

# Trip to the orphanage

## 1: Introduction to CAS, Mme Do

Dear parents and students, it is an honor to write to you. As a student of class 11 I am writing on behalf of all of the students of classes 11 and 12 participating in CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service). In our act of Service, we are tasked with giving something back to the community. Our dear French teacher, Mme Do, offered us an opportunity to visit the orphanage Suoi Sao in Bien Hoa with her on 3 December. Many of us were eager to help and started a fundraising campaign throughout the school.

## 2: Introduction to the orphanage: Children BG and children teachings

Saturday came around and we packed a school bus with food and supplies given by generous donors, both teachers, parents and students from the school. We made our way and after a short ride outside of the city, we reached an unassuming one-story facility, the orphanage Suoi Sao, home to 35 young orphans. Many come from ethnic backgrounds and all came to live here for different reasons. Some arrived when they were young, some have known no other home. A common reason for their arrival was due to an unstable family situation; many families could not afford to raise their children. The orphanage's responsibility is to take care of and teach them things their parents would have taught them.

## 3: Difficulties: Early, Children Future

Whilst we were there, I had the opportunity to interview a sister running the orphanage and learn more about how the institution was founded. She answered honestly. They have had a very difficult journey. When the place was founded, they received stable financial support. However, after a while these investments stopped and they had to rely on the goodwill of others. Yet they have managed to remain open and raise their children: some of the children are the same age as us. Though very impressive, we have concerns about what the futures of these young children would look like. For many of them, they will learn practical skills and work in professions such as tailoring or design. The sister expressed doubt that any of them would be able to pursue higher studies.

## 4: Mission

Throughout this hardship, the sister had one mission. For her, the work they do is God's work and no matter what, she is determined to work wholeheartedly and with enduring commitment. The fact that she has been raising these children for 10 years already shows her absolute dedication, which both impresses me and saddens me - I cannot imagine what it could be like. How many more years can this hard work be sustained? It's a selfless act. Though we can only do so much, we still think that any help can make a big difference. After having met with this community, we want to continue to help as much as we can.

## 5: Call for action

First, I want to officially thank all of the donors from our last visit for their generous contributions. It meant so much to us and to the sisters and children - we all offer you our sincerest gratitude. But our mission will not stop here. This coming Tet, we are planning to visit the orphanage once again. Tet is a very special occasion for Vietnamese people and we would like to ask you to offer anything you can to help this organization and its children. Thank you for your time, I wish you all the best.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope I will be able to write to you again soon.

