



maison **chance**



**MEALS FOR THE
UNDERPRIVILEGED
CHILDREN**

30 YEARS Anniversary



TIM ALINE REBEAUD
HOÀNG NỮ NGỌC TIM

Founder and Director
of Maison Chance

Dear friends,

I hope this message finds you all in good health. In this newsletter, I would like to provide some recent updates from our organization. Aside from my regular trips between Ho Chi Minh City and Dak Nong to ensure the seamless operation of the Maison Chance centers, I've also traveled from the North to the South to meet with organizations and benefactors interested in supporting and accompanying our mission. Thirty years ago, Maison Chance relied entirely on financial support from abroad. In recent years, 65% of our funding comes from Vietnam – a remarkable achievement! We believe that in the future, Vietnamese financial support may be sufficient to care for our less fortunate children. Let's hold onto that belief.

While anticipating this future, I've begun reconnecting with fundraising trips abroad. In late September, I met with members of Maison Chance associations in Belgium, France, and Switzerland. The 30th-anniversary celebration of Maison Chance will take place in these three countries in October 2024. During these visits, I also had the privilege of meeting with organizations that have been supporting Maison Chance from its early days. They have all expressed their readiness to continue this journey together. In November, I visited Canada to meet with members there and participated in fundraising galas in Toronto and Montreal. Despite the four-year gap due to the pandemic, members of Maison Chance Canada are still actively present and full of energy. The funds raised from the two gala nights will contribute to sustaining our projects in Vietnam. A big shoutout and heartfelt thanks to our Canadian friends!

In Vietnam, the construction project for two functional facilities at the Maison Chance center in Dak Nong has commenced. As mentioned earlier, the center currently requires a suitable workspace for people with disabilities. Therefore, we have initiated a project for a processing workshop for agricultural products such as cashews, coffee, and essential oils. Within the same building complex, there will be an IT room for 180 students to access computer education and a Snoezelen therapy room. The Snoezelen room, designed with gentle lighting, soft sounds, and other decorative elements, creates a tranquil space stimulating the senses of therapy participants, helping them relax and self-heal. This therapy room will support members with autism, hyperactivity, multiple disabilities, or other psychological issues. Adjacent to this, a music house will also be established. Without limiting the participating audience, this will be a place for musical souls to flourish.

I sincerely thank you for your trust and companionship in realizing projects to care for these less fortunate lives. Thanks to you, they will have more opportunities to develop. As we approach the year-end, I wish you peaceful and warm holidays with your family.

Warm regards,
Tim



The Maison Chance family attended the Mid-Autumn Festival organized by the Ho Chi Minh City Young Business Association - Cho Lon Branch (YBA).

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THE VIETNAMESE BAGUETTE

The “Bánh Mì” stands out as one of the most convenient and cherished street foods recommended by international visitors in Vietnam. Infused with a unique Vietnamese touch, the classic baguette, contrary to its name, undergoes a creative transformation by local bakers who expertly blend sauces, meats, vegetables, and an array of spices, introducing the Vietnamese twist to the traditional baguette.

The compact bread cart is now in operation, receiving favorable reviews. With an appealing appearance, robust flavors, and budget-friendly prices, the quantity of baguettes sold on the first day exceeded expectations. This marks a new step forward and a newfound source of pride for the Maison Chance bakery.



CARING FOR SMILES IN THE COMMUNITY

Throughout the year, the dental team from Hope Smiles Dental Clinic in Dak Lak province has been making monthly trips to the Maison Chance center in Dak Nong province, providing regular dental check-ups and treatments for its members.



The team goes above and beyond by offering thoughtful advice and guidance, aiming to help individuals understand the importance of maintaining daily oral hygiene. Going beyond mere treatment, the friendly dental team also engages in interactions, exchanging smiles, and gifting small items such as milk and snacks to the children. Their activities not only serve as a healthcare service, ensuring the dental health of the members, but also as a spreading gesture, contributing to the construction of a loving community.

PICKLEBALL - A NEW SPORT FOR DISABLED PEOPLE



With a love for sports, the Maison Chance Pickleball Club was officially established, bringing joy to the disabled people.

