

# INGEAR

THE NEWSLETTER OF PEDALS FOR PROGRESS



## It's More Than Luck for this Lottery Ticket Seller

by Nguyen Van Hanh

Mr. Tran Van Oanh, 56 years old, was born to a poor family in Vung Liem district, in the Mekong province of Vinh Long, 180 km west of Ho Chi Minh City. In addition to his economic hardship, he was born with a hearing impairment. By the late 1980s, he was married and became the father of two children. During the 1990s, he took on many different



Tran Van Oanh selling lottery tickets.

income is still generated from his occupation.

Although unable to hear, he can speak and is very friendly and does relatively well, but it still remains hard for him to afford food and other expenses for the family. Many people do buy lottery tickets from him, sometimes not because of their interest in the game but because of his circumstances. He has to walk from dawn to dusk around 25-30 km in the district to sell the tickets. He can sell around 100 tickets every day and earns around 5 U.S. dollars.

At the end of July 2011, he was granted a bicycle, donated by Pedals for Progress through The Dariu Foundation (TDF) and Vinh Long Friendship Organization, and has used the bicycle for his job since then. The Dariu Foundation is a Swiss non-government organization, operating in Vietnam since 2003 with a focus on poverty reduction and education development through programs of microfinance, scholarships for poor students, building kindergartens, and offering training in computer skills to rural students.

kinds of work, including masonry and cutting rice for land owners. Even with this effort and hard labor, he could hardly earn enough to feed his family. By 2000, he became ill and weak and could no longer do hard work, so he took on a job as a lottery ticket seller, a popular job in the poor region of Mekong Delta. Most of the family's

Mr. Tran is one among more than 500 poor families in Vinh Long province who is lucky enough to get the donated bicycles from P4P through The Dariu Foundation. This was the first shipment by P4P to Vietnam, and the next one is expected to be shipped this November. Today, there are more than 15,000 households benefiting from TDF's microfinance services, served by a portfolio of 2.1 million U.S. dollars. "I am very happy because firstly it is a very nice and good bike. Secondly, it is my dream to have a bike to help my job be much more convenient. And lastly it helps double my sales and income. Previously, I just earned \$4.00-\$5.00 per day, but now I can gain \$10.00 a day," said Mr. Tran. "I hope I can soon earn and save enough money to pay for my wife's surgery soon. Now I can go home early to help my wife with housework and take care of the family," he added.



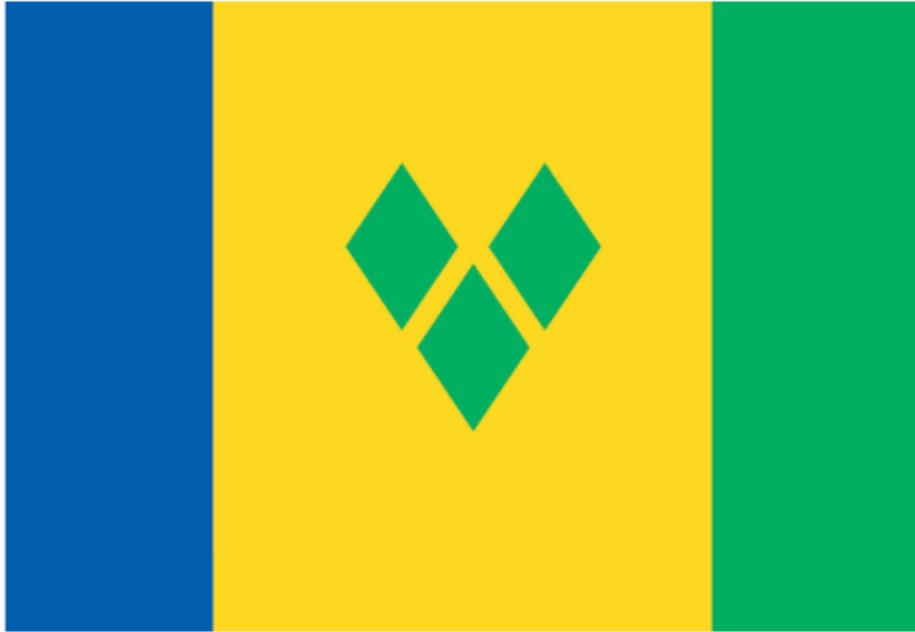
Tran Van Oanh on the road, able to earn 2x as much with his new found mobility.

## P4P and EIT Aid in the Expansion of Vocational Training Courses in Uganda

by Patricia Hamill

Readers may recall from our spring newsletter the story of an ambitious and successful Ugandan woman, Jane Kigoye. She was able to save her family from poverty by expanding her small tailoring business with the purchase of sewing machines from one of our partner programs, the Entrepreneurship Institute of Applied and Appropriate Technology (EIT). Not long after the newsletter went to print, we received word from Charles Mulamata, Founder and Head of the EIT in Uganda, that a vocational school that he was influential in developing within the Sacred Heart Primary School has developed into a successful and continuing program for the students.

In 2005, Charles' two daughters, Olivia and Vivian, were studying at Sacred Heart. The school, located in Kyamusansala, Masaka District, in southern Uganda, had a tailoring section run by a woman



## From Iowa to St. Vincent: A Peace Corp Volunteer Brings more than Good Will to an Island School

By Patricia Hamill

As you may have read on our web site, we received a wonderful letter from Peace Corp. volunteer Liz Deppe thanking us for making it possible for the school where she teaches to acquire 20 sewing machines. Located on the island of St. Vincent, the Barrouallie Secondary School (BSS) is the fortunate institution to welcome Liz and, hence, receive the machines. Originally from Ames Iowa, Liz has only been in St. Vincent for 8 months as an assistant to the teachers in the art and reading courses; however, in that short time, she has made an enormous difference. Having known about P4P from our work in Iowa, she decided to contact us about donations of sewing machines to incorporate into the curriculum. What can they do for employment without this skill? While banana production has dominated the economy, the government has been seeking ways of diversifying so that Vincentians do not continue to be vulnerable to price fluctuations and crop diseases. Tourism is an industry that has grown widely, but not everyone is able to profit from this type of expansion. This is

where the importance of a solid education backed up by practical vocational skills comes into our story. According to Liz, "[t]hat first project and many more projects the students at BSS will work on are teaching them more than just how to sew. They are learning patience, creativity, problem-solving skills and a sense of accomplishment."



