

July 2001 - June 2002 Annual Report

It was a busy and exciting 12-month period for VPA. We reached out and achieved a number of programs that were quite remarkable given the limited resources that we possessed. There were programs that we chose to pursue given the benefits provided over the last year. There were also a number of new directions that we undertook whose success gave us a lot of pride.

VPA supports the Vietnamese Community of Washington DC, Maryland, and Virginia (VNC) on an ongoing basis regarding the daily issues of that organization. VNC supports the Vietnamese American community in the Washington D.C. area.

VPA has consistently been supporting the Vietnamese language training for the Vietnamese American youth. The main accomplishment consists in assisting the Vietnamese Youth Educational Association (VYEA) to hold a yearly Vietnamese language summer session for the Vietnamese American youth. The summer of 2001 session was attended by 300 youth. Seven different levels of instruction were offered and attended by youth from age 6 up to 17. The teach and support staff consists of more than 30 people during the session. VPA provides teach and administrative support every year for the last 4 years. VPA is essentially tasked to secure the necessary funding to hold the session every summer. VPA's President, Mr. Thuan Truong, is also, VYEA's Vice-President for External Affairs. This year, like any past year, it was a joy seeing a large community coming together to work and provide educational skills that help preserve the cultural heritage of the Vietnamese American community.

2001-2002 are turning years for VPA other local programs. VPA initiated computer courses aiming at certification (MCSE) in 1999. In 2001 VPA developed a curriculum of computer courses which introduced basic knowledge of software applications and internet use to fourth, fifth graders and the largely immigrant community at Broad Acres E.S. at Silver Spring, MD (98% immigrants, 97% F.A.R.M.S) The program's name, Home Learning Center, derived from the L.I.F.E. concept (Livable Income For Everyone) developed in conjunction with Robert Evert, Program Director of Linkages to Learning at Broad Acres E.S.) Home Learning Center focused on the strengths of the community, particularly it's willingness to challenge difficulties encountered as immigrants and low income.

“Dat hien, chim dau”, is a Vietnamese saying meaning “*Birds nest in peaceful lands*”. VPA conducted multiple AMAP (Awareness, Motivation, Access, Partnership) experiences in the years of 2001 and 2002, taking about 100 immigrant parents and children in cultural/recreational trips to discover and enjoy America, their new homeland. Participants are enthusiastic and the long waiting list is illustrative for the need of such cultural trips that we intend to pursue.

With the continuous support of Robert Evert and LTL (I. Sparber, S. Strauss, R. Grainger, P. Scott . . .) and later on of Barbara Ott and Lisa Kobayashi (YMCA youth services) VPA opened

its 12 networked workstations, internet connected computer lab at the beginning of 2002. Ann Warner of Montgomery College gracefully donated all the PC's for the lab, Steve Mikulski, Jim Ferrant (ITC-MCPS), Mr. Curtis of Holy Cross Hospital, Northrop Grumman, Grace Kornskee, and other individual donors contributed a large number of PC's, which were retrofitted by VPA to be donated to its students. By offering an internet capable PC to take home, VPA/ L.I.F.E.'s concept aims at equipping the poor to join the mainstream. The class structure and schedule (6:00 pm to 8:30 pm) as well as the location right within the community enabled a great number of parents to participate in the program. As a result Home Learning Center facilitated the development of family participation (parents/children, brothers/sisters studying together) as well as increased the inter-cultural relations (neighbors from different cultures joining as students) of the community. An interesting outcome and a good measure of success of the Home Learning Center Program is the 100% increase in number of enrollees after 4 months and a growing participation of male parents. VPA finished the Home Learning Center 2002 in June with 73 students completing the course, 22 on waiting list, 43 PC's donated, and 7 requested. VPA would like to express its profound gratitude to all its benefactors. VPA and Linkages are committed to start the program again in September 2002 to respond to the strong need expressed by the community at Broad Acres to whom we are thankful for their support and confidence.

An activity with an international scope was the organization of an annual Conference on Prosperity for Vietnam. On November 16, 2001, the third conference was held at Catholic University of America.. The purpose of the conference was to gather experts in view of discussing and promoting solutions for the current economic quagmire in Vietnam. Speakers at the conference came from leading institutions. The conference proceedings are published on VPA's web site at <http://www.vap-inc.org>. Organization of the Conference 2003 in Washington DC is being planned.

All in all, the 2001 – 2002 period was very rewarding for the many results that VPA did achieve.

Board of Directors: The current members of the Board of Directors and members of the Executive Committee are as follows.

- Mr. Thuan V. Truong, President and Member of the Board of Directors, Springfield, Virginia
- Mr. Huan Van Phan, Executive Director and Member of the Board of Directors, Silver Spring, Maryland
- Mr. Tam T. Nguyen, Vice-President External Affairs, Member of the Board of Directors, Le Havre, France
- Mr. Khai Quoc Nguyen, Member of the Board of Directors, Potomac, Maryland.
- Mr. Tan Le, Member of the Board of Directors, Germantown, Maryland
- Mr. Canh V. Nguyen, Member of the Board of Directors, RedWood City, California
- Mr. Binh T. Tran, Member of the Board of Directors, Puteaux, France

August 26, 2002