

# Annual Report

Academic Year  
2021 - 2022





*“Saigon Children’s Charity CIO (saigonchildren) was founded in 1992 to enable disadvantaged children and young adults in Vietnam to reach their full potential through receiving a quality education relevant to their needs”*





43,563

annual scholarships

**CHILD  
DEVELOPMENT  
SCHOLARSHIP  
PROGRAMME**

**SINCE 1992**





## MISSION

The Child Development Scholarship Programme (CDSP) aims to ensure that all children excluded from school, or whose education is jeopardised by poverty, can attend school untroubled by worries about the cost of education to their families until they can stand on their own. We foster independence and never replace the responsibility of parents, the authorities, or the child.

## WHAT WE DO

We provide students with financial and non-financial assistance to help them reach their full potentials. Our diverse scholarship packages depend on student's financial capacity: university students receive assistance to pay tuition fees, whereas school students generally receive school supplies. Soft-skill training and social care (personal counselling and urgent support for students and their families) are provided for them.

## HOW WE DO

We take a holistic approach to keep children in education through a community-based child development support network (parents, teachers and community leaders). The children most in need are identified through a careful process and selection criteria including the family's financial situation, the family's ability to earn income, lack of or limited support from other NGOs or the government.

We hold regular meetings with the children and, where possible, with their families to assess and reassess their needs and maintain contact to ensure they continue to have what they need to attend school.





# SCHOLARSHIP MEANS



Safety net in the pandemic



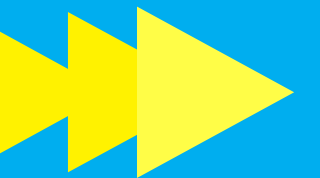
Reducing the Education Gap



More than financial support



Family-like care





# Safety Net in The Pandemic

During the COVID-19 breakdown, students' families, like millions of impoverished ones in Vietnam were hit hard by job loss, health concerns, and restricted access to support due to the lock-down. Saigonchildren, through the emergency appeal, delivered relief packages when they need it the most, in addition to our usual provision of urgent support to medical needs and family misfortunes.

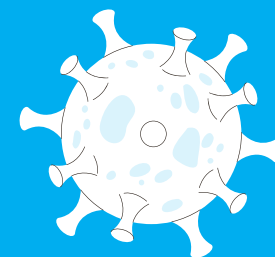
Post-Covid, we resumed home visit trips instantaneously to learn about students' circumstances and needs.

## What We Did



282

additional support  
to families of building assistants



9

urgent supports for families  
with loved ones passing away  
due to Covid



2,136

welfare supported packages



316

visited families in  
5 trips



2

supported medical  
care cases



*Thanh Tien, a grade-7 student, shared: "For my family, the money given during this time has significant meaning because it helps me and my grandmother timely, particularly a part of life at present. I and my grandmother greatly appreciate the kind sharing of donors. I promise that I will try my best to study to give the support of everyone".*





## Community Backup

Huy family was hit terribly by the Covid-19 and they must rely on neighbors' kindness to overcome the pandemic.

In pre-Covid time, Huy & his mother lived on money sent back home by his father, who is the breadwinner and working in the city. Then, like a thunderbolt, Huy father's job was terminated and was stuck in the city by the Covid outbreak while his mother's health was becoming worse and worse, and she couldn't do anything. Medicine was the only thing keeping her healthy, which assured Huy. At the time of curfew, the family seemed to be sitting around and waiting for burning out because there was not a consistent source of income, and they could not ask for help from their relatives, who were also in the same situation.



Compared to the meat and fish in every meal before, they would only eat rice with some vegetables provided by Buddhist nuns this time. Huy knew that he could not make money yet, particularly in the pandemic. So he tried his best help his mother with housework and vegetable growing for their meals. Fortunately, with the strength of the community, Huy and his mother received urgent support packages, which were made possible by the joint hand of saigonchildren's donors. Although the help was not large at that time, it led to them overcoming the pandemic.

## Sharing corner

Huy's mother shared with tears of gratitude: "I do not know how to express my feelings now. You are saviors when we are in the deepest of miserable. Although the gift is not many, it contains a large of sharing and caring of community for us".



## Studying Aspiration

Huy: "I wish I can study and enroll in a university where I can fulfill my dream which is to work in the information technological field"





# Reducing the Education Gap

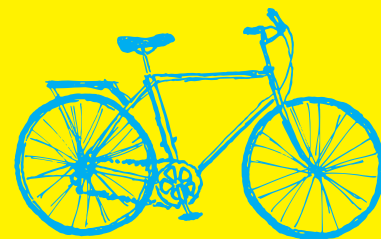
Amplified in the COVID era, the digital transformation has driven significant education and opportunity inequalities to disadvantaged children as they lack the IT necessary skills & equipment to follow online lessons and build up their capabilities and competitiveness for future. This is clearly shown through our survey, **72 % of our children feel disadvantaged with online learning.**

Saigonchildren provided packages of mobile phones and data to ensure children can continue their studies no matter what.



