



South Viet Nam – United States Deaf Education Teacher Training Program

Abstract

We are proposing an intensive teacher training program for South Vietnamese teachers of deaf and hard-of-hearing infants and children. US-based experts in auditory-verbal and sign-based education, audiology, and speech-language pathology will be invited to attend a one-month workshop and instruct and mentor these teachers about effective methods for helping children with hearing loss develop the language and communication skills they need to become successful members of society. The workshop will also facilitate shared learning exchange and networking opportunities among South Vietnamese teachers of deaf and hard-of-hearing children. Eventually the workshop could evolve into a more comprehensive deaf education degree program.

Most teachers of the deaf and hard-of-hearing in Viet Nam do not have university degrees, and are not adequately trained to educate young children with hearing loss. Our proposed program will provide an essential resource to these teachers, preparing them to effectively help deaf and hard-of-hearing children develop fundamental listening and speech skills during the critical period of language development that occurs in the first 6 years of life. Teachers will also receive training about how to address the educational needs of older deaf and hard-of-hearing children who rely on sign language to communicate.

We are now soliciting financial support for the development and implementation of this teacher training program. With such funding support, we anticipate that the first workshop will be held at Thuan An Center for the Hearing Impaired in Binh Duong province, South Vietnam in Summer, 2010.

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