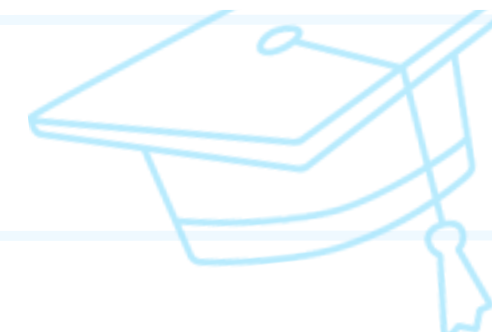


CHILD DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Annual Report 2024-2025

Educating with heart: Nurturing
bodies, minds and dreams



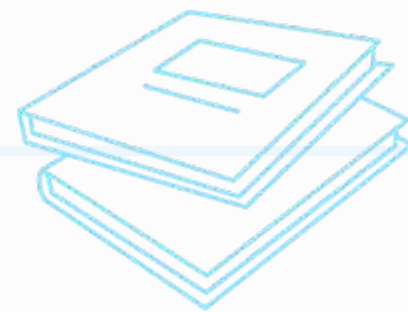


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About saigonchildren

Saigon Children's Charity CIO (saigonchildren) was founded in 1992 to help disadvantaged children get an education and a fairer start in life.

Saigonchildren works exclusively across the whole of Vietnam to overcome barriers to education for children, including poverty, geography, knowledge and disabilities.



About Child Development Scholarship Programme

Mission

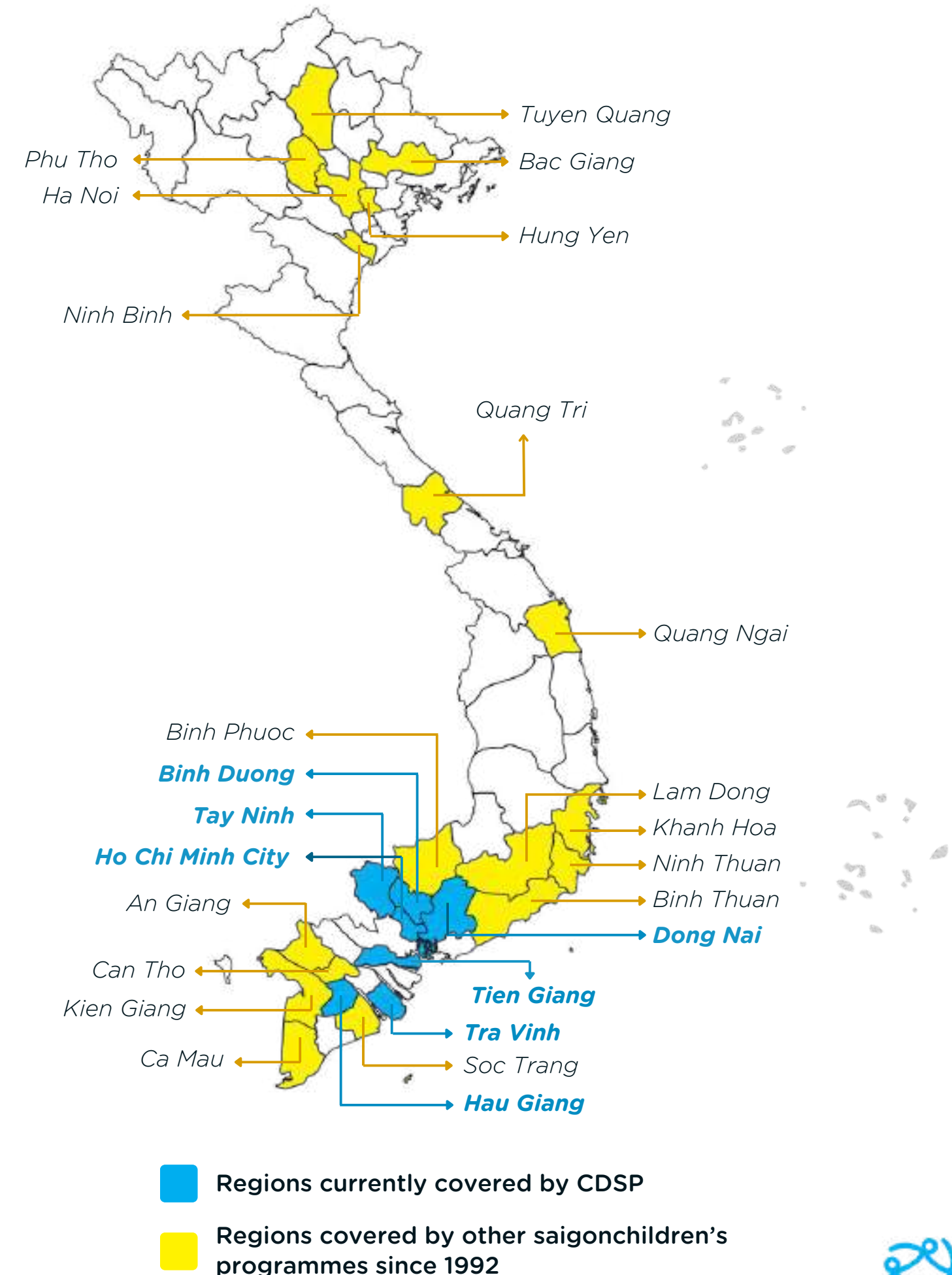
Child Development Scholarship Programme (CDSP) removes barriers to education by providing scholarships - including tuition fees, books, rice, uniforms, stationery and social care - to children from disadvantaged backgrounds from primary school to higher education.

