



The original Newsletter September 2020

# maison chance

## THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR CLOSING CEREMONY AT MAISON CHANCE







**ALINE REBEAUD / HOANG NU NGOC TIM**

Founder and Director of Maison Chance Vietnam

*Dear friends of Maison Chance,*

*I hope you are well and healthy despite the difficult times that we are going through.*

*After 99 days with no community spread, Vietnam has reportedly detected new cases of the covid-19 virus in Da Nang province. The local authority moved quickly to halt further spread. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, 1.049 cases have been reported as identified in Vietnam, including 854 recovered, 157 in hospital and 35 dead. Although the Vietnamese border remains closed to foreign nationals as for many other nations, the country accepts repatriation flights. Arrivals must undergo quarantine for 14 days in a government quarantine facility. Even though the country has resumed its normal activities (or almost resumed as social distancing measures have been implemented in Da Nang province in the face of new cases), several sectors are affected such as tourism, entertainment, agriculture, etc. Many businesses closed and their employees lost their jobs.*

*As for Maison Chance, we were faced with financial difficulties because there were no more foreign visitors, and it was impossible for me to raise funds in other countries. (Over 85% of our income is from abroad). With my team, we contacted many benefactors and businesses to ask for help during this difficult time. Fortunately, many of them replied and gave us rice, instant noodles, other essentials and medical supplies. Some employees as well as beneficiaries have also helped by giving their salary back to Maison Chance to reduce the costs of our organization. The critical period has already passed, but we continue to do our best to raise public awareness about Maison Chance, and by doing this, increase community engagement with our cause.*

*We take care of orphans, disadvantaged children and people with disabilities. Thanks to your generosity, their future is brighter. From the bottom of my heart, I would like to express my gratitude for your great solidarity and commitment, and I hope it won't stop here, regardless of the adversity experienced over the past months.*




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Maison Chance knows that education is essential for the development of an individual. It is a long process which, to achieve the final objective, requires many resources and community-wide commitment to join hands. Indeed, the children supported by Maison Chance are orphans, or come from very disadvantaged background, whose families are facing complicated and challenging situations, with frequent residential moves, and as a result, the risk of dropping out is high.

From this context, Maison Chance plans to run long-term sponsorship program, in which the sponsor supports a class (from 30 to 40 students). The collective sponsorship program (compared to individual sponsorship) is the most appropriate model to ensure that equal attention, love, and development opportunities are given to all children studying at Maison Chance. In this way, none of them will be left behind.

Through the collective sponsorship program, Maison Chance hopes to build a sincere, long-term relationship, a real connection between the sponsor and the children. In particular, their role not only financially supports the children, but also gives them love, trust, and encouragement to overcome their difficulties, bravely step into the future, and bring about significant changes in their lives.

For a sponsorship of 12 US dollars per month (equivalent to 40 cents per day), a sponsor can undertake one or more sponsorships at the same time, depending on their financial situation. Nominally, they will be the sponsor of the whole class, not just one child. 80% of the grant will be used to cover tuition and school supplies, 10% for medical costs, and 10% for clothing.

Here are the sponsorship programs which will be established:

- Sponsoring a class at Village Chance primary school in Ho Chi Minh City to prevent school dropouts and illiteracy of disadvantaged and disabled children or children without a birth certificate and/or who are too old for public schools.
- Sponsoring a primary school class at the Maison Chance center in Dak Nong Province to assist the underprivileged ethnic minorities' children to attend school.
- Sponsoring a special needs class at the Maison Chance center in Dak Nong Province to benefit children with intellectual disabilities and physical disabilities so they develop essential skills and have as a happy childhood as their able-bodied peers.

By participating in the collective sponsorship program, a sponsor will be able to:

- Receive a letter of appreciation and confirmation as a sponsor.
- Receive photos and a list of pupils in the sponsored class.
- Receive reports on the progress of work and activities of the sponsored children at least 1-2 times/year.
- Visit the sponsored class, talk to the children and teachers.
- Exchange emails, photos, letters and presents with the class being sponsored.

If you would like to be a sponsor or wish to know more, please email us at **[vietnam@maison-chance.org](mailto:vietnam@maison-chance.org)**







*Hieu, disabled since birth, comes from a very poor ethnic minority family.*



*The three brothers Bien, Hoi, Thoang are born with physical and mental disabilities. Their parents don't have the means to take care of them.*



*Hieu completely changed after 6 months at Maison Chance Dak Nong.*



*At Maison Chance, they receive their education in special classes and get adequate care.*



## WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY



World Children's Day at Maison Chance Social Center in Dak Nong started early with a football match between 2nd and 5th grades team and 3rd and 4th grades team. A picture of two teams after the game. Winners or losers, all smiling!



