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JOURNEY OF KINDNESS!

"The Compassionate Journey of Kim Dung and the Sara Association for Difficult Circumstances in Vietnam." The article recounts the visits of Kim Dung and the charitable efforts of the Sara Association, sharing touching stories from their trips as well as their efforts to assist the poor, disabled, and orphaned.

Dear Benefactors, For 32 years, Kim Dung has been blessed with the opportunity to return to Vietnam to visit the less fortunate. To date, Kim Dung has made 45 trips back, with some years including as many as two visits. In 2025, Kim Dung has to care for her ailing sister and therefore cannot return to Vietnam.

Over the years, the Association has sent money with the help and collaboration of priests and nuns, enabling the charitable work of the Sara Association to develop systematically. Thus, the absence of the Association in the upcoming visits will not affect its programs in Vietnam. This is because the work of the Association has been well carried out by the priests and nuns, who have personally delivered gifts to leprosy patients, the disabled, orphans, and lonely, impoverished elderly individuals.

Moreover, throughout the years, the Association has established 16 SARA medical clinics to assist impoverished patients who cannot afford hospital care. Two of these clinics were equipped with ultrasound machines purchased by the Association to support medical examinations. These two clinics are operated by nuns and do not carry the Sara Association's name but instead bear the name of the nuns' congregation,

aiming to provide medical care to the poor and to a thousand suffering leprosy patients. Kim Dung fondly remembers the visit to disabled individuals during August's Mid-Autumn Festival. After distributing rice and mooncakes, the car drove into the church area. Kim Dung saw a large crowd gathered, the noise of chatting and laughter filling the air. Parents were leading their disabled children into the yard. Despite their illnesses, the children were joyful because they knew they would receive mooncakes, as Mid-Autumn Festival is their special celebration. At that moment, Kim Dung felt uplifted witnessing the bustling and cheerful scene filled with laughter from disabled children. After the gifts were distributed, some parents approached Kim Dung to express their gratitude to the benefactors abroad.

When handing out the gifts, Kim Dung mentioned that these were contributions from overseas benefactors, and that Kim Dung, representing the Sara Association, was delivering them personally. Kim Dung asked everyone to pray for the benefactors. Later, a woman confided her struggles in caring for her child over many decades. She cried, and Kim Dung could not hold back her tears of sympathy. Suddenly, a group of people gathered around Kim Dung and burst into tears, as if their pain was overflowing—each deeply distressed by their own circumstances.

A moment later, the Sister guided Kim Dung to several families with children suffering from paralysis. Among them, there was a very young family with a child who had been paralyzed since birth, lying on the bed with dull eyes, as if lifeless. At that moment, the Sister called out to the child, and suddenly the child opened their eyes as the Sister held a mooncake in front of them. It

was truly miraculous, the child's eyes widened, their face lit up with joy, and they immediately asked their mother to help them sit up, their eyes fixated on the mooncake in the Sister's hand. At that moment, the Sister lifted the curtain, and the child could no longer see the cake. The child stretched and struggled, trying to find where the Sister had placed the cake. Watching this, Kim Dung felt a deep sense of sorrow and compassion. Kim Dung also understood the poverty of the family, where sweets and cakes were a rare treat. When Kim Dung gave rice to the young mother, she held the bag of rice tightly, her eyes brimming with emotion as if she were about to cry. In contrast, the Sister gave a cake to the child, who smiled and hugged

it tightly to their chest as if it were a precious treasure. When they were leaving, the Sister said goodbye to the child and jokingly asked to share the cake with them, but the child shook their head. Witnessing this, Kim Dung felt great compassion for the child and deep sorrow for impoverished, disabled children.

Kim Dung deeply hopes that in the autumn of 2025, many children will find a bit of happiness. She asks everyone to lend a hand and show kindness to the children on their special day so that they may experience a little joy.

Dear benefactors, please kindly send your compassion to P.O Box 18185.

SERVING WITH FAITH AND TRUST

In the message for the first World Day of the Poor in 2017, His Holiness the Pope wrote: "How praiseworthy are those hands stretched out to the poor to assist them, for these hands bring hope. How praiseworthy are the hands that overcome any cultural, religious, or national barriers to pour the oil of consolation upon humanity's wounds. How praiseworthy are the hands that open up without expecting anything in return, without saying 'if,' or 'but,' or 'maybe'; these hands bring God's blessings to our brothers and sisters."

The ongoing reflection of the Church regarding the silent and ever-deepening mission to serve the poor resonates strongly within the heart of the Superior of the Saint Anthony Association. Under the influence of the Holy Spirit, in 2017, he gathered and founded an association of male consecrated religious, serving in the model of Saint Anthony of Padua, known for performing miracles. The spirituality of **"humble service with faith and trust"** and the mission of **preaching and healing are at its core**.

