

Helping Link / Một Dấu Nối

Helping Transitions, Honoring Traditions

QUARTERLY

NEWSLETTER



Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful, healthy and prosperous New Year.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

As we launch our first newsletter of 2026, I find myself reflecting on the past year with deep gratitude. Last year was not defined by any single program or milestone, but by the people: neighbors, volunteers, partners, staff and community leaders who came together with a shared belief that opportunity grows when we show up for one another. Across workshops, community events, outreach efforts and quiet moments of one-on-one support, we witnessed what's possible when commitment turns into collective action.

Many individuals contributed their time, skills, ideas and hearts to create pathways forward opening doors to learning, connection and hope. Each collaboration, no matter how big or small, helped build a more inclusive and resilient community. These efforts reminded us that opportunity is rarely created alone. Rather, it is woven together through trust, persistence and shared purpose.

At the center of this work is peace not only at the absence of conflict, but as the presence of dignity, understanding and care for one another. Peace shows up when we listen deeply, meet people where they are and choose compassion even in challenging moments. As we move forward, may this spirit guide us, grounding our work and strengthening our collective impact.

Thank you for being part of this journey and for helping us create opportunity and hope for all.

Hope and Solidarity,
Ms. Minh Đức Phạm Nguyễn





Tet in Seattle: 30 Years of Joy, Tradition, and Community

Thirty years ago, I was deeply honored to cut the very first ribbon to launch Tết in Seattle. This year 2026, to once again stand and cut the ribbon for the festival’s 30th anniversary fills me with overwhelming emotion and gratitude. It is a full-circle moment seeing how our dream of bringing the Vietnamese culture and community together has grown beyond imagination.

Congratulations to the incredible Tết in Seattle team for carrying forward this mission with passion, dedication and heart, preserving our culture and creating a festival that brings generations together in joy and celebration year after year.

From its first public festival in 1996, with the support of the University of Washington (UW) Vietnamese Student Association, Liên Đoàn Hường Đạo Việt Hùng, Hội Võ Thuật Thiếu Niên Tacoma, UW School of Social Work, City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, Neighbors to Neighbors Foundation and the Seattle Center Advisory Commission, Tết in Seattle has blossomed from small community gatherings into a vibrant, joyful celebration of tradition, pride and connection.

Big congratulations to the Tết in Seattle team on three decades of community, culture and celebration. Here’s to the next 30!

Ms. Minh Đức Phạm Nguyễn

MORE THAN TEACHING ENGLISH



My name is Khoa, and I am a third-year college student. As a descendant of Vietnamese refugees, I volunteer at Helping Link/Một Dấu Nối to give back to my community. Over the past few months, teaching English has been an eye-opening experience. I have had the opportunity to learn about my students' personal stories and the reasons they came to America, watch my students work hard, and help them assimilate into American society. Teaching English as a native speaker has also given me a new appreciation for the language and a deeper sense of cultural awareness.

It has reinforced how important it is to understand our society from an outsider's perspective.

Through this experience, I have realized the challenges many immigrants face, especially language barriers, cultural differences, and limited access to resources. Seeing many of my students who work multiple jobs while balancing time to learn English has shown me the strength and determination within our community.

At Helping Link/Một Dấu Nối, our goal is to serve the Vietnamese community and provide accessible resources to help our community members succeed in America. I hope to continue building meaningful connections with my students, supporting them as they work hard towards their personal and professional goals. For me, this activity isn't just teaching a language; it is giving back.

Khoa Tô



Make
A Gift



2026 SPRING QUARTER PROGRAMS

Register
Here



Conversational English/ Citizenship Classes

April 7 – June 11 (10 weeks) 📅

Tuesdays & Thursdays

5:30 - 7:00 PM 🕒

Description:

- Everyday English conversation
- Understand civic knowledge
- Citizenship preparation



Technology Classes

April 7 – June 11 (10 weeks) 📅

Tuesdays & Thursdays

5:30 - 7:00 PM 🕒

Description:

- Learn to use an iPhone/iPad for...
- email, text, maps, calendar, voicemail, translation
- How to stay safe from scams





MAKE A DIFFERENCE

At Helping Link/Một Dấu Nối, our volunteers help unite our community and create opportunities for connection and growth. We are seeking individuals to contribute their expertise in areas such as:

- Tutoring and mentoring
- Communications
- Marketing
- Social media
- Graphic design
- Technology support
- Special event coordination
- Leadership team

To get involved, email us today at volunteers@helpinglink.org.

Thank you for helping us unite, inspire, and empower our community.



Mark your calendars, **GiveBIG** will be taking place on May 5, 2026 from 12:00AM to 11:59PM!

HELPING LINK/MỘT DẤU NỐI IS HIRING



Love serving others? Join our team:
helpinglink.org/employment


**Proficiency in Vietnamese is not required. We encourage all qualified candidates to apply regardless of language skills.*

COME VISIT US

555
SOUTH RENTON VILLAGE PLACE

Helping Link/Một Dấu Nối is now settled into our community H.U.B. (Hope - Unity - Belonging)

 **555 South Renton Village Place, #225
Renton, WA 98057**

 **206-650-1081**

 **<https://www.helpinglink.org/>**



Make
A Gift