After having a small break and enjoying lemonade, they continued with the marathon, the tug-of-war with cheers and applause from classmates and teachers.



The day concluded with swimming and chess competitions.



## SCHOOL YEAR CLOSING CEREMONY



Despite a 3-month interruption due to Covid-19, the 2019-2020 school year ended well at Village Chance primary school in HCMC. 90% of the pupils obtained satisfactory results in the end-of-year exams.



The pass rate is 100% for the 5th class.



As for Dak Nong, the closing ceremony was very special because the first 5th class of the Social Center's school finished their primary studies.



The Maison Chance scholarships were awarded to them to enable them to continue their secondary studies. Students in special classes also received gifts to congratulate them on their efforts.





### A CHANCE FOR AGING AND DISABLED PEOPLE

Maison Chance Social Center in Dak Nong was created especially to meet the needs of aging people with severe disabilities who are unable to support themselves and become independent due to their serious disability. This new living space has been designed so that these beneficiaries can feel secure, and live their end of life in an environment adapted to their needs.

Currently, the center supports 173 beneficiaries, 10 of whom are aging disabled people. The majority of them moved from the Maison Chance shelter in Saigon to the new center in Dak Nong. Most of them spent many years in an urban environment. So, this change of environment was not trivial, even if they were mentally prepared.

Thanks to the attention and dedication of the Social Center's employees, they quickly felt at home. Every day, thanks to the dedicated work of the physiotherapists, they train to maintain and improve their health. They don't feel stressed because they don't need to secure an income to support themselves. Maison Chance takes care of them until the end of their life. As soon as their physical health is stable, they actively participate in professional workshops in order to feel useful and become financially independent, and by doing so, proving that one can be disabled and still be happy. They also take part in other activities of the Social Center such as gardening, cooking, etc. alongside the employees and children.



Thanks to the caring, attentive and favorable environment at the Social Center, they have rediscovered their zest for life, are thriving and very happy.

An example of this is Dat. Illiterate when first arriving in the Social Center, this 50-year-old suffers from osteogenesis imperfecta, a rare and hereditary disease characterized by excessive fragility of the bones. Even delicate movements can cause fractures.



*Dat is writing his first letters.*

In addition to this disease, skin tumors appear all over his body. Because of this condition, he didn't have any friends during his childhood. He would lock himself in his house and dress in a way that covered his whole body. Joining Maison Chance, his health has greatly improved. Every day, alongside his little classmates, he learns to read and write. He is now able to recognize letters and to spell words. At almost 50, it's never too late!

Tai's journey is also notable. He is paraplegic and also has had his leg amputated. Besides his work as a craftsman in the painting workshop, he also began teaching students at the Social Center, including those in special needs classes.

Both Dai and Thang teach basic IT skills to the children. Tai and Tam devote their time to paint and teach drawing, while Thanh also enjoys painting, as well as growing mushrooms. Gioi is responsible for the aquaponics system and is a great help in the kitchen.

Thành, the first beneficiary of Maison Chance, is also a helpful aid in the kitchen. He regularly takes special education classes and daily attends horse therapy.

At the moment, Hung and Phung have to remain in bed as their bedsores have not healed yet, but as soon as they fully recover, they will be in charge of some work to make them feel useful to the community.



*Tai teaches drawing to the children in the Social Center.*



*(From left to right) Thang, Phung, Thanh, Hung, Dat, Gioi, Tai, Tam, Dai, Thanh and Tim.*





*A young, dynamic and dedicated team.*



*Tim was also there despite her knee injury.*

### SHARING IS HAPPINESS

The suffocating heat marked the first days of June in the Central Highlands. Despite her knee injury from an accident, Ms Tim, leaning on her crutch, accompanied by her team from Maison Chance in Dak Nong, visited three remote villages in the province to distribute rice to the poverty-stricken villagers.

Maison Chance has carried out this community-driven project for a long time and continues to help disadvantaged communities to overcome the difficulties caused by natural disasters and, in particular, the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic this year.

Despite its financial problems, Maison Chance is trying to help in the best way possible by distributing rice to underprivileged people in Dak Nong Province, which is home to several ethnic minorities.

