

Report from MoL on Dec. 8th Holiday Benefit Dinner, Christmas 2007

The Messengers of Love Holiday Benefit Dinner was held on December 8, 2007 at the Canvas Bistro Restaurant in Houston, Texas. It was truly a touching and special evening for us all. The dinner which featured a broad range of entertainment and dancing was held to raise money for Christmas gifts for 1100 orphans in Viet Nam, to introduce Messengers of Love's (MoL) work to the community, and to celebrate Christmas with friends.

With the many good hearted people who came out to support the cause, MoL was able to raise \$20k plus 3,000 brand new outfits. The generosity of our guests will enable MoL to increase the number of children who will get Christmas gifts this year to 3,000. This year Santa Claus will be delivering gifts to 1,170 orphans in South and Central Viet Nam, 1,030 poor ethnic children in the cold mountain highland area, and 800 poor children of the rural areas of Hue who have been affected by the recent flood. The gifts will include essential items such as clothing, food, and toiletries, but will also include fun items such as toys and candies. With the support and love of our members and guests, MoL will be bringing smiles and happiness to 3,000 deprived children in Viet Nam this Holiday. Our love and gifts will make a difference in these children lives.

There were 170 guests at the dinner. Most of the guests stayed until the end to enjoy the dancing. The Masters of Ceremony, Mr. Bao Nguyen and Ms. Tieu Muoi Huynh were very charming and kept the audience engaged and entertained. Ten beautiful Christmas Poinsettias, donated by Joseph's Nursery, were given out as door prizes toward the end of the evening. There was also an auction of a "Dan Gian" painting donated by Palette Gallery, and autographed astronauts pictures were presented to guests who made the largest donations.

There was a great variety of entertainment on the MoL Van Nghe program that evening: the talented Le Khoi opened the show playing his harmonica, banjo and guitar to the song "Loi Ve Xom Nho", ban Quan Ho Bac Ninh in "ao dai khan dong" traditional clothes with their "Viet Nameese Ethnic" songs, MoL friends singing "Dem Thanh Vo Cung" and "Dua Be", Dinh Van Thang from the famous DVT brother of the 60's rocked the house with his "Born to Be Wild" and other classic rock songs, be Hoai, an orphan from Viet Nam, sang "Ngoi Sao Hieu Long Toi", which moved people to tears, Fr. Nghiem with his charming story telling and performance of a song he composed, "Kiep Nguoi", and many singers with beautiful voices such as chi Kim Khanh, Da Lan, Mimi, Lily, Le Ngoc, Kim Phuong, anh Hung Milton, and Lam Vu who kept the audience captured until the end.

MoL is very happy and proud to have had the following special guests at our event:

- Fr. John Kha has made several trips to Viet Nam's orphanages and is active in various humanitarian projects. He is currently the pastor at a local Catholic church. Messengers of Love are honored to have Fr. Kha as their spiritual adviser.
- Dr. David Gillis is a medical doctor currently working in the NASA Astronaut biomedical department. Dr. Gillis was a Marine Commander fighting along side with the South Vietnamese during the VN war. He has since gone back to Viet

Nam to help with humanitarian projects. He is working actively to help the people of Viet Nam by donating his personal time and money to build schools and medical centers in the rural areas. MoL is proud to have Dr. Gillis on our team and will be working with him to accomplish our common goals of improving the quality of life of the people of Viet Nam.

- Fr. Nghiem Le is a MoL representative from Hue. Fr. Nghiem has a deep love for the poor and the children. He spends his day visiting the sick, the poor and the homeless in the areas where he serves. He helped carried out many MoL projects in the last four years such as remodeling schools, building dining halls, and fixing playgrounds in rural areas of Central Viet Nam. Fr. Nghiem was also Messengers of Love's Santa Claus last Christmas. He will continue to be Santa Claus this Christmas and will be bringing gifts to the children of the flood victims with the donations from Radio Saigon Houston through the MoL group.
- Mr. Du Thua Tran, the oldest MoL supporter and also the father of MoL president Theresa Tran, is a retired French teacher. He is an author of many French literature books, published in the 60's and 70's. He is also a writer for "Van Nghe Tien Phong" Van Ke and Ngay Lai Ngay articles for the last 30 years and also for local "Con Ong" magazine. Mr. Du Tran is active in many humanitarian projects helping the poor of Viet Nam. He is also the founder of "Compassion for the Poor Churches", an organization whose mission is to help build new churches and remodel run down churches in the highland and poor areas of Viet Nam. He is also a member of the Board of Director of Nutrition Depot Corporation.

Messengers of Love is a 501c(3) organization, dedicated to bringing joy and happiness to the orphans and poor of Viet Nam. MoL depends on donations and fund raising programs to support its various humanitarian projects. MoL is comprised of many young talented people with a passion and love for the children and the poor. In 2003, MoL was able to provide Christmas and Tet gifts to 3 orphanages. Last year, MoL was able to provide Christmas and Tet Gifts to 8 orphanages with 800 plus children and many poor handicapped families. This year, MoL will be able to provide Christmas gifts to 10 orphanages and many poor needy children, up to 3000 children and we hope to do the same for Tet.

MoL accomplishes its goals of serving the children and poor through the following programs: Christmas and Tet gifts for the Orphans, Christmas and Tet gifts for the Poor and Handicapped, Messengers of Love Visits to Orphanages, Orphanage Remodeling, School Remodeling, Sponsor an Orphan, Sponsor a Poor Student, Bicycle for a Poor Student, Building a House for the Poor and the Homeless, Dig a Well, Medical and Health Services.

To see pictures of the event, click on the following link:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/MessengersofLove/MoLHolidayBenefitDinnerDec8th>

To help or support, please contact: messengersoflove@gmail.com or 832-647-7233.

To send a donation, please make the check out to Messengers of Love, P.O. Box 590936, Houston, TX 77259.