



DISABILITY RESEARCH AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Newsletter

March 2014

INTRODUCTION

Established on 03/12/2013, DRD is a non-governmental organization, non-profit and operated by people with disabilities (PWDs), for the rights of PWDs.

DRD and the community are building a support model based on the rights of PWDs in an effort to promote equal opportunities for PWDs, encourage and create favorable conditions for PWDs to participate fully in all activities like other members in society.

Until now, the DRD has been supported over 3,500 PWDs in HCM City and a network of over 30 disability groups in the southern of Vietnam. With many diverse activities such as introducing internships, employment, skills training, advocacy campaign, moving assistance, scholarships, computers devices, assistive devices, information consultation, peer counseling, propagations, seminars and events raising awareness on disability issues, ... DRD is rated as one of 20 non-governmental organizations efficiently operated in Vietnam and is the leading one in supporting the PWDs to integrate into the community.

DRD would like to send to all sponsors, partners, friends and PWDs community the Newsletter as a channel of information sharing.

Kind Regards!



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A day before International Women's Day

Sowing the joys from heart's flowers

In the thrilling days for welcoming the International Women's day on March-8th, instead of choosing to go out with friends, walking pompously around the city like most young people, some of PWDs choose another way to "enjoy": Selling flowers for fundraising. They are members of the women with disabilities club, youth with disabilities of the Break-Through (Đột Phá) group and volunteers.

To prepare for the date, on Feb-16th, there was a skills sharing section for flower package, to know the basic rules of flower arrangements and to know how to wrap the flower bouquet, how to form the simplest flower basket that is usually chosen by the customer.

A few days before the feast, they started being busy with flower buying, flower arrangements and advertising on Facebook, to friends and to family, etc ... Supporting orders came impetuously. Volunteers cared deftly and meticulously to get a beautiful package and home delivery.

In the feast day, the Break-Through (Đột Phá) groups and many volunteers were split into two locations: opposite the Communist Youth Union of Ho Chi Minh City headquarter and a corner of rotation in front of Notre Dame Cathedral to sell the flowers.

The last bouquets were intended to be the gifts to the female labors, female street vendors in 30-4 park, creating little happiness for them. Even though the members of the group were very tired but they felt really happy and had more experiences.

This is the second selling round of the Break Through - Đột Phá group, after the day Oct-20th 2013 to raise funds to organize the Christmas Eve for children with disabilities. All money collected of the round for fundraising like this will be used to organize charity programs or activities of social significance.

Thanh Hoa

Donation of 30 wheelchairs and 3 computers for PWDs

Mediums for travelling, studying, living and participating in social activities are one of the essential factors for the PWDs to be more active in the process to integrate to the community, not to be a burden of family and society.

Understanding the fact, in the morning of Mar-11th 2014, with the sponsorship of HSBC and Kids First Enterprise organization, DRD organized a section to donate 30 wheelchairs to the PWDs who are living and studying in the HCM City and neighboring provinces.

On this occasion, DRD also awarded three computer, supported by Diageo Company, to help youth with disabilities to have more favorable conditions for learning and working.

Thương Thương



Raising awareness on disability for lecturers and students in Lotus University

In cooperation with Ho Chi Minh City Lotus University, Disability Research and Capacity Development organized a workshop on disability for about 20 lecturers and students on 12nd March 2014. This is one of focused activities of DRD in 2014

Ms. Luu Thi Anh Loan, DRD's vice director shared her experiences to participants and gave them a new awareness on disability. She said that barriers from family's community's attitude, a unfriendly and inaccessible environment and even from inside of people with disabilities were factors that prevent their inclusion.

"Understanding disability issues and social work with people with disability help us teaching a new subject for our students a lot. We will continue to cooperate with DRD in organizing the same activities for a bigger range of students." Mr. Nguyen Luu Bao Doan, the head of Equal Community Development Department said.

Thương Thương



Lecturer Duong Thành Truyền and youth with disabilities

Youth with disabilities and convincing skills in speaking

In the morning of Mar-15, at the "Life is beautiful Houseclub", more than 30 youths of the project Empowerment for youths with disabilities participated in a training to strengthen convincing skills in speaking led by Mr Duong Thanh Truyen , Chairman of the Members Board of the Youth Publishing House, the former deputy editor of Tuổi Trẻ Newspaper.

Convincing speaking is actually a necessary skill for anyone and can be applied in different cases, especially for recruitment interviews, internships, working with individuals, organizations ... The trainer, with many years of experience, along his humorous and witty, brought the trainees through many lessons, exercises of the training sessions to make the trainees completely caught up in the training content and excited to practice as well as comment each other.

One of the participants, Nguyen Trung Hau, said: "Before the training, I think that I have confidence in my ability to speak to the public. But after today, I suspect that I also need to learn a lot of things. I will apply what I have learned to the life, I will continue to participate in such funny and interesting training sessions at DRD. "

Thanh Hoa - Hồng Ân



Director Neudel and Alison Gilkey and youth with disabilities at DRD

Lives worth living

“Lives Worth Living” was the title of the film directed by Neudel and Alison Gilkey. The film was newly screened in the Disability Research and Capacity Development Center (DRD) on Mar-12th 2014, under the support of the US Consulate in Hochiminh city. The program attracted more than 50 people with disabilities (PWDs), including students, journalists, etc... The activity was located in the sequence of events of Vietnamese-American culture exchange, deployed by the Consulate. The story showed the milestones of the struggles for equal rights movement of PWDs in the United States.

