



**Tai when he was just 4 years old at football and Tai in 2008 at an exhibition with his work**

## **Nguyen Van Tai**

**Boys Shelter**

**Date of Birth: 1993 (15 years old)**

**Date of entering the Shelter: 9 April 1995**

**Male**



The Boys' Residential Shelter was opened to provide a safe, loving home environment for children previously living on the street. Boys who join the shelter are generally runaways from abusive parents or kids from families so impoverished they have been abandoned. On coming to the shelter the Boy's are given a chance for a better life, a chance at aspiration and a promising future. A chance to experience a good life in a warm and loving place wherein they can flourish into well rounded and happy individuals, a prime example of our success in providing that environment is shown in the story of Nguyen Van Tai.

Tai is the longest term boy at our boy's Shelter. He's been at the shelter for over 12 years now, and is today a very happy and well rounded young man. Tai's story like so many others we help here at CNCF; is a sad story.

Tai's parents were divorced when Tai was just a baby. His father left and Tai and his elder brother lived with their mother. Their mother was known to be quite cruel to her boys and often went away with other people to gamble and drink and spend time with men. She often beat her children if they were not able to give her money after a day wandering on the street begging or selling lottery tickets. Tai's older brother was only 11 years old when he ran away to Ho Chi Minh City with Tai who was only two years old at the time. They spent a very sad time living on the streets until one of our social workers found them and took them to safety at the Boy's Shelter. After a few years Tai's brother left the shelter. Tai's brother died some years back and Tai stayed on and has been at the shelter since.

Though it was sad for Tai not to be raised by a family, he considers the Boys' Shelter the only home he knows; he is safe and loved there by the staff and his brothers! Although efforts were made to trace Tai's parents, no results were found, Tai's family connections were sadly lost with the death of his brother. However Tai is an older brother to the other children at the shelter and he has seen many sad stories over the years at the Boy's Shelter, and from this he has learned the true meaning of love and respect irregardless of background and poverty. Tai is doing well in school and in the shelter, where he is a popular and well respected boy. He is an inspiration to all and is a fine example of a well rounded, sensitive and very bright young man. Tai is now going to do his vocational training in graphic design and we see a bright and happy future for him.