



A WORD OF GRATITUDE TO THE SARA ASSOCIATION

We share in thanking God with the Sara Association, which for the past 30 years has accompanied and shared with the poor, especially with the brothers and sisters with disabilities in the three regions of North, Central and South on this beloved S-shaped strip of land (Vietnam).

The Sara Association also accompanied the Congregation of the Holy Cross of Hue to reach out to the poor and the brothers and sisters with disabilities for the last 20 years or so.

On this special occasion, we would like to speak on behalf of our brothers and sisters in Quang Tri-Hue and Da Nang regions who have received the attention and sharing of the Association over the years, we are sincerely grateful to the Sara Association and wish you all the best to continue to flourish in the new journey of the Sara Association.

THE MARK OF THE SARA ASSOCIATION ON THE CENTRAL REGION STRIP

The central region is too sunny and too rainy, every year in the rainy season, if you do not have to suffer many storms and floods, you have to endure the cold to the bone. In the summer, it suffers from the heat that burns the flesh.

The sisters of Hue Cross's congregation carry out their mission here, so they have the opportunity to feel and share the same fate with their brothers and sisters in the parishes and villages of Quang Tri Province and Thua Thien Hue.

With an unfavorable geographical location, not blessed by nature, the life of non-Catholics in rural villages in the plains as well as villages in the mountains is still very poor. Although all year round "sell your face to the land, sell your back to the sky", many people and families still do not have enough food and clothing, so where to get money to take care of their children's education. There are many children who still do not have the opportunity to go to school, especially in the mountains. This is a land that has suffered many consequences of war, so almost every village has people with disabilities, most of whom are no longer able to work to support themselves and must rely on the generosity of the neighbors and especially the benefactors, including the Sara Association.

With 30 years of quiet sharing with fellow human beings, Sara Society has left many good marks on our beloved Central Region. And the sisters of the Hue Cross congregation are an extended arm of the Association, to bring some warmth of your love to the disabled and poor non-Catholic brothers and sisters in the place where the sisters are present.

So although it was a little difficult because the roads were remote and sometimes treacherous, the Sisters felt very warm when they saw the joy and happiness on the faces of the poor people through the visits, encouragement, sharing and giving gifts to them.





SARA Expenditure Report – Trip to Viet Nam 2023

| Date | Visited Site/ Suburb | No. Patient | No. Disabled | No. Leprosy | Amount spent (USD) | Description |
|------------|--|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------|---|
| 25/01/2023 | Disabled people / Phú Nhuận | | 100 | | \$ 4,000.00 | rice and cash |
| 26/01/2023 | Leprosy camp #1 / Văn Môn, Ba Sao | | | 650 | \$ 6,500.00 | cash and vitamins |
| 27/01/2023 | Leprosy camp #2 / Chi Linh, Phú Bình | | | 200 | \$ 2,000.00 | rice and cash |
| 28/01/2023 | Disabled people / Bắc Ninh | | 200 | | \$ 4,000.00 | medical examinations and supplies |
| 29/01/2023 | 6 x medical clinics / Cao Bằng, Lạng Sơn | 1450 | | | \$ 9,000.00 | rice and foods for the whole year |
| 30/01/2023 | Leprosy camp #3 / Cẩm Thù | | | 500 | \$ 1,000.00 | medicines |
| 30/01/2023 | Disabled people / Thanh Hóa | | 219 | | \$ 500.00 | foods |
| 31/01/2023 | Leprosy camp #4 / Quỳnh Lập | | | 200 | \$ 2,000.00 | gifts and cash |
| 1/02/2023 | Disabled peoples/ home visit Con Công | | 30 | | \$ 1,500.00 | medicines, gifts and cash |
| 2/02/2023 | Gift to the disabled people / Nghệ An | | 500 | | \$ 6,000.00 | foods and gifts |
| 3/02/2023 | New medical centres | 219 | | | \$ 3,000.00 | Examinations and medicines |
| 3/02/2023 | 10 x medical centres | 60,000 | | | \$ 7,000.00 | medical supply for 6 months, est. 15 per day on average |
| 4/02/2023 | 2 x medical centres | 15,000 | | | \$ 3,600.00 | medical supply for 6 months |
| 4/02/2023 | Medical examinations /Kim Lũ, Quảng Bình | 900 | | | \$ 2,000.00 | Medical supply |
| 5/02/2023 | Disabled people / Quảng Bình | | 500 | | \$ 6,000.00 | Gifts and foods |
| 5/02/2023 | flood victims / minority group | 200 families | | | \$ 5,000.00 | Gifts and foods |
| 5/02/2023 | Quà 200 KT dân tộc thiểu số Nghệ An | 200 families | | | \$ 5,000.00 | 200 blankets |
| 6/02/2023 | Disabled people / Huế | | 500 | | \$ 6,000.00 | Gifts |
| 7/02/2023 | Disabled people / Southern region | | 1,000 | | \$12,000.00 | Gifts and foods |
| 7/02/2023 | Poor people / Central region | 100 | | | \$ 5,000.00 | School fees |
| 8/02/2023 | Transportation | | | | \$ 1,000.00 | transportation costs |
| | Total expenditure | | | | \$92,100.00 | |
| | Amount Sara sent to Vietnam | | | | \$78,600.00 | |
| | Balance | | | | -\$13,500.00 | Over spending |

