



# maisonchance



*The sewing training course at Maison Chance Dak Nong, opened in February 2022*



### **TIM ALINE REBEAUD / HOANG NU NGOC TIM**

Founder and Director of Maison Chance Vietnam

Dear friends of Maison Chance,

We finally overcame the COVID-19 pandemic situation. After nearly two and a half years of quarantine, we are free to travel again. As a result, I was able to leave Vietnam and travel abroad this past May.

I traveled from Saigon to Paris, where I met with members of the Maison Chance Association before traveling to Reunion Island. I gained more knowledge about vanilla plant cultivation there, as I am really interested to start a project like this in Vietnam. I am currently working with Dak Nong province authorities to apply for a land lot of around 5 hectares (i.e., 50,000m<sup>2</sup>) near the Maison Chance center in Dak Nong. Our plan for this land includes the cultivation of coffee, pepper, cashew nut, pineapple, passion fruit, queen corn, lemongrass, and cinnamon as well as other locally appropriate goods. The goal of this agricultural initiative is to provide local disadvantaged ethnic minorities employment opportunities, which will also in the long run become a source of income for the organization. I also flew to Switzerland where I attended a meeting of the Maison Chance Association Switzerland. The Association appointed Mr. Duy Vo to succeed Ms. Anne Butty, who served as president for more than seven years. Additionally, I had meetings with foundations that have long supported Maison Chance. They stated that they would be willing to assist in the upcoming years.

I eventually went to Belgium, where we established a non-profit organization in 2006 to support Maison Chance activities in Vietnam. The association had closed its doors, but luckily, I was able to find new members to carry on representing the organization in this small European nation. It makes me very happy to be able to get back in touch with sponsors throughout Europe, and I sincerely hope that we will be fully prepared for the 30th anniversary of Maison Chance in 2023 in the nations where the Maison Chance Association is present (Switzerland, France, Belgium, Canada, USA, Australia, and Vietnam).

Thank you for your valuable support and hope to see you soon!





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## RENOVATION PROJECT AT VILLAGE CHANCE

Village Chance was built in an area of more than 3,500 m<sup>2</sup>, including a primary school, kindergarten, special needs classes, hydrotherapy pool, a baking room, a restaurant, and 33 apartments designed specifically for people with disabilities in wheelchairs.

Since it has been in use since 2011, Village Chance's facilities have gradually deteriorated; some have mild to severe leaks, cracks, and seepage, which has had an impact on both household daily life and educational activities, including kindergarten and Village Chance primary school.

With the approval and financial support of both local and foreign donors, the renovation project at Village Chance started at the end of December 2021. The estimated total cost of the repairs is close to VND2,500,000,000. The renovation project including waterproofing gutters, roofs, toilets, and rooftops, as well as recovering the damages and replacing the polycarbonate conservatory roof for lighting.



*The overview of the renovation at Village Chance*

## RENOVATION PROJECT AT VILLAGE CHANCE

The Maintenance and Repair department will solve any issues that arise after or during the renovation, including painting walls, moving, installing water supply and drainage systems, hot water systems, equipment, etc., in order to keep costs to a minimum. Currently, the waterproofing has entered the completion stage. After the renovation is complete, the residents of Village Chance and more than 250 students who attend the school will benefit from improved building quality, a fresher appearance, and better living condition.



*Material is being moved up the roof by the workers.*



*Removing the tiles on the rooftop*



*Water-seeping bathroom tiles being removed.*



*A female worker transferring sand and cement*



*Workers applying concrete on the rooftop*



*A worker laying tiles in the bathroom*

## EDUCATION FOR THE UNDERPRIVILEGED



*Students at the Village Chance primary school.*

The educational program remains Maison Chance's top priority despite the serious global Covid-19 pandemic response, among other projects. With the determination not to let their studies be disrupted and the support of domestic and foreign sponsors through the Collective Sponsorship Program, disadvantaged students could be assured of a return to school.

