



## FIRST NEW SCHOOL YEAR CEREMONY IN DAK NONG

Fulfillment of Dak Nong project after 7 years of working



## THE FULL MOON ON THE NEW CENTER

A celebration for the joy of children at Maison Chance

## 2 - A FEW WORDS FROM TIM

A FEW WORDS FROM TIM

**D**ear friends of Maison Chance,  
**S**ix months have passed since the release of our last Newsletter. During this time many things have evolved. Finally, the project I have been running for 7 years comes into being. The new social center in Dak Nong is now in operation. Since August about 118 orphans, poor children and disabled people have joined our new center. 95% of them are from ethnic minorities including Mong, Thai, Tay, Nung, and Dao.

**E**ven though Dak Nong Center is already operating, the construction site is not yet finished. We continue with the construction of 5 buildings which will be dedicated to housing a total of 250 beneficiaries. The list continues with building a wheelchair repair workshop, a swimming pool, and guest rooms, as well as laundromat and wheelchair-accessible gardens to complete the entire project.

**B**y the end of the year, the construction of internal roads will be finished. We are setting up the vegetable garden area and are also beginning to raise fish. Very soon we will receive the first four houses for the equine-therapy so that our beneficiaries can get in touch with the animal world. If everything goes as planned all work will be done within nearly 6 months.

**T**hanks to all those who have contributed to the construction of this new center, my dream has come true. Our new Social Center in Dak Nong will give the most disadvantaged of a remote area the chance to have a new home, care, education and adapted training.

**T**here still is a lot of work to be done, a lot of money to be collected to finalize the investment as well as to cover the operational costs of the center. However, I am hopeful as I'm sure that many kind-hearted people are willing to share our mission: to give an adequate environment to the less fortunate so that they can regain their dignity. All thanks to the solidarity of each one of you.

**TIM ALINE REBEAUD**



**MRS. CHI WITH TIM.** Mrs. Chi is the Vice-Director of Maison Chance in Saigon. She has worked here for 20 years.

## CONTENT

- 2 A few words from Tim
- 3 Newcomers in Saigon
- 4 Volunteers' portrait

- 5 Maison Chance adventure
- 6 Groundbreaking ceremony, second part of work
- 7 Training week of staff members of Dak Nong in Saigon

- 8 Welcome the first 118 beneficiaries
- 10 First new school year ceremony
- 12 The full moon on the new center
- 13 Employees of the Project Office at Maison Chance Vietnam
- 14 On-going projects
- 16 Maison Chance addresses

# NEWCOMERS IN SAIGON

*Five new members of the center in Saigon.*



## NGUYEN HAI DANG & NGUYEN HAI YEN

Born to the same mother and unknown fathers, Hai Yen and Hai Dang became orphans not long after their mother gave birth to them. They were adopted and raised by a kind-hearted neighbor, who unfortunately died from cancer very recently. Without any family or a place to go, Hai Yen and Hai Dang arrived at Maison Chance. Hai Dang is now 10 and attends Grade 4 of Village Chance's primary school. Hai Yen, 12, displays signs of developmental delay due to her Down syndrome. She is taken care of in the special needs class.

Beneficiaries are accepted at the Maison Chance center after a personal file assessment and interviews with social workers.

Maison Chance assesses their needs in terms of healthcare and education to establish a contract based on cooperation and the willingness of each beneficiary.



## NGO VAN HUAN

Huan lost his ability to walk, little by little: his legs and left hand hardened until he could hardly walk. His parents work in Dak Nong province and cannot come back home very often. That's why he grew up in a shelter in Binh Phuoc. He is now 28 and attends an IT vocational training at Take Wing Center to be able to have a sustainable job which could allow him to be financially independent.



## MAI NGOC NGAN

Ngan comes from a very poor family in the center of Vietnam. His father is a moto-taxi driver and his mother owns a small business. Ngan had had a spinal cord cancer, which left his 2 legs paralyzed after the surgery. Being the eldest of 5 children, he, unfortunately, couldn't ensure an income for his family due to his handicap. Ngan is now 21 and attends a training in the Take Wing Center's sewing workshop.



