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AmeriCorp

Landscaping Project

17 June 2008

### Project Summary

We, the young Vietnamese-American members of Green Corps, are in the process of redeveloping the neutral ground in the Viet Village community into a beautiful and lush garden. We are working hard to finish this project; it is expected to be finish by the end of the work cycle, September 3, 2008. Our determination to improve the view of the community will leave bystanders in awe. We all, as individuals, feel a close attachment to the community, which drives us to devote all of our time and energy in order to make our project a success. Not only will the development of the neutral ground make our community into a beautiful place, but it will also show that the Vietnamese community is back and growing strong. This project is our own way of giving back to the community—not only as the members of the GreenCorp, but also as the youth members of Viet Village.

Every morning at approximately seven, we arrive to the worksite in one of our teammates car. We believe that in doing this, we are reducing the amount of air pollution which results in minimizing the affects of global warming. We try our best to help the planet by using environmental-friendly methods such as recycling the bottles and cans used during our breaks and as mentioned before having a member drive everyone else to and from work.

Before starting work, we pick up the necessary equipment from shovels to a tiller. At the work site, we are finishing the first stage of our plan. We spend forty-five minutes and fifteen minutes on break to ensure we do not get dehydrated. At approximately twelve, we leave for an

hour lunch break and return to continue our work until four. Occasionally, we go to lunch together and participate in what we call group bonding. Every Friday, we meet at an office to participate in life skills training over the internet.

In the process of completing this project, we are learning the true meaning of teamwork. Sometimes our work can get tedious and humid; to get through the day, we create ways of enjoying and accelerating our work by competition. We split the team into two groups: the gold team and blue team. Twice a week, we compete against each other in our weekly task to see who can accomplish most: the team that loses buys the winning team's lunch. For example, one competition involved the task of retrieving the most wood in order to use for the wood chipper. This not only helps us to develop teamwork within each smaller team, but it also builds the morale of the team. This teaches us the value of teamwork, hard-work and how one person's actions or lack of actions affects the whole team. It also encourages a competitive spirit that increases the amount of work we get done; so in essence, it is more like killing two birds with one stone. Our experience with Green Corps has taught us much about life and an idea of what to expect in the future. Working in close corners has also created friendships and camaraderie amongst each other.

### Work Plan

We have mapped out a plan to efficiently and effectively complete our given task of creating a garden from a neutral ground. Our work cycle started on June 3rd and our project is expected to be finished by the end of our work cycle September 3rd.

#### First Stage:

Estimated time to complete: approx. 14 – 20 days

Process: tiller the ground (softens the ground to make planting easier)

**Second Stage:**

Estimated time to complete: approx. 4 – 5 days

Process: brick layout and outline of the landscaping design

**Third Stage:**

Estimated time to complete: approx. 3 – 4 days

Process: dig a hole circling a patch of land for an 18-inch deep pond

**Fourth Stage:**

Estimated time to complete: less than 1 day

Process: layout pond liner inside hole

**Fifth Stage:**

Estimated time to complete: approx. 4 – 5 days

Process: Build small bridges across pond

**Sixth Stage:**

Estimated time to complete: approx. 4 – 5 days

Process: place plants around the neutral ground according to blueprints

**Seventh stage:**

Estimated time to complete: approx. 3 – 4 days

Process: complete the project by placing benches\* around the tree and a plaque in the middle of island that's surrounded by the small pond

\*Benches will be created from scratch