Two expatriates donated \$3,000. Still require \$10,500





REPORT ON DONATION INCOMES AND EXPENSES OF S.A.R.A IN 2022

DONATION INCOMES:

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Checking and saving balances forward from 2021 | \$ 33,285.56 |
| Donations | \$ 130,680.19 |
| <u>Interest from saving and checking accounts</u> | <u>\$ 1.72</u> |
| Total Income | \$ 163,967.47 |

EXPENSES:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Money sent to Vietnam expenditure | \$ 130,600.00 |
| Postal & PO Box | \$ 1665.32 |
| Printing | \$ 860.00 |
| Supplies | \$ 591.78 |
| License fees | \$ 150.00 |
| Bank service fees | \$ 588.00 |
| Foreign exchange adjustments | \$ 153.50 |
| <u>Miscellaneous</u> | <u>\$ 212.97</u> |

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Total expenses | \$ 134,821.57 |
| Balance remain on December 31, 2022: | \$ 29,145.90 |

*****MONEY SENT TO VIETNAM EXPENDITURE*****

| | |
|---|--------------|
| 1-Rice, food, and medicine for 2/2022 visit of the leprosy & the disabled (last payments) | \$ 17,000.00 |
| 2-Rice and medicine for leprosy patients and the disabled in 09/2022 | \$ 17,000.00 |
| 3-New non-profit medical clinic in Quang Binh | \$ 35,000.00 |
| 4-Tuition assistance for students with hardship | \$ 5,000.00 |
| 5-Rice, food assistances for flood victims | \$ 5,000.00 |
| 6-Rice, food, and medicine for 2023 visit of the leprosy & the disabled (first payments) | \$ 51,600.00 |





Southeast Asian Relief Association

P.O. Box 18185
Portland, OR 97218
<http://www.sara-hope.org>
503-281-5547

Southeast Asian Relief Association
PO BOX 18185
Portland, OR 97218 USA
Website: WWW.sara-hope.org

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SARA Charity Organization's 30th Anniversary (1993 – 2023)

Dear All, in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the SARA Charity Foundation, we'd love for you to please share and like our page to support all the incredible charitable work SARA has been doing and continue to do as shown below:

SARA established, funded and supported:

- 16 medical centers in remote areas of Vietnam helping hundreds of people in minority groups, disabled, poor and sick people who have no access to hospital and cannot afford to see a doctor.
- 3 camps with over 1,000 neglected victims of leprosy (Hansen's disease)
- 3 orphanages and a mental clinic
- Homeless children, lonely old people, and disability people

In the coming weeks, we'll be sharing images and videos of just a few of the amazing work SARA has done in the past 30 years. So please check our Facebook page.

We are sincerely asking for your generous donation, so the Sara charity foundation can bring your love and support to those people in desperate need.

Our contact details:

Sara Charity Foundation, PO box 18185, Portland Oregon 97218

Kim Dung Vu Phone: +1 503-281-5547 or email: kdungvu2018@gmail.com

THE SPRING OF LOVE!

“Blessed are those who show mercy, for they will be shown mercy by God”. (Mt5,7). As we enter the Lenten season and prepare our hearts for the trials and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the **Sara Charity Association** invites kind-hearted individuals to extend their help to those less fortunate in Vietnam.

First and foremost, Kim Dung on behalf of the S.A.R.A Charity Association, would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to all of you who have journeyed with us over the past 31 years (1993-2024) in our mission to share love and compassion with those less fortunate in life.

