

Annual Report 2006

1. Preface by the President

We had quite a successful year in 2006. During my Winter tour, I was joined for a few days by two members from Tessin on two different occasions. Amongst other things, they experienced the New Years celebrations with us. Our families who received the food packets were very happy as were those who receive the monthly gifts of rice.

We built houses for 5 families but the gifts of free cement from Holcim Ltd. in Ho-Chi-Minh have unfortunately been discontinued. We do not know why. In Spring, due to a wedding, we received donations of almost CHF 9000.- This gave us a great lift up. Also in Spring, a patron organized a tour in Vietnam for a number of our members. See the report on the last page.

The Summer journey was very stressful. Thanks to my local team for their help every day from 7 AM to Midnight . A special thanks to Thach my translator. The co-operation with local officials is good. As in Winter we visited the evening schools. we received toothbrushes and toothpaste for the children from Colgate Ltd. in Ho-Chi-Minh. On my birthday, I received a medal from Hanoi. A big day with a journalist and the regional TV. So I invited 600 people to a celebration, naturally at my own expense. With 104 new children we have paid a total of 825 school fees.

Both our meetings, in Spring and Autumn, were successful. Many thanks to the Evangelical Church in Kleinhuningen for letting us use their hall free of charge and for the food and drink donations and the handwork for my weekend stalls which sell so well. In October I was asked about our work by the people from "Regio Aktuell" in Basel and they brought a full page article in the October edition. This brought us new members. Finally, as in every year since 2001, our Christmas campaign was successful and the proceeds will enable us to build houses for our families next Summer. So the year came to a good close.

I thank all our members and supporters, every help however small, is very welcome.

Many heartfelt thanks !

Susanne Schüpfer

Office Basle & Nha Trang



2. Our Presidents Journeys

As usual, Susanne made two 6 week journeys to Vietnam this year. One in Winter from 1st January to 12th February and one in Summer from 9th July to 20th August 2006. We are grateful to Susanne's employers for allowing her to take such long breaks.

Susanne spends about CHF 12 Thousand of her own money every year on hotels and on provisions for her team as well as the accompanying local officials, also for telephone and electricity and office material for our office in Nha Trang.



NOTE Photographs with commentaries can be seen at Susann's home, at the Saturday stalls, or at association meetings. Also at our home page, www.susannshelpvietnam.ch

3. Children

Our main purpose is to provide school fees for the children. Working together with our Vietnamese partners we were able to select 104 new children who fulfilled our requirements and now have patrons. This makes a total of 1263 (last year 1158) children who have received school fees from us. At present, 825 children are receiving school fees. Last year 69 children finished their schooling and one moved out of the area. 13 fees were discontinued for various reasons. Many thanks to all our patrons, new and old.

School Fees

Thanks to the better exchange rate, the cost of fees, food and pocket money, and rice gifts to over 80 families, came to CHF 101'858.- compared to CHF 102'205.- last year. The cost of schooling was thus a bit less this year at 59% of our total cost.



4. Improved Housing

Broken down huts were improved or, wherever possible, replaced by simple stone buildings. This work has become an important part of our contribution in Nha Trang.

In 2006 our association built **5** houses in Winter and **4** in Summer at a total cost of **CHF 24'499.-** of which 13'779 in Winter and 10'720 in Summer. We also spent **CHF 5'135.- on their interiors.**



Housebuilding included interior CHF 3168.--



Before



after



Housebuilding included interior CHF 3'527.—

The necessary **household articles cost CHF 4'812.-** and assistance with **rent cost CHF 602.-**

Repairs to roofs or foundations and the inclusion of WC fittings or other improvements to existing houses cost a total of **CHF 14'841.-**



For housing improvements we spent a total of **CHF 44'475.- in 2006** compared to CHF 71'036.- in 2005. This amounted to 25.8% of our total costs for the year.

5. Medical Help

The cost of medicines, dentists, doctors, accidents and hospitals came to **CHF 4'198.--** in 2006 compared to 11'730.- in 2005. This represents 2.4% of our total costs.



Emergencies and Burials

This year, 2006, we spent CHF 3'696.-- (2005: 4'258.-) mainly for burials of our family-members and other necessary assistance. This was 2.1% of our total.



6. Vocational Training and Mobility

We spent **CHF 235.-** on training in 2006 compared with 807.- in 2005. This was only 0.1% of total expenditure.



Mobility

Generally we can help children getting to school by providing them with bi-cycles. We can also help their fathers by providing cyclo-taxis to improve their incomes. We bought 37 new bi-cycles in 2006 and 3 various types of cyclos. The total costs for mobility was **CHF 1382.-** or less than 1% of our total in 2006. In 2005 it was 969.-



7. Visits to Evening Schools and deliveries of Rice

During the **Winter journey** we visited 18 evening schools. A number of members of our families attend these schools three times a week and they love to go. We gave food packets to 1046 children.



