

2023

# Invictus Spirit Foundation

Annual Report



INVICTUS SPIRIT  
INSPIRE OTHERS

Gold  
Transparency  
2023

Candid.



# 100% of Individual & Online Donations Go Towards Impact

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When you donate to the Invictus Spirit Foundation, you are providing the following for children:

- A Full Stomach
- A Chance for Education
- Mental and Physical Care
- Ability to Hope

**Your Tax-Deductible Donation Gives Hope to Children in Need**



**Every dollar of online donations goes directly to impact programs**

2023

# Annual Report

Reflecting on 2023, we are deeply grateful for our community's support for our mission. This report showcases our continuing journey to transform children's lives through collective efforts and unyielding belief. We've expanded initiatives and faced growing challenges this year, yet every small contribution has spurred change and allowed us to empower children with the vital nutrition, education, and care they need. The stories in this report embody our commitment to turning adversity into opportunity and making a meaningful difference one life at a time.

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\*In accordance with our policies and those of our partners, the names of the children in this annual report are withheld to protect their identities.

Michael D. Nguyen

# Letter from the CEO

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Dear Friends,

As one of the hearts and souls behind the ISF, I am touched to greet each of you as partners in our enduring mission in our. Your belief in our work breathes life into our mission to champion the young spirits braving life's toughest battles. Your kindness does more than just support—it ignites a beacon of hope that guides these potential filled youths towards a future rich with possibilities. We are kindling a flame of indomitable spirit together, one that defies adversity and celebrates the resilience that defines our shared humanity. As you read through the highlights and achievements of the past year, remember that none of this would be possible without your support. Each donation, volunteer hour, and word of advocacy contributes to a brighter future for these children. We invite you to continue this journey with us as we strive to inspire and enact change across the globe. Thank you for walking this path with us, hand in hand, as we embark on a journey that reshapes lives with every step. Together, we are not just changing lives -- we are shaping the very future we wish to see.

In Deep Gratitude,



Groundwork for Growth: Founder Michael Engages with a Rural Community During his Visit to a School in Ubon, Thailand

# Meet the Board

We're a small grassroots organization made up of ordinary individuals driven by the belief to support children in need. Fortunate in our own lives, we created Invictus Spirit as a way for kind-hearted people to take charge of their giving and support the causes that resonate most.



**Michael D. Nguyen**

Founder and President



**Michael O'Sullivan**

Vice President and  
Treasurer



**Justin M. Sarfin**

Secretary of the Board



**Minh P. Tran**

Chief of Communications

# Their Stories

# Our Mission

Founded in 2019, ISF embodies our hopes and dreams of making a profound difference in the lives of children. We believe every child is entitled to the pursuit of happiness and prosperity, regardless of the conditions they've been born into.

Our mission is to support the well being and care of children in order to protect them from the consequences of poverty. We intend to carry this out through close collaboration with groups and organizations that support similar objectives. By bringing our knowledge and expertise to bear, we believe we can significantly magnify the care the children receive.



# Mission Beneficiaries

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Our focus is on building a foundation of basic care such as shelter, providing opportunities for education, and keeping families together when possible. Often the children we serve face a variety of challenges:



## The Orphaned

At risk of neglect and identity crises without family support, suffering from severe physical, mental, and emotional hardships.



## The Vulnerable

Often victims of human trafficking, facing severe threats to their safety, rights, and dignity.



## The Impoverished

Grapple with limited access to education and healthcare, which hampers their growth and future prospects.

**"Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see." – Neil Postman**

# A Child's Story

Born in 2010 and diagnosed with ADHD, he has faced life's hurdles alongside his mother, who sustains their family through informal work. A recent injury impeding her ability to work has brought new challenges, placing their stability at risk.

In response, ISF and Blue Dragon Children's Foundation have joined forces to provide a lifeline. Our support package includes:

1. Rent assistance to secure their shelter.
2. Continued education to nurture his potential.
3. Healthcare for his mother's rehabilitation.
4. A bicycle to maintain his access to education.

With this support, we hope to provide their family the footing to stand on their own.



Thanh Receives Brand New Bicycle



Mother & Son Receiving Rent Support



# A Student's Story

As a second-year student at PNV, she initially had limited knowledge of technology and English. Now, her aspiration is to become a front-end engineer and provide financial support for her family.

- She aims to become a front-end developer and create applications that improve people's lives. She doesn't want her mother to worry or struggle to earn every penny to support her anymore. Instead, she wants to take good care of her family.

