# VCSATIMES2013



The Christmas season always reminds me about the spirit of giving. It is ironic that Christmas follows the Thanksgiving holiday, to remind us to be appreciative and thankful and then to be hopeful and giving. With that being said, I would like to take this opportunity to express how thankful and appreciative I am of our VCSA members, our volunteers, our staff, our sponsors, and our supporters. I also want to express my hope that VCSA will continue to inspire future leaders to serve and give back to our community. 2013 has been an eventful year as ever at VCSA! As the year 2013 comes to an end, it is time for us to review all the highlights of this past year and to celebrate VCSA's achievements:

- VCSA Houston continues to serve as the VCSA headquarter and works collaboratively with the 6
  remote chapters in Dallas, Austin, Washington DC, San Diego, Minnesota, and Toronto. GRACE
  (Gratitude, Respect, Accountability, Courage, Engagement) continues to be integrated with our
  core values in all aspects.
- The Inaugural Walk for Wellness was in May 2013 to promote healthy living and wellness. We raised almost \$30,000 for VCSA wellness projects.
- Len Duong Leadership Development Camp was successfully delivered in July in Toronto with participants from across the US and Canada. Len Duong Camp continues to inspire campers to be leaders and to take action. This year's theme was "It starts with ONE! Passion Action Impact!"
- Tobacco and Obesity Prevention Summit was held at the Houston Museum of Natural Science in July with over 300 students and volunteers participating. The Day Camp taught students about the adverse effects of tobacco and promoted healthy nutrition and diet.
- Youth Excellence Recognition Program Vietnamese-American students continue to make us proud with their achievements. 30 Vietnamese-American valedictorians and salutatorians were identified in the Houston area and vicinity, and 23 were honored at this event.
- The Mid-Autumn Children's Festival was held at the Houston Children's Museum in September. We were able to introduce our culture through various activities with almost 3000 participants/ visitors to the museum.
- Leadership Development Bonfire Passion or LDBP, our Houston VCSA Youth Chapter, fueled by the energy from Len Duong Camp, stayed very busy in 2013. They executed several workshops on cultural identity, effective communication, and the GRACE values. They also spearheaded the on-line Social Media Contest to promote GRACE and several other community projects.
- VCSA Scholarships VCSA continues to offer various scholarships such as the Nicholas Le Pham, Vera Tran, Anthony Toan Thanh Nguyen Memorial scholarships to students for Len Duong Camp and for education. This year we celebrated the 10th anniversary of Vera Tran Scholarship Foundation in the memory of our beloved member Vera Tran who passed away in 2003.
- VCSA series of wellness and cultural workshops were delivered in 2013 on culture, education, literature, resume writing and interviewing skills, and health and science.
- Typhoon Haiyan Relief Efforts Walkathon VCSA joined the Houston Vietnamese-American community's efforts in raising more than \$300,000 for the victims of the Haiyan Typhoon in the Philippines.

As you can see, VCSA delivers. We've stayed very busy and committed to serve. VCSA is very grateful to establish and maintain our relationship with great corporations and the local business community that provides us with the continued support needed for our programs and services. We hope that you will continue to support VCSA in 2014 and beyond. On behalf of the Executive Board, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all the VCSA members, all of our sponsors, partnering organizations, supporters, volunteers, and also our Board of Directors and the Advisory Board for your continuous guidance and support to help us carry out our mission.

On behalf of the VCSA family, I would like to send our best wishes to you and your family for a wonderful Holiday season.

Yours sincerely,

Kim Yen Vu

**VCSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS** 

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#### **VCSA EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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Vu, Van Mieu
VCSA-Austin
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VCSA-DC
Pham, Mai Quyen
VCSA-Toronto (Canada)
Hoang, Michael
VCSA-San Diego
Le, Thang
VCSA-Minnesota

#### **VCSA STAFF**

Ngo, Vinh
Summer Intern
Nguyen, Hong An
Fall Intern
Le, Mai Quyen
VCSA Program Coordinator

#### MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Greetings,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of VCSA, I would like to send our best wishes to you and your family for a great holiday season and a new year 2014 full of prosperity, success and happiness.

