



(上接 P14) “Our Committee,” recalled Ms. Ryan, “had spent three years working on the design. Eventually the idea was to have a statue in the garden center, sculpted by artists from Viet Nam, using exquisite classic Vietnamese white marble. The statue would be 14 feet tall from the base to top, of a Vietnamese woman. Surrounding the garden center would be a plaza, beautiful artistic concrete walkways, a curved stone sitting wall, and spacious gardens of Asian flowers vegetation, and trees including a small bamboo forest. There would be stone monuments at the entrance and exit, one showing a map of Viet Nam with cultural and historic sites and the other cultural remembrances.

“Unfortunately, in 2019,” Ms. Ryan sadly stated, “my 93-year-old mother living in Viet Nam passed away. So, while I am there in Viet Nam taking care of my mother’s funeral, I also took time to search for the right marble and the skillful artists for carving the statue. As I said earlier, we planned for a woman’s statue, remembering our Vietnamese race who according to legend descended from the loving union of a divine prince living in the mountains and a heavenly princess born in the seas. Our statue will show off her beauty to everybody as the ‘Lady of Viet Nam.’

“She is the symbol of Vietnamese women, of wives and mothers and daughters, as well as all women in the entire human family. We will also have sculptural items and meditating marble benches to celebrate our people and our veterans, both American and Vietnamese. We will furthermore remember all those who have helped our community over the decades.

The Vietnamese-American Community, after fifteen years of planning and work, has finally started the physical building of its cultural garden. The community scheduled a

ground-breaking ceremony on May 30, 2020, which was attended by some thirty people including Committee members, President Kha, and Vice-President Thi. All gave very fine congratulatory speeches.

Ms. Ryan thanked all who joined in the groundbreaking: “It was so gratifying to see and hear everyone who came to witness for our grand dream to have a Vietnamese Garden installed on

bravely gave their lives for us. Third, in the future when people visit this garden, especially our youth, they will see the sacrifice of all our peoples. Fourth, the Garden will celebrate our 4,000-year-old culture and achievements. It will educate future generations about the heritage, beauty and traditions of Viet Nam.”

Now the garden foundation is completed. The bull-dozer has come and gone, the bricks have been laid, and the base constructed with concrete. The garden base is complete.

“Throughout the past seven years, while working on our garden,” declares Ms. Ryan, “we have participated in the Federation’s activities including One World Day’s. We march in the nations’ parades, carrying our traditional flags. We sponsor displays, performances of dance and singing, raising of flags ceremony, and feature Vietnamese Foods and cuisine, contests and puzzles for the youth, and other activities.

Lastly, our Garden Committee with the leadership of the Friendship Foundation, The Vietnamese Community of Greater Cleveland, Veteran Vice-President David Thi, President Kha, and others, will be working to raise the necessary donations. We estimate we will need at least half a million dollars and even more for the Garden Construction Fund and the ongoing maintenance duties..

and some college so they could continue their education.

The Friendship Foundation has also been busy with seeking a “Sister City” to partner with the City of Cleveland. “Sister Cities” is a worldwide organization which joins cities together from all over. A city in Europe might partner with an African city. A city in the USA would partner with a city from China. They work on sharing ideas and programs. They also work on joint projects for the two sister cities which can improve their economies, their systems of education, and cultural endeavors. The goal of the Friendship Foundation, whose Sister Cities Project is chaired by Attorney Thomas Similie is to unite Cleveland with a city in Viet Nam such as the coastal city of Nha Trang or a tourist city such as Da Nang. “We have already been in contact with leaders in these areas,” reports Attorney Similie. “I myself journeyed to Viet Nam last year to make person-to-person presentations. I am hoping that leaders from Viet Nam will be able to come to Cleveland in this upcoming year of 2021 so we together can further our plans.”

The Foundation has trained doctors, built schools and houses, provided medical care and operations, foods, clothing, mosquito nets, school uniforms, books and school supplies, medications and medical equipment, and provided



Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard in the middle of some forty other ethnic gardens celebrating our many Cleveland cultures and histories. First, we have wanted to build this garden for all the American Vietnam Veterans who gave their lives for us. Except for their sacrifice we would not have been able to come to America. Many millions of lives around the world owe their freedom to America veterans. Second, this garden is dedicated to the veterans of Vietnamese background who

In the last 27 years the Friendship Foundation has conducted many missions not only to build the garden, but also to aid the poor and the children in Vietnam. The Foundation has sponsored some 2,000 volunteers who spend up to a month or more in Vietnam to do charity work. A number of these continued their work after our annual missions, spending years teaching in Vietnam. We assisted over two million Vietnamese students from kindergarten to high school

thousands of scholarships. The best mental health hospital in Vietnam is headed by Dr. Thanh Dang whom the Foundation trained and provided schooling for in the United States so he could manage this mental health hospital which employs over one hundred workers, six doctors, and five psychiatrists—providing mental health services for over three thousand patients. The Foundation has trained other physicians from Vietnam in America, including urologists. It has helped train teachers, built schools, provide funds for institutions for the handicapped,, and helped women with their health problems. It has set up nurseries, provided housing for the elderly, built bridges in rural areas, built teacher housing for those serving minority groups, and provided classes and instruction for law students, lawyers, and teachers.

The Foundation has erected schools and educational buildings. Currently the Foundation is completing its seventh school construction project, this one near the Laotian border. (See accompanying photos of school work in Viet Nam.)

What does the Foundation need today? All we need are money donations and your support for our humanitarian work and to make our “dream garden into reality.” You can send any help and contributions to the Friendship Foundation, 2234 West Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44102.