Approach

Through local referrals and home visits, we identify students most in need to ensure our support reaches the right families. Once selected, students receive long-term assistance to help them complete their chosen level of education.

Total of scholarships awarded

47,308 since 1992





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removing barriers to education

School Year 24-25 in Numbers

School year 24-25 in numbers

No. of scholarships awarded

1,864

scholarships provided to 1,894 students*

Completion rate

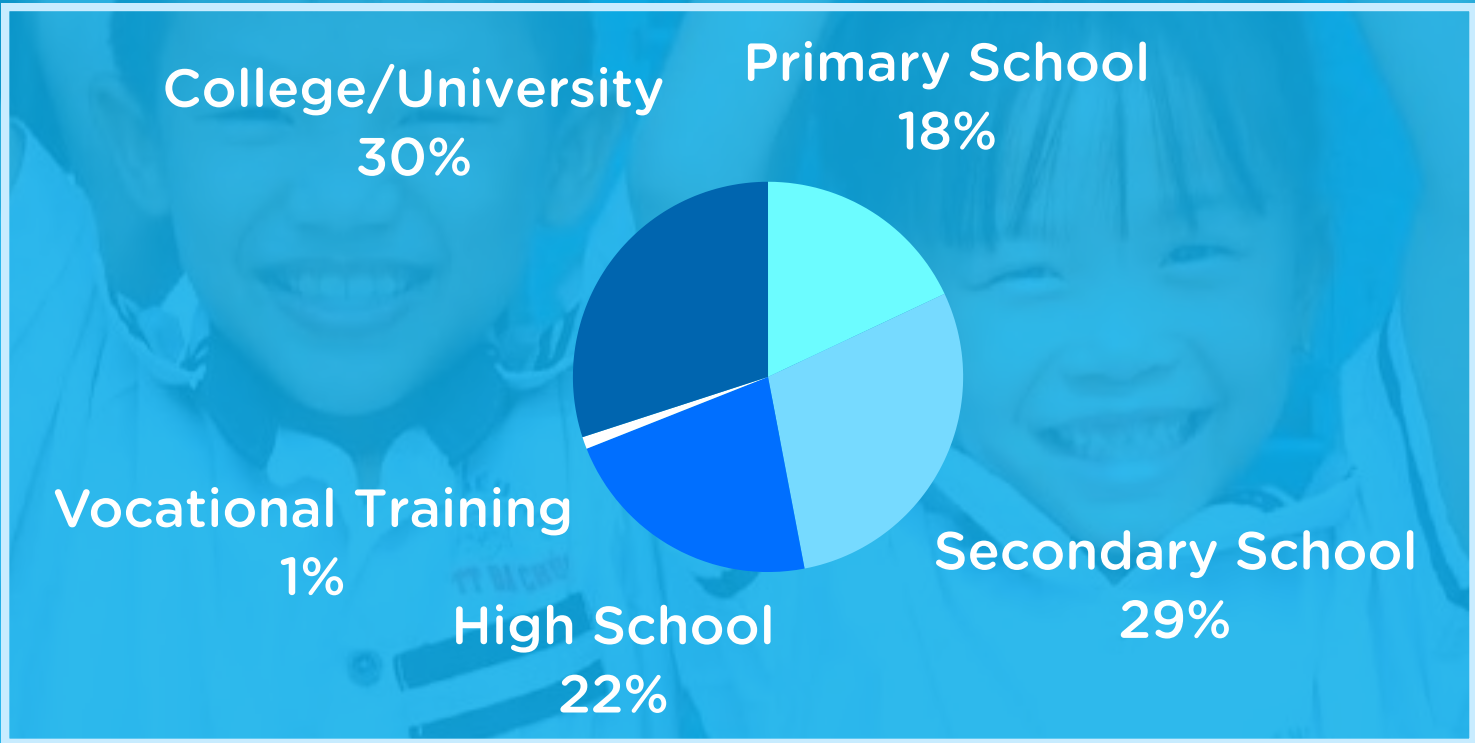


97.7%

1,851

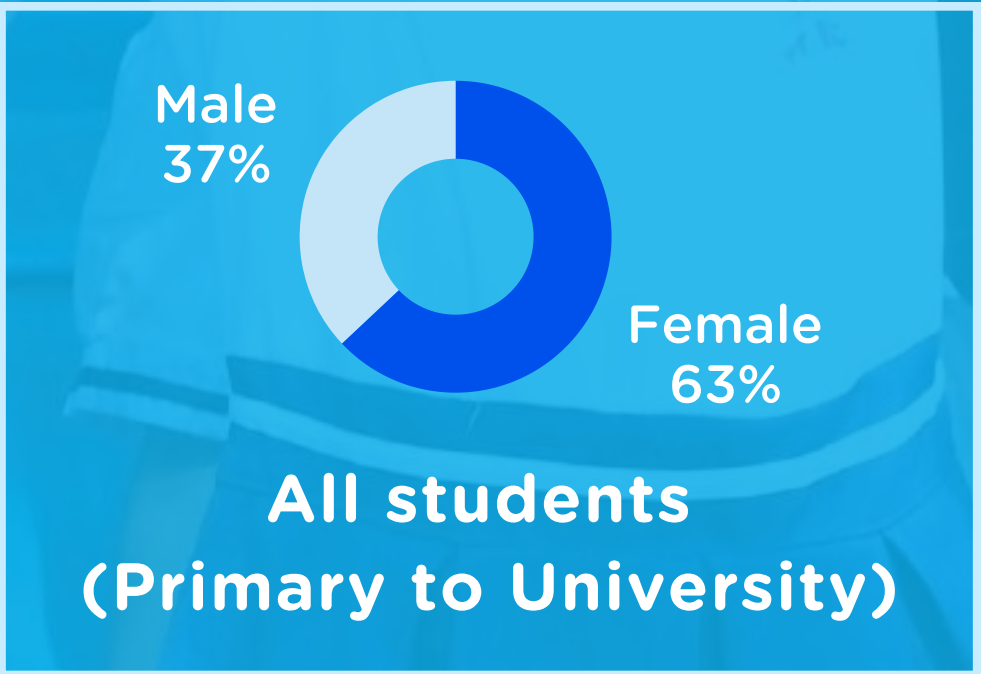
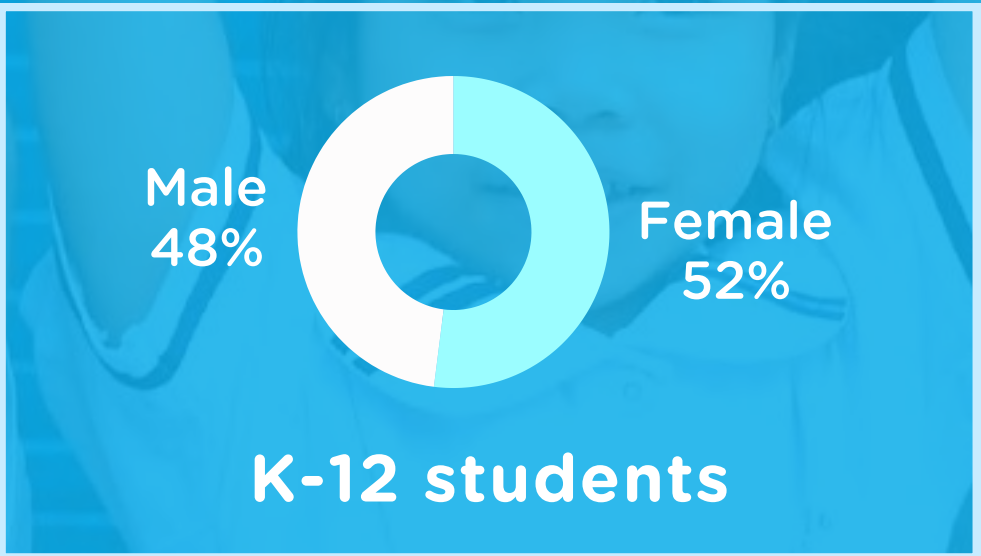
scholarship recipients completed the school year

