



# The First Decade

## Indo Chinese Elderly Hostel

Time flies. In the blink of an eye, the Indo-Chinese Elderly Hostel has been serving our community for a whole decade. Looking back on the path we have traveled, the development of the hostel was truly full of challenges, surprises and excitements.

When we started the Indo-Chinese Elderly Hostel project, under the Love the Elderly & Children Foundation, neither did we know exactly how to operate a quality Elderly Hostel, nor did we know how to provide care for the elderly, since most of our trustees were from either the business sector, other professional fields and community works. Fortunately, we all shared the same beliefs, trusting that we would succeed if we have faith in our mission.

As Indo-Chinese refugees, we were forced to escape our homelands due to the wars some thirty years ago, we fled and came to this foreign country and we lost everything.

With the help of the Australian Government and its people, we started to build our new lives. After many trials and tribulations, we have established ourselves in this beautiful country.

We established the Indo-Chinese Elderly Hostel in order to provide accommodation and care services to the Indo-Chinese elderly from countries including Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos. Our initial 30 bed accommodation proved to be popular and successful. With the recent expansion, 58 suites have been added to the hostel, bringing the total rooms in the hostel to 88 suites. In addition, we have managed to acquire another property nearby. These achievements are undoubtedly a reflection of our hard work over the years.

We are grateful for the support and assistance provided by the Australian Government, our trustees, generous donors from communities and many individuals. We thank the Australian Nursing Home Foundation, The Elderly Australian Chinese Homes, and The Australian Chinese & Descendants Mutual Association, for giving us invaluable advice and encouragement.

Over the years, the Management Committee of the Indo-Chinese Elderly Hostel, together with the trustees, staff and volunteers have worked together in harmony, just like a flock of bird building a nest. We were unafraid of the storm, we were determined and patient as we looked for every resources available, and we carefully assembled a sturdy, warm home for the Indo-Chinese elderly in the South West of Sydney.

On retrospect, so many people deserve our appreciation and gratitude. However, my special appreciation goes to our manager Veronica Hon.



Ten years ago, the Indo-Chinese Elderly Hostel Project was only but a name. As a Chinese proverb goes "The first step is always tough", to build something from almost nothing was truly a challenge. It was at this very early stage of development that Veronica was given the mission to nurture this new project.

As a manager of the hostel, she is thoughtful and devoted. Whilst nursing the elderly, she is compassionate and meticulous, showering them with love and care. When training her staff, she was able to share her knowledge and provides inspiration. Through her disciplined and assured manner, she has earned the trust and respect from residents and gained confidence of the board of trustees.

As the 9th Chairperson of the management committee for the Love the Elderly & Children Foundation and the Indo-Chinese Elderly Hostel, I was entrusted with great responsibilities, at the same time I am deeply honored to have the opportunity to contribute to the community. For me, every toil and hardships of the past have become sweet memories.

On the 10th Anniversary of our foundation, we produce this publication. We hope you will share our joy as you read about the memorable moments of the hostel.

Though the structure and appearance of our hostel may change as time goes by, we believe it will always retain the glorious history of our aspiration, our vision and our mission. I am certain our successors will continue the excellent work, remembering the famous Confucius saying "Care for others aged parents as we care for ours", and my favorite Chinese saying "To honor the aged is to bring longevity to oneself".

It is my greatest wish for the Indo-Chinese Elderly Hostel to flourish and expand, and forever be a welcoming home for the elderly.

Mr. Phuoc Thang Tran

9th Chairperson of the Indo-Chinese Elderly Hostel  
under Auspices of "Love The Elderly & Children Foundation"

