

## **A CLOUD NEVER DIES - 2024 - 41 Clean Water Wells Given to the People in the Mountains**

In 1989, two young people from Toronto visited Plum Village and spent a few days with Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh (Thay). Thay taught them basic mindfulness practices and encouraged them to return to Toronto, remember Thay's teachings, and build a community of mindfulness, sharing the compassion and vows of Sister Chan Khong to help the suffering. Thay's teachings are still practiced and carried out by his students in this beloved city, today and in the future.

### **Eyes of Compassion Relief Org. and the People in the Mountains**

We have everything, but they have nothing. However, what they have is truly amazing, dear. They have Peace of Mind, something us city folk struggle to find.

They say, "One box of instant noodles is eaten up quickly, but a metal kettle lasts for years." The people here don't have the opportunity to eat bread because they lack flour and ovens. It's heartbreaking, dear.

### **Gifting Kettles for Boiling Water**

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### **Gifting Candies & Bread**

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Dear Sponsors of Eyes of Compassion Relief Org. (EOCRO),

**In 2024, EOCRO completed 41 systems.**

**The cost of each system is 33,500,000 VND (USD 1400.00, CAD 1900.00).**

**The total fund raised for building wells in 2024 is:**

**USD 31,791.00 and CAD 22,954.00, totaling VND 1,282,000,000.00.**

### **Full Donation List for the Year**

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**We sincerely appreciate any support to continue digging wells for the people in need.**

### **A Volunteer's Heartfelt Message**

For several decades now, due to the climate crisis, the hot seasons are prolonged, leading to small streams drying up, and there is no more water. The people here have to travel a long way, sometimes up to 5-6 kilometers, just to get one bucket of water. Many streams are at risk of drying up, and water shortages are severe. Here is the situation during the summer when streams dry up:

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During the rainy season, the water becomes muddy. Some streams are now used for grazing cattle and goats, making the water much less clean than it used to be.

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These villages are far from the streams, so getting water pipes to bring water to the villages is difficult. Sometimes the pipes break, and it's a struggle to reconnect them. It's exhausting and costly, and the people talk about it with sadness. The clean water from the streams is collected by the locals for cooking, even though it is 5-6 kilometers from their homes.

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## **The Clean Water Program Is Very Necessary & Meaningful**

We are grateful to the sponsors who have gifted clean water wells to the people here. There are still many villages asking for wells, but I hesitate to conduct site surveys because I'm afraid we don't have enough funds to build them, and I don't want to give people false hope. I feel uneasy about that.

When we inaugurated the wells, the people eagerly awaited from early morning, everyone showing their joy. The elders, some of whom are over 100 years old and hard of hearing, were still excited to listen and chat with us. Seeing their beaming faces and hearing their emotional words, I couldn't help but feel overwhelmed with happiness. **They said, "Living to this age, to see clean water come to our village, my children and grandchildren will no longer need to trek through forests or swim across streams to fetch water. This is such a blessing!"**

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The people, though not able to express much in words, conveyed their deep gratitude. The happiness of the people was a joy that I can't fully describe with words.

Besides the wells, we also gifted aluminum kettles for boiling water, cups for collecting water, and candies for the elderly and children. **The women said, "This kettle is precious, we can use it for boiling water during the rainy season, it's so helpful."**

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During the inauguration, a woman came to us after collecting cassava, still hungry and needing food. She asked for six loaves of bread to feed six people working on the cassava field. She told us the price of cassava had dropped drastically from 1,800 VND ( .10 cents ) per kilogram to only 800 VND ( 0.045 cent ), and the workers could barely earn enough to pay for their labor.

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She said, "With the price so low, we can't even pay workers, but if we don't harvest the cassava, it will rot. It's heartbreaking, dear.

Candies and bread are still a luxury here for children and elders. There are no stores in these remote areas, so the children and villagers can't even dream of buying a loaf of bread. They don't have flour, and there are no ovens. Bread is a precious gift here.

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The villagers make a living by harvesting tree bark, peeling it, and drying it to sell for around 3,000 to 4,000 VND (17-20 cents) per kilogram.

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Wishing all sponsors good health, peace, and happiness.

With deep gratitude,

Ngoc Nu, Daughter of the Village

## **Pictures**

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## **Details**

### **Inaugurating the Clean Water Wells**

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## **Videos:**

1. **Finding a Water Source and the Challenges**  
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2. **Drilling a Well Near a Fire in Cold Weather**  
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3. **Children Waiting for Water**  
[Watch video](#)
4. **Unable to Find a Water Source, Must Change Locations**  
[Watch video](#)
5. **Found a Water Source, But the Water is Muddy and Unusable**  
[Watch video](#)
6. **Drilling Deep for a Strong and Clean Water Source**  
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