Mrs Alison Gilkey made everyone touched when she shared that the attitude of the people around the PWDs affects greatly to them: "As the mother of two sons with disabilities, I think I should pay more attention and action to mobilize, advocate for PWD's community. My son is going to graduate from an university for autistic people, and I will continue to accompany and assist my children to integrate into the social and to find a suitable job".

Master of Social Work Luu Thi Anh Loan (Vice Director of DRD) also gave the audience more information about the Disability Laws in Vietnam issued on Jan-1st, 2011 and the implementation of the Laws. She also shared: "DRD and its members are trying to promote equal opportunities for PWDs, encouraging and enabling PWDs to participate in all the activities like the others. When community have the right vision on the capacities and values of the PWDs, it will be easy to create equal opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in social activities. "

Thanh Tùng

PWDs' businesses of HCMC and product innovation strategy

In the morning of Mar-22nd 2014, at Life is Beautiful Clubhouse - DRD, PWD's Businesses club of HCM City organized an activity themed "Change and create new product designs - Customer care". The activity was led by MA Vo Hiep Hieu - Lecturer of Banking University, Mr. Ted Nguyen - Director Opal printing ink company and artist Phi Long (Art Floor), who had many years of practical experience in business and creative art-work for 25 participants from 11 PWD's Businesses.

The activity brought many practical sharing of innovative applications in manufacturing, sales and customer care skills.

On this occasion, the PWD's Businesses Club established a form of direct consultation "1 attached by 1" every month between these experts and the PWD's Businesses, starting from April 2014. This activity promises to create many practical lessons and positive change for the PWD's Businesses.

The program is funded by Irish Aid.

Quỳnh Nguyễn

Social work and charity

It was the topic of discussion organized by Independent Living project of Disability Research and Capacity Development under the fund of Nippon Foundation (Japan) on 16th March 2014.

After discussion, about 25 participants understood that the charity came from hearted people who want to do something good to help others in emergency situations such as hurricane, flood, earthquake...

PWDs really need social work, a scientific field that have specific and professional method to help individuals or communities resolving their problems by themselves. Social work concerns many different kinds of people such as persons with disabilities, the old, the poor, patients, workers, pupils, criminals,...

The discussion contributed to increasing people with disabilities' awareness on disability movement.

Kim Phụng



Youth with disabilities' flash mob performance

“One world for all”, the journey continues through Universities

To welcome Ho Chi Minh Youth Communist Union Establishment Day on Mar-26th and the PWDs Day of Vietnam Apr-18th, DRD in collaboration with Ho Chi Minh City Post and Telecommunications Institute of Technology, held an exchange-night called "ONE WORLD FOR ALL" on the evening of Mar-25th at 97 Man-Thien street, Hiep Phu Ward, District 9.

Joyful and exciting atmosphere attracted the participation of nearly 200 students. They listened to the story turning around the difficulties of the PWDs from the insiders. Since then, the participants had a better understanding of the barriers that the PWDs have to overcome in their life. At the same time, the students also had the opportunity to share the ideas in creating appropriate conditions for the students with disabilities in school.

On this occasion, the Network Experts Training Center New Star awarded 10 scholarships to attend the programming and information technology courses at the 2 branches of the Center for 10 youth with disabilities having activities in DRD.

“One world for all” will continue to go through other universities in Ho Chi Minh city in the future.

Hồng Ân

Three days to live independently at the coastal

On the first days of March, when the weather of Saigon is gradually becomes muggy, hot and sweltering, over 30 people (The program was held by Independent Living Project of the DRD, funded by the Nippon Foundation and the Japanese Human Care Association. The trip aimed to raise awareness of the community so that people would have better understanding on the need for access to public facilities and entertainment areas of the PWDs.

Exactly 6:30 AM of Mar 1st, all members were presented at Saigon Railway Station and ready to depart. Facilities for this excursion is not the familiar bus 104, nor the train, but it is 45 seats bus of the "VYC Travel" tourist. It was a very new and fun experience, not only for the Independent Living delegation but also for all the 5 members of the travel company, because according to their sharing, it was the first time they were in charge of a trip with so many PWDs.



People with severe disabilities and experience activities.

Nearly 10 wheelchairs were carried, the PAs and driver assistants neatly arranged them in the bus trunk, for more convenience to support the brothers and sisters with severe disabilities in moving. The trip did not make the volunteer tired, especially who is in charge of game management on the bus, because there was a tour-guide, with deep voices, sometime humorous and his interesting knowledge on the history that led people to many regions of the country and the love stories of the poet - Han Mac Tu - attracted the attention of everyone. Nobody feels tired all the way of 220km from HCMC to Mui Ne. Three days and one night in Mui Ne, Phan Thiet, everyone had a time full of laughs and experiences.

On the way back, they visited Duc Thanh school where Uncle Ho previously taught. The members also interacted with PWDs working in the Sand Art workshops Phi Long. They built a good relationship and introduced the Independent Living Model that DRD was implementing. They shared the stories about the process of establishing this workshop and how make these famous sand picture products with each other.

Until 19:30 of Mar-3rd, all members came back to the city under our Great Uncle Ho's name, the exciting and fun trip ended.

The trip met initial requirements given "Love - Safety - Respect". Independent Living Project always guarantee their trips with more experiences and deserves to be looked forward and waited by any member!

Thanh Hoa

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