- Grateful for the opportunity she received, she is determined to support children in remote areas in the future; drawing from her own experiences of how limited access to resources can impact someone's life.

Her experience at PNV has empowered her to break free from traditional expectations and pursue her goals with confidence. She is committed to continuous improvement and hopes to inspire and support disadvantaged children to achieve their dreams, while also providing for her family.



"In my hometown, everyone would say that if the family couldn't afford it, it was best to stay at home, get married, and help parents with farming. Every time I heard people say that, I felt very uncomfortable because I had so many goals and ambitions that I wanted to pursue."

# A Student's Story

In the past, her future seemed like a string of monotonous days, filled with uninspiring jobs, limited opportunities to make new friends, and a lack of chances for further education. However, her journey stands as a testament to her resilience and determination.

- Faced challenges in adapting to technology due to no prior experience and had to persuade her skeptical parents of the value of an education in tech.
- Her perspective on the future shifted significantly after joining the program, seeing it as a chance to move beyond farming and expand her horizons beyond her village.

She now sees technology as a tool for empowerment and is determined to secure her dream job and continue the good traditions of previous generations. Her story exemplifies the ambition of the young women our organization supports through PNV as they overcome obstacles and work towards their dreams.



"One thing I've learned is that technology can empower me; the more I understand it, the better I can utilize it to mitigate risks, thereby enhancing my chances of securing employment and increasing my income."

# A Student's Story

Originally doubtful of her ability to learn English, let alone programming languages, her participation in the PNV program has led to remarkable growth in both her technical skills and English proficiency.

- The supportive and interactive learning environment helped her overcome initial challenges with computers and programming languages.
- Exposure to technology and interactions with foreigners have motivated her to pursue a career as a quality tester.

She is grateful for the support from donors, which has enabled her personal and professional development. She aspires to secure a job after graduation to support her family and inspire others in similar situations.



"I hope that after graduating I will get a job, which will help me and my family escape poverty, as well as give me the opportunity to motivate and support others in situations like mine."



# \$23,000

## Impact by **end of Dec 2023**

With an additional commitment of \$8,000 for advanced education, surgical procedures, and medical treatments.



# 52

## **Students Enrolled**

With 3 in a tech program and the remainder in diverse vocational tracks, including electrical/HVAC, automotive mechanics, and fashion design.



# 74

## Total Children Impacted in 2023

Consisting of disadvantaged youths, survivors of human trafficking, and some with disabilities.

PNV Students Visiting Temple



# 3

## **Additional NGO Partners**

As well as an expanding network of both volunteers and potential grassroots partners.



# 1

## **Staffed Teacher**

Currently embedded with our partner Childcare Vietnam. She teaches 12 struggling students in science and math.



Child in Northern Vietnam Given Care Package

# Patterns & Trends

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## ✘ **Urban vs. Rural Disparities**

Children in rural areas are at a disadvantage with limited access to healthcare and education, contributing to a persistent gap in life chances compared to urban children. Rural children face barriers that stifle their development and perpetuate cycles of poverty.

## ✘ **Effects of Global Health Crises:**

Global health crises, particularly the COVID-19 pandemic, have severely disrupted children's lives, leading to loss of caregivers, increased poverty, and a significant rise in learning poverty, as millions were and some continue to be out of school.

## ✘ **Educational Deficits:**

Educational deficits remain a barrier, with children in impoverished regions lacking basic literacy and numeracy skills, which are crucial for their future economic independence and ability to break free from the cycle of poverty.

## ✘ **Child Labor Trends:**

Child labor continues to be a dire consequence of poverty, with children in the poorest households having to forgo education to contribute to family income, often under hazardous conditions.

## ✘ **Digital Divide**

The digital divide has widened the gap in educational opportunities, with children in underprivileged areas lacking access to digital learning resources, exacerbating existing inequalities in education and future job prospects.

## ✔ **Holistic NGO Interventions:**

NGOs are shifting towards more holistic, sustainable approaches that prioritize long-term empowerment of children through education and skills training alongside immediate aid.



