



# Friends For Street Children Association

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# Yeu thuong

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"Yeu thuong" means "love" in Vietnamese. We often use this word at FFSC wishing that children grow up with abundant love.



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## Preface

After a few days of happy spring days, the children came back to school to continue 2<sup>nd</sup> semester with a cheerful and excited spirit. All centers try to maintain the number, order and create an enthusiastic atmosphere in learning and behavior for the children.

In the first quarter of 2023, Friends for Street Children Association (FFSC) has welcomed many domestic and foreign delegations to visit the centers. Parallel with the school program, the children also have weekly exchanges with other schools like BIS, CIC, etc.... In addition, the centers had difficulties in finding benefactors who are generous in supporting the children and families.

In the current situation, many families are not concerned and interested in their children's education, so the children still drop out from school. All centers always keep in touch with parents and invite them to collaborate in the education of their children.

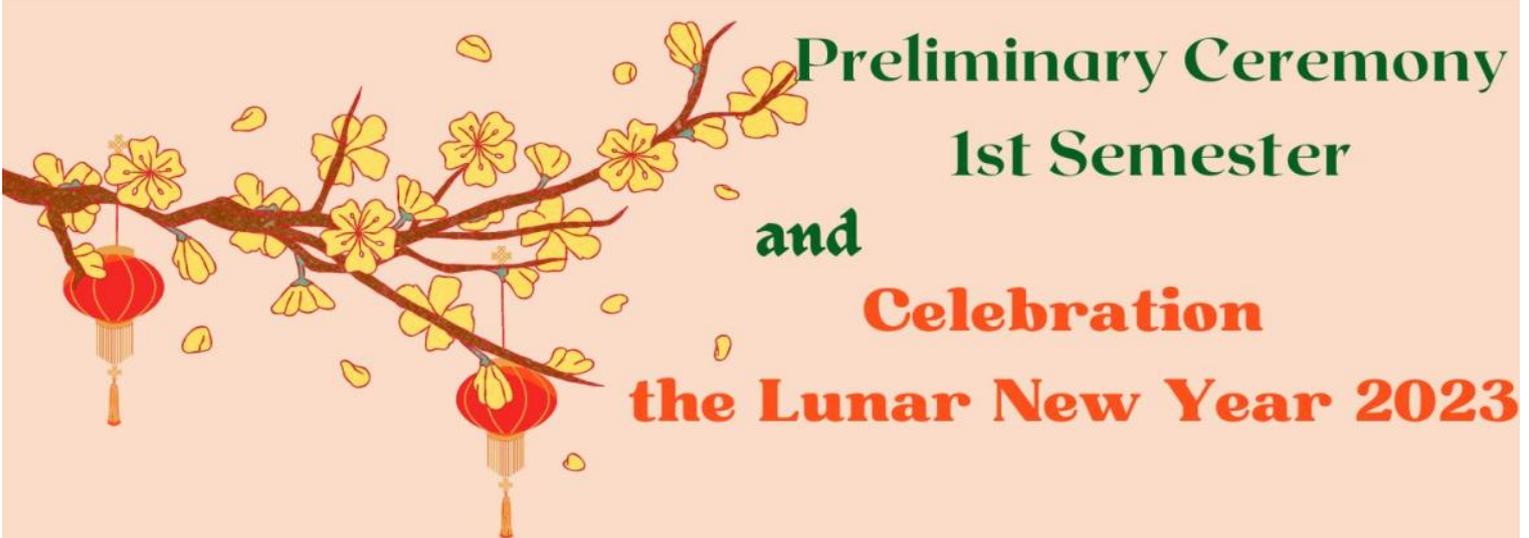
During this Lunar New Year 2023, FFSC received a lot of attention and love from domestic and foreign benefactors who organize and send the practical gifts for the children.

On behalf of FFSC, we wish you a happy and prosperous New Year. We hope you continue to love and accompany us in the coming years, so that we may be able to take care and education of children better.

FFSC Executive Director

Sr. Nguyen Thi Bich Huyen

# Let's join hands for children's future



*The bustling atmosphere of Spring has arrived at the two Centers of Binh An (District 8) and Binh Trieu (Thu Duc City) on the two days of January 12-13, through the organization of “Preliminary Ceremony 1<sup>st</sup> Semester and Celebration the Lunar New Year 2023”.*

*Attending the ceremony was the presence of Mr. Thomas Soi who is founder of Friends for Street Children Program (FFSC); Sister. Marie Nguyen Thi Bich Huyen, O.P who is the Executive Director; Mr and Mrs Frances – Phil as the benefactors; the Japanese Business Association in Ho Chi Minh City; Ms. Giang – representative of Hoang Khang Co., Ltd; along with teachers, volunteers and more than 500 students of FFSC.*



*At the beginning of this special day, the 5<sup>th</sup> graders performed a lively dance “Doan Xuan Ca” (student’s at Binh An Center) and a dance “Trống Cơm (Students of Binh Trieu Center) (Trống Cơm is a famous song from Vietnamese folklore).*

*After that, Sisters in charge of the two centers reported the current learning situation in the 1<sup>st</sup> semester.*

## Activities

Continuing the program are the musical performances of the students that they have prepared very carefully throughout last month. Thanks to that, the bustling atmosphere of Spring was truly exciting with cheerful and warmth in the halls of the centers.