It is worth mentioning that despite the unstable economic climate in the world in general and Vietnam in particular, a significant number of people and companies have committed to keeping supporting the students. During the 2021–2022 school year, 73% of students received sponsorships. In addition to the 10 primary classes at Village Chance and Maison Chance Dak Nong, a total of 102 students are currently receiving Maison Chance scholarships with financial assistance from the Albatros Foundation in Dak Nong and Ho Chi Minh City.

# EDUCATION FOR THE UNDERPRIVILEGED

Thanks to this commitment, underprivileged students can confidently pursue their academic goals at the secondary, high school, and college thresholds. In the upcoming academic year 2022–2023, Maison Chance expects that sponsorship programs for education will be more successful. Currently, as the pandemic situation has improved, Maison Chance is looking forward to receiving sponsors to visit, spend time talking with, and form bonds with the children. In the near future, Maison Chance will implement the Sponsorship Program for the disabled who are enrolled in its vocational training facilities in an effort to provide education for the underprivileged in Dak Nong and HCMC.

**Be a sponsor to change the fate of underprivileged children with only VND3,000,000/year.**

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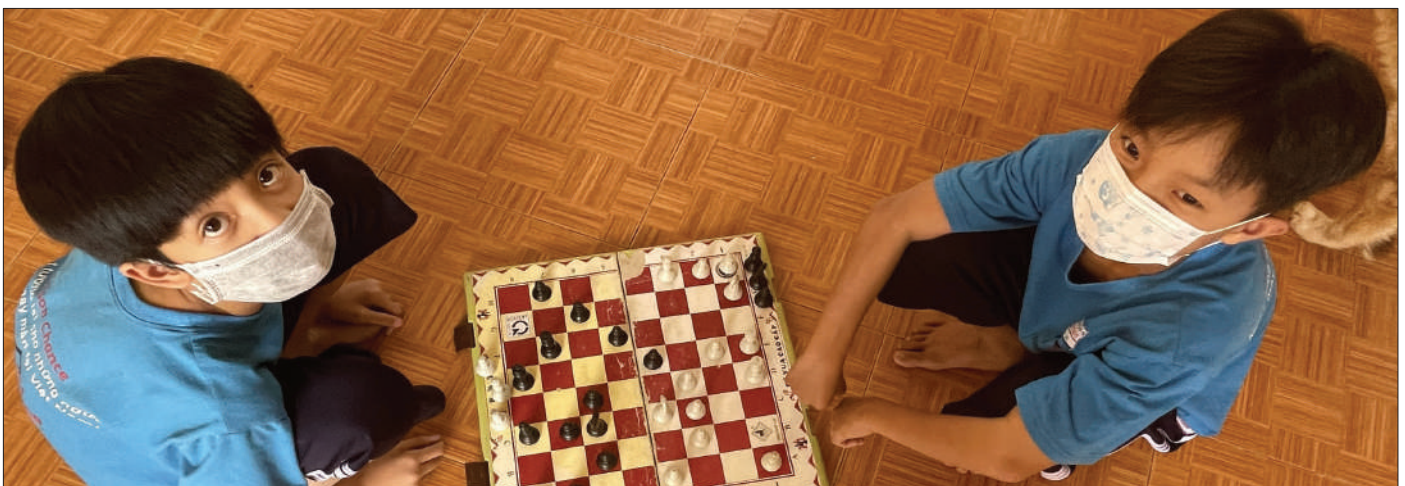
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*Students at Maison Chance Dak Nong*



*Students raise their hands when the teacher poses a question.*



*Chess is a popular hobby among students.*

## HELPING SIX DISABLED MEMBERS WITH SURGERY COSTS

The disabled experience more difficulties in daily life and potential harm than normal people. Wheelchair users also have long-term suffering from related health problems, which have a significant negative impact on normal activities, especially emotionally.

They may have severe complications and consequences if they are not treated appropriately.

With the mission of nurturing and taking care of people with disabilities, Maison Chance has always paid great attention to this problem. Recently, six beneficiaries at Maison Chance have been detected with major health issues.