# Challenges the Children Face

The children we serve often face a combination of challenges that impede their development and affect their life outcomes. This includes:



**Lack of Access to Quality Education**



**Unsafe Living Conditions**



**Food Insecurity**



**Limited Social Mobility**



**Healthcare Access**



**Emotional and Social Challenges**

# 2023 Highlights

## 1st Visit

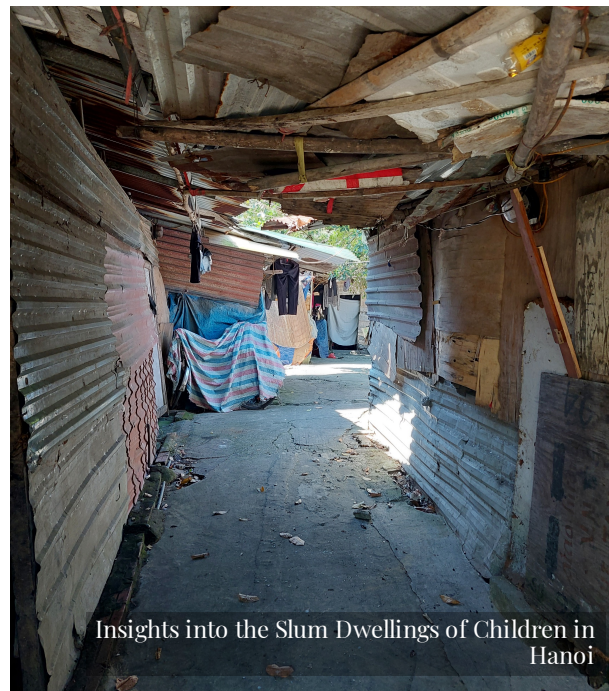
MICHAEL O. & JUSTIN VISIT  
VIETNAM TO SEE FIRST HAND  
ISF'S IMPACT

## 5 Cities

SAIGON, DA NANG,  
HOI AN, HANOI, HA GIANG



Welcoming Yubi Ho, our newest member of the ISF Team. She serves as a translator and analyst.



Insights into the Slum Dwellings of Children in Hanoi



Visiting the Children of Go Vap Orphanage



Dr. O'Sullivan Guides a Caretaker on Post-Surgery Child Care



Over 50 PNV Students Experience the Wonder of Marble Mountains for the 1st Time



Meeting Some of the 40 Sponsored Students and their Teachers in Ha Giang



# Support Programs and Services



## Community Collab.

Fostering child well-being through strong local partnerships and support.



## Higher Education

Opening pathways to knowledge and opportunity with educational support.



## Vocational Training

Building employable skills for self-reliant futures.



## Living Improvements

Improving quality of life with stable and nurturing living conditions.



## Medical Aid

Providing vital health services for children and families.



## Food & Clothing Aid

Ensuring basic needs with access to food and clothing.



# Our Mission Partners

We are deeply thankful for our partnership with fellow NGOs who share our dedication to solving critical issues affecting children. Together, we are multiplying our impact, providing comprehensive support that benefits young lives at every step of their journey.



# Angels Orphanage x ISF

**Angels Orphanage, District 9:** A sanctuary emphasizing physical health for overall wellness.

**Urgent Needs:** Critical financial support for utilities, nourishment, and medical necessities.

**Support Programs:** Assistance with basic needs and medical requirements.

**Unique Opportunities:** Options to sponsor strabismus surgery for children, improving eyesight and life quality.



# Blue Dragon Children's Foundation x ISF

**Blue Dragon Children's Foundation x ISF** Need: Basic Support & Vocational Training

**Partnership Impact:** Insights into adversities facing children and actions to mitigate them.

**Initiatives in Ha Giang:** Collaboration with educational institutions for tailored student support. Scholarships for uninterrupted academic progress and relief from financial pressures.

**Family Support:** Knowledge and resources for income diversification. Training in animal husbandry for rural families.



Meeting Some of the 40 Sponsored Students and their Teachers in Ha Giang

# Go Vap Orphanage x ISF

**Go Vap Orphanage x ISF Need:**  
Basic Ongoing Care

**Care for Orphaned Children:**  
Life-sustaining support for children with mental and physical disabilities. Resources for basic care often scarce due to lack of parental support.

**Collaborative Efforts:**  
Working with caregivers to provide essential medicine and alleviate suffering.

**Long-Term Perspective:**  
Recognition of the ongoing challenges as children grow. Commitment to providing continuous support and basic education for children with special needs.



# Passerelles Numériques Vietnam x ISF

**Passerelles Numériques Vietnam x ISF**  
**Need:** Support for Tech-Based Education

**Educational Impact in Da Nang:**  
Sponsorship for three young women, elevating them as family pillars. Aiming to lift them out of poverty and secure well-paying jobs post-graduation.

**Financial Transformation:**  
Students have the potential to earn \$800 per month, versus a family subsistence on \$40.

**Program Offerings:**  
Comprehensive education in IT, programming, English, and soft skills.

**Goals:** Equip students with essential tech skills for employment. Foster skilled developers ready for the tech industry.