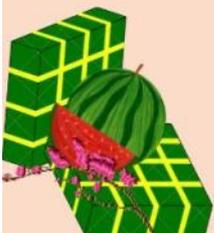
The most impressive thing was the fashion show. The performance costumes are made from the materials such as cartons, paper, candy shells and plastic bags, through the skillful hands of their teacher as a amateur designers to create a unique collection in the fashion industry today.



Sister. Marie Nguyen Thi Bich Huyen, O.P as the Executive Director expressed New Year wishes to Mr. Thomas, benefactors, guests, and all people who attended at the ceremony. In response to the above, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade represented, gave thanks, and best wishes to Mr. Thomas, sisters, teachers and benefactors. The benefactors were happy and joyful when they were seeing the bright smiles on children's faces who received red envelopes and gifts with great cheerful eyes. It was enough to express and show "warmth heart and love" and bring Spring Love to the children.



On behalf of FFSC, we would like to give thanks to Mr. Thomas Soi, all the staff and teachers, the benefactors and sponsors who have accompanied FFSC for many years. We wish that the new year will bring peace, security, good health, and prosperity to your beloved ones.



## Activities

# END YEAR PARTY WITH SCHOLARSHIP GROUP 2023

**“ Spring has arrived, with many best wishes,  
May your family always be happy.”**

*Only a few days left until the end of 2022, the spring atmosphere is bustling all over the roads, and alleys. The children are so excited and looking forward to Tet, the adults are hustling to buy something, and decorate the house in order to welcome Tet holidays.*

FFSC’s Scholarship team was racing against time to prepare gifts for children and parents in the group so that home-to-home has a warm and happy atmosphere on Tet holidays.



This year, the Scholarship Team has its own year-end party in each area. Sisters at Binh An center in District 8, visited and gave gifts to their families in the group; for the Binh Tho group gathered together and had some activities; or the Binh Trieu scholarship group went to the shopping mall for Tet



Although the form of organization is different, they all felt happy and shared the same purpose of connecting all team members, caring for each other. All members are no longer strangers, afraid, distance but instead of friendship, to be as one family, and to become closer with others.





The gifts that each one received were just a tiny gift, but it was a meaningful gift for Tet. Although there are still difficulties, struggling in daily life, etc. FFSC wishes all members of the group to always look forward to a brighter life.

“One swallow does not make a summer”, that Friends For Street Children (FFSC) always needs your hands, our beloved benefactors who have always accompanied us and supported the Group over the years.

We wish the New year season to fill your homes with joy, your hearts with love, and your life with laughter, peace, and prosperity.



**HAPPY  
2023  
NEW YEAR**

# "LOVING ARMS"



**O**n the morning of January 4, Binh Trieu Shelter welcomed parents and 33 students of class 2B5 of Vinschool Vinhomes Grand Park.



The exchange between Binh Trieu Shelter and Vinschool students took place so exciting by a fun dance "Such a happy day" performance.



The exchange also had the presence of Mr. Thomas Soi who was the founder of Friends for Street Children Program (FFSC). He briefly shared the forming process and development of FFSC; Mr. Thomas Soi also organized small games and activities for all ages with a meaningful chant: "Live Happy – Live Well – Live Healthy." This slogan is the main motto from the beginning foundation to this development moment of FFSC.

In addition, Sister. Marie Nguyen Thi Bich Huyen, O.P as the Executive Director introduced shortly about the Shelter, as well as shared a few things about the children's situation.



The most lively and exciting part is playing games. The children were still shy at first moment; however, through the active games that they were connected with each other and no longer strangers. The atmosphere of the activity was full of a wide range of emotions with bittersweet feelings. The children who live in the Binh Trieu Shelter individually shared about their situation. Each of them has a special different situation, but they all share the same desire "to learn and have fun like any other children".



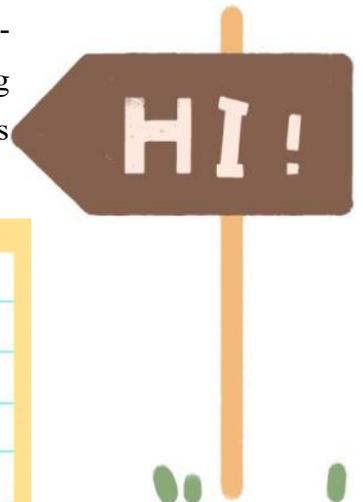
In addition, parents and students of class 2B5 visited the living places of Binh Trieu Shelter: classroom, library, bedroom, kitchen, etc....



Joy and happiness were truly fulfilled with all people in this precious moment. The children of class 2B5 also prepared lovely gifts for the children's Binh Trieu Shelter, which are carefully wrapped in beautiful baskets.