## HA HUU THUONG

Born to an unknown father, Thuong lost his mother at the age of 2. As an orphan, he was raised by his aunt, who also died when Thuong was 17. He then lived with his uncles, both disabled. After having broken his arm a few times, doctors discovered that Thuong was suffering from the brittle bone disease. Now 21, the young man cannot have a job that requires a lot of physical effort due to his condition. He is attending an IT vocational training at Maison Chance.

## 4-VOLUNTEERS

# VOLUNTEERS' PORTRAITS

*Maison Chance always welcomes many volunteers who come from around the world with open arms. Everyone's motivations vary, but their purpose is always the same: to help and to give joy. Albert Einstein said: "The value of a man should be seen in what he gives and not in what he is able to receive."*



### **VU THANH HUONG, DAK NONG PROJECT ASSISTANT, 3 MONTHS**

After an early career in a law firm, Huong looked for a new professional path and in Maison Chance she found the values she supports. Discrete but very professional, she is now working as an assistant for Dak Nong Project. Next month, the 31-year-old woman will become a full-time employee and will start utilizing her knowledge to execute administrative tasks.



### **LÉO GUGUY, MASSAGE THERAPIST, 1 MONTH**

Léo is a 64-year-old massage therapist from Quebec. Always caring and devoted, he wanted to share his knowledge with Maison Chance's staff and our beneficiaries. Very sociable, he adapts quickly to the Vietnamese lifestyle and made many friends at Village Chance.



### **ROXANE FLEURY, SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATOR, 3 MONTHS**

Roxane is a 23-year-old special needs educator from Switzerland who has just graduated. She shows a remarkable patience to stimulate children and young adults with cerebral palsy, autism or Down syndrome. The language barrier is not a problem for the young woman who displays great creativity to be understood by her students.



### **PHILIPPINE TAUZIN, COMMUNICATION OFFICER, 4 MONTHS AND A HALF**

Unlike what we might think of her name, Philippine is a 22-year-old French woman studying International Relations. She arrived at Maison Chance with the wish to be helpful and use her knowledge wisely. Behind her laptop's keyboard or camera's lens, she contributes to the overall communication of our organization.

# MAISON CHANCE ADVENTURE

*As Maison Chance Communication Officer, I am usually telling stories about others. But this time, I will tell you mine.*



*Left picture: A kiss from a student at Village Chance Elementary School.*

*Right picture: My colleagues and I at the Take Wing Center Project Office.*

My name is Philippine, I am a 22-year-old student from France. During my summer break from my International Relations studies, I arrived at Maison Chance in May 2018. I didn't know the organization before but as soon as I found information online, I decided to apply for the vacant position of Communication Officer.

Here, I am in charge of writing articles, taking and editing pictures and videos for the global communication of the organization. I also help the team with applying for grants, writing reports, and finding funds to finance Maison Chance's various projects.

Living abroad and adapting to new cultures are challenges I am always up for. Even though I don't speak the language I tried to acclimate in Vietnam as much as possible. Maison Chance welcomed me with arms opened, and it is a pleasure to work here, surrounded by amazing people dedicating their life to others and sharing the great values which Maison Chance stands for.

Throughout the past few months, I learned a lot more than what I could have imagined. I work most of the time at Take Wing Center, where helping each other is the core value. I also spend some time at Village Chance, where the children give you more love than you can receive. Finally, I am so thankful to have been able to go to Dak Nong twice and see the evolution from a beautiful but empty land to the home of many happy children whose future is brighter now.

Now is time to go back home... I would like to thank once again a thousand times all the people I met during my unforgettable journey in Vietnam. I couldn't leave everything behind so I will become a member of Maison Chance France in the near future: you might hear from me very soon!