1,749

students recieved the support



15 bikes

delivered to children whose home are far away from school



77 smartphones  
provided for students



237 internet  
connection packages





*"I, myself, was delighted when I received the phone. I have had many difficulties when participating in learning because my phone does not have enough functions to install learning software. When I heard that I was given a phone to study, I felt very happy. I promise to keep and take good care of the phone"*  
*Khanh shared.*

## *Tireless striving for kids' better future*

Khang, a high school student in Tra Vinh province, goes to school by a bike provided by the school. His father, due to a traffic accident in 2013, can not do any heavy work, so he goes to collect and buy bananas to resell. Khang's mother, because of her educational limitations, can only sell vegetables and fruits to earn about 100,000 VND a day. Besides, there is an a small income resource from knitting baskets earning 2,300 VND/basket.

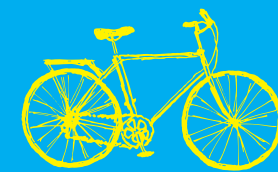
The mother has been working non-stop and never missed a market day as she knows her kids and their future rely on her but she still has to take a student loan to cover Khang and his sibling's education costs. To save money, the family uses well water to save tap water fees.

In the first semester of the school year 2021-2022, due to Covid, Khang had to learn online continually. This was a big burden for him and his brother because they have only one phone, which is too old to install new learning tools. Fortunately, he was gifted a phone with the help of sponsors. This encourages the mother, who affirmed *"I will never let them off from school, I want them to have a future"* when being asked if she has ever thought of withdrawing children from school during the toughest time.





*"I feel very happy to receive the bike because this gift is very necessary for my family's current situation, partially supports my family during difficult times, and is a motivation for me to study better. I and my grandmother were very grateful for the timely help of the donor" shared by An.*



## **Bikes for future**

An lives in a small ruined house with her grandmother and her aunt, who has mental issues in Tra Vinh province. An was raised by her grandmother after birth.

Her grandmother is very poor but she took a great care for An. Lately, because of Covid's impact and her aging, An's grandmother has been struggling a lot. The family of three almost live on intermittently fees by the grandmother's fifth child who works as a construction site assistant in Ho Chi Minh and receive support from neighbors.

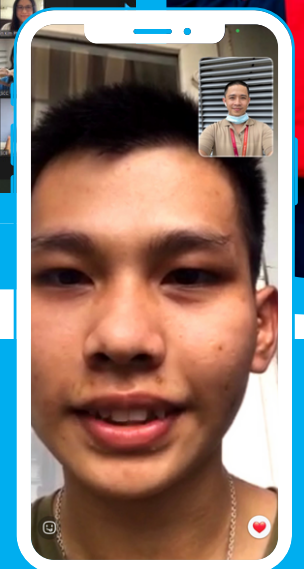
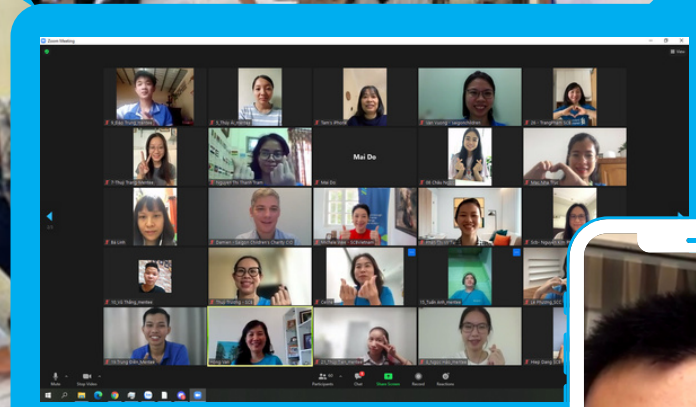
The school journey for An was uneasy due to the far distance from her house, and it was unaffordable to buy a bike. As candlelight for her educational dream, she is provided a bike. Now she can attend all lessons and spends her free time getting extra knowledge and helping her grandmother with housework. This is a huge motivation for An to study well and find a good job later. She achieved good grade in the last school year and is excited about her future.





## More than financial support

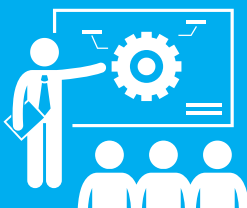
Due to the COVID's impact, we could not have any in-person contact with students in the first semester of the school year. To keep connected with them, besides phone calls with students and caregivers and online surveys of their needs, we conducted several virtual activities for students to lead them through the challenging time. When school activities were normalised in the second semester, we continued training sessions in person to maximise the learning experiences.



