with us, eat lunch, and receive their scholarships.



YAY!



Volunteers & Field Leads



Thanh with CAMA staff and 1 student volunteer

Zong - Community Liaison in Nui Hong village



Thanh with field leads: Kim Anh in green & Minh in white & blue

Other active volunteers working directly with students - Craig, Bruce, Elinor



Quan & husband Tu are our newest partners



{ Gina Le is a field lead in Saigon

MAKING AN IMPACT



2018 - 2026

- Supported 81 post secondary students
- 37 post-secondary graduates
- 10 post-secondary students discontinued

2024 - 2026 —> 75 scholarship to grade 1-12

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OUR VISION

ICO is founded on the premise that friends working together can harness the power of innovative ideas: Through the common goals of communities and volunteers around the world, ICO develops processes and community-led initiatives to advance education and alleviate poverty.

A Trip to Son La

https://youtu.be/j187J3wtkJU?si=7__5NQfOiEz8Nz1f

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