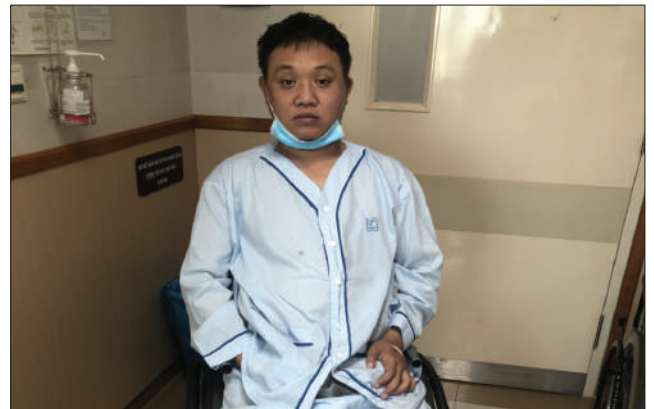
They are assigned to have surgery after undergoing screening and consultation at the hospital in order to resume normal activities. The following people are on the list of those who need surgery and treatment:

+ **Dang Vu Hung:** He has a peptic ulcer and pressure ulcer and needs to increase his bladder capacity by surgically removing a section of the large intestine.

+ **Le Chi Thanh:** Percutaneous Cystostomy operation is required



*Trinh Quoc Dai.*



*Le Chi Thanh.*



*Dang Vu Hung.*



# HELPING SIX DISABLED MEMBERS WITH SURGERY COSTS

+ **Trinh Quoc Dai:** Bladder surgery is indicated due to urinary catheter valve problems

+ **Nguyen Quoc Dung:** Neobladder Reconstruction

+ **Nguyen Nhut Quang:** Percutaneous Cystostomy operation is required.

+ **Dao Minh Phung:** Percutaneous Cystostomy operation is required to treat urinary tract infections.

The overall cost of these six surgeries is expected to be VND 400,000,000 (USD17,510), which covers surgery, hospitalization, meals, and various additional expenses. This amount of money is substantial for Maison Chance, and the organization is facing significant challenges as a result of the extended Covid-19 issue.

As of the end of July, contributions reached VND 250,000,000, and the remaining cost is VND 150,000,000. As a result, we still urgently need kind-hearted sponsors to join hands to assist to treat six beneficiaries promptly so they can return to their regular activities.

As a result of Maison Chance's care, as well as the support of the community, we hope they will undergo surgery soon and recover swiftly.



*Dao Minh Phung.*



*Nguyen Quoc Dung.*



*Nguyen Nhut Quang.*

### THE EXTRAORDINARY PERSEVERANCE OF VU NGOC DO

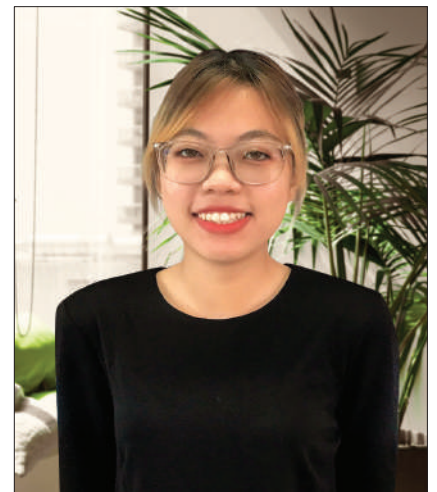


*Vu Ngoc Do.*

At the age of 20, Vu Ngoc Do lost his ability to walk due to an occupational accident. He had to learn and adapt to life in a wheelchair since then. In 2019, he was approved into Maison Chance for healthcare and vocational training. He was a member of the hardstone carving room and finally mastered the specialized knowledge of the hardstone carving vocation. He wanted to learn more about IT skills after finishing the hardstone carving training course, so he joined the IT room. Currently, he is an intern at a company that specializes in SEO Website services. This is an example of how our efforts will eventually bear fruit if we persevere.