Pickleball is a combination of tennis, table tennis, and badminton, playable indoors or outdoors. The sport involves singles or doubles play, using a paddle and a hollow, perforated polymer ball. It has gained strong popularity, attracting active participation from individuals with disabilities, including youngsters. Beyond physical fitness, it serves as a means to relax after a day of work or study, fostering connections among hearts with a shared passion for sports that has long been restricted by their disabilities.

In celebration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3rd, the Tan Binh Cultural and Sports Center organized a Pickleball tournament for the community, with the motto of leaving no one behind.

Despite their relatively short training period, members of Maison Chance Pickleball Club showcased impressive plays. The matches featured remarkable movements, skillful shots,



and enthusiastic cheers from the audience. The tournament concluded with outstanding achievements, as Maison Chance secured second place in the Men’s Para doubles category and first place in the Mixed Para doubles category, along with several other honorable mentions.

Everyone demonstrated a strong spirit of healthy sportsmanship, creating a positive and inspiring atmosphere. This event proved that individuals with disabilities can not only participate but also excel in any sports they are passionate about. We take pride in our participants and wish everyone to keep the flame of passion burning, live joyfully, stay healthy, and grow more confident in life.

If you ever have the opportunity to visit, we welcome you to play this exciting game with the Maison Chance Pickleball Club.



We had a heartwarming gathering with Tim in Montreal. The event unfolded from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m on Friday, November 17th at a Vietnamese church, but preparations began as early as 4 p.m. The team, comprising sound specialists, lighting experts, videographers, photographers, and stage designers, was all set to contribute their expertise.

The culinary team had everyone's favorite Vietnamese dishes prepared at home, and as the time arrived, the table was adorned with an array of tempting delicacies. With sincerity shining in our eyes and smiles, we were overjoyed to reunite with Tim after an extended period due to the pandemic restrictions.

During the conversation, Tim shared the story of her journey to Vietnam and meeting Thanh. She expressed, "No matter what comes into our lives, we have a choice!" This sentiment echoed the parable of the Good Samaritan in the Bible, who encountered a severely wounded robbery victim left half-dead on the roadside. While many passed by indifferently, the Samaritan took him to an inn for care, paying in advance and promising to settle the full amount later. This story stands as a moral lesson and a testament to the kindness that one can achieve.

However, committing to care for and eventually



staying with those in need poses challenges in transforming into an exemplary story. Few can accomplish such a feat! Tim's choice was to stay! A decision guided by conscience, courage, decisiveness—a once-in-a-lifetime commitment from a 20-year-old girl!

The conversation continued with a question-and-answer session. Attendees were curious about Maison Chance's work and the projects in Dak Nong. When I asked, "Were you Miss Genève, Switzerland, in the past?" Tim replied, "Yes, I was, at 17!" At 17, instead of opting for the glamorous life of a beauty queen—a path often leading to fame—Tim waited and happened to meet Thanh, choosing a higher, more beautiful path.

As all good things must come to an end, this meeting was no exception. People seemed reluctant to leave this time... Tim promised to return to Montreal in April 2024.

Thank you, Tim, and thank you, dear friends, very, very much.

Ms. Oanh Nguyen - Maison Chance benefactor in Canada



It's been four years since our last encounter with Ms. Tim at the fundraising event in 2019. The year 2023 brings a global sigh of relief as we step into a semblance of normalcy post the tumultuous changes wrought by official responses to Covid. This year holds particular significance for both Ms. Tim and Maison Chance, marking the 30th anniversary of the organization's endeavors in Vietnam.

As the clock struck 7 p.m., and everyone settled into their seats, the organizers set the stage by declaring the event's purpose, extending gratitude for the esteemed guests' presence, and unveiling a short film chronicling Maison Chance's remarkable 30-year journey. The destinies nurtured by Maison Chance have blossomed, perpetuating the mission initiated by Ms. Tim to aid those who followed. The heartfelt voices of these Maison Chance beneficiaries resonated with all present.



Representatives from Maison Chance Canada earnestly thanked all distinguished guests, sponsors, and friends in attendance. Their appreciation flowed for the love, care, and support showered by these compassionate individuals on the less fortunate throughout the years. We cast our minds back to 2008 during Tim's initial visit to Toronto when she shared during a conversation, "Some might perceive people with disabilities as incapable, but to me, they are down, not out."