*Philippine Tauzin*

**"I've always wanted to use my time for a cause that resonates to me and to work with people who share my values."**

**I knew it in my gut that it was the right time to go on this adventure."**



## 6-DAK NONG REPORT

# GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY, SECOND PART OF WORK

*La Van Thanh has been a motherless child since the age of one. His drug addicted father sent him to many different people. Then, Thanh came to Maison Chance. He is now a student in Business Management. He testifies here to the groundbreaking ceremony at Maison Chance in Dak Nong.*

We have just spent our summer vacation with the children of Krong No District, Dak Nong province, where Maison Chance is expecting to welcome hundreds of people each of whom has a unique story. We all arrived at Maison Chance under special circumstances: with nobody to count on, many of us do not have parents. We did not know our mother, father, hometown or even birth date.



But today, we stand here at the new Social Center in Dak Nong, of which the construction is just about completed. We are all very proud of what Mum Tim did for this country, and especially for our own lives. Among us, Tran Van Thanh must be the proudest one. He is Maison Chance's first child, who was believed to be terminally ill 25 years ago. But by some miracle, he crossed paths with Mum Tim who saved his life. Today, he is by our side to burn incense and pray for the second groundbreaking ceremony that took place at Maison Chance Social Center in Dak Nong.

We all hope that this project will succeed and that people from all around the world will be able to join forces to help us so that people like us have a less hard life. No words can express how grateful we are to all the people who never ceased supporting us.

Now, all we have to do is give our best at school so that Mum Tim and the people who help Maison Chance won't be disappointed with us. We deeply thank you for everything you have done for us!

*La Van Thanh*

### Construction information Accommodation part

At the beginning of the project, we considered hosting 100 beneficiaries in the center, plus 150 students during the day. Finally, we understood that these schoolchildren, inhabiting far away, could not go home daily. For this reason, we decided to build a dormitory for 150 children. So now it will be a living space for a total of 250 beneficiaries.

Beginning of the construction: 30.07.2018  
Duration: 7 months  
Budget: **603,200 USD**



## TRAINING WEEK OF STAFF MEMBERS OF DAK NONG IN SAIGON

At the end of August, a dozen staff members of the Social Center Maison Chance in Dak Nong - nurses, auxiliary nurses, physiotherapists, specialized teachers and an accountant visited the team in Saigon.

During a week, they were able to share their professional experiences as well as learn new techniques. The purpose of these exchanges is to broaden and standardize knowledge between the two centers.

This week of training was successful and brought a lot of joy, enthusiasm, and satisfaction to the participants. Given this success, other training weeks will be organized to improve the skills of the staff, to create

motivation and an opportunity to meet staff members of Saigon and Dak Nong.

The homogenization of techniques, care, and teaching through a regular exchange between the two teams, guarantees equal opportunities to all beneficiaries.



### NEEDS OF SEWING WORKSHOP

After twenty years of operation, our sewing workshop is obsolete. We need to renew some of our equipment. In addition, we are receiving more and more apprentices and a second workshop will be opened soon. In total, we need to buy 7 new sewing machines suitable for people with disabilities.

Price of one machine: 175 USD  
Total price: **1,225 USD**

# WELCOME THE FIRST 118 BENEFICIARIES

*Our dream is coming true as Maison Chance Social Center in Dak Nong has finally opened to the first 118 beneficiaries who arrived last August. All are disadvantaged children from families who can not afford their schooling.*



Thanks to your endless support to build and operate this project, these children will be able to benefit from free schooling. Moreover, those who often live too far from our social center will be able to stay in the center’s dormitories during the week. A bus will be at their disposal to come back home on weekends.

The children are now getting used to going to school every day and getting ready to start the official curriculum on September 5th. Most of them have to adapt to these new living conditions. In fact, 95% of the children are from ethnic minorities. They arrived at Dak Nong Social Center with only what they were wearing and no shoes, without even a bag or a change of clothes. They discovered running water and soap on their first day, some of them even tried to wash their hands in the toilets!

Of these 118 children, 17 are physically or mentally disabled. They will be able to follow special needs classes adapted to their handicap. They also benefit from daily physiotherapy sessions.

## DO YOU KNOW?

Monthly expenses for an orphan/disadvantaged and/or handicapped child covered by Maison Chance:

Orphan/Disadvantaged child: 151 USD/month

Handicapped: 360 USD/month



## NEXT PAGE:

Portraits of the first 9 orphaned children who have just arrived at the Social Center Maison Chance in Dak Nong.





