

What started as an interesting short-term job has turned into a passion. Vinh designed the accounting systems used by the foundation and it's his job as controller to ensure the money is there for the 1,200 wishes granted each year in Canada. By the end of this year more than 20,000 wishes will have been granted by the organization which takes pride in knowing it has never turned down a child.

And while many wishes are relatively inexpensive, some are very costly. Almost half of the wishes are for trips to Disney World or for a Disney cruise. The child with the wish is allowed to take two parents and a sibling so a Disney trip will run \$10,000. Travel is at the top of the wish list for the kids with high-risk or threatening illnesses. Sixty-five per cent of the wishes fall under the heading of travel. Hawaii, the Caribbean and Europe are common destinations. But the foundation has granted wishes for trips to Australia, the Olympics and Bora Bora, trips worth \$25,000 or more.

Vinh says the wishes today are more complex and demanding than they were ten years ago, and kids want to travel farther. Computers, and tech systems which didn't exist are now on lists.

The controller for the Wish Foundation takes pride in meeting the wish needs. By careful management of resources he can ensure the wishes are fulfilled. He says it's very touching when he meets families. The foundation is providing happiness and memories.

You wouldn't think a money man would be passionate about a children's charity. But Vinh created the structure which allows the wishes to happen. Over the years the foundation and its goals have grown on him. He's proud of his work and all the efforts his department make to allow these dreams to come true. He knows without a financial structure it would all fall apart. So he works up to 60 hours a week at his Pickering office completing the many behind-the-scene tasks. He assists with fundraising, manages staff, makes investments, audits IT efficiency, and develops the vision. As he said in a February 22 interview, "We have to know how we get there. I provide the reality check."

Vinh was surprised and shocked to receive a medal. He expected that the Wish Foundation medals would go to some of the many volunteers. He is honoured and happy to be a recipient. He still has the passion and commitment he had ten years ago. He likes to sign the cheques to make the lives of some less