During the **Summer journey** we gave food packets to 653 children at 15 schools. Each packet has 5 Kg rice, 5 P. milo 3in1 (a gift from Nestle Ltd. Vietnam), 5 P. Noodles, 1 Colgate and toothbrush, 1 snack



We gave 200 Kg rice and 1 million Dong to the **old peoples home**.



We gave 500 Kg rice and 5 million Dong to the **Hon Chong rehabilitaion clinic** who care for people damaged by Agent Orange amongst other things.



8. Association Life

Committee and Personnel

In 2006, the four committee meetings were on the 13th June, the 11th July, the 11th Sept. and the 20th of December.

The committee members present were :-

Susanne Schüpfer, President

Alexandre Louis, Vicepresident

Egon Imm

Rene Ladner, Protocol and Annual Report

Association Meetings

There were two meetings in Basel in the Quartiergemeindehaus Kleinhüningen and one on the 10th of December in Bellinzona in Tessin.

In Kleinhüningen on the 1st of April 2006, 70 members made a total of **CHF 2'181.95** for our cash-box.



The meeting on the 11th of November was well attended and 95 members contributed CHF **3'046.-** to our cash.



Many thanks for the prizes for the tombola and the free use of the hall.

Events in Vietnam

During the two day New Year celebrations, (Tet), I personally invited 40 people to an evening with drinks and a good meal.



On the second day the New Year was toasted with sekt and song. Two of our patrons from Tessin were also there.



On the **27th of July** I invited 600 guests **to my birthday** and gave presents to 168 children for coming top of their class. It was a big celebration ! Naturally I pay for these events out of my own pocket.

Also this was the day I was presented with a medal from the authorities.



9. Finances

Our total turnover in 2006 was **CHF 172'352.-** compared to CHF 199'614.- in 2005 which is a reduction 13.7%. However, thanks to our president, we were able to carry on working from a solid financial base as follows,

Winter Budget	CHF 60'000	Expenditure	CHF 67'672
Summer Budget	CHF 120'000	Expenditure	CHF 104'680
Total 2006 Budget	CHF 180'000	Expenditure	CHF 172'352

Income came as follows,

1 From patrons, for school fees	CHF 99'519.95
2 Association Meetings (net)	CHF 5'227.95
3 Christmas collection 2006	CHF 33'087.45
4 Susanne's stall sales	CHF 23'500.00
5 Donations for projects	CHF 10'655.00
6 Other donations	CHF 62'035.50

Total income in 2006 was

CHF 223'370.85

Administrative Expenses

Naturally, an association like ours with a turnover of more than CHF 180'000 will have some administrative expenses. However, due to voluntary work, especially from our president who devotes practically all her spare time, these costs are kept to a minimum.

a) In Vietnam: Travel expenses of CHF 540.-, wages CHF 2446.-, and purchase of goods for our bazaar / stall for CHF 2'591.-, as well as CHF 804.- for film and photographs and CHF 2'000.- for general costs all came to **CHF 8'381.- or 4.9%** of total for 2006.

b) In Switzerland: Air fares came to CHF 2'000.- (one was paid for by Susanne), for post and package CHF 2'111.25 and CHF 3'804.- for office equipment and material came to **CHF 7'915.25 or 4.6%** of total expenditure.

Total cost of travel, goods and administration in 2006 amounted to CHF 16'296.- or 9.5% of turnover.

Other expenses in Vietnam were as follows:-

Schooling including rice etc.	101'858.00	59.1%
Training	235.00	0.1%
Housing	49'287.00	28.6%
Bicycles, cyclos and transportcyclos	1'382.00	0.8%
Other costs (funerals, rent etc)	15'442.00	9.0%
Total expenses in 2006	172'352.00	100%

10. Stall Sales

Susanne sold her own handwork for CHF 1'614.- and that from others for CHF 10'200.-
 The flea-market brought CHF 92.- and Vietnamese coffee CHF 233.- Donations at the stall came to CHF 3'426.- and goods from Vietnam to CHF 7'934.-
 In 2006 Susanne bought goods for CHF 2'591.-

A record for the stall in 2006, CHF 23'500.-

Many heartfelt thanks to all knitters and to all the known and unknown women who gave us the wool and cotton and so enabled this amazing result.



11. Many Thanks

For all the selfless donations and to the institutions who with their help have made our projects possible, to name a few, especially

Colgate (Vietnam) Ltd. for 1'000 tubes of toothpaste with toothbrushes.

