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Creating opportunities through "bridges" across the ocean.

Kieu Anh | 11 hours ago

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(Baohatinh.vn) - Bridges of love, built from across the globe, have been opening up new opportunities, helping children at the Ha Tinh Orphanage to nurture their resilience and faith in the future.





Warm handshakes, affectionate embraces, and even slightly hesitant greetings in English filled the air at the Ha Tinh Orphanage Village during the month of June. Traveling tens of thousands of kilometers from the other side of the globe, 33 professors and students from Elizabethtown University (USA), along with members of Brittany's Hope, returned to a place that had become familiar to them for many years.





Orphanage.

Having been with the Ha Tinh Orphanage for nearly 14 years, what moves Professor Peggy McFarland most each time she returns is witnessing the growth of the children. From children deprived of their parents' embrace, they are gradually writing their own stories with resilience, knowledge, and a desire to succeed.

Professor Peggy McFarland shared: "I am very excited to be back here. I still remember the early days at the Ha Tinh Orphanage, when everything was quite simple. Now, witnessing the changes day by day, with more modern facilities, better learning and living conditions for the children, and their increased happiness and confidence, I am truly delighted and happy."

In the joy of reunion, there was one person who understood better than anyone the value of that companionship. At the age of 12, after family tragedies, Bui Thi Huyen was taken to live at the Ha Tinh Orphanage. This home became a haven, allowing the girl who had suffered so much loss to continue her education, grow up in a loving environment, and nurture dreams that seemed unfulfilled.

Years later, Bui Thi Huyen graduated from university and became a member of Brittany's Hope in Vietnam. From a child who once received support, Huyen is now connecting resources to help disadvantaged children. Huyen's journey shows that when given the opportunity to study and develop in a loving environment, disadvantaged children can absolutely rise up, change their own lives, and contribute to the community.

Ms. Bui Thi Huyen shared: "Today, having the opportunity to return and accompany the children, I feel extremely grateful. I hope that they will also have more opportunities to learn, develop themselves, and fulfill their dreams."





Ms. Bui Thi Huyen (on the left) reunites with her mothers and sisters in joyful celebration.

Since 2013, Brittany's Hope has been closely associated with the Ha Tinh Orphanage. From a seemingly brief visit and encounter, these friends from across the globe chose to stay, driven by a sense of sharing and responsibility. Over the past decade, with a total support fund exceeding 17 billion VND, what they have brought is not only support programs but also the belief that every child, regardless of their circumstances, deserves the opportunity to learn, to develop, and to pursue their own dreams.





Many fun and meaningful activities bring smiles to the children here.

During their time in Ha Tinh, geographical distance, language barriers, and cultural differences seemed to disappear amidst laughter and empathy. The students from Elizabethtown University quickly blended into the lives of the local children. English lessons became more lively with songs, games, and simple stories about life. In return, the young people from the US enthusiastically learned Vietnamese, practiced farming, explored local culture, and experienced traditional Vietnamese games.

These simple activities have become a bridge, helping young people from both countries understand each other better, learn from each other, and have memorable experiences. For the children, each meeting is an opportunity to broaden their knowledge, communicate confidently, and access different cultures. For the students of Elizabethtown University, it's a chance to feel the resilience, optimism, and determination of children from disadvantaged backgrounds.





grateful and excited to visit the Ho Minh orphanage for the first time because the children here are wonderful. When I return to the US, I will always remember the optimistic smiles of the children and share those stories with my friends and family."





American students get to immerse themselves in simple yet meaningful activities.

Beyond supporting children in their studies and daily lives, Brittany's Hope aims to help them develop holistically, both physically and mentally. Through collaboration with Elizabethtown University, numerous training programs in physiotherapy and rehabilitation have been implemented for the staff of the Ha Tinh Orphanage.

From rehabilitation exercises for children with disabilities to in-depth healthcare knowledge, everything is given with dedication and a desire to provide them with better opportunities to integrate into life. Because more than just immediate support, what is given is the ability to confidently move forward on their journey.

Sharing her thoughts on the children's progress through each exercise, Professor Denisha Roberts from Elizabethtown University affirmed: "Every time I return to the Ha Tinh Orphanage, I feel very happy and proud to witness the children's progress, from their health and spirits





opportunity to gain practical experience and directly participate in community support activities. These experiences provide many meaningful lessons and contribute to improving the children's learning effectiveness."



Professors from Elizabethtown University assess the children's physical condition and select exercises for them.

For the Ha Tinh Orphanage, the most valuable thing after each support program is not just the new buildings or modern equipment that have been added. It is also the hope that is rekindled in each child that they are always cared for, loved, and have the right to hope for a brighter future.

Ms. Nguyen Thi Huong, Deputy Director of the Ha Tinh Orphanage, shared: "We deeply appreciate and thank organizations and individuals both domestically and internationally who have





These various contributions not only help improve facilities, enhance learning and living conditions, and provide healthcare for the children, but also give them the strength to move forward in life."



Bridges of love have been quietly built between Ha Tinh and its international friends.

Bridges of love have been quietly built between Ha Tinh and its international friends, carrying knowledge, sharing, and faith in the power of education. From children who once needed protection, adults have grown up confidently, stepping into life and continuing to spread love as they do today. And in the eyes shining with hope under this shared roof, many more beautiful stories will be written. Because when love is sown with perseverance and responsibility, it will not only change one life but also illuminate the future of many generations.

