



SKILLS TRAINING

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Training & Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind Vietnam (VN0006)

People who have been blind since birth face innumerable difficulties, most especially in countries such as Vietnam that have very limited resources for the visually impaired.



In Hanoi the Training and Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind (TRCB) offers courses in Therapeutic Massage, Computer Proficiency, English, Business Management and Communication Skills to blind

students from the many provinces of Vietnam, thus greatly improving their employment opportunities and capacity to live productive and independent lives.

Each year, 30 blind students from many provinces of Vietnam are enrolled to attend Vocational Training courses at the Training and Rehabilitation Centre for Blind people. Once the students have completed their course they return to their local areas with new skills and better equipped to gain employment and pass on their skills within their local blind centres.

There are over one million visually-impaired people living in Vietnam. They have limited resources and experience enormous difficulties accessing education and job training.

Support of this project will provide funds to contribute to the living costs of the students while they train at TRCB. Resourcing education programs for the Blind is extremely difficult because of the lack of finances and facilities available locally.

Help us continue our support of the TRCB project, which is improving access to quality education, and enhancing the lives of this disadvantaged group of people.



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St Dominic's Rural Training Centre Solomon Islands (SO0027)

St Dominic's Rural Training Centre (RTC) is located in Vanga Point on the rural Kolombangara Island, Solomon Islands. It is a 1-hour open water boat ride to the nearest town - Gizo. This Marist-run RTC plays an important role in the Solomon's educating youth from rural areas in practical vocational skills, allowing them to stay in rural areas and halt the high rate of urbanization.



St Dominic's offers vocational training in building, mechanics, poultry raising, agriculture and forestry. As the Solomon Islands consists of six major islands and over 900 smaller islands, residents often have to travel in open water in search of education and jobs. By providing rural youth with small-scale infrastructure and income-generating skills and opportunities it will strengthen the livelihood of individuals in these rural communities.

There are currently 145 students, aged from 18-30 and 12 teachers. To improve the quality of teaching and learning an administration building is needed - something that the school has never had. The principal works out of a room in the Marist Brothers house, and the staff have no area to work. Without the proper infrastructure the staff of St Dominic's have not been able to properly plan lessons, undertake joint-planning sessions and conduct staff/student meetings. Ultimately, this reflects in the delivery of the curriculum and is impacting the students learning.

The construction of the 13.5 x 11.5 metre administration building will be undertaken by the staff and students as part of their learning. Concrete blocks and a concrete slab will be installed as they require less maintenance and can withstand inclement weather and are termite-resistant.

Supporting St Dominic's RTC will help fund the construction of an administration building.

Meet Mr Tuan from Vietnam (VN0006)

The Training and Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind (TRCB) supports young people and young adults by providing skills training to enhance their future employment opportunities.

Mr Tuan was born in 1991 and comes from Quang Tri Province - one of the poorest provinces in Vietnam. During his first year at Da Nang University, Tuan suddenly became dizzy, fell sick, and over a period of just one week lost his vision entirely. As a result he discontinued his studies, fell into a state of depression and isolation, and spoke to his family about ending his life.



In 2015 Tuan was referred to the TRCB for support. Here he met other blind people and formed a support and friendship network. He gradually became more sociable and accepted the position he was in. Tuan became determined to turn his life around and in 2016 enrolled in two courses back-to-back: Office IT and Enhancing the Capacity for Management Staff.

Because he used to be a university student, Tuan excelled in these courses and he enjoyed learning new skills in a new way. His teachers were very impressed with his commitment to studying and would often spend time after class to revise the lessons and help teach his friends. Tuan regained his confidence and soon found part-time employment in his home province – something which he continues to do today.

Tuan wishes to resume his university degree and one day wants to open a social enterprise that helps visually impaired people start their own businesses. He is particularly motivated to help other visually impaired people from his province which has a high level of blindness due to the aftereffects of Agent Orange which was used extensively in the area during the war. Tuan acts as a bridge between the TRCB and the visually impaired in Quang Tri and wishes for more people to be enrolled in the courses so they too can turn their life around.

There is much more to be done for youth with a disability in Vietnam. To learn about how you can help, visit: <https://bit.ly/2CMYB0a>