Nestle Ltd. Vietnam for 5'000 portions of milk powder.

Trisa AG in CH-Triengen for 1'500 toothbrushes.

Pelikan Faber-Castell (Schweiz) AG for 100 packets of felt tipped pens.

Alteco Informatik for toner for printers and copy machines.

Singapore Airlines for free of charge excess baggage.

We hope to be able to count on our patrons and well wishers in future and would welcome new ones. Also, monetary donations are always urgently needed for our many projects.

Annual report by Rene Ladner

12. Membership

In 2006 we were able to welcome 93 new patrons and supporters but unfortunately two of our long term members died during the year. We hold them dear in our memory. Also 47 members left for various reasons so that on the 31st of December 2006 we had a

Membership on 31.12.2005	806
New patrons	72
New supporters	21
Deceased	2
Resigned patrons	40
Resigned supporters	7
An increase of 44 from 2005.	
Membership on 31.12.2006	850

13. Balance sheet per 31.12.2006

	2006	2005
ASSETS		
Currencies		
Cash	66'909.10	61'364.10
Post cheque account 40-169723-8	88'633.45	35'434.55
Post cheque account 60-159293-7	52'227.45	51'338.95
Debit withdrawal tax	416.10	353.65
Capital Currencies		
Machines and mechanismus	600.00	1'000.00
Biketraler	-	-
	-----	-----
Total Assets	208'786.10	149'491.25
	=====	=====
PASSIVES		
Foreign capital		
Prepaid school moneys	7'025.00	4'730.00
Accrual appropriated donations	52'284.55	51'434.55
Stock capital		
Own capital/Fortune	149'476.55	93'326.70
	-----	-----
	208'786.10	149'491.25
	=====	=====
Capital 1.1.	93'326.70	112'669.90
Net profit/loss	56'149.85	<i>-19'343.20</i>
	-----	-----
Capital 31.12.	149'476.55	93'326.70
	=====	=====

14. Income Statement per 1.1.2006-31.12.2006

	2006	2005
INCOME		
Income school moneys	103'899.95	98'052.95
Income special projects	10'655.00	8'041.15
Income donations sales manual works/art.from Vietnam	3'499.00	4'028.50
Income general donations	60'424.70	56'791.90
Income donations for christmas	33'087.45	-
Income gros profit on meetings	4'280.95	2'942.50
Income sales manual works/articles from Vietnam	20'001.00	17'384.70
Special projects	850.00	51'434.55
Income interest yield	178.40	129.15
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Total Income	236'876.45	238'805.40
	=====	=====
EXPENSES		
Disbursement school mony included foodpaggages and rice	101'648.00	99'762.00
Houseconstructions and houserepairing	44'475.00	67'990.00
Various support in Vietnam	17'638.00	28'328.60
Salaries and recompense in Vietnam	2'446.00	1'727.00
Costs for travel and Photographies in Vietnam	1'344.00	1'050.00
Goods purchase	2'591.00	1'760.00
Costs for travel	4'000.00	2'000.00
Administration expenses	5'334.60	3'526.45
Publicity	-	-
Writtings-off	400.00	570.00
Appropriated accrual buy a house	850.00	51'434.55
Profit/ loss	56'149.85	-19'343.20
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	236'876.45	238'805.40
	=====	=====

15. Members Visit to Vietnam from the 12th April to the 2nd May 2006

During the association meeting, on the 12th of November 2005, I was talking to Mr. Jürg Plattner when I got the idea to visit "our" children in Vietnam. Juerg had made such a journey and said he would be pleased to organize another one if we could find enough people to join us. So, together with some of our members and their friends, we saw Vietnam from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City (old Saigon). Of coarse, we went to visit our families in Nha Trang.

There is no room here to describe everything, but it is no exaggeration to say that Vietnam is well worth the journey. It has fantastic scenery like the Halong Bay in the North and the people in the mountains with their colorful traditional dress. There are interesting sites like temples, pagodas and palaces from different times in history and broad sandy beaches. The food is appetizing and easily digestible.

However, one cannot help noticing that not all the people can enjoy these things. The differences can be seen in Nha Trang, on the one hand, the tourist industry brings a certain amount of wealth but it destroys the livelihood of ever more poor people, fishermen and hand workers. They live in wretched huts often on dangerous hillsides or in houses built on stilts over the water. The developers make short work of these dwellings driving the people inland. Thus some of the girls earn their living with prostitution.

Never the less, one gets the impression that the people believe in the future and want to forget bad times of colonialism and wars and work for their country. We are encouraged to help the weakest, the children, through education, to take their place in the future.

Rene Ladner