1



2



3



4



5

1. **Lang Khanh Mau**, born on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Thai minority, fatherless. His mother who is very poor cannot take care of him.

2. **Nguyen Van Hieu**, born on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010, abandoned by his parents.

3. **Vi Thi Van**, born on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009, abandoned by her mother. She is living with her father who is too busy to take care of his children.



6



9

4. **Vi Van Lam**, born on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Thai minority. He is the younger brother of Vi Thi Van.

5. **Lang Ngoc Hoa**, born on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009, Thai minority, abandoned by her parents. She is living with her grandparents.

6. **Luong Van Phuc**, born on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Thai minority, fatherless and abandoned by his mother. He is living with his grandparents.



7

7. **Vi Van Liem**, born on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, Thai minority. He is the younger brother of Vi Thi Van.

8. **Luong Thi Ngoc**, born on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Thai minority, abandoned by her parents.

9. **Lang Xuan Phu**, born on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Thai minority, abandoned by his parents.



8



9



The teacher in her traditional dress, the "ao dai".



The first class.



These little girls are preparing a traditional ethnic minority dance.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

# FIRST NEW SCHOOL YEAR CEREMONY

It was a beautiful morning on September the 5th, 2018 when we celebrated the first opening ceremony of the new school year at the Social Center in Dak Nong. A total of 118 children from grade 1 to 4 and a special needs class will start studying there. Grade 5 will be opened the next year.

The MC Thanh Bach, accompanied by his friends, the singer Nhat Chung and Dr. Dam Hung, held the ceremony. He was very happy to participate in this event which symbolizes the culmination of one of Maison Chance's many projects, which he has long supported.



"I am convinced that giving is receiving. What makes me happiest is the smile that illuminates a child's face."  
 Tim Aline Rebeaud



*Tim hits the drum to start the new school year.*

*Tim thanks all the people involved in the project and welcomes the children.*



The older children and their teachers also participated in the ceremony: songs, dances, and laughter filled the rendezvous. Other beneficiaries, volunteers, teachers, and other staff cheered our talented young artists in the audience. In addition, Maison Chance welcomed exceptional guests such as Dak Nong Provincial People's Committee Vice President Ms. Ton Thi Ngoc Hanh, Dak Nong Vice President the Department of Education Mr. Phan Van Hai, Vice President of the Department of the War Invalids and Social Affairs Mr. Y Long Ni E,

the President of the Department of Foreign Affairs Ms. Nguyen Thi Kim Loan and other representatives of local authorities.

At the ceremony, Tim gave a moving speech in which she explained the importance of carrying out projects of this type, for disadvantaged and disabled children, as well as her happiness to see one of her dreams come true.

*Text: Philippine Tuzin;  
Photo: Cong Duy & Hai.*

# THE FULL MOON ON THE NEW CENTER

*Every year in mid-autumn, during a full moon, a festival dedicated to children called Tet Trung Thu is organized in Vietnam. On this occasion, children can play traditional games and eat “moon cakes”. At night, young people go out on the streets to play drums and do the dragon dance. Later in the evening children walk with pretty lanterns.*

This year, Tet Trung Thu was held for the first time at Maison Chance Social Center in Dak Nong, and it was also the first time in their lives that the 118 children beneficiaries participated in the celebration. Together with their teachers, they prepared songs and dances, as well as a fashion show with clothes made from recycled products.



In the morning, the famous MC Thanh Bach came to animate the event, by introducing everyone to the game “mua sap”. In this game, children jump over a row of bamboos held at both ends by people who hit them on the ground in rhythm.



Meanwhile, Dr. Dam Hung’s volunteer group, the “Y Te Tinh Thuong”, organized medical consultations for all the children. They also gave gifts to all of them.

The real show began in the early afternoon with the children’s dances and songs. Even people on wheelchairs made a round of wild music. Also, the little ones made their fashion show. They were very confident and delighted audience.



