

# THE STRENGTH BETWEEN TIES

As humans, it's only nature that we go through constant battles and every passing day is proof that we're only victorious— but what about the people we know along the way? The friends, the enemies, the bonds, ties. Persistence isn't a lone effort, but teamwork isn't something so smooth, either. That's why, we tell the stories of students and tell the story among AASuccess of the challenges won and pushed towards by **Resilience**, and **Relationships**.

## BONDING THROUGH BRACE: KINGSTON HO

Kingston Ho, like all people, is a living mosaic of experiences found from others and challenges alike. As obviously, memories can shape perception, and perception lies in how and what we see life in. I- We, AASuccess, asked him for his insight on in what ways have knowing people made him stronger through hardship; and what did it mean to him?

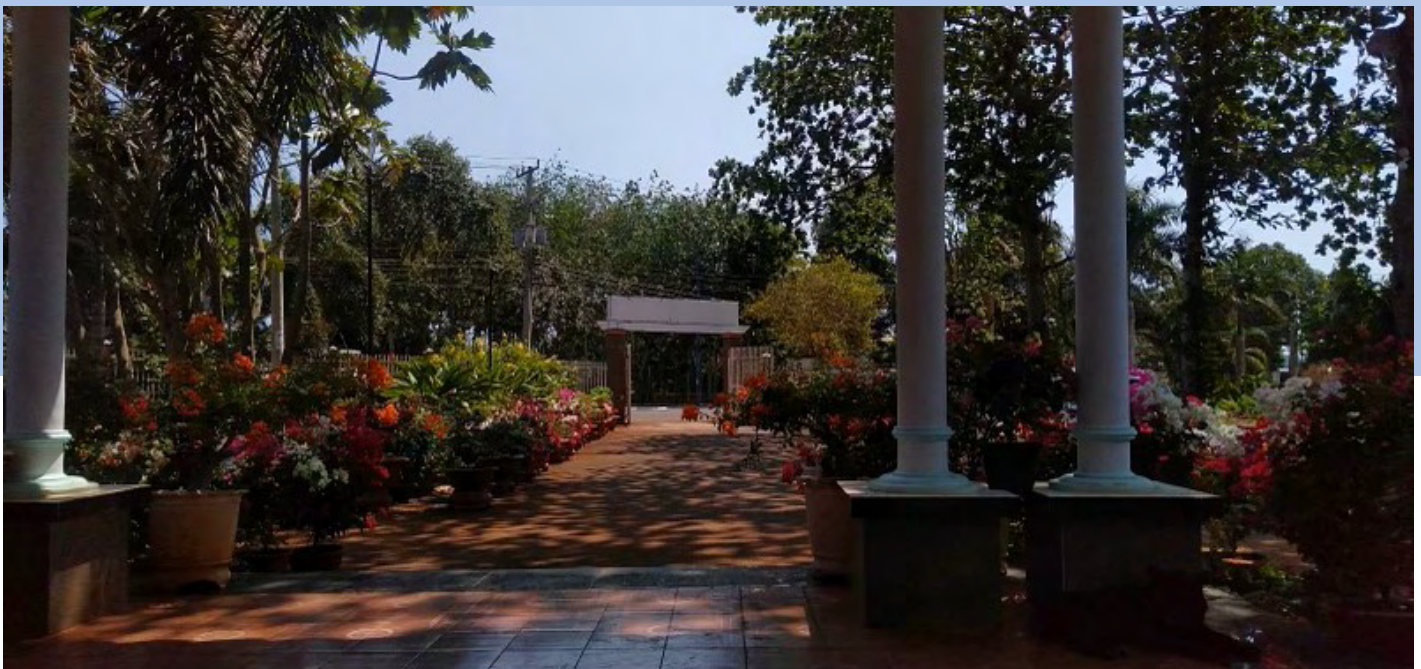
“In my experience, building relationships has always varied from person to person. I believe that building a relationship requires both individuals to work together and create trust in one another. In all relationships, there will always be arguments and things you disagree on, yet the only thing you can control is how you react to the argument. Over the years, I've learned that communication and empathy have caused me to be resilient and work through difficult situations. Sometimes in these moments I felt hopeless, but I found that it's always worth preserving if that person is willing to fix the problems together. “



# GARDENING AS TOLD BY NGỌC HUỲNH

Resilience, a trait embedded in my character, is cultivated through moments of peace and a profound connection to my roots. This concept of resilience isn't abstract but rather a tangible experience, especially when I find myself enveloped in the tranquility of my garden in Ba Ria, or in those quiet moments underwater while diving, where the hustle of the world fades away, and I'm left with a sense of liberation. It is also in the exchanges with Erica at Hanoi's Little Egg Coffee and in the embrace of my father that I've come to understand peace. It's not merely about the absence of noise or the physical space I occupy; it's about being true to myself, engaging in genuine actions not dictated by others, and the comfort of being without a facade.

For instance, my family's garden, a sanctuary of mine, nestled in Ba Ria, Vung Tau, is more than just a plot of land. It stands as a testament to my grandmother's unwavering determination and passion. Starting with nothing but a vision, she transformed barren land into a thriving rubber tree forest. Her journey, marked by resilience, began with a small inspiration from her uncle's land in Tay Ninh and blossomed into hectares of lush greenery. Despite the initial lack of resources — no electricity or readily available water — my grandmother's resolve never wavered. She single-handedly cultivated the land, turning rubber seeds into a flourishing legacy. Though she has passed, the garden remains, cradling memories of my childhood amidst its flora and fauna, serving as a tranquil escape for my family from the urban cacophony.




Her story is not just about the success of cultivating rubber trees; it reflects a broader narrative familiar to Vietnamese culture back then: relentless hard work and resilience in pursuit of one's passions. It's a narrative that underscores the importance of doing what we want to do, a principle that resonates deeply with me. My grandmother's achievements in Ba Ria embody the essence of my family's resilience — starting from scratch, embracing the unknown, and nurturing a dream with sheer tenacity.

In drawing from her example, I'm reminded of the importance of staying grounded in simplicity and focusing on what truly matters to me. As I navigate the complexities of the modern world, vastly different from the era my grandmother knew, I carry with me the lessons of resilience learned from her and my garden. These lessons underscore the value of pursuing peace, honoring one's roots, and the continuous journey of self-advancement while cherishing the legacy and teachings bestowed upon me by my family.

## — MARCHING FORTH —

March has proved to be a month of achievement and anticipation for the AASuccess Community.

Led by Nathan Le, the Youthcon team planned and orchestrated the successful day of our annual YouthCon Scholarship oral presentations, selecting deserving winners from the competing students. Applications for the Ebenstein Scholarship and Outward Bound programs were received, with excitement building for the upcoming announcement of recipients next month. Within the Operations Team, they are currently preparing for their progress report meeting with the Review Team, ensuring alignment for the upcoming Quarter 3 initiatives. Gala preparations are underway, with the chosen Gala Student Apprentices Leo Lue, Marvin Pham, and Kaila Le to create another wonderful event in August. Please look forward to more exciting news and updates in the next month's ENews. Thank you to the entire AASuccess family... Let us keep working towards our commitment to empowering our youth.

A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner of the page. It features a blue silhouette of a person climbing a bar chart. The bar chart has four vertical bars of increasing height from left to right. The person is positioned on top of the second bar from the left, with their arms raised as if celebrating or reaching a goal. The background of the graphic is a light blue gradient.