



PRESS RELEASE

Abbott volunteers take part in extracurricular activities aimed at enhancing child road safety competency

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Throughout the months of March and April, AIP Foundation, in collaboration with Abbott Laboratories, the National Traffic Safety Committee, and the Ministry of Education and Training, will organize extracurricular events focused on road safety at 11 schools throughout the country. Abbott volunteers will be in attendance along with approximately 2,000 students and teachers each at the events at Truong Dinh school in Ho Chi Minh City and Dong Quang school in Hanoi.

These activities are part of the education component of the Abbott-funded *Helmets for Families* program, which has been working to increase road safety literacy and safe behaviors among Vietnamese families for the past three years. In collaboration with the provincial Traffic Safety Committees and the Department of Education and Trainings, two schools in Hanoi, four in Ho Chi Minh City, and five in Tra Vinh have been targeted to be beneficiaries of comprehensive teacher and parent safety trainings and helmet donations.

Among the results from the *Helmets for Families* program, the average helmet-wearing rate increased from 6.8% to 66.3% at the project schools in Hanoi, from 27% to 82% at those in Ho Chi Minh City, and from 30.4% to 80% at those in Tra Vinh.

“I am pleased to see more of my students wearing high-quality helmets to school every day,” said Mrs. Tran Thi Hong An, Principal of Truong Dinh school in Ho Chi Minh City. “It is these types of events that foster environments where the youngest members of our community can learn invaluable life skills in road safety and proper helmet use.”

Helmets for Families aims to encourage behavior change among families with an increased focus on parent involvement in safe practices. During the three-year program, over 10,000 parents participated in the helmet-exchange program, which provided them with subsidized, high-quality helmets in exchange for the sub-standard ones they were using.

“What we need in our communities is not only helmet donations – parents need to encourage lasting change in the status quo and teach our children that staying safe is a habit to be cultivated early and reinforced often,” said Nguyen Ngoc Tuong, Executive Vice Chief of the Traffic Safety Committee of HCMC.

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About Abbott

Abbott is a global healthcare company devoted to improving life through the development of products and technologies that span the breadth of healthcare. With a portfolio of leading, science-based offerings in diagnostics, medical devices, nutritionals and branded generic pharmaceuticals, Abbott serves people in more than 150 countries and employs approximately 69,000 people. In Vietnam, Abbott has approximately 3,400 employees working in logistics, sales, and marketing. Primary locations in Vietnam are in Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, and six other regions covering 63 provinces and cities across the country. Visit Abbott at www.abbott.com.vn or www.abbottnutrition.com.vn and connect with us on Twitter at @AbbottNews

About AIP Foundation

AIP Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing road injuries and fatalities in low- and middle-income countries. For 17 years AIP Foundation has been delivering effective road safety programs in locations across Asia and Africa. To find out more, visit www.aip-foundation.org or connect with us on Twitter @AIPFoundation.

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