The Directorate of the Dray Sap Nature Reserve invited a magician for this occasion. With his various tricks, like the dove coming out of a scarf, or the balloons which it swelled and transformed into a sword or hats that he offered to the little ones, he made all the assembly laugh. The children were crying from laughter and were asking for more.

The almost 200 people, gathered in the dining room of the Center, sang and danced until the end of the afternoon. Then at night, under the light of the full moon illuminating the new center, children lit their lanterns and made a round around the heart-shaped lake.



Tim

# EMPLOYEES OF THE PROJECT OFFICE AT MAISON CHANCE VIETNAM

STAFF-13



## CONG DUY – Webmaster & Volunteers' Manager

Suffering from a serious fever at the age of 6 which made him a quadriplegic, Duy first time arrived at Maison Chance when he was 14. Illiterate, he learned how to read and write in Vietnamese and in French, and then pursued an IT vocational training. At 33 years old, Duy now cumulates the role of webmaster and French-speaking volunteers' manager with who he shares his culture and some beer!



## BICH TRAM – Responsible for welcoming foreign visitors

Tram is 29, but she arrived at Maison Chance when she was still a little girl. She had the opportunity to pursue her studies in the United States but had always promised to come back to Vietnam to work for Maison Chance and help other less fortunate people. Today, she welcomes and organizes activities for our visitors, manages guestrooms and the treasury. She is also the English-speaking volunteers' manager.



## THU LY – Accountant & Human Resources Manager

Hardworking, Ly holds the job of HR manager and accountant for Maison Chance internationally. Motivated by this multilingual environment, the 30-year-old woman also takes online English classes to obtain an extra certification. She is a happy mother of little Bean.



## YEU THUONG – Sales & Marketing Manager

Yeu Thuong, 39, joined the Project Office early this summer. Her punchy personality helps her quickly integrate into the team. She made herself a mission to improve sales of Maison Chance's handmade products, which are made by our beneficiaries.



## THANH BINH – Dak Nong Project Coordinator

Ms. Binh is 63. In addition to her great knowledge of hydraulic engineering, social issues, and construction, she developed her skills in Project Management by studying in India and then working in Africa. She is responsible for Dak Nong Project for 2 years now.



## VAN THAI – Construction Engineer

Thai is 37 years old. He started working for Maison Chance almost 3 years ago when we started implementing the Dak Nong Project. In the beginning, he was in charge of the project's technical blueprints; today, he is supervising the construction site. He is a proud dad of 2 sons.



## THANH THUY – International Assistant

After working for Maison Chance for 2 years, Thuy had to return to her family in the North of Vietnam. As she is very involved in Maison Chance's projects, she continues to cooperate by working remotely. The trilingualism is a major skill that helps the 33 year-old woman to find the funds needed to carry out our many projects. As soon as she can, she will join us again in Saigon.



## LONG HAI – International Assistant

Long Hai, 30 years old, is the newest member of the Project Office. He loves adventures and always thinks of the faraway journeys. Together with Thuy they are in charge of fundraising and communication.

## 14-ON-GOING PROJECTS



Update: Latest construction plan of Maison Chanc Social Center in Dak Nong.

## ON-GOING PROJECTS

*On the construction site, work continues and several projects are in progress. To complete all this all we need the solidarity of each one of you.*

### WHEELCHAIRS REPAIR

### WORKSHOP

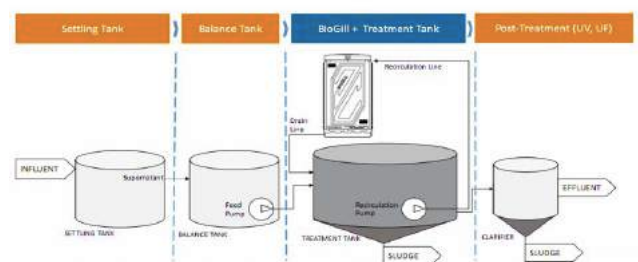


In order to maintain the independence of people with reduced mobility, a wheelchair repair workshop will be created at the Dak Nong Social Center. This workshop will also be a training center for the people with disability. The maintenance of wheelchairs is essential for the autonomy and dignity of disabled beneficiaries.