### LE LUU CAM TIEN – STRONG FROM ADVERSITY

Le Luu Cam Tien is 24 years old, she is an active, young, and mature girl but few people know that she spent a childhood with many unfortunate events. Her mother died when she was only 6 months. From the day her mother passed away, the father became addicted to alcohol. He would pull her and another sister outside after each drink to beat and chase them out of the rental place. Neighbors around felt sorry for their situation so they reported to the police to intervene and take them to Maison Chance to be raised. In 2012, tragedy happened again when Cam Tien's father died in the hometown due to an accident and the two sisters officially became orphans. Despite having experienced a difficult past, she consistently maintains a positive attitude and strives to overcome obstacles. Thanks to the care of Ms. Tim and Maison Chance as well as her own efforts and hard work, she graduated from the Faculty of Tourism at Van Hien University. Currently, she has become a member of the Project Office with the role of a media content writer and serves as a community tour guide at Maison Chance in Dak Nong Province.



*Le Luu Cam Tien*

## NGUYEN QUOC DUNG – OVERCOMING UNHAPPINESS TO LIVE A MORE MEANINGFUL LIFE

Nguyen Quoc Dung was born and raised in a poor rural area in the North of Vietnam. From a young age, Dung had to drop out of school early. He went to the South in search of employment since he did not want his family to suffer from poverty. In 2016, when he was installing firefighting pipes, he fell from the construction site scaffolding and was taken to the hospital in a coma. He was diagnosed with a spinal cord injury, the doctor said he would never be able to walk again and had to be confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. He applied to Maison Chance to find a suitable job for disabled people as he did not want to put a burden on his family. He attended the IT room and has recently been accepted into an internship at a company with a proper salary.



*Nguyen Quoc Dung*

## Y NAM – BAHNAR ETHNIC GIRL NEVER GIVES UP



*Y Nam*

Y Nam is from the Bahnar ethnic group and was born in Kon Tum province. She is the youngest of three children in a large family. Because her parents were unable to take her to school due to financial constraints, she was placed in a local orphanage for schooling. At the age of 12, she suffered from a fever and was diagnosed with myelitis. Her health deteriorated to the point that she was unable to move, lying immobile in bed and worst of all, was confined to a wheelchair for the rest of her life. Broken down and miserable, many times she wanted to give up this life. Then, a genuine miracle happened when Ms. Tim, whom she regards as a mother appeared. At Maison Chance, she learned that she was not alone in her misfortune. All of the unlucky people live under the same roof and encourage one another. Y Nam graduated from the Faculty of Foreign Languages at the Industrial University of Ho Chi Minh City. Currently, she has become an employee of the Project Office with the role of an English translator and fundraising supporter at Maison Chance

With the motto “Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime”, Maison Chance Dak Nong established a sewing training room under the funding of the International Organization of Francophonie (OIF) for underprivileged or disabled young girls. We hope that by teaching them sewing techniques, they would be able to support themselves financially and live independently. At the center, members receive free accommodation and vocational education. The first class opened with 10 participants; the majority of them are from ethnic minority groups who experience difficulties or even tragic circumstances.

Some of them have already gone through family tragedies at the age of just 13 or 14. You could find yourself feeling sad for them after reading about their plight below. It is hoped that after they join the sewing room and are looked after, they will study hard and eventually be able to learn “how to fish,” which will enable them to live a better life.



## THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE SEWING ROOM PARTICIPANTS

### Ly Bich Phuong

*Year of birth: 2008*

She grew up in a poor family in the neighborhood. Two years ago, her mother had an affair, which led to her father’s suicide. After her father passed away, her mother raised the three sisters alone. Since the family has no land, and their only source of income is the mother’s inconsistent daily wage, there were days when there was no rice left for cooking. She has been attending the sewing class since February 2022.