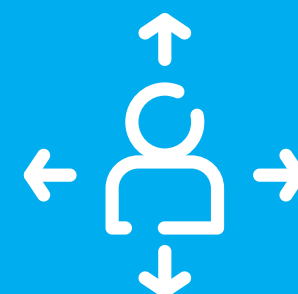
96.7%

scholarship students

completed this challenging school year



4 training courses (online & offline) on internet safety for 580 students



Career orientation and life skill trainings for 43 students



Virtual mentoring programme for 28 tertiary students



online training course on Child Protection against Sexual abuse for 24 students



*Duyen added: "For me, saigonchildren is like a family that has taught me to grow up and helped me to be more stable in life. It is fortunate that my journey, whether difficult or successful, has the companionship and dedicated support of saigonchildren and sponsors. I hope that under the guidance of saigonchildren family, the students will be more and more successful in the future".*

**57** graduated students from University

**4** students taking the 2nd degree and post-graduate



## *On the way to success, there is no trace of lazy men*

"My name is Do Thi My Duyen, a 4th-year student majoring in Business Administration. I have completed my study program and am working as a full-time content writer and HR administrator for a company. With my current job, I also have a stable income sending home 40% of my salary to help my parents and take care of my sister.

During my time at university, I applied for more course load to shorten the learning process and quickly access a professional working environment, and I also got some high achievements at school such as Member of the Board of Directors Academic Club of Economics Department, 2 times received scholarships to encourage for good academic result, students participating in scientific research at the faculty level achieved 89.5/100 points. At the end of year 3, I started working officially, the company also supported me to study and work, so the working time was also suitable for me.

My parents are not highly educated, they only work all year round, and my family does not have land for farming. Seeing the family's difficulties, I think I can only get out of poverty by studying. At the end of June 2022, I will officially graduate, becoming a new bachelor with many aspirations. From a shy 12th grader with low self-esteem, now I become a much more confident, brave, and strong girl.", shared Duyen in a letter.





## Family-like care

We care about students and their families in the smallest things and try to always be there for them whenever they need us.

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273

students consulted by social workers about life & study issues



18

caregivers consulted by social workers

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*"No matter what happens to us, I will never give my children's dream up. I will do anything to send them to school", Phuc's mother shared.*

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Phuc (16 years old) is a third-grade student at Hope special school for children hearing impairment. He is a good student in class and learning is always burning in his heart.

During the lock-down time, Phuc's family relied on food packages from saigonchildren, the local authority and other supporters. Things get worse when his loved father passed away due to Covid. The event was not only grief stricken to the family but also a financial catastrophe as the father was the family's breadwinner. The pandemic also hits his mother's work as a soft drink street seller, threatening Phuc's education.



The mother has been dealing with her health issue for a long time but she must keep working hard for the family's living and pay monthly interest from debt for business investment and Phuc and his sister's study. It can be said that their lives fell into the worst in the last year.

As soon as saigonchildren's team received the call from Phuc's mother in one of her breakdowns, we have tried to support his family as much as we could. Besides financial support, our social worker often offers consolations and consultation to the family. Professional mental health care has been also available for their family to overcome this tragedy. Phuc's case urged us to launch a campaign to support children orphaned by Covid.

We can finally feel relieved lately when seeing smiles on Phuc's face again. The inner strength has driven the boy with an craving for learning to pass through many unfair circumstances in life.



# Small gifts can go a long way

Tiny things can have huge impact on kids in their development. A pair of optical glasses, a scientific calculator for maths lesson that they cannot afford or just a new set of clothes can be sources of happiness in days.



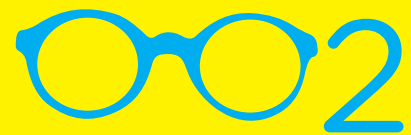
365

students given new clothes



32

calculators



2

pairs of optical glasses



"Sincere thanks to Saigon Children's Charity and sponsors for giving the children beautiful new clothes. Watching them try on new clothes happily is a very pleasant moment for us. Most of the children's families are facing difficulties, so these new clothes are very precious to them. Hopefully, there will be more meaningful gifts to help their families overcome difficulties and motivate them to study better." shared by Dao Thanh Hung, a teacher of Ngai Hung Secondary School.

*"Thank you for giving us these gifts, I enjoy wearing them. They are cute and are very suitable for me and my friends. This is a very meaningful gift to help us have more motivation to study. We promise to try our best to study well. We wish you good health, lots of joy in life, and success in your work" shared by Ngoc Nga, a student given gifts.*







Email: [cdsp@saigonchildren.com](mailto:cdsp@saigonchildren.com)  
Address: 59 Tran Quoc Thao Street, District 3, Ho Chi Minh City  
VN registered charity number: 21/CNV-VPDA