Year 2013 has been a great year for VCSA with the new leadership team although we continued to face challenges in reduction of funding sources. The leadership team has created some very unique program in 2013 to address one of the major issues in our Vietnamese communities: Wellness! "Walk for Wellness" was first delivered in Houston, Texas with great success. We look forward to continuing this wellness program in years to come. VCSA has demonstrated its strength one more time through its volunteers' commitment and dedication. We are also blessed with a new leadership team that is very passionate, energetic and ready to bring the organization to the next level.

Despite the difficult economic climate in Houston, VCSA is still fortunate to be blessed with the support of many local corporations and institutions who believe in our mission. We are grateful for the wonderful new partnership with GILEAD, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Hope Clinic, Chinese Community Center and other businesses through our wellness program. We are also thankful for the continual support of other partnering corporations such as Shell Oil Corporation, Texas Instruments, CenterPoint Energy, WinMagic, Rock Revival, Thoi Bao Inc., Kim Son restaurant and several local media partners such as Saigon Radio Houston 900AM, Saigon Network Television, VAN TV, VietFace TV and Thoi Bao Media. We also appreciate the continual partnership with the Houston Museum of Natural Science and the Children's Museum of Houston to organize the two most popular annual programs: the Tobacco and Obesity Prevention Youth Summit and the Mid-Autumn Children's Festival.

This year also marked the 10th anniversary of the Vera Tran Scholarship Foundation program which offers scholarships every year through the Youth Excellence Luncheon and a contest for leadership and community service through Len Duong camp. This program helped to build leaders for our community and on its 10th anniversary we celebrate the success of the program with Vera's family and friends in a very special program to remember one of our youngest and yet most talented members: Tran Pham Nguyen Anh Vera. We also continue to build relationship with New Moon Foundation and GRACE Education Fund to support GRACE promotion in our leadership development Len Duong camp program. What was special this year was the establishment of Len Duong Circle 100 including camp Len Duong alumni who believe in the mission of the camp and lending a hand to raise funds for the camp. With 25 first Len Duong circle 100 "agents", the team raised more than \$5,000 for camp Len Duong 2013. It truly demonstrated the strength and the impacts of the program.

Once again, our best wishes to you and your family for a great Holiday season and we look forward to working with all of you, sponsors, volunteers, members and partners in year 2013 -- Year of the Horse.

Yours sincerely,

Anhlan Nguyen (Board Chair)





#### **WOMEN NETWORKING EVENTS** APR 2013

This year, VCSA continued the Women Networking Event even though we no longer had the sponsorship resource, the group still decided to meet in April .

#### **EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP** FEB 2013



#### **VIETNAMESE CULTURE WORKSHOP** FEB 2013



#### **RESUME WORKSHOP** FEB 2013



#### PARENT AND STUDENT WORKSHOP IAN 2013



#### **COLORECTAL CANCER PREVENTION WORKSHOP** JAN 2013



#### **WALK FOR WELLNESS MAY 2013**





#### TOBACCO AND OBESITY PREVENTION SUMMIT

This year another successful Tobacco and Obesity Prevention Summit was delivered by a team of over 100 volunteers with the participation of 120 Asian youth from the age of 6 – 16. This was the 10th annual event and was held at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. A big congratulation to the co-chairs: Jacqueline Nguyen and Mai Quyen Le. The event was also supported by the summer intern Vinh Ngo.





#### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT BONFIRE PASSION (LDBP)

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selopment

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD 2013-2014**

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Anne Le (Calgary, AB, Canada) Jaclyn Nguyen (Houston, Texas, USA) Kim Cuc Ngo (Roxbury, MA, USA) Huong Vo (Kitchener, ON, Canada) Michelle Tram Ngoc Thi Tran (Surrey, BC, Canada)

#### LDBP G.R.A.C.E. CONTEST WINNERS

First Prize - David Pham (Houston, Texas) Second Prize - Minh Le (Houston, Texas)



#### NHIỆT HUYẾT TUỔI XUÂN FUNDRAISING DINNER



#### LBDP AT LD CAMP 2013



#### LDBP G.R.A.C.E. WORKSHOP & SOCIAL **MEDIA CONTEST**

Sponsored by New Moon Foundation and Dr. Truong Nong from ICEVN, in June 2013 LDBP was proud to host G.R.A.C.E. Workshop & Social Media Contest to promote these important values: Gratitude, Respect, Accountability, Courage, and Engagement.