Peace Corps Volunteer Liz Deppe with her students.

While the machines are not used for production but strictly classroom learning, there is hope that more machines can be acquired so that families may be able to purchase them and begin their own businesses. At the very least, the students have a marketable skill to offer alongside the knowledge they gain from their studies. Liz has witnessed firsthand the lasting effect that tangible results from focused effort provide: "What I believe is the most rewarding part of our newly created sewing program is a sense of accomplishment. At a school with little resources and many struggling students, it is amazing to watch a student, who has never felt proud, show you what they have accomplished. Their face beams as they hold up the finished product,

something they can use and show off."

It is part of our mission to do the utmost to send our shipments as economically as possible while striving to get the sewing machines and bikes out to those in need as quickly as possible. P4P was able to ensure that the sewing machines could make it to the school and with as little financial burden as possible by sending them via sea rather than

air. The cost was demonstrably lower at \$10 per piece. If all goes well, we may be able to continue this relationship not only with the school but also expand to other institutions on the island. It is Peace Corps Volunteers like Liz and people like our partners and contributors who think progressively, initiate programs, and give support that make our efforts so successful.

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#### CONT'D FROM PG.1 - P4P AND EIT AID IN THE EXPANSION OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING COURSES IN UGANDA

named Nalongo Christine Namugerwa. The school's only sewing machine was used mainly to mend school uniforms and other clothes. During a parent meeting, it was requested that families offer constructive ideas and support in kind to further develop the school's vocational programs. Charles thought it would be advantageous to arrange the acquisition of more sewing machines for the school so that the students could be taught a skill at a young age. Since the EIT had been receiving sewing machines from Pedals for Progress, they had some machines available in stock. In order to initiate the process, Charles offered the school 4 electric sewing machines. The EIT could not give away more; operating and shipping costs are such that they needed to earn income from the sale of the rest of their machines. The school headmistress, Sister Annet Nankusu, was very grateful for the initial donation of these



Students hard at work at EIT in Kampala.

machines but knew that there would have to be more if the program was going to be accessible to multiple students across grades. There were stumbling blocks to furthering the development of the program and acquiring more machines. According to Sister Annet, most parents are "struggling low-income earners, who may not be able to pay a full cost of a sewing machine. A few parents who are middleclass earners would be able to help, but they are unable because of the many family dependents as a result of poverty and AIDS/HIV consequences (orphans and widows). The only way we sometimes get parents help us to get money for machines is during our school meetings when we beg them to contribute to this noble part of education of our children." As a result of these pleas and the dedication of the parents to do what they could for their children and the school, Sacred Heart purchased a total of 6 machines from the EIT. With this generosity and motivation, the school was able to further its plans and the EIT was able to earn income to cover necessary expenses.

Because of EIT's initiative, the school now has 18 sewing machines and gives formal tailoring lessons. Of the more than 500 students, at

least 90 students attend these classes. They learn tailoring starting in the third grade and continue through to the sixth grade. Sister Annet emphasized that there is no tailoring class in grade 7 because this is a very busy year for finalizing primary school coursework.

The students who complete these courses adeptly design and tailor skirts, blouses, aprons, table cloths, pillow case covers, among other useful items. This combination of education and practical job training is essential for the country's economic development. A perfect example of this direct connection is Sister Annet's proposal to start selling the products of this section as a means of raising money for the school and the students whose products are sold. These tangible rewards help the students realize the advantages of enterprise and income earning at a young age. The pride and joy these kids have when they present the completed products is indisputable. While acquiring a certificate of academic achievement is very important, the concrete and immediate reward of earned wages offers more comprehensible representations of success. These successes also show the parents the advantages of teaching life skills alongside academics and encourage them to work together to include the school in their community-building enterprises. Another economic benefit of this vocational program is that the school is able to retain a highly skilled staff to train the young and assist the original tailoring teacher Nalongo Christine. She is very happy because, with this division of the school and availability of machines, she is now



Director Mr. Mulamata showing off the handiwork of his students.

allowed to earn extra income by tailoring school uniforms and taking on other small jobs. These opportunities and the earning of a proper living wage give her satisfaction and incentive to stay on the job. In the children's eyes, she is not only a teacher but an example of the successes that come from hard work, academic and practical knowledge, and a supportive community.

According to Mr. Mulamata, the EIT believes that vocational studies need to be recognized as major contributor to "industrialization, poverty abbreviation, and development of a nation." This is quite true and more people and organizations like P4P are finding ways to ensure that their work is not exploited or neglected. Sister Annet states this point most succinctly: "I think today, it is very difficult to get honest people who will put in use each coin given to them to help the poor people. . . It is most likely that small groups of people [or untried organizations] may fail to operate their services to the poor. My advice is that if our friends would like to join in the education of the . . . child, let them choose wisely the institutions they can channel their funds and help of any sort."

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A favorite hobby of young couples in Tirana, Albania, is renting bikes from P4P partner Ecövolis.

Ecovolis dis  
the general p  
becomes ev



Ecovolis distribures bikes to the general population as biking becomes ever more popular. —

<http://www.rolexawards.com/en/index.jsp>

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