Scholarship recipients by levels



7% increase in university and college scholarships

Scholarship recipients by sex



School year 24-25 in numbers

Materials support



19,710 kg of rice provided to students in total



1,220 notebooks provided in total



108 tertiary students received laptops
(~20% of all tertiary students)



72 bikes delivered to students who live far away from school

Student testimonial



Ngọc Ngân

Thank you so much! I'm so touched and grateful to be selected to receive the laptop.

My current one is second-hand and it keeps breaking down so I couldn't use it for a few months now. Every time I have an assignment, I'll have to go to the computer lab at my university.

Now I finally have my own laptop and more freedom with my time!

Emergency support

In April 2024, the Mekong Delta region faced a severe clean water shortage due to drought and saltwater intrusion. In response, saigonchildren's urgent support helped secure safe drinking water for affected residents. Read more [here](#).



6,435 litres of water delivered to 143 families facing severe water shortage



38 2000-litre tanks provided to 38 households for water storage





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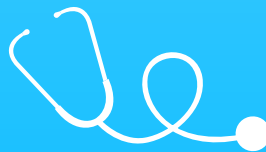
removing barriers to education

Nurturing Bodies, Minds and Dreams

Supporting children's growth through physical wellbeing



Vision screening provided for	644	primary to high school students and teachers
Prescription glasses provided to	213	primary to high school students and teachers
Financial support and emergency counselling in	9	cases of students or families to meet nutritional and medical needs



N's story: Why nutrition matters in every child's journey

N is a fifth-grade student at a local primary school. After her parents divorced and moved away, she stayed behind to live with her grandparents. Due to their old age and chronic illnesses, her grandparents can only take on odd jobs around the neighbourhood, earning an unstable and limited income.

N was born with thalassemia: a blood disorder that causes anemia, slow physical development, and an enlarged spleen. To manage her condition, she needs regular blood transfusions and a proper, nutritious diet. However, given the family's financial situation, maintaining such a diet has been severely difficult. Her grandmother shared that they only buy nutritious food when they have extra money. On other days, they just eat whatever they can to get by.

Understanding N's situation, saigonchildren stepped in, not only with a scholarship but also with financial support for improved nutrition, starting in early 2024. With this support, her grandparents were able to buy a wider variety of food, especially meat and milk, to boost N's strength. After a year, N's health has shown noticeable improvement. She has gained weight steadily and no longer suffers from frequent fatigue and headaches. Particularly, she needs fewer blood transfusions, which makes her much happier. "I get really nervous every time I go to the hospital," N said. "I'm scared of blood transfusions, and I always miss my classmates."