For two days, in collaboration with local authorities, Maison Chance Social Center in Dak Nong distributed 5 tonnes of rice to 434 residents of three villages in Dak Nong province. During the first day, we handed out 1.5 tonnes of rice to 150 impoverished people in the village of Tan Thanh. The following day, 284 inhabitants of the villages of Duc Xuyen and Dak Dro received 3.5 tonnes of rice, i.e. around 10 to 15 kg of rice for each beneficiary.

For Tim and the Maison Chance team, seeing the smile on these beneficiaries' faces, walking home with a rice sack in their arms, suddenly the tiredness, the heat during the last two days of social work was gone. Such happiness is always a source of motivation for the Maison Chance team and gives us the courage to continue our missions.



*Each family received from 30 to 40 kilos of rice.*



## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE'S ORIENTATIONS

Maison Chance Social Enterprise was created in 2019 to carry out business activities focused on goods and services produced by people with disabilities supported by Maison Chance. The company is young and still has a long way to go. But in the long run, a minimum of 51% of the profits will be returned to the organization to alleviate operating costs.

In the future, Maison Chance Social Enterprise aims to develop actively agricultural products such as cashew nuts, macadamia nuts, coffee blossom honey, turmeric starch, honey-turmeric ball, and black pepper, which come from the Central Highlands.

In addition to agricultural products and tourism services, the social enterprise continues to make fabric objects, paintings and jewelry carved with semi-precious stones. It also manufactures handbags, backpacks, etc. The social enterprise also makes custom items like school uniforms and martial arts outfits.

Every year, on the occasion of the Mid-Autumn Festival, the Maison Chance bakery produces moon cakes, always prepared with fresh ingredients and without preservatives. These cakes will make a perfect gift for your families and friends.



Different flavors of mooncakes.



### **Bich Tram - Director**

She manages all of the company's activities. Arriving at Maison Chance at the age of 4, she studied in the USA for more than 5 years. Today at 30, she is the mother of an adorable little girl.



### **Van Thanh - In charge of sales and marketing.**

An orphan who arrived at Maison Chance at the age of 12, he is now 24 and has just finished university.



### **Thi Ngoan - Responsible for the guesthouse, Maison Chance Dak Nong.**

Also from Dak Nong province, she has been working with us for two years and divides her time between the social enterprise and the work of educator.



**Thu Ly - In charge of accounting and human resources.** Having first started as volunteer, Ly became an employee full of responsibilities. She divides her time between the Projects Office and Social Enterprise.



**Thu Thuy - In charge of guesthouse and cashier.** After having a leg amputated, Thuy joined Maison Chance in 2005. Today she is married to a quadriplegic man. They live at Village Chance.



### **Lam Son - Webmaster.**

Paralyzed by spinal injury, Son gets around in a wheelchair. He arrived at Maison Chance as a computer science student.



### **Kim Phuong - Responsible for administration and sales.**

She is a loyal employee who has been working for almost 10 years at Maison Chance.

### **Thi Nga - Accountant, Maison Chance Dak Nong**

She has been working with us for a year and she is from Dak Nong.





Tien at painting workshop





Construction of the Village Chance started in 2009 and it was inaugurated in 2011. The Village Chance consists of 33 apartments specially designed for wheelchair users. Village Chance also includes a swimming pool for therapeutic purposes, a bakery workshop, a restaurant, a primary school for disadvantaged children, a kindergarten, and special needs classes for children with mental disabilities.

After nearly ten years of use, Village Chance is now home to 103 social-reintegrated beneficiaries. For people in wheelchairs, this is not only a place of residence but also a large family of people with disabilities. In this large family, these disabled people live together, caring, sharing, and motivating each other towards a brighter future and being useful to themselves and society.

Over the last few years, torrential rains accompanied by strong winds have severely damaged the Village Chance's roof, causing leaking and water seeping through the ceiling and walls. During heavy downpours, some residents cannot sleep because water flows directly over their beds.

The roof leak situation is becoming more severe and complicated, directly affecting the quality of life and health of more than 100 residents, the majority of whom are disabled. The renovation and upgrade of the Village Chance apartments are therefore very urgent.

We have received quotations from various construction companies, and the budget needed for this renovation is approximately **21,195 USD**.

More than ever, we need your support to improve the quality of life for the inhabitants of Village Chance. Your generosity will directly benefit our wheelchair users and their families!





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Thu Ha is quadriplegic and mute.  
Hai Yen has Down syndrome. They  
love each other like biological sisters.