



Vietnam Service Learning Program

“Happiness is not something ready-made. It comes from your own actions”



The Service Learning Program is a perfect combination between culture exposure and education. It will open your mind and change your way of thinking and living. It is the best way to experience culture, you will learn about another language, cultural norms and local traditions. For all our works you do not need any experience or certifications.

Our organization:

Dawn Degenhardt
Founder and Executive Director



Dawn Degenhardt has been dedicated to bringing children and families together through adoption for more than 30 years. While living in Cleveland, Ohio, she co-founded the Ohio chapter of COAC (Council on Adoptable Children) and was a pioneer in changing the foster care/adoption system. Dawn also co-founded Spaulding of Beechbrook, which is still in existence today placing special needs children. After moving back to her home state of Maine, she founded an internationally recognized adoption agency, which has placed more than 4,000 children. Dawn's concern for children still in orphanages around the world prompted the development of many humanitarian aid projects. Wanting to devote her energy to this issue after retirement, Dawn, with family and friends, created The Degenhardt Foundation, now known as Aid for Kids. Dawn and her husband Ed are the parents of nine adopted children, now grown with their own families.

Joy My Lien Degenhardt
Director - Vietnam Programs



Joy My Lien Degenhardt came to the United States in 1972 as an adopted child of Ed and Dawn Degenhardt. She grew up in Houlton, Maine and graduated from the University of Hawaii. In 1992, she returned to Vietnam with her mother to visit “her” orphanage. Overwhelmed with the desire to help other Vietnamese children in need, she directed the creation of an adoption and humanitarian aid program which continues today. Joy has successfully initiated and personally overseen many humanitarian projects for orphans, ill and handicapped people, and victims of natural disasters. Joy has been living in Vietnam for 18 years and is now fluent in Vietnamese and is the mother of three girls (one adopted). Joy’s role in Aid for Kids is to continue the humanitarian aid projects and develop new ones.

Culture Experience

- History
- People
- Language
- Art
- Cuisine
- Daily life

Group

From 10 to 20 people

Itinerary

- Day 1 Arrive at Tan Son Nhat airport, pickup and dinner with staff.
- Day 2 Free day to acclimate and explore the city
- Day 3 Working at the pagoda with orphans and street children, tutoring English and doing arts & crafts
- Day 4 Continue work at the orphanage helping clean and cook meals for the kids
- Day 5 Go to Cu Chi for farming – experiencing agricultural work, lunch on the farm and take midnight train to Nha Trang
- Day 6 Sightseeing in Nha Trang and go to natural hot springwater and mudbath
- Day 7 Bus to Cam Ranh to work at the orphanage. Arts & crafts, teach English, help prepare lunch and play games with the kids. Back to Nha Trang

Day 8 Bus to Cam Ranh to work at the orphanage. Light construction work, paint and clean up at orphanage. Back to Nha Trang

Day 9 Travel by bus to the Central Highlands – Buon Me Thuot. Free afternoon for excursion.

Day 10 Work at the local village (Buon Don), help cleaning and recycling

Day 11 Tour in the Central Highlands, discover waterfall, riding elephants, evening go to local village for listening “Cong Chieng” music –the world heritage music, dancing and drinking rice wine with local natives

Day 12 Working at a Coffee Farm in Buon Me Thuot, experiencing harvest coffee and learn how to make coffee.

Day 13 Fly back to Saigon. Afternoon off for shopping

Day 14 Free day, relaxing, hand in report and in the evening farewell dinner

Day 15 Departure

Contact Information at:

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