Future Innovators: Engaging with PNV 3 students immersed in technology studies in Da Nang



Students of PNV Enjoying a Field Trip with ISF



Baby Dr. O'Sullivan Cared for



50 First Aid Kits Delivered



Kids Playing With Justin



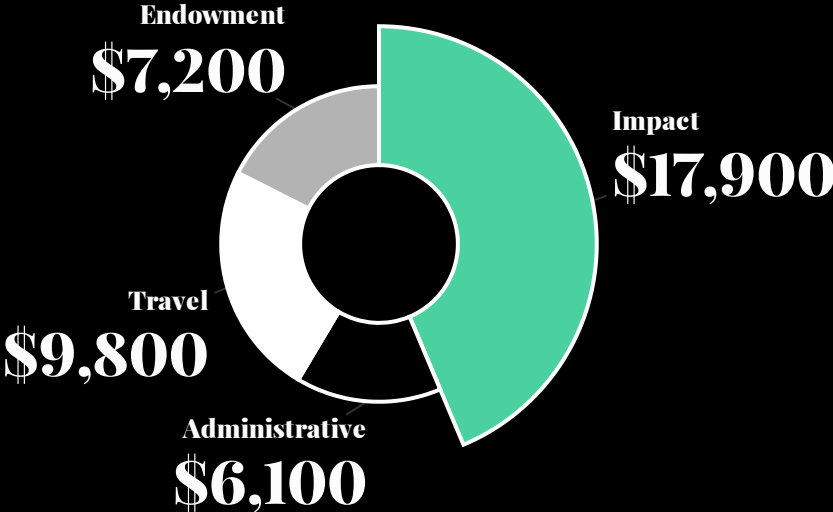
Children of Angels Orphanage Saying Farewell

# 2023 Financials

This year marked further growth for ISF. As we expand, operational costs are expected to be volatile in our growth stage which we actively work to stabilize. Importantly, every penny of individual donations is directed entirely towards impactful outcomes, while the board and larger donors cover administrative costs, travel, and endowment.