# LDBP SAFE DRIVING CAMPAIGN "DON'T TEXT AND DRIVE"

After completing a successful year campaign, the Vietnamese Culture and Science Association received additional funding courtesy of State Farm to continue to advocate to young adults and the local community about safe driving habits. LDBP in collaboration with VCSA conducted several events to help promote this campaign.



#### LDBP AT VCSA WALK FOR WELLNESS 5K



#### LDBP ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION FESTIVAL



#### LDBP HALLOWEEN SOCIAL EVENT



#### **OTHER EVENTS**



# YOUTH EXCELLENCE RECOGNITION LUNCHEON 2013 AUG 2013

The 17th Annual Youth Excellence Recognition Luncheon was held on August 4th, 2013 at Kim Son Restaurant with a packed audience of 570. The event honored 23 Vietnamese American who graduated as Valedictorian or Salutatorian of their respective high school for the class of 2013. The event was chaired by past honoree Thuan Vu and VCSA volunteer Tina Au along with a very strong team of approximately 24 past honorees and members. The keynote speaker this year is Dr. Quyen D. Chu, a Charles Knight Endowed Professor of Surgery, Lousiana State University Health Sciences Center Feist-Weiller Cancer Center. Great kudos to Tina Au and Thuan Vu for an outstanding program and extremely well received by the communities. Our keynote speaker was so impressed with the program that he decided to donate to the program after it was finished. Our sincere thanks to Dr. Quyen Chu from Louisiana.



#### VERA TRAN SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARD PROGRAM

10TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION



On April 26, VCSA celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Vera Tran Scholarships program with Vera's family and friends. The scholarships have helped to create wonderful impacts in the local Vietnamese communities.















## VCSA DFW CHAPTER

#### **BOARD OF EXECUTIVES**

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VP EXTERNAL Nghi Phan MD (Bác Sĩ Phan Bảo Nghi)
VP INTERNAL Ms. Diem Hong Vuong (Cô Vương Hồng Diễm)
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SECRETARY Yvonne Luong (Cô Lương Ý-Vân)
ADVISOR Mr. Anh Tran (Ông Trần Anh)

#### **CHRISTMAS GALA** DEC 2013

Coordinated by our two new members Julie Ngo and Diem Nguyen, the event hosted over 80 people with members, friends, and sponsors. We presented an overview of our organization throughout the year. There are also performances like, skits, magic show, singing, games, and dancing afterwards.

#### **TÉT** FEB 2013

Our meetings are often spent at a volunteered member's home. We had Thả Thơ, Bầu Cua Cá Cọp game, and practice making balloon animals to market for Dragons Summit at Asia Times Square in Arlington, TX.

#### **DRAGONS SUMMIT** JUN 2013

This was the second Dragons Summit coordinated by Dragons Summit Master NamPhuong Pham, who attended the event last year, and has joined membership of VCSA-DFW. This is a oneday event of culture learning through team building activities for the Vietnamese Youth. The theme this year was Banh Day Banh Chưng – Uống Nước Nhớ Nguốn. We had 50 Dragons divided up in 5 teams with team names: Bánh Dày, Bánh Chưng, Bánh Tét, Bành Trôi, Bánh Tổ. We also gave out 3 scholarships of \$300 each to selected recipients who submitted their resumes outlining their community involvement and addressing the question of why is there lack of involvement of the Vietnamese youth within the Vietnamese Community. Scholarship was award at the opening ceremony, followed by: icebreaker activities, relay games, cooking competition, theme story skit, big station games, and team project presentation on the credentials that make up an ideal society/nation. Our vision is to motivate Vietnamese youth to be more engaging with the community, by connecting them to Len Duong Camp and expand our Dragons Summit to other VCSA chapters.





# ARLINGTON LIBRARY CULTURAL DAY OCT 2013

Volunteer making balloon animals and face painting for the Arlington Library.

#### **SALVATION ARMY** NOV 2013

Members taking their afternoon off to volunteer feeding the homeless at the Salvation Army during the Thanksgivings season.

# VCSA MINNESOTA CHAPTER

The very first Vietnamese Heritage Summit was held on August 24, 2013 from 9:00am to 5:00pm at Augsburg Park, Richfield, Minnesota and exceeded the organizers' expectation. This meaningful program was initiated by Steven Hung Vo, a recipient of Mona Foundation Scholarship who applied the skills he learned from Len Duong camp 2013 and put them into practice to serve the local communities.

