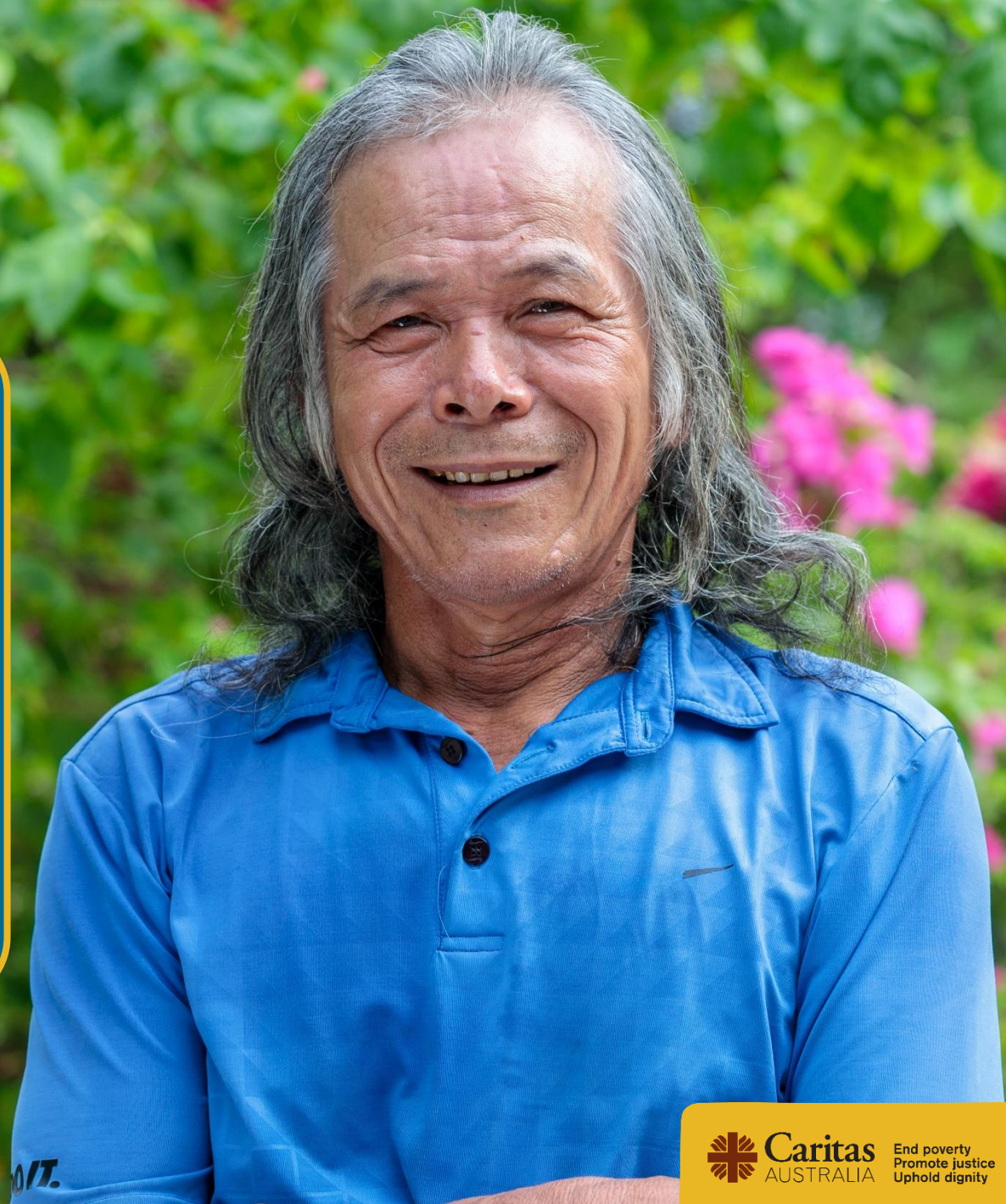


THU'S STORY (VIETNAM)

PRIMARY (F-2)
PHOTO STORYBOOK

Photo credit: Phan Tan Lam/Caritas Australia





This is Thu's story.



Thu lives with his wife, Linh, in Vietnam.



Many years ago, there was a war in Vietnam where land mines were used. Even though the war ended in 1975 many unexploded land mines still exist.




When Thu was 12 years old and looking after his cows, he lost his leg when he stepped on an unexploded land mine. Thu now uses a prosthetic leg to walk.



Living with a disability in rural Vietnam, away from the big towns and cities, was hard for Thu, who worked mainly as a rice farmer.



Thu works hard to earn enough money to live, while also caring for his wife, Linh, after she suffered a stroke.



“She is my wife and we have been living together and depending on each other, I am the one to be there with her and for her.”

Thu



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Determined to improve their lives, Thu and Linh joined the Empowerment of People with Disabilities program supported by Caritas Australia.



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The program assists people living with disabilities to start a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA), or group.



Through his village savings and loan group, Thu was able to get a loan which he used to open his own barber shop!



Thu also joined an incense-making group. He sells incense to earn more money.



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Through earning money with his barber shop and selling incense, Thu was able to repair his house.



Before he joined the program, Thu mostly stayed at home.



But now Thu and Linh spend time with friends who all support each other, thanks to the VSLA group, which is a welcoming space for people with a disability.



"I think having a club is good, where people living with disabilities can join and help one another."

Thu



With the support of Caritas Australia, the Empowerment of People with Disabilities program was able to assist more than 6,300 people in Vietnam in the last year.



"I am grateful to Caritas Australia for the help they give to people living with disability like me and my wife. Thank you to Caritas Australia and the Australian people."

Thu



QUESTIONS

1. Why was it hard for Thu to earn money to support his family?
2. How does Thu earn money now?
3. How did Caritas Australia help?
4. How will you share Thu's story with others?

