

Lotus club

Lotus club in Phapvan pagoda was established on July 18th 2003 (June 19th lunar month), the day that Avalokitesatva Bodhisatva descended to the earth, the buddhistic saint, who is a merciful symbol, saves everybody from misfortune. In the beginning, this club was named **For Bright Future**. In February 2004, to attract more and more people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), it separated into two small groups and became independent: one in Long Bien dist, one in Phap Van Pagoda. The Lotus Club was formed on March 9th 2004.

What does it mean?

The lotus is a symbol that is imbued with Vietnam tradition and Buddhism. It represents purity, with a wish for everybody join it, as their soul will be clean and they will have a bright future. The lotus represents rise; it rises up under the dirty mud and when it leaves the water surface, its fragrance is very perfumed. It also represents the rising of PLWHA from a dirty environment and bad situations to discover their beliefs in themselves and life, to become good people for their family and society.

FOUNDER MEMBER

The merciful Master Thich Thanh Huan is a monk. He relieves people who have not been cared for by the community. Born into a Buddhist family, he has proven to be a full merciful person starting from when he was child. When the first Vietnamese contracted HIV/AIDS, Master Thich Thanh Huan wanted to find out and learn all he could about HIV/AIDS from around the world. He has studied in Taiwan and other countries, and he has also studied the way that people care for PLWHA. Once, he visited Thailand, a traditional buddhistic nation, and he found a good method and management program, and he thinks it will be expanded here in Vietnam. In Thailand, monks care for PLWHAs directly, and they teach them about Buddhism to provide belief in their lives and a way to cope with their illness. They provide a peaceful society, where everybody cares for each other.

THE MAIN TARGET

Lotus club is a compassionate environment, where everybody loves and understands each other together.

Lotus is a great place for PLWHAs, providing no discrimination. They will be sympathized by the community.

We help heroin addicts wean themselves off heroin and come back to a clean life.

We encourage people to want to live a good life and have great achievements.

We take in orphans, elderly and people from all areas.

We provide jobs for PLWHA.

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