



## **WESTERN & ASIAN BAKING COURSE**

*FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED YOUTH*

## **WELCOME NEW BENEFICIARIES**

*IN MAISON CHANCE SOCIAL CENTER IN SAIGON AND DAK NONG PROVINCE*

## **VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

*FOR THE DISABLED IN MAISON CHANCE SOCIAL CENTER IN DAK NONG*





### ALINE REBEAUD

Founder and Director of Maison Chance

Dear friends of Maison Chance,

*I wish you all health and peace and that the government restrictions related to COVID-19 have not affected your lives too much. Our lives have changed completely, and we must adapt and focus on core issues. It is a major life challenge.*

*Maison Chance was also heavily affected by the pandemic measures. Since February, Vietnam has closed its borders, causing a sharp decline in the number of foreign visitors who contribute to Maison Chance by using our tourism services, products, and making financial donations. For this reason, Maison Chance has had to balance its operating fund and save money in many ways:*

- Maison Chance has reached out locally, and many local businesses donate in-kind with items such as food, clothes, utensils, etc., which has helped cut monthly expenses.*
- Maison Chance Social Enterprise, which opened one year and a half ago, has been developing new products such as pepper, honey, and cashew nuts from Dak Nong province. If Vietnam reopens next year, we expect to welcome back foreign visitors, and our business will prosper.*
- Personnel numbers have been reduced. However, daily activities have been guaranteed. The remaining employees try their best to share the burden with Maison Chance. Additionally, 15 Vietnamese volunteers have come to support and participate in education - training, health, and administrative programs.*
- Thanks to the support of the Embassy of Switzerland in Vietnam, the solar power project has been implemented in Dak Nong, reducing the center's electricity consumption costs.*

*Maison Chance is facing a challenging year, but we continue with our mission. This year, we have implemented the following projects:*

- We welcomed 50 new beneficiaries into the center in Dak Nong, bringing the total number of beneficiaries, including children and disabled, to 187 people. Three vocational training workshops, including IT, drawing, and hardstone carving, were also put into operation.*
- A drawing contest for the students of Maison Chance was also held in Maison Chance Dak Nong. Thirty children among 100 participants received awards. The 13 best paintings will be printed in a calendar of Roche Vietnam.*
- A music class was also organized. The members have been actively practicing being able to perform for the first time around Christmas.*
- Over 50 students, who graduated from Maison Chance primary school, were awarded scholarships to continue their secondary education.*
- Five primary classes at our center in HCMC and two classes in Maison Chance Dak Nong found their sponsors in the Collective Sponsorship Program.*

*The road ahead looks long and hard, and our projects continue to take place. Maison Chance believes that when we sow the seeds of love, happiness will be reaped.*

*May 2021 be a year full of joy, health and happiness for you and your families!*



Tim




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## PRESENTING NEW BENEFICIARIES



**Tran Anh Quoc** (DOB 1998)  
He has paralysis of the lower extremities from an accident. Quoc has apprenticed IT at Maison Chance Dak Nong.



**Duong Cong Anh** (DOB 1991)  
He has a leg disability after a labor accident in 2015. Anh has apprenticed hard-stone carving at Maison Chance Dak Nong.



**Nguyen Hoai Nhan** (DOB 2002)  
He has to move in a wheelchair after an accident in 2018. From Vinh Long province, he has apprenticed IT at Take Wing Center.



**Le Sy Linh** (DOB 1990)  
He has to move by a three-legged walking stick due to an accident. Linh has apprenticed IT at Maison Chance Dak Nong.



**Lam Son Luu** (DOB 1998)  
He has paralysis of the lower extremities from an accident. Luu has apprenticed IT at Maison Chance Dak Nong.



**Nguyen Nhut Quang** (DOB 2000)  
He has paralysis of the lower extremities due to a labor accident. He has apprenticed IT at the Take Wing Center.

**Nguyen Tien Minh** (DOB 2009)  
His parents abandoned him. He has been cared for and studying at Village Chance's primary school.



**Pham Xuan Dai** (DOB 1989)  
He has paralysis of the lower extremities from an accident. Dai has apprenticed IT at Maison Chance Dak Nong.



**Duong Dinh Tai** (DOB 1998)  
He has a birth disability and atrophy of the lower extremities, and left hand. Tai has apprenticed hard-stone carving at Maison Chance Dak Nong.



**Nguyen Thi Van Anh** (DOB 2003)  
She has a left half paralysis, and her left hand can't hold heavy things. She has apprenticed at the drawing workshop at Maison Chance Dak Nong.

## VOCATIONAL TRAINING

### THE HARDSTONE CARVING WORKSHOP



After more than two years of operation, Maison Chance Social Center in Dak Nong Province is taking care of 187 beneficiaries.

In addition to cultural and specialized education classes, the center has vocational training courses for people with disabilities. Maison Chance provides beneficiaries with free health care, accommodation, and food. The facilities are entirely new; the staff is friendly and enthusiastic.

All of these factors help the less fortunate have the best conditions possible in order to reintegrate into social life and take care of themselves.

Besides the IT workshop, the drawing workshop was also put into operation af-

ter the center's opening. Last October, the hardstone carving workshop opened with 5 participants and an experienced beneficiary in charge of instructing.

The participants are currently learning how to use the machines and equipment in the workshop, distinguishing gemstones and semi-precious stones. Then they will be guided in the stone making process from rough stones to finished products.

Maison Chance desires to enable life in dignity and autonomy for the disabled through suitable jobs. The beneficiaries will be provided vocational training and job orientation, which will allow them to have a stable income and be useful to society.



