

# Habitat for Humanity

Kien Giang, Viet Nam



**Photojournalism Project**

**By: Duc Le**

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## 1. Mission Statement

- 1.1. To help the unfortunate ones
- 1.2. To bring back images and stories of the untold lifestyle
- 1.3. To encourage many others to volunteer and to give
- 1.4. To address the issues of poverty housing in third world countries
- 1.5. To have first hand experience in helping my own people and country
- 1.6. To not forget where I came from

## 2. Background

2.1. *Habitat for Humanity (HFH)* was founded in 1976 by Millard and Linda Miller. In the past 33 years, HFH has built and rehabilitated more than 300,000 houses to address the issues of poverty housing. For more information about the organization, please visit [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org).

2.2. *About myself (Duc Le)*: I don't really remember how and when I was drawn into photography. I have always been very visual person. I love images and graphics. Photography has always been my hobby. My really profession is totally different – I am a mechanical engineer by trade and training. I started out with a couple of black and white classes in 35mm. Later on I moved into the digital world just like everyone else, mainly for the convenience. As far as photojournalism goes, I never have any formal training. Two years ago I started to freelance for *Nha Magazine*, a modern Vietnamese magazine in San Jose. My first published article was “The Wave Beyond”, a small documentary about the Mavericks surfing contest in Half Moon Bay, California. After seeing my photos and writing in a magazine a few times and a lot of encouragements from friends and family, I got more and more involved with the magazine and actually developed the passion for writing and photographing. Most recent publications are: “Evolution of Grocery Bags” to encourage people to be more *green* and go with canvas grocery bags and “Exploring the Motherland” a self-explored trip back to Viet Nam as an adult for the first time.

In late 2008 beginning of 2009, I joined CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) to work with foster children. With limited time to offer, I focus mainly on their educational needs. My ultimate goals are to make sure these kids graduate from high school and go to college. I worked with the school counselors and teachers to strategize the best way to bring up their grades and to help them realize the important of education.

By combining volunteer experience and photography skills together will definitely open myself up to new challenges. I am taking this opportunity to further understand the issues of poverty housing around the world – Viet Nam in this particular case.

### 3. Destination

My choice of going to Viet Nam is obvious. I was born and raised there. I understand the culture and speak the language fluently. After sixteen plus years of being away from Viet Nam, I returned for my first visit in the fall of 2008. I have explored the country from South to North. I have seen the glamorous night life side as well as the humble country lifestyle. Viet Nam is definitely a growing country and there are lots of opportunities there, yet, the poor are still poor.

Kien Giang is located south of Ho Chi Minh City along the Mekong Delta. Kien Giang has 200km of coastline with large fishing grounds, consisting of 105 big and small islands. Every year a large amount of rainfall from August to November causes many provinces in the Mekong Delta to flood. Kien Giang is one of the provinces that suffer the most by the impact.

### 4. Trip Itinerary

Standard program for works in Viet Nam from HFH. From Oct. 10 – 24, 2009

<i>Day 1</i>	<i>Saturday</i> - Depart for Vietnam.
<i>Day 2</i>	<i>Sunday</i> - Arrive in Ho Chi Minh City; free time; dinner; overnight in hotel.
<i>Day 3</i>	<i>Monday</i> - Flight to Kien Giang; orientation with local staff member; visit project sites and families; welcome dinner.
<i>Days 4–7</i>	<i>Tuesday–Friday (workdays)</i> - Breakfast served before traveling to work site; work from 8 a.m.–5 p.m. with lunch on site; free time after work to clean up; dinner and time for team activities.
<i>Days 8–9</i>	<i>Saturday–Sunday</i> - Free days: activities in local community.
<i>Days 10–13</i>	<i>Monday–Thursday (workdays)</i> - Breakfast served before traveling to work; work from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. with lunch on site; free time after work to clean up; dinner at house; time for team activities; farewell lunch with families.
<i>Day 14</i>	<i>Friday</i> - Travel to Ho Chi Minh City; free time for local activities; dinner.
<i>Day 15</i>	<i>Saturday</i> - Departure day

If time and financial permit, I'll continue to Malaysia from Oct 31 – Nov 14, 2009

