



VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR, INC

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Dear Friends,

Many of us counted down the days until our tour of duty was over. We couldn't wait to get home. After returning, we eventually ended up fighting the US war machine. Never in our wildest dreams would we imagine that decades later VVAW would build a library where some of us had fought. Now construction of our second library has begun in the courtyard of the Hanh Trung Primary School, Nghia Hanh District, in the Quang Ngai Province of Vietnam. Your donations help make this possible and help us get to our goal of \$26,000 needed to get this open by spring of 2023.

Thanks to Chuck Theusch, Founder/CEO of the Library of Vietnam Project for leading this effort. Here is a report from him on his current trip to Vietnam.

Saturday, January 7, we had a wonderful groundbreaking for the VVAW Library at Hanh Trung Primary School in Nghia Hanh District, Quang Ngai Province.

Our association with the university has evolved with our commitments to smaller, less expensive, but excellent, fully qualified institutions. Outreach to kids from ethnic minority mountain peoples and local kids of agricultural and rural, very small, businesses, is being handled by Mr. Nhi, who has joined us and served as translator. He will be associated with the school. We are also associated with children of the disabled from the growing Agent Orange communities here as well as in Quang Tri (DMZ), Hue and Binh Dinh Provinces, among others.

The Project Manager, Mr. Long, said the library build is expected to take about ninety days. The school will now have a free standing independent building designated for library use. Thanks to VVAW's "Small Dream" project. All they had before was a lean-to roof with a few books, generally useless in the many months of monsoon weather that Quang Ngai is known for.

There is a tradition that this groundbreaking ceremony fits into nicely—the heartfelt belief that rain on the day of commencement is a good sign for a new innovative project—the VVAW Library. We are grateful for this positive coincidence. Much more to follow.

VVAW intends to continue supporting these library projects with construction or enhancements to equipment, or whatever the libraries need to better help the students. We've been talking with Chuck about how we can continue to support these two libraries and maybe even build more over the next 5 years.

This may not seem like a lot, but in these remote war-torn, poverty-stricken areas every dollar goes a long way to making big improvements for the people of Vietnam. This is a great chance to bring some joy into our lives by helping the children and grandchildren of people we once wronged. Your donations really are crucial to getting these libraries built and to offer annual support to them



Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Small Dreams Library at Hanh Trung Primary School, January 7, 2023.

as long as we can. While many of us served over 50 years ago, the damage the US rained on Vietnam is still affecting the health and well being of the Vietnamese people. Please consider the lasting good your donation will do to helping educate a new generation of Vietnamese youth. Please give what you can now.

We are deeply thankful when our members and supporters make tax-deductible donations to VVAW's work, at whatever level. Your contributions to VVAW help us keep distributing *The Veteran*, to our members, friends, and supporters. Your donations also keep our website going, where we have every issue of VVAW's newspaper online as well as archives of many other articles, photos, and videos. Your donations allow us to make VVAW's legacy not only accessible to all through our website but also to archive them for generations to come. **Funds raised will also continue to support the Library of Vietnam Project.** We thank all of you for your continued support.

In solidarity,

William Branson

Bill Branson
VVAW Board member

I am sending Vietnam Veterans Against the War ☐\$35 ☐\$50 ☐\$100 ☐\$250 ☐\$500 ☐Other to support its work for peace, justice, and for decent benefits for all veterans. Donations to VVAW are tax deductible. You can also donate online at www.vvaw.org.

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