Career orientation workshops for high school students

- Self-discovery and career goal setting
- Overview of career models and job market
- Career planning

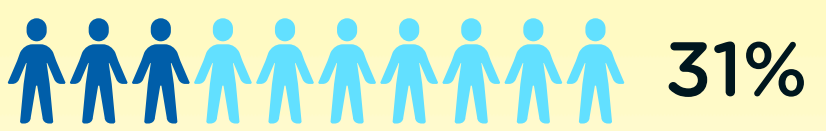


Internet Safety workshops for secondary and high school students

% of students show a solid understanding of the Internet, its risks, and safe online behaviours (based on pre and post workshop tests)



PRE-WORKSHOP



POST-WORKSHOP



Self-protection workshops for primary students

% of students show strong awareness of bodily autonomy and basic signs of child abuse

PRE-WORKSHOP



POST-WORKSHOP



Workshop series: Empowering students in protection of mental health

With mental and reproductive health becoming an increasing concern for both families and schools, saigonchildren introduced this important topic into its training programme.

A pilot series of workshops was held in Tra Vinh (part of the Mekong Delta Region) to raise awareness around mental and reproductive health for students aged 13-14, an age group undergoing significant physical and emotional changes.

28 workshops

on Mental & Reproductive Health

educating **1,710** students

5 workshops

on Mental Health for 500 teachers

with 80% of teachers

acknowledge the importance of youths' mental health, and applying learnt skills in interactions with students.

with **70-80%** students

can list good practices to **protect mental & reproductive health in everyday life.**

with **76-80%** students

report improved awareness and knowledge of **reproductive and sexual health, and disease prevention.**



Voices from students who joined the mental & reproductive health workshops



Ngọc Ngà - Grade 9



I was truly excited when I learned that I could join the mental health workshop hosted by saigonchildren, as I recognized how important and relevant the topic was.

The training session that impressed me the most was “Common Mental Health Challenges.” It helped me acknowledge the signs of mental health issues such as depression and anxiety, enabling me to identify them early and know how to prevent or seek help when needed.

After the workshop, I felt really happy to have learned something new that I can apply in my life and share with the people I care about.

I sincerely thank saigonchildren for giving me and my friends the chance to join this meaningful workshop. I hope there will be more sessions like this in the future, so I can keep learning useful things, study better, and live with positivity every day.

Sharing from another workshop attendee

“You are not alone on your journey to growing up.”

I think the wonderful part of growing up is getting to share the journey with people who truly care about me. I’m grateful for their kindness and for this newfound knowledge the teachers have shared.



35 training sessions for university/college students on:



Personal Development

- Understanding and managing emotions
- How to make good decisions

Health & Well-being

- How to take care of your reproductive health
- How to take care of your mental health

Communication & Presentation skills

- How to present ideas effectively
- How to communicate effectively

Life Skills & Employability

- Managing personal finance
- CV writing & interview skills



Student testimonials

01

How the workshop helped improve students' mental wellbeing

Như - University Freshman

I attended the workshop "How to Make Good Decisions" and found it truly eye-opening. The discussion about whether to stay in big cities or return to one's hometown after university made me see things differently. I used to think going back to the countryside meant failure, but now I realise there are many valid paths, including exploring new places or going abroad. This has helped me feel more grounded and confident in making future decisions.

I also learnt the importance of maintaining relationships and building a strong support network. I've learned to respect others' boundaries and take things less personally, which has helped me let go of anger and resentment. As a result, I become more present and better able to support the people around me. Some of my friends even say I have healing energy!

Duy, a former saigonchildren scholarship recipient, came from a disadvantaged background where his parents are both seasonal labourers with unstable income. He worked hard to excel academically and earned a place at one of Vietnam's most prestigious universities where he pursued a Degree in International Economics and deepened his passion for economics and business.