Friends For Street Children Association (FFSC) sincerely give thanks to parents and students of 2B5 Vinschool for your great love, generous support and plentiful joy. Wishing all parents abundant health, happiness and success in life; especially the students of class 2B5 are always happy, healthy and well-behaved.



Activities

# SOCIALIZING

## BINH TRIEU STUDENTS AND INTERNSHIP STUDENTS OF OKINAWA UNIVERSITY (JAPAN)



On the afternoon of December 13, Ms. Yoshii Michiko as a homeroom teacher; along with students from “Okinawa University” (Japan), and students of “Ho Chi Minh City University of Education” majoring in Japanese, had a socializing together with the children at Binh Trieu Development Center.



The tranquil mood was changed by a vibrant one when the students organized games such as fishing, tossing rings into plastic bottles, and throwing bowling. They also taught the kids the Japanese version of the song “Tulip.” Despite the fact that the exchange was brief, the children responded excitedly and passionately.

Japanese students kicked off the exchange with a magnificent performance of the traditional dance “Elisa.” The children couldn’t take their eyes off the performance because of the song’s pulse, the dancer’s movement, and the merging of the Taiko drums.

FFSC would like to express heartfelt gratitude to Yoshii Michiko and the students for bringing delight to the children. We wish everyone good health and a successful and wonderful internship experience.



# SOCIALIZING, LEARNING AND SHARING STUDENT EXPERIENCES WITH JAPANESE SCHOOL



*Binh Trieu Development Center was delighted to welcome teachers and 50 students from a Japanese school who came to join, play mini games, and offer a valuable gift with FFSC students on February 20, 2023.*

Moreover, Japanese students donated meaningful and practical presents to Binh Trieu Center students, such as clothing, headgear, shoes, toys, tales, puzzles, learning equipment, etc... .



It was well known that the games for the day had been meticulously planned and organized by Japanese students. All of the students were separated into small groups, played a variety of rich and appealing activities such as: tossing the ball into the glass, game show to detect the difference between the images, bowling, fishing, jigsaw puzzle, finger football, throw round, bingo, and so on. Everyone was too involved, engaged, and enjoined.



Before departing, Sr. Bich Huyen as the Executive Director, expressed gratitude to the instructors and students for their dedication and created opportunities for the center to have good enjoyment.

Wishing all of the teachers and Japanese students good health, pleasure, happiness, and success in their future endeavors.





# Meeting

# D

NOW Dentists (Japan) is no stranger to FFSC. Following years of struggle, the group met at the FFSC headquarters on March 10th.



The primary purpose of today's meeting is to inquire about the status and condition of the FFSC Program. The Group then addressed how to care for the child's teeth and the Group's future goals and objectives. The group also offered them mouthwash on their visit.

*The FFSC expresses heartfelt gratitude to DNOW for its unwavering support throughout the years. We hope that the Group will continue to support FFSC in future projects, working together to make children happy and bring smiles to children's faces.*





## ALBA DENTAL CLINIC PERFORMED THE CHILDREN'S EXAM AT BINH AN CENTER

In the morning of March 16, 2023, Binh An Promotion Center cordially welcomed ALBA dentists (Japan) to visit, check, and treat children's teeth.



The kids waited in line for their turn and were guided by volunteers. Some youngsters are being treated for the first time, and they are still fearful and nervous. But, with the physicians' support, the children feel safe enough to allow the doctor to inspect and fix their teeth.



Furthermore, the doctor shared and enlightened the children about the importance and benefits of brushing their teeth. The doctor urged them to brush their

teeth at least once a day. Even though the meeting was brief, the youngsters were happy and eager to answer questions. Following the meeting, the kids received a toothbrush and a cute gift. Before leaving, the group and the children took a group shot.



Friends For Street Children Association (FFSC) would like to give thanks to the doctors for always showing affection, generosity and kindness to the children. We wish you everyone good health and abundant vitality in your life.





## Short News

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n January 6th, the BIS school distributed 250 presents to the students, which included rice, cooking oil, fish sauce, soy sauce, notebooks, and pencils.



Mr. Mizushima, representing Asunaro-kai, paid a visit to the FFSC office on February 20, 2023, and donated 6 cartons of notebooks to the Center (equivalent to 720 volumes).



C

restec Co., Ltd in Vietnam visited Binh Trieu Promotion Center on February 24, 2023, and distributed Origama paper and stickers to the children.

## Visited

Mr. Paul Johnstone, a very "cute" Australian guest, visited the kids at the Binh Trieu Center this afternoon, March 22, 2023.

Despite having a busy schedule in Vietnam, He took an effort to travel and deliver gifts, including a kangaroo's toy, school supplies, t-shirts, comics, vitamins, and even some pretty sandals to the children at Binh Trieu Center.

Knowing about these gifts, he gathered supplies from his friends in Australia and bring these presents to Vietnam and give them to the children.

Additionally, he also taught the kids how to protect themselves in dangerous circumstances. The children were so surprised and shocked that they were eagerly

engaged and followed Johnstone's instructions.

Friends For Street Children Association (FFSC) expresses gratitude to him for showing these kids affection. Due to the instructor's cuteness, the pupils will remember him and will eagerly anticipate your quick return.

