

Vietnam Waldorf Early Childhood Teacher Training Program

Shirley Bell

The Vietnam Waldorf Early Childhood Teacher Training Program (VWTT) is a three year program, delivered 10 weekends a year by experienced tutors from around the world. There are three main kindergartens in Vietnam in and around Ho Chi Minh City from where the students come. Students also travel from as far as Hue in central Vietnam making a group of about 20. Over the course of three years the students will have a grounding in the principles of Waldorf early childhood education and hopefully some of them will be able to establish new kindergartens in other cities of Vietnam.



Vietnam has experienced much conflict resulting from long lasting wars and from continuing economic difficulties which have made it challenging to expand Waldorf Education in Vietnam. This year through the IASWECE the Vietnam Teacher Training Program have a partnership with the North England Steiner Waldorf Early Childhood Studies Program (NESWEC). It is exciting to have a partnership with another training program and through exchanges of photos, reports and teaching materials we can share our love and care of children as experienced in two very different parts of the world .

Through their fund-raising efforts Jill's students have been able to contribute to the IASWECE's budget to fund our Teaching Training Seminars in Ho Chi Minh City. This program is funded completely by donations, the trainers all volunteer their time and expertise. The students of the training earn very low wages and can only pay a token of the fee.

Many thanks to Clara Aerts of the International Association for Steiner Waldorf Early Childhood Education for her arranging the partnership with NESWEC and to Thanh Cherry who through the Vietnam Children's Project has worked for many years to help establish early childhood Waldorf education in Vietnam. Thank you to Jill and her students for their interest and caring; we look forward to our friendship and collaboration.



In the Dieu Giac kindergarten in Ho Chi Minh City