

Greetings from the Laurie Schoendorfer Endowment for Education. We hope you and your family are well and are excited about this coming holiday season. We are thankful that many aspects our virus-related isolated lives are in the past. The evolution to virtual-classroom education made it easier for our wheelchair-bound scholars to gain education and training.

We are proud of our first annual event this past September. It was a quasi-virtual event. We had a small audience in Orange County and a virtual audience all around the world. The best news is you may watch our presentation at your convenience when you click on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6MUrWQPP7I>

The pandemic continues to slow our ability to find new applicants. In our last newsletter I mentioned that we added Nicaragua as a partner country. They recommended one scholar, Justo who is learning how to repair cellphones. We currently have 3 graduates and 10 scholars (2 in Peru, 7 in Vietnam and 1 in Nicaragua).

In this newsletter we will focus on two of our graduates (Tiep and Tham from Vietnam) and one of our scholars (Lindsey from Peru):

**-Don Schoendorfer**

LSEE Co-founder & Board Member



Back in our Spring 2019 newsletter we introduced you to Le Phuoc Tiep. He lives in Hue City, Vietnam. In February 2019, Tiep applied for a scholarship for \$591 to study Graphic Arts at a local university. It was an intensive three-month course. He is the first student to attend this university in a wheelchair. The university has no elevators and many stairs. He was aided by fellow students and faculty to ensure he has equal access to the classrooms. Within months after graduation, he learned how to sign-up for short-term contract graphic design projects over the internet.

This was life-changing as Tiep could work at home. His main job is to create photo and graphic contact for clients' websites. Tiep shared with us that he earns \$310 each month. He pays the daily expenses for water and electricity for his family, which includes his parents and siblings. Additionally, he just repaired his room, bought a new bed, a new mattress and a special desk allowing him to work comfortably from bed. As his graphic projects grew in complexity, he needed to buy a more powerful laptop. He bought this new laptop himself. By breaking ground with his wheelchair, Tiep is also teaching a valuable lesson to his university community and setting a stellar example of how being disabled does not stop one from furthering themselves through higher education.

We want to give you an update on our student baker in Peru – Lesley. She will soon graduate from her seven-month baking class. We granted her a \$2,352 scholarship offered at a university in her neighborhood so she could become a pastry and dessert baker.

Here is an update Lesley sent to us: *"Now I am in week 10 of the 11 week program. It isn't just to follow a recipe. It is all about technique. I have learned to make cakes, pies, tarts, cookies, snacks, and artisanal and industrial breads. I have also taken a short theoretical course in business management. I know this is necessary for me when I open my pastry shop. I already started selling my desserts from home and also through my dessert page on instagram. Next month my final exams begin. For this last phase of my course I will have face-to-face practices training with pastry chefs from my school. Please pray for my success."*



**Tham** lives in Vietnam. We gave her a \$1,100 scholarship for a one month accelerated program for designing and producing formal clothing. Tham now has a staff of three assistant tailors and three apprentices that she mentors. Tham is making \$700 per month now. Her dream is to build up her own fashion brand and open an internet store. She uses her students as models in videos to advertise her shop of her Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/xuongrongcodoc>

<https://fb.watch/8aRqi8O69R/>

**We are very proud of our scholars and the variety of their careers!**

**Peru:** Juan Jose – Mechanical Engineer, Lesley – Baker, Nathaly – Bicycle seller and businessperson (Graduated).

**Nicaragua:** Justo – Cell phone repair.

**Vietnam:** Tiep – Computer graphics (Graduated), Tham – Fashion designer and producer (Graduated), Ngoc Anh – English interpreter, Khoan Truong – Dog trainer, Nguyen Le Thi Tam – Computer graphics (using toes), Le Van Cu – Appliance repair person, Nguyen Thi Kim Dao – Multimedia App development, Linh – Journalism, Nguyen Van Tam – Cosmetology

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P.O. Box 7849

Newport Beach, CA 92658-7849