*Ly Bich Phuong.*

# THE SEWING TRAINING ROOM AT MAISON CHANCE DAK NONG

## Thao Thi May

*Year of birth: 2004*

Her parents frequently argued and battled as her father was a heavy drinker. In 2014, her mother took her own life by eating poisonous grass. Her father ate the grass after that and later died as well, leaving behind 4 helpless siblings. May had a seven-month marriage in Dak Lak province in 2018 before returning home after a severe argument. She hasn't contacted her husband's family since then. She went to stay with her grandparents and helped out on the farm. Old age prevents her grandparents from doing much work. She was illiterate before entering Maison Chance to begin her studies.



*Thao Thi May.*

## Phang Thi Hoa

*Year of birth: 2009*

Her father had abandoned her mother and six siblings for another marriage. Her mother is now being kept in detention while awaiting trial after being arrested in March 2021 on drug trafficking charges. It has been challenging for the six siblings to depend on one another to live. She joined the Maison Chance family in 2018, having finished primary school before enrolling in the sewing training course.



*Phang Thi Hoa.*

## Dang Thi Thuy Hang

*Year of birth: 2008*

Her family is a near-poor household that lives in a rough house that is located far out in the countryside. The Covid-19 pandemic broke out when she was in 7th grade. Due to her challenges and the absence of cellphone signal in her area, she was compelled to drop out of school because of the pandemic regulations that required her to learn online. She joined the sewing room in February 2022.



*Dang Thi Thuy Hang.*



*Hua Thi Yen Sa.*

### **Hua Thi Yen Sa**

*Year of birth: 1989*

She is divorced and has given custody of her children to her ex-husband. Her father passed away. She moved back home in the past two years, together with her mother and younger brother. The younger brother is the breadwinner of the family. She was a freelancer who took whatever job to make ends meet. She's now pursuing learning to sew to have a stable job by enrolling in the sewing class in May 2022.

### **Lu Thi The**

*Year of birth: 1985*

She was born with a malformation in her left leg that made walking difficult for her. She lives with her mother after getting divorced. She is a single mother of a third-grader who is eight years old. Her daughter is also disabled. The breadwinner is the mother, a 62-year-old farmer. Since February 2022, Maison Chance has assisted her in pursuing her sewing training.



*Lu Thi The.*



*Dam Thi Hong Gam.*

### **Dam Thi Hong Gam**

*Year of birth: 2006*

She was born with cerebral palsy, which has severely impacted her walking. The family has faced financial difficulties. Her father moved to Dong Nai province to work for a company in order to supplement his income. Her mother is at home to take care of the house and the four children while also working for wages. Like Nhi, she had previously participated in the special needs class before enrolling in the sewing class in 2018.

# THE SEWING TRAINING ROOM AT MAISON CHANCE DAK NONG

## Hoang Thi Yen Nhi

*Year of birth: 2009*

Yen Nhi is mentally retarded and physically disabled on her right side. She comes from a middle-income family where the parents are elderly and the older brother is the sole provider for the household. She was admitted to Maison Chance's special needs class in 2018 before joining the sewing room.



*Hoang Thi Yen Nhi.*



## Nguyen Thi Huong

*Year of birth: 1991*

She suffered Japanese encephalitis when she was a child, which left her with two weak legs, but she is still able to walk. After her husband died when she was two months pregnant, she moved in with her father and son. Since then, she has raised the child by herself. She applied to the sewing room in February 2022.

*Nguyen Thi Huong.*

## Nguyen Thi Hoa

*Year of birth: 1992*

Due to the family's difficult circumstances, Hoa must live with her aunt in a shack in a field. She herself is a young mother raising a child on her own. She got married in 2014, and they later split after she gave birth to one child. In 2019, she gave birth to a further child with a different man (not married). She is currently raising this child. Her father has schizophrenic symptoms. She was also postpartum depressed, which made it difficult for her to work. She recovered just two years ago and began working to provide for her family. Since June 2022, Hoa has been admitted as a sewing room trainee.



*Nguyen Thi Hoa.*

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