Kim Dung is very happy to visit less fortunate people in their hometown and personally deliver the loving gifts from overseas compatriots. Seeing the joyful eyes when receiving a small amount of money for the Lunar New Year, though not much, brings comfort. Because the Sara Charity Association has remembered them every year for the past 31 years. Kim Dung also doesn't forget to express gratitude to the Fathers, Sisters, and religious communities who have collaborated with the Sara Charity Association to bring God's love and human kindness to many places across the beloved homeland shaped like the letter 'S.' Finally, heartfelt thanks to all benefactors who have stood by the Sara Charity Association for 31 years, despite the ups and downs. Your trust in Kim Dung and the Association is deeply appreciated.

Thank God, thank the collaborating religious communities, and remember to express gratitude to all benefactors. May God bestow abundant grace upon all kind-hearted individuals.

As someone who lives far from their homeland, surely everyone carries within themselves the desire to contribute a small part to their beloved homeland.

Reflecting back to 1993, the first time I set foot in a leprosy camp in Northern Vietnam, my heart surged with indescribable emotions. I must admit that fear dominated my soul at that moment: the faces gradually “deforming,” patches of skin ulcerated and oozing blood, the pungent odor. Yet, right after that fear, there arose a deep and sincere compassion within me. And then, as I interacted with these less fortunate brothers and sisters, I realized that they too were human beings, harboring their own aspirations and dreams. I deeply appreciate and admire their resilience in the face of suffering while carrying the burden of leprosy. Perhaps throughout my life, I will never forget those profoundly moving images. They also serve as a compelling motivation for me to heed God's call: ‘Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy’ (Matthew 5:7). It was when I saw the elderly with blind eyes, their trembling hands slowly lifting each spoonful of rice to their mouths. And even the suffering patients writhing in pain due to lack of medicine.

31 years, a journey not considered long compared to the desire to serve and bring joy to the members of Christ—our leprosy-affected and impoverished brothers and sisters in Vietnam. However, with the concerted efforts of all members of the Sara Charity Association, we have, are, and will wholeheartedly contribute material support to bring happiness to these marginalized lives. Activities such as health check-ups, medication distribution, providing a small amount of food, or even a humble task like taking portrait photos for elderly men and women have contributed to their dreams. However, to sustain such charitable programs, we earnestly hope to receive the generosity and open-heartedness of everyone. We gratefully accept all forms of support, no matter how small. Certainly, each gift will bring trust, joy, hope, and happiness to them. And God will reward each of us, for He Himself said: ‘Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ (Matthew 25:45).

Thank you sincerely for your attention and support! For any contributions, please contact the Sara Charity Association. Address: PO Box 18185, Portland, OR 97218. Phone: 503-281-5547.

Website: <http://www.sara-hope.org/>

The Heartfelt Visit and Charitable Gift-Giving by the Sara Association at Anton Shelter



*"A fleeting visit touches the depths of the heart,
Where the soul lingers with a mass of love.
Hearts beat in unison as we share,
God's love extends, fragrant and endless"*

The heartfelt sentiments, like carefully wrapped bundles of emotions, come from those present. Each patient, with their unique struggles, and every unfortunate life nurtured by the esteemed fathers and teachers at Antôn Shelter, receive a visit and charitable gifts during the occasion of Ms. Kim Dung, the President of the Sara Charitable Association, returning to visit and distribute gifts for the Lunar New Year of 2024

On the morning of Thursday, February 22, 2024, Ms. Kim Dung and Sister Thợ, visited and distributed gifts at Antôn Shelter. This shelter provides care for patients with mental illnesses, cerebral palsy, and homelessness. The shelter is overseen by the Antôn Diocese in Vinh, founded and led by Father Superior Antôn Hoàng Đức Luyện. During this charitable visit, the Sara Charitable Association not only offered nearly 100 Tet holiday meal packages to struggling families within the Antôn Shelter community but also provided warm clothing and financial assistance to approximately 80 patients currently under the care of the esteemed fathers. An additional noteworthy aspect is that the Antôn Diocese operates a system of Antôn clinics, where, through the support of medications and medical equipment provided by the Sara Association, together with esteemed priests and doctors at clinics and hospitals in the city of Vinh, free medical examinations and medication have been organized for our fellow citizens, regardless of their religious background. Nearly 500 patients have been examined and received medication. This occasion holds great significance and value for the less fortunate here, who often face distance and scarcity in accessing necessary healthcare and medical services.