- Day 1*                      *Saturday* - Depart for Malaysia.
- Day 2*                      *Sunday* - Travel day.
- Day 3*                      *Monday* - Travel to Kuching; welcome and orientation with local staff member; visit project sites and families; welcome dinner.
- Days 4–8*                  *Tuesday–Saturday (workdays)* - Breakfast served before traveling to work site; work from 8 a.m.–5 p.m., with lunch on site; free time after work to clean up; dinner; time for team activities. Special events throughout the week include cultural experiences with affiliate staff, such as market tours, visits to museums and historical sites, etc.
- Day 9*                      *Sunday* - Free day: activity in local community.
- Days 10–11*              *Monday–Tuesday (workdays)* - Breakfast served before traveling to work site; work from 9 a.m.–5 p.m., with lunch on site; free time after work to clean up; farewell dinner with family at a local restaurant.
- Days 12–13*              *Wednesday–Thursday* - Proposed R&R for the entire group to the interior of Borneo.
- Day 14*                    *Friday* - Departure Day from Kuching.

## 5. Budget

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1	Viet Nam Trip	\$1,645
2	Round Trip Airfare from US – VN – US	\$1,000
<b>Total w/o Malaysia</b>		<b>\$2,645</b>
3	Optional Malaysia Trip	\$1,450
<b>Total w/ Malaysia</b>		<b>\$4,095</b>

## 6. Project Deliverables

6.1. Supported photographs and writing

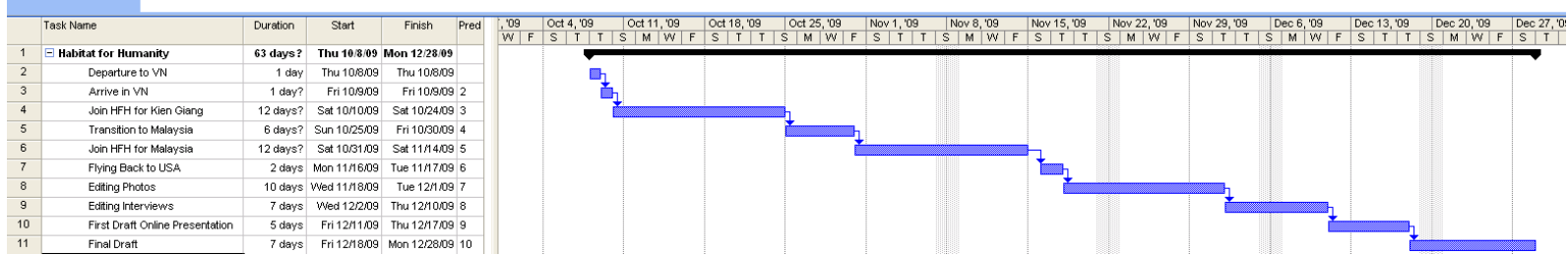
6.2. Interviews

6.2.1. Habitat volunteers

6.2.2. People in Kien Giang

6.3. 10-15 minutes online slideshow

## 7. Project Schedule



ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Pred
1	<b>Habitat for Humanity</b>	<b>63 days?</b>	<b>Thu 10/8/09</b>	<b>Mon 12/28/09</b>	
2	Departure to VN	1 day	Thu 10/8/09	Thu 10/8/09	
3	Arrive in VN	1 day?	Fri 10/9/09	Fri 10/9/09	2
4	Join HFH for Kien Giang	12 days?	Sat 10/10/09	Sat 10/24/09	3
5	Transition to Malaysia	6 days?	Sun 10/25/09	Fri 10/30/09	4
6	Join HFH for Malaysia	12 days?	Sat 10/31/09	Sat 11/14/09	5
7	Flying Back to USA	2 days	Mon 11/16/09	Tue 11/17/09	6
8	Editing Photos	10 days	Wed 11/18/09	Tue 12/1/09	7
9	Editing Interviews	7 days	Wed 12/2/09	Thu 12/10/09	8
10	First Draft Online Presentation	5 days	Fri 12/11/09	Thu 12/17/09	9
11	Final Draft	7 days	Fri 12/18/09	Mon 12/28/09	10

## 8. Sponsors

- 8.1. Duc Hoang Le (self-sponsor)
- 8.2. ###
- 8.3. ###
- 8.4. ###
- 8.5. ###

## 9. Contacts

### 9.1. Duc Le

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 408-623-1913 (mobile)

### 9.2. Habitat for Humanity International

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 Americus, GA 31709 USA  
 1-800-422-4828  
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