

To Honoured Charitable Organisation, and kind hearted members.

My name is NVT and I am an invalid veteran of QLVNCH. First and foremost I would like to wish you and your family good health, prosperity and success.

Today I write this letter to ask for your generosity and aid for my family. At the present my family is in financial trouble because we do not have land to make a living. My wife and I live by selling raffle tickets, sharpening knives and scissors for the butchers and fish sellers and washing clothes for people in our neighbourhood.

We could only help ourselves with minor jobs such as this, but work is scarce, some days we do not make enough or no money, the weather and the increasing prices of goods make us plunge even deeper into poverty.

Dear Honoured members, like the photos I have attached with this letter I am an amputee, with both legs amputated above the knees too near to my torso thus I have no balance. When I am at home I drag myself around on the floor, when I am selling raffle tickets I have to tie myself to the wheel chair, because I have arthritis of both hands I do not gain much speed with my chair and hence cannot make as much money as those more able bodies. At the moment I have to endure severe phantom pain from my amputated legs, worse with the bad weather.

I did go to the doctors and they did advise me that to reduce the pain they will have to revise the amputation but because I cannot afford such a procedure or medications I have just put up with the pain.

Due to the chronic pain I have to take pain killers and anti-inflammatories. Since I take them regularly I have ended up with gastric ulcers. Now I have three types of pain to deal with, arthritic, gastric and the phantom pain. Sometimes they are so bad and go on for days that I cannot go sell raffle tickets.

Then only my daughter with her paralysed leg and crutches go, but she cannot sell much, on the way home she passes by the neighbours to collect their laundries home to wash or to collect knives/scissors to be sharpened. I have to help her with enough money to buy rice. Luckily the butchers and fish sellers sell us their goods at a reduced price sometimes we have meat or fish with our meals. The neighbours also give us their old clothes to wear and we have more than we can wear. As for me a pair of shorts is plenty.

In the last few months the unexpected rain and storms have reduced the earnings from the raffle tickets. The drier months we do not have to buy wood for our fires, we use coconut shells, bits of paper anything we can get our hands on but when it rains there is nothing we can do, our hands are tied.

It is with this letter that I ask you for your help. Please help us make it through these wet months, we will be eternally grateful.

NVT.

(Translator: Le Uyen Vy)