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| Organization Name:                | Catalyst Foundation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| Contact Title:                    | Founder & Executive Director                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| Organization's Mission Statement: | Catalyst Foundation's mission is to support community building in Vietnam to fight human trafficking. Centered on a holistic approach, we are a humanitarian organization that provides community programs which address basic needs, job opportunities, counseling and education to prevent the trafficking of women and girls.                                                                                 |
| Organization Website:             | www.catalystfoundation.org                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Program Title for DFW Grant:      | Holistic Community Development Program                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Grant Amount:                     | \$36,000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Grant Objective:                  | <p>Our objective is to provide a Holistic Community Development Program that assists our community women in becoming self-sufficient.</p> <p>The four facets of the program are adult community education, vocational training and microloans, youth primary education, and health education.</p> <p>These four programs will impact 165 girls, 176 women directly, and 477 total family members indirectly.</p> |

**Objective #1 Community Education Center**

Our adult community education program's objective is to provide basic education to address the source of trafficking - extreme poverty. Desperately poor mothers, who see no other options to support their families, listen to the lies of traffickers. To combat this, we provide these women with access to social services, education. In addition, our team role-plays with the community, helping mothers recognize the trafficker's methods. Our classes develop self-awareness and empathy to educate about the effects of trafficking on the community. Our final goal is to maintain ZERO cases of trafficked women and children in our community.

***Goals and Outcomes:***

- Provide Community Education classes to combat trafficking, educate community members on the dangers and reality of human trafficking
  - Currently education is done only on individual basis, we are awaiting the completion of our Community Education Center in January 2015 to start community-wide classes

- There are zero cases of human trafficking, but there have been 3 cases of organ trafficking (women were tricked by traffickers to sell their kidneys for \$50) and 1 case of organ theft (eyes were removed after the death of one elderly woman).
- Supply social workers training to protect and counsel abused women and children in the community
  - Partnered with University of Sweden and Boston College School of Social Work to send interns, and allow our social workers access to current social work practices.
  - Monthly training from Caspersen Training Center for Narrative Therapy, specializing in counseling women and children that are victims of trauma.
- Help students and their families acquire Identity Papers
  - We have acquired identity papers for 65% of the women, and 100% of the women.

#### *Challenges:*

Now that we have gained and continue to build the trust of the women in our community, we are being made aware of a high number of domestic abuse. Even though it is a matriarchal society – the women have ownership of their homes, the children take on the mother’s name, the women make all the decisions in the homes – when the men come home from foraging for food or long days of earning less than \$1, evenings are full of domestic violence. Our focus is to start a self-defense class, build a crisis shelter, and begin anti-abuse programming in the next 6 months. We are partnering with local police to combat organ trafficking.

#### **Objective #2 Vocational Training Program**

The objective of Catalyst Foundation’s vocational training program is to provide our teen and adult women with the opportunity to develop financial self-reliance. The women in our community have no real employment opportunities and must contribute by doing what they can. Catalyst Foundation’s goal is to support 50+ community members in an agriculture and animal husbandry program that will teach them simple, sustainable and practical means of earning an income. We assist and educate about household debt management and provide adult literacy classes.

#### *Goals and Outcomes:*

- Coordinate vocational training for women
  - Coordinated with 2 local businesses to start a sewing/tailoring vocational training
  - Coordinated with 2 local restaurant to start a cooking classes
- Interview and selection of vocational students
  - 35 women interviewed, 29 women selected for first sewing/tailoring training July - present
  - 3 women interviewed and selected for first cooking classes March – June (cooking classes were not as popular because they have never had a lot of food and only knew how to cook rice and soup)
- Prepare for training (materials, supplies, teacher)
  - Renovated community house to use as a temporary classroom for sewing/tailoring until January
  - Coordinated donation of new tables and benches, and installing electricity
  - Renovated kindergarten/primary school kitchen so that 3 women in our community now cook meals for the children every day.
  - Sent 2 staff persons to Pun Pun, Thailand for Sustainable Farming workshop
- Monitor progress of students
  - Weekly progress monitored as our social workers visited training classes
- Evaluate training, determine which participants will need microcredit loans to continue
  - None at this time
- Provide families with Saving & Microcredit Loan Education
  - None at this time

#### *Challenges:*

Our major challenge is illiteracy. Most of the adult women and teenagers have never been taught Vietnamese. They speak their indigenous language, Raglai. Trainers find it very challenging to communicate and there are only 3 women in the entire hamlet that are bilingual. So the training is done by watching and repeating, which is a much slower way to teach.

#### **Objective #3 Education: The “Project Backpack” Program**

The “Project Backpack” Program seeks to enable children between the ages of 5 and 18 to attend school. Because of their extreme poverty, our families see education as an extravagance and their children work instead of attending

school. Only 32% of the community has had any formal education and those that did go to school did not attend beyond the 5th grade.

Our objective is to give children who have only known a life of working: education, food, and safety. The sponsorship program provides a foundation of material and social resources that give our children the opportunity to attend school. Our goal is to increase school enrollment each year until all children are attending school.

*Goals and Outcomes:*

- Provide K-5<sup>th</sup> grade education for children in the community (Project Backpack)
- 60 girls are currently enrolled:
  - Kindergarten – 20 students
  - Grades 1-5 – 33 students
  - Grades 6-7 – 7 students
- Provide uniforms, textbooks, school supplies and health insurance.
  - All students 60 students enrolled in school have been provided for
- Discuss educational goals with parents, students, teachers and social workers.
  - Exams will be taken in late January to determine progress
- Provide daily meals for each student.
  - Lunch is being served to Kindergarten daily, primary and secondary students are eating at home
- Provide monthly food allowance of rice and pantry items for the family.
  - 48 families have received 15 kg of rice, noodles, and pantry items
- Monitor the progress of students
  - Bi-monthly home visits are done with each family to monitor their well being.

*Challenges:*

The parents continue to need reminders on the importance of keeping their children in school and not pulling them out to go work. The Raglai children are in classes with the Kinh children, and there is still a lot of bullying against them as they learn the Vietnamese language. Our next goal will be to celebrate the Raglai culture at a Festival open to the public, so that they can be proud of their heritage.

**Objective #4 Community Medical Clinic**

There is an immediate and severe need for medical attention within the community. Because of their ethnicity, our community members are refused admittance or care from the local clinic and the provincial hospital. They have no access to medical attention or counseling. The lacks of pre and post-natal care, malnutrition, anemia are major issues in our community.

*Goals and Outcomes:*

- Staff and Supply Community Medical Clinic
- Conduct a baseline health survey in the community
  - Community-wide survey was done to assess basic medical needs
- Work in partnership with international doctors and nurses to plan aid expeditions
  - We have organized two groups of volunteer medical professionals to provide basic medical care to our community – in March and August of 2014.
- Work with local health officials to distribute medicines and immunizations
  - In March 2014 we were able to start our administer Hepatitis B immunizations for all girls and women under the age of 40. This is a series of three shots in six months.
- Conduct bi-annual medical needs survey to prioritize resources
  - The first complete medical survey will be done with customized digital database in November.

*Challenges:*

We have not built a Community Medical Clinic yet, but we have bought insurance for each of the beneficiaries. The challenges are still lack of medicine and transportation (by motorbike) taxi as soon as they need it. Our staff currently transports women and children to the hospital and clinics every day. From the first two groups of doctors that have met with our community the most common ailments amongst the women and girls are: intestinal parasites, ear/skin infections, abdominal pain, diarrhea, headaches, hypertension, and dental cavities. Most of this is directly related to malnutrition and lack of proper hygiene.