

Friends of Danang
September 11, 2008
Homeless Children's Education Fund Office
Strip District

MINUTES

Thanks to Joe Lagana for graciously offering the office of the Homeless Children's Education Fund as a place to hold our meeting this month!

1. Welcome to Guests:

Neal Armagost, Thanh's husband; first time to attend a meeting but always a constant support to the FOD.

Jim and Carmella Mullen, who are involved in every aspect of Veteran affairs in the Pittsburgh area.

Chris Federinko and Eric Trembulak are from Duquesne University and work with Nick DuBos.

2. Individual reflections

The International Day of Peace Vigil is September 21.

3. Financial Report:

There was a reported balance of \$10,549.365 in the administrative checking account as of August 31, 2008, of which \$3,890 is restricted for Roger's book fund. At our August meeting, \$105 was collected for the Larry Lagattuta Fund, which is now at \$7,308.00. **A complete report is enclosed.**

4. Veteran's Day Boxing Event:

As reported at the last meeting, Jimmy Cvetic, with the Policeman's Athletic League, discussed his offer to stage a 10 bout boxing event on the evening of the VDB, November 11, 2008. Carmella Mullen reported that the venue will change. They are looking at the Marriott, Heinz Field, or the Sheraton at Station Square. The proceeds will be split between the FOD and the WWII monument.

We will need volunteers to help night of November 11th. The doors open at 7:00 and bell time is 7:30. General admission is \$20 and ringside tickets are \$50.

5. New Project:

The plan is to build a new school with a water well in Danang in partnership with the Vietnamese Children's Fund. We also asked East Meets West but they are already committed to another large project. Ten years ago, this school cost \$50,000 to build. Now the same school will cost \$150,000. The Vietnamese Children's Fund has committed to a matching fund of \$50,000. Now we need another \$50,000. Dan Pultz's former Marine unit India Company 3/9 recently had their reunion in Fredericksburg, VA. Dan and Tony did a presentation at this reunion and showed the abbreviated version of "In Country". Dan and Tony talked about the Friends of Danang of our projects. Dan made a proposal to the marines and asked if they would consider helping with our newest project. One by one people stood up and started pledging money starting with \$2000. \$12,000 was collected from that event. Dan will coordinate efforts between FOD and his former marine unit. It will take a lot of effort to raise this money.

6. Veteran's Day Breakfast:

Frank Erdeljac reported that Dr. Charles Rhoads, Commandant of the Southwestern PA Veterans may bring some senior veterans from the VA Hospital. Frank also offered to have the Vincentian Academy singers at the VDB.

Everyone should have received a packet with VDB tickets, thank you notes, letters for the breakfast, letter for the ads, etc.

Press releases have been done in the past, but haven't proved to be that successful in getting recognition. Some possibilities are Duquesne Radio, Duquesne Newspapers, of which our two guests, Chris and Erik have offered to help. Bruce Bickel, our keynote speaker, has offered to help in any way he can.

Shirley and Noreen will team up to take care of the press releases.

Pete said that all banks in the area should be approached for sponsorships. Pete will work with Elaine and Noreen.

7. Jewelry Show and Vietnamese Luncheon:

The Jewelry Show will be held on November 16th at Chatham Village in Mt. Washington from 10:00-4:00. Debbie Corr of California has graciously offered to bring her jewelry and give us the proceeds from the show. This year, we will also have a Vietnamese luncheon for \$10 that will include coconut shrimp, egg rolls, and Vietnamese salad.

Hopefully, postcards to be sent out will be available at the next meeting.

8. Spaghetti Dinner:

This year, the annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 11th at the Bethel Park Community Center from 3:00-7:00. This is a

partnership with the Bethel Park Rotary. If you can work at the dinner please come to the Community Center and help in any way you can. Setting up and cleaning up is also needed.

Many of you have received raffle tickets to sell. FOD gets 100% of the profits of the raffle tickets that we sell. We get 50% of the proceeds of the dinner tickets that we sell. If you need tickets, call Shirley at 412-400-8236.

9. Increase of Dinner Contribution from \$10-15 to \$15-20:

Everyone was in agreement for the increase. We are asking for a \$15 donation for meals and a \$20 donation for dinner and drinks.

10. Open Discussion:

- **Annual Administration Fee:** Thank you to all of you who have sent in your \$25 annual administration fee. If you have forgotten, please consider bringing it to the October meeting or sending it to the address in the letterhead. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!
- Noreen will be featured in LaRoche magazine. She will be part of a panel discussion at LaRoche College on Tuesday, October 14, 2008.
- Geoff Claus reported that international adoptions are in turmoil. Many countries are closing their international adoptions.
- Chris Federinko and Erik Trembulak offered to assist in any way that they can, including making FOD the recipient of his fraternity's flower sale. Nick DuBos said he could show the abbreviated version of "In Country" over Duquesne University's TV.
- Thanh's granddaughter Jadie hosted a car wash and gave the \$320 proceeds to the FOD. (Article is enclosed.)
- Jim Snider is investigating "water for humanity" for resources for water projects.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, October 9, 2008** at Enrico Biscotti Co. at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb

Note: This is a very busy time of year for all of us and the Friends of Danang. Thank you for your generosity in giving your time, effort, and financial support in all of the fundraisers and events that are coming up in October and November.