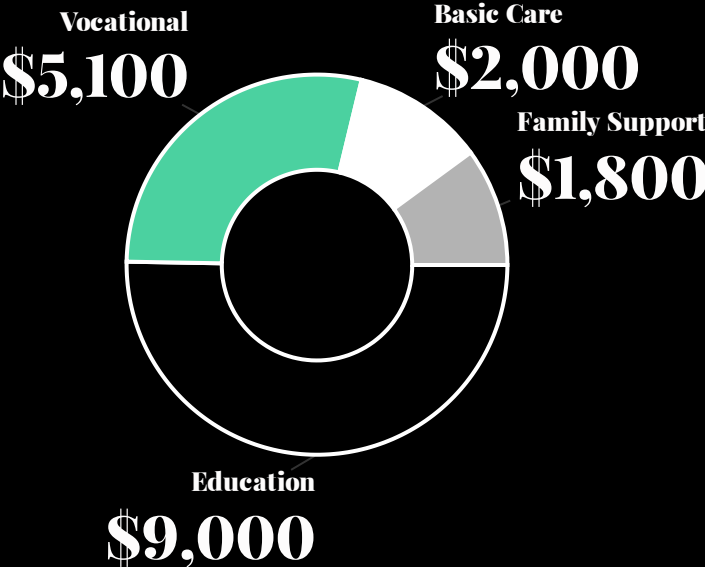
## Breakdown of Total Raised

~\$41,000



## Breakdown by Impact

~\$17,900



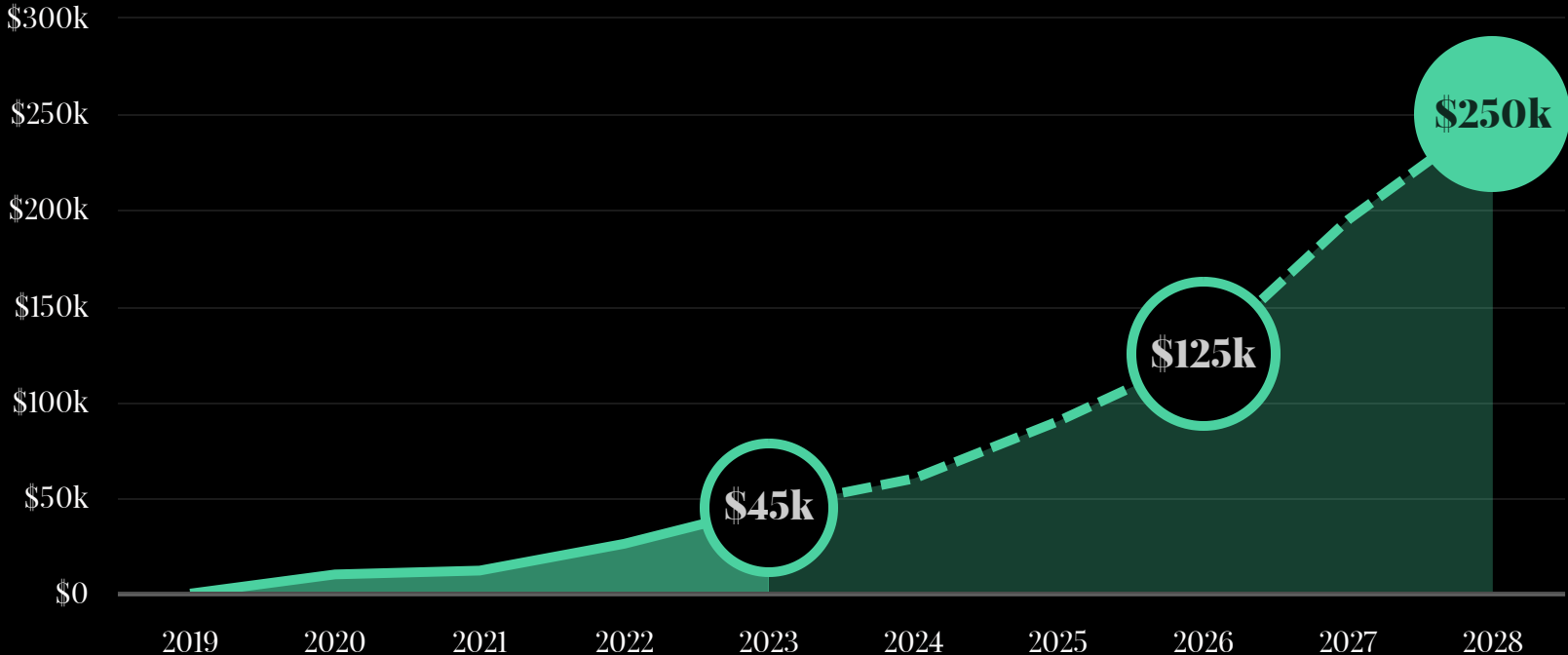
# Endowment Projection 2023

The Budding Lotus endowment is a cornerstone of our long-term strategy, designed to provide a sustainable financial resource that supports our mission. It ensures that we can continue to deliver and expand our critical services to children in need, regardless of economic fluctuations. It is fully financed by the board and generous donors who choose to contribute.



## The Numbers

- \$2,200 Reliable Annual Income
- 35% Cumulative Return YTD







Minh our COC Talking with Students of PNV

## 2024 Outlook

**As we look ahead, our unwavering mission is to empower every child in need. Our 2024 strategy has mindfully been thought out to meet the challenge:**

- **Fundraising Innovation:** Launch targeted campaigns aiming to double our impact, ~\$34k. Deploy cutting-edge digital outreach to tap into new donor segments.
- **Grant Acquisition:** Intensify grant-seeking efforts by submitting a minimum of 1 high-potential proposal each quarter, focusing on sustainability and educational initiatives.



BDCF Shows Us the Bridge Street Children Sleep Under

## 2024 Outlook Cont.

- **Strategic Alliances:** Strengthen existing partnerships and forge at least two new strategic partnerships with key educational institutions in the United States, sharing resources and expertise.
- **Leadership Expansion:** Actively recruit three new board members with diverse skill sets and a shared vision for global child empowerment; enhancing our strategic decision-making capacity.
- **Engagement and Transparency:** Regularly publish progress reports and invite our community to partake in open forums, fostering transparency and collaborative growth.

**NOTE: ALL STRATEGIES ARE SUBJECT TO CONTINUAL REFINEMENT TO ADAPT TO THE DYNAMIC GLOBAL LANDSCAPE AND THE NEEDS OF THE CHILDREN WE SERVE.**

# Please Give Hope.

**Join Us:** Be a part of this ambitious journey. Connect with us to learn more and contribute to shaping a brighter tomorrow for children worldwide. *Note: All strategies are subject to continual refinement to adapt to the dynamic global landscape and the needs of the children we serve.*

<https://givebutter.com/Funds-for-Change>



Warmth and Care Reach New Heights: A Child in the Northern Vietnamese Highlands Receives the Gift of Clothing