In 2009, together with the Sara Charity Association, the congregation established the Antôn–Sara general clinic system, which combines Eastern and Western medicine to provide healthcare for the poor, disabled, and lonely, regardless of religion. As of 2025, there are 12 clinics across the provinces of Nghệ An and Hà Tĩnh. Recognizing the large number of impoverished individuals, especially those with mental illnesses, orphans, homeless individuals, and those with cerebral palsy who lacked care, and inspired by the zeal to serve the image of Christ through the less



fortunate, the Superior began building the first Antôn Shelter at the parish of Côn Mộc, Nghi Văn Commune, Nghi Lộc District, Nghệ An Province in early 2021. The shelter welcomed nearly 40 initial patients. Currently, the congregation has established two additional shelters in Yên Thành District and Hưng Nguyên District of Nghệ An Province, bringing the total number of residents in the three shelters to over 150 individuals.

That being said, stepping into reality is no easy task. First to mention are the external factors involved in caring for these patients. This is a group of patients with specific physical, physiological, and psychological characteristics, requiring caregivers to have skills and the ability to adapt. Sometimes, when a patient has an episode, they lose normal awareness and behavior, or there are times when their condition worsens

and they become aggressive. This demands significant effort and experience from the caregivers to handle. There are moments when the shelter lacks daily food supplies to prepare meals for the patients. Nevertheless, the brothers always place their trust and surrender in God and Saint Anthony, running from one market to another, from place to place, asking for vegetables, fish, bottles of fish sauce, or shallots to cook meals for the patients. Despite these many difficulties, the joys are countless. In the spirit of service, following the example of Saint Anthony, the brothers strive to overcome hardships and bring love and care to the patients. They only hope that their small, quiet acts of service can help alleviate the suffering endured by the impoverished and ill. As the song says: "Send me to every corner of the land, to bring food to the poor, and water to the thirsty. Send me to every home, to give medicine to the sick, and blankets to those shivering in the cold." May God send abundant blessings upon us and open the hearts of benefactors to show kindness to the shelter so that we may better serve and care for the patients. May God bless and grant everyone more grace, always

Huệ Đồng

DIOCESE OF VINH
CONGREGATION OF SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA

OPEN LETTER

Subject: Request for continued support for 12 Clinics and 3 Disability Centers of the Congregation of Saint Anthony of Padua.

Dear Sara Association and Benefactors, I am Father Antôn Maria Hoàng Đức Luyện, Founder and Superior of the Congregation of Saint Anthony of Padua in the Diocese of Vinh. I extend my wishes of good health and peace in Christ to the Sara Association and all benefactors.

Dear Association, the Congregation of Saint Anthony has the mission to proclaim the Gospel and care for, nurture, and support the disabled, orphans, lonely individuals, and the elderly. Thanks to the grace of God and the support of benefactors, the Congregation currently operates 12 clinics providing healthcare for the poor without discrimination between religious beliefs and manages 3 centers that care for over 150 patients with mental illness, disabilities, cerebral palsy, and more.

However, due to the difficult economic times, these clinics and disability centers struggle with shortages and hardships. There are few patrons and charities to offer assistance, but fortunately, the Sara Association has provided consistent support over the years, enabling the maintenance and operation of these facilities.

Now, we respectfully request the Sara Association and benefactors to continue supporting the 12 clinics

No.	Name of Clinic	Address
1	Antôn-Sara Clinic – Cồn Mộc	Cồn Mộc Parish, Bảo Nham Deanery – Hamlet 22, Nghi Văn Commune, Nghi Lộc District, Nghệ An Province
2	Antôn-Sara Clinic – Hậu Thành	Hậu Thành Parish, Quy Hậu Deanery – Tân Trung Hamlet, Tây Thành Commune, Yên Thành District, Nghệ An Province
3	Antôn-Sara Clinic – Thượng Thôn	Thượng Thôn Independent Subparish, Xã Đoài Deanery – Hamlet 2, Hưng Yên Bắc Commune, Hưng Nguyên District, Nghệ An Province
4	Antôn-Sara Clinic – Xuân Sơn	Xuân Sơn Independent Subparish, Bội Đà Deanery – Hòa Sơn Commune, Đô Lương District, Nghệ An Province
5	Antôn-Sara Clinic – Cẩm Sơn	Cẩm Sơn Parish, Bảo Nham Deanery – Đại Sơn Commune, Đô Lương District, Nghệ An Province
6	Antôn-Sara Clinic – Phúc Trạch	Phúc Lộc Parish, Kê Dừa Deanery – Tân Thành Commune, Yên Thành District, Nghệ An Province
7	Antôn-Sara Clinic – Trại Gáo	Antôn Trại Gáo Shrine – Nghi Phương Commune, Nghi Lộc District, Nghệ An Province
8	Antôn-Sara Clinic – Đức Xuân	Đức Xuân Independent Subparish, Cửa Lò Deanery – Block 7, Nghi Tân Ward, Cửa Lò Town, Nghệ An Province
9	Antôn-Sara Clinic – Hiền Môn	Hiền Môn Parish, Vàng Mai Deanery – Quỳnh Thanh Commune, Quỳnh Lưu District, Nghệ An Province
10	Antôn-Sara Clinic – Tân Thành	Tân Thành Parish, Can Lộc Deanery – Gia Hanh Commune, Can Lộc District, Hà Tĩnh Province
11	Antôn-Sara Clinic – Đồng Xuân	Antôn Đồng Xuân Shrine – Mai Phụ Commune, Lộc Hà District, Hà Tĩnh Province
12	Antôn-Sara Clinic – Sơn La	Sơn La Parish, Bội Đà Deanery – Xuân Sơn Commune, Đô Lương District, Nghệ An Province