Now working as a senior strategy consultant at a top-tier financial service firm, Duy can not only support his parents but also put his younger sister through school. More than just making ends meet, he finds real fulfillment in his work, especially in helping companies develop effective go-to-market strategies.

Now no longer a beneficiary, Duy is eager to give back. He actively supports current beneficiaries by helping them improve soft skills and prepare for the job market. He shared: "The scholarship from saigonchildren supported my family greatly, covering my school fees from grade 7 through university. More than that, it opened my eyes to the world of social organisations and the external resources that could help me pursue education and achieve my dreams. That mindset shift has stayed with me — it's why I'm always eager to pay it forward and help others the way I was once helped."

I chose to support students by sharing practical tips on CV writing and interview skills - tools I believe are essential but often underestimated. I'll be sharing from my own experience, keeping things practical and relatable. When the content is useful and relevant, students will absorb it more easily and apply it to their own career journey."

Finally, Duy offered some heartfelt and thoughtful advice: "Everyone has their own path and circumstances, so I don't want to give one-size-fits-all advice. But if you truly like or are passionate about something while you're still in school, pursue it seriously — in your attitude, your knowledge, and your skills."

02

An inspiring alumni's story on giving back to the community



A HEALTHY MIND
IS ONE WHERE CHILDREN ARE FREE
TO EMBRACE THEIR PLAYFUL NATURE.



65
STUDENTS
joined the
Mid-Autumn
Festival in
Tien Giang
province.

We create joyful moments for children through Mid-Autumn Festivals, Lunar New Year events, and other seasonal activities because emotional well-being includes happiness, play, and a sense of community belonging.

physical games



played in teams

Decorating lanterns and piggy banks



Musical performance/skits
by saigonchildren's tertiary
students and alumni

physical games



played in teams



Traditional Vietnamese
fruit tray setup



Provision of school bags
to the children

Musical performance/skits by
saigonchildren's tertiary students/alumni



Minigames
playing with gifts

310
STUDENTS

joined the Tet Festival
in Tra Vinh province.



Study trip to Cu Chi Tunnel

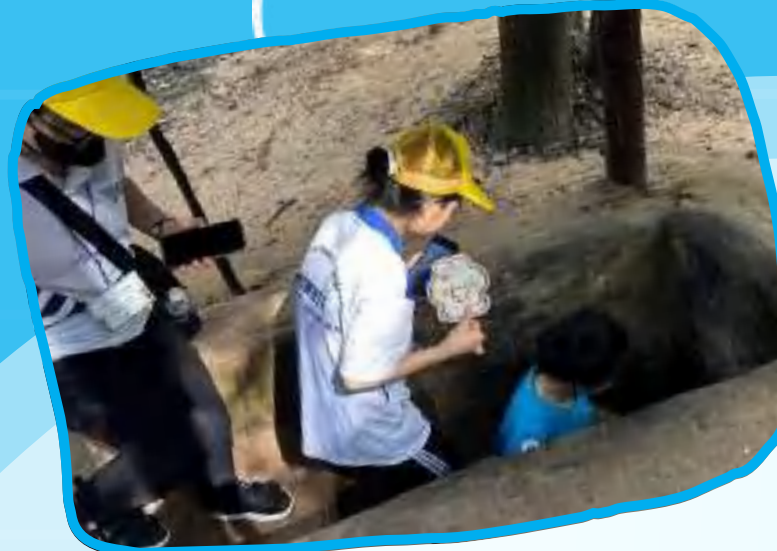
Building on the success of last year's visit to Thao Cam Vien Botanical Zoo, this year's much-anticipated trip to the Cu Chi Tunnels welcomed 150 students: from primary to high school who had excelled academically in the 2024-2025 school year.

The excursion marked the beginning of summer and offered a meaningful chance to explore Vietnamese history beyond the classroom, with the Cu Chi Tunnels showcasing the nation's resilience and strategic adaptability.

