

## This Non-Profit Teaches Life (And Baking) Skills To Poor HCMC Women

Published on Tuesday, 24 June 2014 14:15  
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Off a small muddy road in a District 8 slum, sounds of people pronouncing English phrases drift from a humble house. This is where Life Project 4 Youth Vietnam (LP4Y) is based, and where delicious croissants are baked.

The home smells like butter. We sat down and chat a bit with all the young women who are focused on making a better life for themselves. Though shy, these 6 young women do not seem to express insecurity. After a few hesitant moments, they started to open up and made jokes.

Cécile – one of the LP4Y Vietnam coordinators – looked satisfied as these women, who were full of doubt and lacked confidence when they first met, could now carry on a simple English conversation.



Everyday, the young girls go to this Life Project Center to be coached on language, professionalism, computer skills, general knowledge and baking – thanks to the support of several generous professionals. But this is more than a school, but a “second home.” Besides daily training, the women share their feelings once every week to have a better understanding of themselves and each other.

“One of the most memorable moments is that one time, we were playing a game where each person looks into a mirror and speaks what they want the most in life,” shares Nhi – one of the young adults here and a single mother – “and Mai said that she wanted her Dad back. And everyone started sobbing.”



Nhi wants to become a baker. "I was unconvinced that some people would provide us free education and help us get a better life."

Now Nhi comes here everyday with her little son and while he plays with the foreign coordinators, she's in class perfecting her baking skills. "I'm excited that we'll open a bakery. When we do, we can help more people like us," says Nhi.

Like their operations in the Philippines and Indonesia, the Life Project Center in District 8 is a not-for-profit project aiming to help young adults who cannot afford an education to lift themselves out of poverty. In the long run, LP4Y is attempting to open a bakery to offer a place for excluded youths to participate.



“We are always looking for some trainers who can share experiences or provide training to the young adults. We are also looking for some companies to open their door and let them discover a new world, new jobs”, says Cécile.

For more information about the project or to donate check out their website.

<http://saigoneer.com/saigon-culture/2190-this-non-profit-teaches-life-and-baking-skills-to-poor-hcmc-women>