And this has been Tim's mission over the past 30 years. Over time, we've observed transformations and progress—from the organization itself to the lives of beneficiaries under Maison Chance.

Resounding applause, brimming with respect and admiration, echoed through the venue for Tim - the Swiss woman whose life in Vietnam surpasses her time in her home country. Interwoven with captivating performances were the fundraising and auction of artworks by disabled Maison Chance artists, infusing the atmosphere with enthusiasm and joy. A particularly touching aspect was the collective effort of singers and artists who graced the event, uniting to spread love for the less fortunate.

As with all good parties, this one too reached its conclusion. Members of Maison Chance Canada diligently worked till the end—cleaning up and capturing memorable photos with the band, singers, and Tim. The lingering warmth and joy in people's hearts attest to the event's success.

Mr. Nha Nguyen - Maison Chance Canada

Understanding that having a nutritious and quality meal not only helps students maintain the energy to focus on their studies but also positively influences their overall development, we have initiated the “Meals for the Underprivileged Children” project. The aim is to ensure that all students facing extreme difficulties, including ethnic minorities, orphans, and those with disabilities in the 10 primary classes at Maison Chance receive a full daily meal.

With a support amount of USD19 per month or USD190 for a school year of 10 months, the sponsor can choose to support one or several children simultaneously, depending on the financial capability. However, the support will go for the entire class, not just an individual child. The entire amount will be used to cover meal expenses, including rice, gas, food, spices, and desserts for approximately 350 students. The contribution will help many children have better nutritional conditions and absorb knowledge more effectively.



Scan the QR code to watch a video about the project



The seemingly small gestures carry immense value for the students. A meal not only provides energy for the body but also serves as a source of spiritual motivation, making the children feel cared for and nurtured. This collective support program acts as a bridge between compassionate hearts and the tiny souls yearning for warmth.

This project greatly relies on support and collaboration from everyone. Whether big or small, every contribution will bring joy and hope to these adorable children. Your assistance serves as encouragement, driving us to strive for the most wonderful and valuable outcomes for them.

Do not let hunger steal the energy, smiles, and hope of these children!

After dedicating considerable time to their studies and pursuing their passion in Maison Chance's Asian and European Baking course, the trainees of the 3rd course recently completed their final exam before graduation. Throughout this training program, each participant was expected to master a range of baking skills, spanning from the basics to advanced techniques in pastry, bread, and more. The exam covered various topics related to these baked goods, serving as a comprehensive evaluation of the trainees' abilities.



The purpose of this examination extends beyond a mere assessment; it provides valuable feedback from the instructors, allowing trainees to gain insights into their strengths and weaknesses in baking.

Diu Khanh, a participant in the class, expressed her gratitude, saying, "I've just concluded a wonderful journey. I've not only acquired essential skills but also forged meaningful connections with great friends, with whom I can share and support wholeheartedly. I'd like to extend my thanks to Mr. Tin for his enthusiastic teaching, and, most importantly, to Maison Chance for granting us the opportunity to study and shape our futures. This meaningful support has strengthened my resolve to pursue my dream of opening my own bakery."



The trainees' exceptional performance in their exams and the creation of delectable baked goods during the course is a source of pride for Maison Chance. Maison Chance wishes all the trainees continued success as they embark on their professional journeys.

Any dream can be realized with focus and perseverance.



Empowering individuals with disabilities to achieve independence, regain joy, and confidence in life, and affirm their self-worth is the mission that Maison Chance continually pursues. After thorough preparation, the Information Technology training program was officially launched at the Take Wing Center last September.



This 6-month training program is designed for young individuals with physical disabilities, offering practical subjects such as basic computer skills, graphic design, and website design. Beyond the tuition-free education, participants are fully sponsored for accommodation and, notably, receive daily physical therapy sessions. The students not only gain knowledge but also build confidence in their future, surpassing their own limitations.



In addition to the basic IT course, Maison Chance actively seeks additional short-term courses for participants, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), for more practical applications at work. Congratulations on this new beginning, and we hope that these individuals will turn challenges into motivation to rise in life!

At Maison Chance, we often encounter images of cheerful and enthusiastic volunteers engaging in various charitable activities, from cooking and fundraising to teaching and healthcare. So, why choose to volunteer at Maison Chance? Let's listen to Francois share his wonderful experiences.

