



PACIFIC LINKS
FOUNDATION
Vòng Tay Thái Bình

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PALS AWARDS 400 SCHOLARSHIPS TO PREVENT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Pacific Links Foundation grants scholarships to help girls stay in school and safe from traffickers

On August 1, 2011, the Pacific Links Foundation (PALS) will host its seventh annual ceremony to award ADAPT Academic Scholarships for 380 girls in grades 8 – 12, with the goal of preventing trafficking through educational opportunities.

This year’s scholarship ceremony will take place in Long Xuyen City, An Giang Province, gathering 380 recipients, including 70 new recipients for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Education for young women and girls is one of the most effective tools to fight human trafficking. Higher levels of education raise their levels of awareness and increase their economic prospects, thus reducing their susceptibility to trafficking.

The ADAPT Academic Scholarships program provides long-term educational opportunities and community-based support to the most vulnerable girls in An Giang, Dong Thap, and Kien Giang provinces, along the Vietnam-Cambodia border.

Scholarship recipients come from poor and remote districts and face the highest -risk of dropping out of school due to poverty. The program provides recipients academic, personal and community support. This targeted and holistic approach to education distinguishes ADAPT Academic Scholarships and establishes the program as one of the best methods to prevent human trafficking in Vietnam.

Prior to the Scholarship Ceremony, PALS will organize a two-day summer camp providing an opportunity for scholarship recipients from three provinces to participate in fun and educational activities from July 30-31 in Long Xuyen. In addition to its Academic Scholarships program, PALS also offers reintegration services to female trafficking survivors. PALS operates two shelters, at the northern and southern borders, which provide returnees with safe housing, access to medical care and emotional support, and, educational and vocational training opportunities.

Pacific Links Foundation (“Vòng Tay Thái Bình”) is a 501(c)(3) public charity whose mission is to support the sustainable development of Vietnamese communities and the enrichment of their cultural heritage. Launched in 2005, ADAPT is a counter-trafficking project of Pacific Links Foundation, working in remote border regions of Vietnam, which has enabled nearly 1,800 impoverished young girls and women to pursue an education, gain a trade, and obtain jobs. Since 2005, PALS has provided more than 800 long-term scholarships with the support from our partners and donors including MAST Industries, East Meets West Foundation, International Children Assistance Network and New Moon Foundation.

If you would like more information, please contact Lillian Forsyth, Communications Officer at lforsyth@pacificlinks.org.