

# PEACE: A CORNERSTONE OF ROTARY'S MISSION

## Healing of War Wounds ... and Establishment of Peace and Hope



In 1999 Maumee Rotarian, business owner, and Past District Governor of this Rotary district (6600) Chuck Oswald, made a trip to Vietnam that highlighted the post-war challenges experienced by people of that country. In January of 2000 his presentation to the Toledo Rotary Club about that trip and about the remarkable people of that country, but also about their dire post-war situation, sparked keen interest. Several Toledo Rotarians, including Vietnam Veterans, came forward to ask if there was something that they could do to bring healing to Vietnam, as well as to address their own psychological wounds of that war.

The result was the founding of **The D.O.V.E. Fund** by a handful of Toledo and Maumee Rotarians, including Oswald, Do Nguyn, Fred Grimm and our own Bob Mehring, Steve Boice, Geoff McKisson and a few others.

Since those days in 2000, The D.O.V.E. Fund has undertaken annual "project trips" for dedicated Rotarians and Vietnam veterans who have embraced the urgent needs of the people of that country, focusing on the areas of:

- Schools, including the dedication of several that were funded by those travelers. In all approximately 59 schools have been built.
- Clean Water and Sanitation projects.
- Medical facilities (including 12 medical clinics) and aid especially for individual victims of Agent Orange. Note that Toledo Rotarian, Dr. John Wiley led efforts & funding to build a medical clinic north of the DMZ zone.
- Assistance to people with disabilities.
- Vocational and microfinance support by interested business leaders, including Tom Anderson. These "micro banks" have provided small, entrepreneurial loans to encourage the establishment of business ventures that have raised hundreds out of dire economic conditions.
- Scholarships for high school students.

The outcome has been amazing, demonstrating the power of the Rotary's healing principle of "Service above Self". In 2000 there was virtually no Rotary presence in Vietnam. Now we can celebrate that there are five Rotary Clubs throughout the country, one Rotaract club, and 1000's of scholarships for continuing educational assistance for eager students of that country. And finally, the complete and healing sense of peace and joy felt by Veterans of the Vietnam Conflict.

Rotary's peace-making impact is clear. Thank you for reading Issue 2 of this January special series. Read on to page 2 for photos of The D.O.V.E. Fund.

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D.O.V.E. fund projects include vocational support for those with mental disabilities and challenges.

A nursery school funded by D.O.V.E. members and supporters.



Day one of pure drinking water for a villager, who otherwise would have to venture down to the stream with a plastic jug to collect water.



To learn more about The D.O.V.E. Fund, you can visit their website: <https://dovefund.org/>