

Background Information

During the 1900s in Vietnam, members of the NguyenTuong family have stood together to create a writers' group that in turn has made an indelible mark in Vietnamese history. It is not the idea of making a difference in the society, but the ideology of promoting changes to serve the common welfare of the people, that has been held as guiding principles in life of those members, and the lives of their children.

Time has steadfastly changed. Vietnam has become one of the poorest countries in the world by the end of the 20th century. And in 1975 and onward, members of the NguyenTuong family have dispersed around the world, with a growing population of over 100 in the United States, Canada, France, Australia, and many more remaining in Vietnam.

Being spread so far apart, communication between family members became difficult, assistance provided to one another was even more challenging when emergency situations arisen. Individuals in the families who continued to carry out their ideologies in serving the people of Vietnam faced loneliness and helplessness. A new generation of the NguyenTuong members grew up without a network in which to learn family heritage values, and no support to continue the family tradition.

“We come together to do more than the sum of our parts can do.” The NguyenTuong Foundation (NTF) is established to:

- (1) preserve and promote social activism as part of the NguyenTuong cultural heritage,
- (2) provide a network of communication for family members,
- (3) provide emergency aid to family members in crisis, and
- (4) provide scholarships for family members to encourage educational values.

Project Description

The NguyenTuong Foundation (NTF) is a membership-supported foundation, to carry out the principles and guidelines of the Foundation as established. To function, an Executive Committee will be formed to carry out the tasks of the Foundation, under guidelines and supports of a Board of Directors.

1. Memberships.

Memberships provide base supports that allow the NTF to continue operating annually, and also provide a democratic voice to the Foundation. Membership pledges can range anywhere from 20 to 100 dollars annually. Members/non-members can also donate any amount to support NTF activities. All members will have equal voice regardless of the amount of annual pledges.

Membership to the NTF is opened to all who believe in the principles of the Foundation. Because the NTF is a family foundation, however, memberships with no blood relation to the NguyenTuong family are limited to maximum 49 percent of the total NTF members.

2. Executive Committee

During the first 2 year's formation of the NTF, members who wish to take part in the creation of the Foundation can join the Executive Committee to carry out the work of building the Foundation, built a web site, and to help establish a Board of Directors to be voted in by the NTF members.

Once the NTF Board of Directors is formed, the Executive Committee will function under the guidelines of the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee's main function is to successfully implement and maintain NTF programs.

3. Board of Directors

A Board of Directors will be formally formed by the second year of the NTF founding, by a formal voting process, to serve the NTF for a specific term of years. The Board of Directors' main function is to provide directions and long-term goals for the NTF, and to ensure that the principles of the NTF are maintained.

Project TimeLine

Phase 1: Establish membership & communication network. Phase 1 is expected to continue through the year 2000 to fully realize base membership support and to establish an efficient communication network.

- One team will be formed to seek membership support, and to establish a master communication network.
- A second team will be formed to continue the development & formalize the NTF.
- A third team will be formed to develop a NguyenTuong web site.

Phase 2: Establish NTF programs. Phase 2 should begin in early 2001, once base memberships are realized and an annual operation budget can be planned.

The NTF is a social promotion Foundation, and is formed to do so. In order for the Foundation to be alive, the NTF needs to develop programs that encourage social activism and promote educational values. Once memberships are fully realized and a Board of Directors is formed, the Board of Directors will establish pre-designated percentages of the annual fund to carry out the following tasks:

- Incorporating the NTF as a legal public entity.
- Establishing a continuing network of communication through web site, newsletters, etc.
- Providing emergency support to family members in Vietnam or around the world.
- Providing scholarships to youths pursuing higher education.
 - One of the first social advocacy program the NTF can carry out is establishing annual scholarship(s):
 - A scholarship provides great motivation, encouragement, and give real assistance to youths pursuing higher education. It can also give recognition to youths who took challenging career paths in social fields.
 - A scholarship provides remembrance of past NguyenTuong family members who have spent their lives serving people. The establishment of scholarships in their names serves not only in recognition of their deeds, but also gives youths role models to whom they can look up to, follow, and learn from.
 - A scholarship promotes NTF values and principles in the most real and practical senses. With scholarships aiming at young NguyenTuong family members within/outside of Vietnam, these scholarships encouraging educational values within the family. With other scholarships granting to youths pursuing in social or political careers, these scholarships promote social activism as part of the NTF values.
 - A scholarship can be established with any amount of grant, and therefore is not a constraint on NTF fund when established.

Project Budget

Annually, twenty five members' commitment is set to be minimally required in order for the NTF to function. An average budget is estimated as below. Actual percentages budgeted for program costs will be finalized by the NTF Board of Directors based on actual membership pledge realized.

Fifty members pledge 100 dollars annually: 5,000 usd

Emergency aid: 20% = 1,000 usd
Scholarship to family members in VN: 5 scholarships of 200 usd / year = 1,000 usd
Scholarship to youths outside of VN: 2 scholarships of 500 usd / year = 1,000 usd
Operating expenses: incorporation, mailings, web site, etc. = 1,000 usd
Reserve fund = 1,000 usd

Conclusion

The NguyenTuong Foundation is an outgrowth of the family's philosophy of serving the larger society, and helping others. It is also a necessary function to help bridge family members all across the world, and across the generations, to come together in one place, to learn our heritage, share our experience, and carry out our principles. Whether it will be realized, what it is, and what it can do can only be achieved by the your supports and guidance.

Project Members

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