**Budget: 18,000 USD**

### WASTEWATER TREATMENT

DECENTRALISED SEWAGE – SYSTEM CONFIGURATION



At Maison Chance Social Center in Dak Nong, respect for the environment and sustainable development are at the heart of our concerns. In this spirit, we have planned the establishment of an ecological treatment system for wastewater from kitchens, laundromats, showers, and stables.

In order to be as efficient as possible, the choice fell on the creation of a buried bio-reactor, 100% ecological, economical and durable. This equipment will provide better wastewater treatment quality without the use of electric pumps.

Treated wastewater from:

- 1- stables will be used for organic farming, the extracted solids will be used as fertilizer.
- 2- domestic activities will be used for watering especially during the dry season which lasts several months in Vietnam.

Thus, after treatment, the water used by the beneficiaries and visitors of the center will be used for watering and fertilizing gardens and will also feed the fish breeding pond.

**Budget: 26,000 USD**

**EQUINE THERAPY**



The benefits of animal therapy for children and adults with disabilities led us to develop the equine therapy in Dak Nong.

Equine therapy promotes emotional fulfillment specifically in case of paralyzed patients and children with severe behavioral disorders.

**Budget: 24,350 USD**

**AQUATIC THERAPY**



© McFreddy Photos

In order to maintain the will to create good conditions for the members of Dak Nong, a pool of 273m<sup>2</sup> will be built. It will give the opportunity for hundreds of people to learn to swim, which will reduce the risk of drowning, a frequent accident in remote areas.

A small heated pool with jets will offer to the disabled aquatic therapy which helps to relax their muscles and help them regain their well-being.

**Budget: 46,750 USD**

**HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT US?**

■ By joining the association as an active member, by volunteering in your country or in Vietnam to support disadvantaged people.

■ By buying the products made by our beneficiaries.

■ By donating equipment (wheelchairs, medicines, computers, etc.)

■ By donations in cash or bank transfer through our website. Please do not send a check directly to Vietnam.

■ Donate by bank transfer:

Bank: **EXIMBANK**  
 Address: 229 Dong Khoi, ward Ben Nghe, Dist.1, Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam  
 Name: **ASSOCIATION MAISON CHANCE**  
**USD: 20001485000517**  
**VND: 20001485005274**  
**EUR: 200014852007054**  
 SWIFT Code: **EBVIVNVX**

**ORGANIC CULTURE AND BREEDING**



This project aims to develop organic agriculture and livestock breeding by including training for people with disabilities. The objective is to produce organic fruits and vegetables, raise animals so that we could provide the center with eggs and fish to feed the beneficiaries. Surplus can be sold and bring a small extra income to the center.

**Budget: 56,800 USD**



# MAISON CHANCE



maison**chance**

## BELGIUM

80 Rue Albert Meunier, 1160 Bruxelles, Belgique  
Email: belgique@maison-chance.org

## SWITZERLAND

Case postale 5201, 1003 Lausanne, Suisse  
Email: suisse@maison-chance.org

## CANADA

5830 De Canseau, St.Léonard, QC, H1P1H9, Canada  
Email: canada@maison-chance.org

## FRANCE

40 rue Damrémont, 75018 Paris, France  
Email: france@maison-chance.org

## UNITED STATES

2403-DN. Harrison St. #1128, Arlington, VA 22207, USA  
Email: usa@maison-chance.org

### NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2018

Content: Philippine, Tim, Hai and Christine.  
Photo: Cong Duy, Long Hai, Philippine.  
Design: Long Hai.



Follow us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/MaisonChance](http://www.facebook.com/MaisonChance)

## MAISON CHANCE VIETNAM TAKE WING CENTER

19A, đường số 1A, KP9,  
P. Bình Hưng Hoà A, Q. Bình Tân,  
Tp. Hồ Chí Minh, Việt Nam  
Phone: +84 (0) 2862-659-566  
Email: vietnam@maison-chance.org

[www.maison-chance.org](http://www.maison-chance.org)