The main purposes of the program include:

- 1. Provide an opportunity for the young counselors to develop their leadership skills and develop their cultural knowledge to teach the younger kids.
- 2. Help the younger kids to learn the spirit of team work and also learning about their Vietnamese heritage through language and culture.

The program attracted approximately 60 participants from age 8 to 16 and was very well perceive by the community. A great congratulation to the main organizer, Len Duong camp 2013 alumni, Steven Hung Vo.



# MEALS FOR HOMELESS MAR 2013 A few VCSA-MN members and past Len Duong Campers went volunteering at Meals on Wheels in Roseville, Minnesota. We packed meals for about 3 hours. These meals will later be delivered to the elderly and mobility challenged individuals.



## VCSA AUSTIN CHAPTER



Members gathering to congratulate Tuong Vu and Ngoc Dieu for the upcoming baby girl:

Nguyen, Vu Dieu Khue Myla. The baby arrived in May and become the newest addition to the VCSA Austin family.



# VCSA TORONTO CHAPTER

#### **BOARD OF EXECUTIVES**

PRESIDENT Pham, Mai Quyen VICE-PRESIDENT Nguyen, Paul GENERAL SECRETARY Vu, Trong Bao TREASURER Le, Mai Phuong Katherine

#### **CHRISTMAS PARTY**



WHEEL OF KNOWLEDGE GAME AT HOI CHO TET



#### LEN DUONG ORIENTATION, FUNDRAISER & REUNION



**HALLOWEEN GAME NIGHT** OCT 2013



FLOOD VICTIMS FUNDRAISING DINNER



## VCSA SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

#### **BOARD OF EXECUTIVES**

PRESIDENT Michael Hoang
VICE-PRESIDENT Leah Li
TREASURER Lien Hoa Vu
GENERAL SECRETARY Duong Nguyen
ADVISOR Dr. Binh Nhung Tran



The Tenth Asian Heritage Awards celebration on September 14, 2013 at Marriott Marquis and Marina in San Diego was a wonderful event. For 10 years, the AHS founders Rosalynn Carmen and Leonard Novarro have promoted Asian heritage through publication ASIA and the Asian Heritage Awards. On September 14, 2013 VCSA Board Chair Anhlan Phuc Nguyen received the Award for Science and Technology. Ms. Anhlan Nguyen currently serves as the Information Technology Portfolio Manager at University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas. She's also the Chairwoman of the Vietnamese Culture and Science Association and currently appointed by President Obama to serve on the Board of Directors of Vietnam Education Foundation.



# VCSA SAN DIEGO CHAPTER



VCSA San Diego Chapter has year-round humanitarian projects in rural areas in Vietnam. Rock Revival corporation has been instrumental in helping the chapter to deliver several significant projects in Vietnam such as infrastructure bridges, houses building for poor families, clean water wells, shoes for children and several other relief efforts throughout the year.































There is only one winner for the **BE THE CHANGE** 

**SCHOLARSHIP**: Vinh Ngo from Houston, Texas. Vinh won the scholarship for a special project to produce a booklet to teach children the GRACE values (Gratitude, Respect, Accountability, Courage, and Engagement) through daily activities. Congratulations to Vinh Ngo for this outstanding recognition.





#### MONA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

are first offered for camp Len Duong participants this year (2013) and sponsored by Mona Foundation and Ms. Duy-Loan Le. The winners of the Mona Foundation scholarships this year are Jaclyn Nguyen and Steven Hung Vo.

Jaclyn Nguyen is currently a senior student at University of Texas in Austin and her community service project will be developing a cultural mural for Vietnamese culture in the city of Houston. This special project will help to promote the Vietnamese heritage in the city of such a high population of Vietnamese-Americans.

Steven Hung Vo is currently a college student in Bloomington, Minnesota. After attending camp Len Duong 2013, he was so inspired to create some impacts to the local youths. His project "Vietnamese Heritage Summit" served 80 youth (age from 8 – 16) for an one-day program promoting leadership development and cultural awareness.



# WALKATHON FOR HAIYAN TYPHOON VICTIMS RELIEF

VCSA has collaborated with several community organizations in the Vietnamese communities in Houston and Vicinity to organize successfully a walkathon on December 1, 2013 to raise funds for American Red Cross International Relief program to help the victims of the Haiyan typhoon. The walk has raised more than \$300,000 for this Relief fund. Congratulations to the walk team led by Ms. Kim Nguyen, former president of VNCH.