"We are a team of two instructors and eight final-year students from the Institute of Osteopathy Rennes-Bretagne in the Brittany region of France. The students spend one week in Ho Chi Minh City and another in Dak Nong province, practicing their skills and supporting the care of disabled members at Maison Chance.



We find Maison Chance to be a profoundly meaningful model, providing care for people with disabilities and orphaned children lacking support for their health. It's a valuable experience for us, offering the opportunity to explore the realm of volunteer work and care for patients with disabilities that we encounter less frequently in France. Additionally, this journey helps us learn, accumulate professional knowledge, and meet new friends."



RENNES-BRETAGNE

We never say "goodbye" to our wonderful volunteers; we always say "see you again."

Therefore, we are delighted to welcome back the Casira team from Canada. With their enduring love for the underprivileged in Vietnam, every year, the team chooses Maison Chance as a stopping point for their volunteer journey.

In addition to supporting wall painting, cleaning hallways and the Village Chance grounds, the team also engages in exchanges and experiences the lives of disabled members here.



CASIRA

Thanks to these amazing volunteers! Not only for their dedication and professional expertise but also for their sincerity and empathy towards the struggles of the disabled individuals here. We hope the experience of working at Maison Chance will inspire the volunteers and serve as motivation to help others and make a difference.

No matter who you are, where you come from, or how old you are... Use your energy to spread love to the communities that need it the most.



One such student is **Huynh Nguyen Duy Thang**, currently in the 7th grade. His father is visually impaired, yet he diligently accompanies Thang's mother every day as they wander through the streets, selling lottery tickets. With a precarious life filled with hardships, Thang's education becomes a significant concern for his parents. Despite numerous moments of discouragement, where Thang contemplated dropping out to ease the burden on his family, Maison Chance provided encouragement and support, igniting a determined resolve to succeed through academic pursuits.

One might think that overcoming adversities would brighten Thang's life. However, misfortune struck again when his mother was diagnosed with late-stage kidney failure. The weight on the shoulders of his father, now in his fifties, became heavier, as the meager income from selling lottery tickets could barely sustain their family's basic needs. Despite dedicated efforts, poverty continued to grip the family.

Yet, amidst these hardships, Thang's indomitable spirit prevailed, consistently achieving good to excellent academic results over the years. This scholarship not only provides Thang with an opportunity to continue pursuing his dreams but also serves as a beacon of hope for his future and his entire family.



The students who receive our scholarships all come from challenging circumstances. Some are orphaned, while others lack material resources, enduring significant emotional scars. Therefore, our scholarship program plays a vital role in extending their educational path, bringing them closer to their dreams and breaking the cycle of poverty.

Education is the key to changing destinies, and our timely support not only provides financial assistance for tuition, books, and supplies but also serves as a source of motivation, kindling a ray of hope to dispel the challenges ahead.

Another scholarship recipient is **Ngo Thi Thuy Trang**, currently in the 12th grade. Her father, physically challenged, had previously received vocational training at Maison Chance from 1998 and is currently employed in the sewing room at the Take Wing Center. Her mother left when she was very young, leaving her father, Mr. Khanh, to single-handedly care for her.

Despite the many difficulties in life, their home is always filled with laughter and happiness. Mr. Khanh is immensely grateful to Ms. Tim and Maison Chance for the ongoing support they've received over the years. In addition to supporting Trang's scholarship, the stable accommodation and job at the Take Wing Center provide Mr. Khanh with peace of mind in raising his daughter.



Like other financially challenged students who have overcome adversity, they continue to nurture dreams of higher education. When asked about her future aspirations, Trang smiles and says, "I dream of becoming a teacher at Maison Chance. Supporting mother Tim and imparting knowledge and faith to community students." Perhaps in the future, Trang will be our source of pride and a spiritual comfort to her father, helping him forget the bitterness and sorrow of raising a child alone. These students, despite their hardships, have all been supported by Maison Chance until completing elementary school. As they progress to higher levels of education, the associated costs increase significantly.

Understanding that the journey to reach their dreams is still distant, especially their family's current difficult condition, Maison Chance continues to stand by them, ensuring that their aspirations do not wither in the face of adversity.

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