and 3 shelters with specific addresses listed below

No.	Name of Shelter	Patients	Address
1	Antôn Shelter – Cồn Mộc, Facility 1	85	Cồn Mộc Parish, Bảo Nham Deanery – Hamlet 22, Nghi Văn Commune, Nghi Lộc District, Nghệ An Province
2	Antôn Shelter – Hậu Thành, Facility 2	30	Hậu Thành Parish, Quy Hậu Deanery – Tân Trung Hamlet, Tây Thành Commune, Yên Thành District, Nghệ An Province
3	Antôn Shelter – Thượng Thôn, Facility 3	40	Thượng Thôn Independent Subparish, Xã Đoài Deanery – Hamlet 2, Hưng Yên Bắc Commune, Hưng Nguyên District, Nghệ An Province

These are the requests I wish to present. My congregation and I deeply appreciate the kindness and support that the Association has given to the clinics and shelters over the years. We hope that the clinics and shelters caring for the disabled, mentally ill, and others in need will continue to receive the generosity and love of esteemed benefactors and the Association. May God bless and reward the Association and esteemed benefactors abundantly.

Hội Dòng Thánh Antôn Padova.
Giáo phận Vinh
Xuân Sơn ngày 20.2.2025

Thưa Cam ơn thay Cả bên nhận tiền.

Kính gửi: Quý ân nhân, Cô Kim Dung và Đức Hội SA-RA.
Tôi là linh mục Antôn M. Hoàng Đức Luyến là Bề trên của Hội Dòng Thánh Antôn.
Xin thay mặt cho các phòng khám, các Trung tâm khuyết tật và toàn thể cộng đồng.
Kính Chúc Cả, Đức ân nhân và Đức Hội Sara được an lành ở lòng Chúa.
Chúa, Mẹ Maria và Thánh Antôn.
Vừa qua, tôi đã nhận được số tiền của Đức ân nhân, Đức Hội giúp đỡ và quý với sự nhiệt tình đặc biệt của Cô Kim Dung. Cụ thể số tiền là: 13.000 USD. (Mười Ba ngàn Đô la.)
Tôi và Các em khuyết tật, người nghèo, Cô đơn, và cũng các việc thiện tâm lý vâng của Đức ân nhân, Đức Hội và Cô Kim Dung đã giúp đỡ từ trước đến nay, và năm 2024, tôi kính tế bày tỏ lòng biết ơn. Xin nhận ơn của Đức ân nhân, Đức Hội và Cô Kim Dung vào lòng, kính gửi. Xin nhận ơn của chúng tôi, lòng biết ơn sâu nặng. Xin Chúa Thánh Thần ban ơn cho Đức ân nhân, Đức Hội và Cô Kim Dung, để những người nghèo, đau khổ, bệnh tật, Cô đơn... được và trở nên đau khổ... như Đức Vĩ.

Kính thư
Lm Antôn M. Hoàng Đức Luyến
Bề trên Cộng đoàn Antôn.

Congregation of Saint Anthony of Padua Diocese of Vinh Xuân Sơn, February 20, 2025

LETTER OF GRATITUDE IN PLACE OF RECEIPT

To: Esteemed benefactors, Ms. Kim Dung, and the Sara Association

I am Father Antôn M. Hoàng Đức Luyến, the Superior of the Congregation of Saint Anthony, writing on behalf of the clinics, disability centers, and the entire community. I extend my heartfelt blessings to Ms. Kim Dung, the esteemed benefactors, and the Sara Association, wishing all abundant grace from God, Mother Mary, and Saint Anthony.

Recently, I received financial assistance from the benefactors and the Sara Association, kindly delivered with special dedication by Ms. Kim Dung. The amount was **\$13,000 USD (thirteen thousand dollars)**. Myself, along with the disabled, the poor, and the lonely, deeply appreciate the golden-hearted generosity of the benefactors, the Association, and Ms. Kim Dung for your longstanding support. Despite the economic downturn in 2024, the benefactors, the Association, and Ms. Kim Dung have continued to help with dedication.

Please accept our profound gratitude. May God abundantly reward the benefactors, the Association, and Ms. Kim Dung, so that the less fortunate, the suffering, the ill, and the lonely may find relief from their hardships through your kindness.

Sincerely,

Father Antôn M. Hoàng Đức Luyến
Superior of the Antôn Community