

Library of Vietnam Project Re-Teams PTPI and VFW

During her recent Mission in Understanding to Vietnam and Cambodia, CEO Mary Eisenhower re-teamed with Trustee Mike Meyer and the VFW Foundation on an extraordinary initiative which combined three vital aspects of PTPI's Mission Statement: educational, cultural and humanitarian activities. Meyer serves as Administrator of Corporate and Foundation Development, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America.

The *Library of Vietnam Project* was established by Francis J. (Chuck) Theusch to build libraries, provide books, and ultimately impact schools, hospitals, orphanages and entire communities. Theusch was the first American to visit Thai Binh Province in April 2002. PTPI's MIU participants represented the first American delegation ever to visit the province.

On November 8, 2002 "Approximately 60,000 books were delivered to Noi Bai Airport, Hanoi, Vietnam, as part of a joint effort to give rise to a 'New Dawn' of peace and cooperation between the Vietnamese and American peoples. Francis J. (Chuck) Theusch, (U.S. Army 1969-70) founder of the *Library of Vietnam Project*, announced the book delivery was made possible through in-kind shipping donated by FedEx Express, the world's largest express transportation company. In addition to FedEx Express, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the VFW Foundation, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, People to People International, and Wall-Ties & Forms, Inc., a Shawnee, Kansas company, all worked together to complete shipments of books to the Library Project's various affiliated institutions throughout Vietnam."

PTPI first teamed with the VFW for *Operation Silent Witness* a tribute to President Eisenhower's role as Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces during World War II and in honor of America's Veterans (the full story was included in the January 2002 issue of *People*, PTPI's global magazine). Sincere thanks goes to Chuck Theusch, Mike Meyer, and the many others who assisted in this joint effort. ■



CEO Mary Eisenhower and Francis J. (Chuck) Theusch with students of Thuong Hien Secondary School, Kien Xung District, Thai Binh Province, Vietnam. Delegates of PTPI's Mission in Understanding were among those helping to distribute books for the school library.