

Education Assistance Programme Success

Ly Vinh Son

Son is the eldest from a very poor farming family with four children in the remote countryside of Dinh Quan District, Dong Nai Province. His family's circumstance is extremely difficult. Because of his father's mental illness, he usually beat Son and his wife. Son's mother sent him to live with his uncle because she believed he would be safer there.

Not long after his arrival, Son's uncle forced him to drop out of school to work. He was expected to work very hard. Given that he was still a young boy, Son became very angry with his situation. Out of depression, he drank herbicide to kill himself. Luckily, neighbours discovered him and took him to the hospital and left him there alone.

After being at the hospital for a month, Son was able to recover and was sent to the Sunshine Boys Shelter, and it was here that CNCF sheltered, cared for, and loved this poor boy. During his time at the shelter, Son was a friendly boy, he was well-behaved and a good student.



In July 2003, Son was offered work at the Saigon Shoes Company and so he left the Sunshine Boys Shelter to find his own way in life. With his new job he was able to provide for himself. In 2004, he passed his entrance exam into the College of Industry with a focus in industrialised electrics. This was a bittersweet moment for him as he was very excited to be going to college, but he was also very aware that he would be unable to pay for his school tuition and fees.

With the income he was currently earning, he was only able to pay for rent, food and his day to day expenses. With his dreams in hand, Son returned to CNCF for support. After speaking to him and realising his goals for his life and understanding the difficulties he was facing, the Education Assistance Programme agreed to support Son with school fees and the necessary school supplies during his four years at the college.

It was with such support that Son was able to finish his course in college and graduated at the end of 2008. In addition, Son secured a job with an electric company in Ho Chi Minh City. He earns almost US \$150/month. This amount is enough to cover his daily living expenses and allow him to secure a better future.