During the visit and gift-giving session, Ms. Kim Dung represented the Sara Association, conveying warm wishes for health and joy to the esteemed fathers, teachers, patients of Antôn Shelter, and families facing difficult circumstances. Ms. Kim Dung's determination and passion were further fueled by God's grace, which always extends compassion and brings forth happiness, peace, and well-being. The contributions of the Sara Association, no matter how small, have touched the lives of the less fortunate and those in need.

Superior Antôn, on behalf of everyone, expressed gratitude to Ms. Kim Dung for her generous and admirable heart. Despite the distance, Ms. Kim Dung consistently shows compassion and enthusiasm in her charitable work across various locations throughout Vietnam. Antôn Shelter is one of the places fortunate to receive the kindness and support of these benevolent hearts. Superior Antôn also prays that God's blessings continue to strengthen Ms. Kim Dung, Sister Tho and all the benefactors of the Sara Charitable Association, enabling them to serve as compassionate disciples of God for those facing difficulties and illnesses.



In particular, for the esteemed priests serving at Antôn Shelter, where a large number of male patients are nurtured and cared for, the challenges are indeed significant. However, thanks to the attention and encouragement from Ms. Kim Dung and the Sara Association, these priests find additional strength and motivation to serve and care for the images of Christ in need of support. Some patients suffer from severe mental disorders, occasionally becoming disruptive and shouting loudly. The priests work together to administer medications and provide care, always mindful of the risk of aggression.

There are also many patients with severe cognitive impairments, rendering them unable to perform basic activities such as hygiene, bathing, and eating without assistance. Their daily needs require considerable effort. Additionally, there are homeless individuals who live precariously, without a stable place to call home. However, since their arrival at Antôn Shelter, they have become happier and now serve others

Currently, the Sara Association manages three shelters that provide care for orphaned children, elderly individuals without families, and disadvantaged patients across the districts of Nghi Lộc, Yên Thành, and Hưng Nguyên in Nghệ An province. These shelters face ongoing challenges related to food costs, living expenses, and medical equipment necessary for patient care. We hope that more compassionate hearts will step forward to support the priests in serving even more disadvantaged individuals with thorough and comprehensive care.

Through this heartfelt and meaningful visit, we sincerely thank and pray that God continues to bless Ms. Kim Dung and Sister Tho, and all the benefactors of the Sara Charitable Association, allowing them to experience joy and happiness through their acts of giving. May these benefactors and the association continue to assist the less fortunate at the heart of Antôn Shelter. As Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40). We ask for the intercession of Saint Antôn to bring abundant rewards for the sacrifices and wholehearted generosity of everyone involved.

CHARITY SOCIETY

Congregation of the Sisters of the
Holy Cross of Hue
113 Tran Phu, Phuoc Vinh Ward,
Hue City
Email: tinmtgh@gmail.com

LETTER OF THANKS TO THE SARA CHARITY ASSOCIATION 2024

Hue, March 11, 2024

Dear SARA Charity's Association and Kind Benefactors,

In a spirit of gratitude and solidarity, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks on behalf of the impoverished ethnic minority individuals, disabled brothers, and sisters in the provinces of Quang Tri, Hue, and Da Nang. We sincerely appreciate the support from the SARA Charity Association's Executive Board and all the kind benefactors who have stood by us over the years and shared their love and gifts with our fellow brothers and sisters during the recent New Year of 2024.

At the end of January 2024, we received \$6,000 USD, equivalent to 145,000,000 VND (One hundred and forty-five million Vietnamese Dong). We distributed these gifts as follows:

- To 480 disabled brothers and sisters across 44 locations in the provinces of Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue, and Da Nang, with a total amount of 96,000,000 VND (Ninety-six million Vietnamese Dong). Please refer to the next page for details!
- We provided free medical examinations and medication to nearly 300 Van Kieu ethnic brothers and sisters, along with 120 gifts for the Vay-Van Kieu Village, totaling 49,000,000 VND (Forty-nine million Vietnamese Dong).

We sincerely thank Ms. Kim Dung and Ms. Thø for visiting our religious community and accompanying us during the day of health checkups, medication distribution, and gift-giving in the ethnic regions of Khe Sanh-Huong Hoa-Quang Tri.

May God, through the intercession of Our Lady of La Vang and Saint Joseph, bestow abundant blessings upon the Association leadership, benefactors, and your families during this holy season and fill your hearts with joy on Easter Day!

Confirmation from Sister General Supervisor



Sister Teresa Tran Thi Tuy

Sincerely!

Charity Society Group – HD MTG HUE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dang Thi Tin", written over a horizontal line.

Sister Teresa Dang Thi Tin