Watching a historical documentary

Experiencing the narrow tunnel entrance and exit

Learning about historic events



Enriching young lives beyond the classroom



**12 independent
events in
partnership
with donors**

Empowering tertiary students with real-world insights and skills

Corporate partners provide office tours, networking opportunities, and industry talks from their experienced staff, giving university students a valuable chance to be inspired and understand the expectations of future careers and workplaces.



Host a field trip to Dong Nai Culture & Nature Reserve where 80 students & 20 volunteers:

- Explore the lush tropical forest and its wildlife, while learning the importance of environmental protection.
- Visit the historic tunnel system and connected with powerful moments from the nation's past.





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Staying engaged with communities

Semesterly meetings with students and caregivers

Saigonchildren makes sure to meet with parents and students regularly to maintain engagement and review programme guidelines. These visits also help remind families of available support and enable them to reach out when in need.

For example, through these visits, families can sign up to receive material support like bikes, calculators and glasses for their children or report urgent health needs for timely aid.



A student's grandpa leans in to read, eager to do all he can to help support his beloved grandchild.

Behind the scene: Our social worker teases camera-shy students to bring out their cute smiles!



72 semesterly meetings with students

39 annual meetings with parents

across **7** areas of operation





**Caregiver
training on
mental health**



Parental training

290 caregivers
trained to:

- Understand key elements of mental health
- Detect signs of depression and anxiety disorder in children
- Apply beneficial habits for mental health in daily life

25% increase in number
of caregivers who

show solid understanding of signs of mental health issues after the workshop
(Pre-training: 55%; post-training: 80%)



Post-high school paths & support

In addition to annual meetings, we pay special attention to high school seniors who are at a pivotal point in their lives as they prepare to make important decisions about the future.

For students from disadvantaged backgrounds, these choices are rarely straightforward. They carry the weight not only of hopes and dreams but also of **familial responsibility** and **financial realities**.

Through several meetings with **131** high school seniors, we took the time to listen to their plans and aspirations. We also introduced the continued support available should they choose to pursue tertiary education or vocational training in Ho Chi Minh City.



Here are the three paths our students most often choose after high school, and the heartfelt reasons behind them:

*“After high school, **I plan to learn a trade in beauty by working at a spa near my house**, where my cousin is currently employed. I decided on this because my grandmother is getting old, and now it’s my turn to work so she can retire. I have thoroughly looked into the spa job through my cousin. During my training period, I will be provided with accommodation and daily meals. Tips are my sole income as a trainee but once I become proficient, I will start earning a salary.”*

*“**I plan to go to Germany for a vocational training programme where I will learn a trade and working simultaneously**. After two years, I will receive a vocational certificate. I hope to save up some money and return to open a small shop of my own. I was introduced to this programme by a distant relative, who will also support me during my time in Germany. In the near future, I will need to focus on studying the language in order to complete my application.”*

*“I’ve been a top student for many years and have never considered stopping my educational journey. After graduating from high school, **I plan to continue on to university**. Right now, I’m preparing for the entrance exam and feel quite confident in my abilities. I’ve also decided on a public university in Ho Chi Minh City to pursue a degree in Economics.”*





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Next steps in nurturing potential

Next steps in nurturing potential

1

Integrating mental health into core training curriculum

Following the positive feedback from our mental health workshops in Tra Vinh, it's clear that the topic resonates strongly with students.

Next year, saigonchildren plans to integrate mental health protection into the annual training curriculum to help strengthen students' resilience and ability to navigate future challenges.

2

Addressing urgent needs (digital access & health)

With the growing emphasis on digital literacy in schools, students are increasingly expected to use laptops for class assignments. Many students reported lacking access to these devices due to financial challenges. In response, saigonchildren will strengthen our efforts to mobilise device donations and ensure students are not left behind.

At the same time, persistent health issues within students' families continue to cause financial strain and emotional stress. We remain committed to providing financial assistance where possible and connecting families with local support services to help ease their burdens and support students' overall well-being.





THANK YOU

for your unwavering care and support in nurturing the bodies, minds, and dreams of disadvantaged children across Vietnam!

If you want to sponsor a child for the 2025-2026 school year, please find out more [here](#).