### CASHEW NUT PROCESSING IN MAISON CHANCE DAK NONG

Jungle, agricultural, and forestry land cover 90% of Dak Nong province's total acreage with many kinds of agricultural trees such as coffee, black pepper, cashews, and so on.

With the aim of creating long-term stable jobs for disability members with the motto: "Give a man a fish, feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, feed him for a lifetime", Maison Chance Social Center in Dak Nong has operated a cashew production facility since October 23, 2020.

The cashew production process is a manual one and mostly done by disabled and underprivileged youth apprenticing in Maison Chance Dak Nong. They are instructed in detail on how to turn raw cashew nuts into valuable products.

Recently, the cashew processing department has been splitting fresh nuts, and they are going to make salted and steamed cashew nuts shortly. Everyone who participates in the processing is working hard with a positive attitude. Instead of only apprenticing at the workshops, they also spend a half-day of cashew processing.

Maison Chance Dak Nong would like to vigorously develop the cashew processing department to a bigger scale and create long term and stable jobs for all beneficiaries at the center as soon as possible.



*Everyone is working hard*



*The kernels of cashew nuts are being extracted*



*The skins of cashew nuts are being removed*



Sustainable development has become the motto of many governments, organizations, and individuals globally. Since its establishment in 1993, Maison Chance has followed this development direction.

Beneficiaries and employees of the organization are encouraged to save electricity, paper, and water. Take Wing Center and Village Chance have installed solar power systems, which reduce the cost of the organization's electricity consumption. Maison Chance Social Center in Dak Nong Province continues in this direction also.

Located in Krong No District, the center has sunny conditions that are ideal for electric energy production. However, due to the limited budget of Maison Chance, the project still had been stuck at the drawing board stage until financial support from the Embassy of Switzerland in Vietnam was received in late October.

With these new financial resources, Maison Chance embarked on a project imme-

diately. The option of installing the solar power system connected to the national power grid was selected. This solution allows Maison Chance to optimize the amount of solar power produced for internal use. Excess electricity production (if any) will be fed into the national grid.

In the early days of November, the first solar panels were delivered to the Dak Nong Center. The installation has been carried out smoothly. Today the work is complete and the system has been connected to the national electricity grid.

This project is considered as one more step of Maison Chance to move in the direction of a green environment. Maison Chance hopes to find enough financial resources to increase production capacity to meet all our centers' electricity needs in the future. This model will also help children studying at Maison Chance to gradually develop a sense of respect and care for the natural environment, save natural resources, and become responsible future citizens.





**The new session of the Western & Asian Baking Course started on October 19, 2020. Over the course of 12 months, participants will spend 80% of their time practicing, learning in-depth knowledge of Western and Asian bakery arts, and take a big step towards a baking career.**

The participants are underprivileged youth, the unemployed, and everyone who wants to learn a new job to help their family make more money. The tuition is free, and participants don't need to pay for the ingredients during the course.

The teachers will share with students many of the experiences they have had in their careers. After finishing the course, the learners will receive a certificate of basic baking from Maison Chance so they can apply for a job at a bakery or a restaurant or hotel. Additionally, the students with excellent results will be accepted to work in the baking workshop of Maison Chance.

Just one month into the course, learners are showing a good grasp of essential baking skills.

"In the past, I didn't think that I could learn my dream job without tuition. I feel thankful because Maison Chance opened a course full of love like this. Everyone loves helping each other in class. Thanks to Maison Chance for giving me a great chance to learn my dream job," said Truc, a baking class member.

"It looks easy when watching the teacher's demonstration, but it turns out that the practice is so much more difficult. Although I was so tired and upset when I failed many times and made such bad cakes, I reminded myself that I would try my best and have faith that a good result would come after that. I love the teacher; she is gentle, calm, enthusiastic, and also very funny. I am so blessed to be one of her students," Cuong – a baking student, expressed.



*The class reviews theory before practice*



*Dough mixing is the most crucial step in baking*



*Students learn how to use the oven*



*They learn to make all kinds of Speciality Cakes*



*The decoration is also an essential step in baking*





With nearly 15 years of operation, Take Wing Center is a vocational training and working place for people with disabilities. The local area residents are familiar with the scene of the disabled rolling their wheelchairs to the center in the morning and leaving in the afternoon.

Few people know that the Take Wing Center was one of the first buildings to be constructed here. Over time, the residential area has steadily developed, and other houses have appeared. The level of the ground under Take Wing Center has gradually sunk compared to the surrounding buildings. As a result, in recent years, the water from the street and the sewers has been flowing back to the center when it rains.

Although there is a water pump operating, the Take Wing Center's flooding situation has become more frequent and severe. The floodwater accumulation will often reach up to almost 30 cm, making it very difficult for our disabled to move about. Beneficiaries using electric wheelchairs have to wait for the water to recede completely. Additionally, the wa-

ter also enters the rooms on the ground floor, such as the physiotherapy room, the sewing workshop, the medical room, the stock room, etc., making the working of the staff and beneficiaries very difficult.

Maison Chance has contacted consulting companies to find solutions. The method of raising the entire building is the solution that most companies proposed. The amount needed for this is about 1.5 billion VND. The cost is too much, beyond the financial resources of Maison Chance.

In the South of Vietnam, the rainy season lasts more than six months. This year we are facing floods that are more severe and require a countermeasure. We are aware that with global warming, the situation is likely to get worse than ever.

Maison Chance is calling on everyone to join hands in improving the flooding situation at the Take Wing Center. All contributions, no matter how small, will be much appreciated. We are grateful for your support.

### GIFT SET FOR THE YEAR OF THE BUFFALO







NEWSLETTER MAISON CHANCE DECEMBER 2020  
Texts: Tim Aline - Thuy Trang - Tran Mui - Kieu Ly - Thao Phan  
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