## VCSA HOUSTON CHAPTER



VCSA HOUSTON EXECUTIVE BOARD AND VCSA BOARD MEMBERS

VCSA Houston chapter has made an impact with the local community through the service of it's many volunteers. Every year our volunteers file income tax returns free of charge to low-income households. Our volunteers participate in several cultural events and hold performances at local community centers and museums. We partner with local organizations such as the Children's Museum of Houston and Asia Society to provide volunteers at community events. Most recently, our volunteers worked alongside other local organizations in organizing and administering a local Walkathon to raise funds for Typhoon Haiyan victims. The volunteers of VCSA Houston chapter continue to help promote a culture of volunteerism within the community.

We also have great volunteers through the youth chapter Leadership Development Bonfire Passion team. We are so much grateful for the support of several corporate volunteers matching program such as Exxonmobil, Chevron, BP America program, and CenterPoint Energy. State Farm Insurance is also a great partner corporation in our Teen Safety Driving program.

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

Please join us to congratulate the following members who have served as Project Coordinators for VCSA projects in the year of 2013 and delivered them all successfully:



#### LEN DUONG CAMP 2013

Mai Quyen Pham (CAMP MASTER) Quynh Anh Nguyen (ASSISTANT TO CAMP MASTER)

# TOBACCO & OBESITY PREVENTION YOUTH SUMMIT Jacqueline Nguyen Mai Quyen Le

VCSA 17TH ANNUAL YOUTH EXCELLENCE RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

Tina Au Thuan Vu

MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL Bao Tran Ma

Van Anh Pham

WALK FOR WELLNESS Chinh Duong Vince Trang

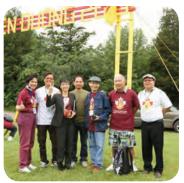
**LDBP COFFEE NIGHT**Baotran Huynh
I DBP

VCSA is blessed with our summer intern: Vinh Ngo, who was instrumental to help implementing the summer projects. Besides, we also have the following student interns: , Hong-An Nguyen, Mai Quyen Le and Vinh Ngo.



# SPONSORS ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

VCSA is so blessed to receive support and sponsorship from several corporations and businesses throughout the year of 2013. We would like to acknowledge the continual support of Shell Oil Company (Mr. Michael Tran), Win Magic (Mr. & Mrs. Chau Thi Nguyen Huu), Thoi Bao Inc. (Mr. Dat Nguyen), Texas Instruments (Ms. Duy Loan Le), GRACE Education Fund (Ms. Thuy Fujimoto), CenterPoint Energy (Ms. Marylyn Kalina Mathews), GILEAD (Ms. Hong Bui), Catholic University of America (Dr. Charles Cuong Nguyen), Mr. & Mrs. Tri La, Kim Son restaurant and new sponsors this year such as Alief ISD, Black Belt Leadership (Master Phil Nguyen), Dr. Quyen Chu (our keynote speaker of the Youth Excellence Luncheon), Dr. Hai Ho (keynote speaker for the youth luncheon in 2012) Danny Nguyen Couture, Catherine Tran Charity Fund, MD Anderson Cancer Center and Hope Clinic. We also would like to acknowledge the volunteers from ExxonMobil, Chevron, BP, and ElPaso Energy. VCSA is blessed to have volunteers and sponsors like you.



































#### **VCSA HOUSTON**

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VISIT US AT: WWW.VCSA.ORG **LEADERSHIP • EDUCATION • CULTURE EXCELLENCE • VOLUNTEERISM** 

The Vietnamese Culture and Science Association is a non-profit organization founded in 1990. It has over 600 members; a majority of which is young Vietnamese American/Canadian professionals.

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Vietnamese Culture & Science Association's (VCSA) promotes excellence in education, leadership and skills development through culture and science. Our organization encourages multi-generational and cross cultural collaborations. We foster civic participation in the mainstream and Vietnamese America.

















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ROSEWOOD MEDSPA

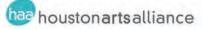




# EXONMOBIL Golfsmith

CAO LAW FIRM BELLAIRE MEDICAL CENTER

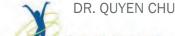
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VERA TRAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND