

MAISON CHANCE

AN INTRODUCTION TO MAISON CHANCE



OUR STORY

Maison Chance is an accredited nongovernmental organization founded in the suburbs of Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC). The Association provides housing, health care, education and vocational training to orphans, street children and people with disabilities. The story of Maison Chance started in 1993 when the 21 years old Swiss painter, Aline Rebeaud, traveled across Asia. During a visit to a mental asylum in Vietnam, she met the 12 years old boy Thanh. His heavy fate touched her deeply. Suffering from cardiovascular disorders affecting his vital organs, the hospital staff had given up on him. Aline decided to take the boy under her wings, placed him in a cardiologic hospital and watched over him day and night. Once Thanh's condition stabilized, she moved with him into a rented house. Soon other abandoned children and handicapped people treated like outcasts were welcomed under the same roof into a new family. The residents of this little house in Binh Tan District, at the time a poor suburb of HCMC, called it "Maison Chance", the "Lucky House". Maison Chance has made its way and till today continues to grow.



Tim and Văn Thành (1993)



First children



Maison Chance (Lucky House)



Being together

*“What makes me
happiest is the smile that
illuminates a child’s
face.”*

TIM ALINE REBEAUD
Founder of Maison Chance





VISION

Paving the way to a better future for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in Vietnam.



MISSION

Providing accomodation, food, healthcare, educational opportunities and vocational training to orphans, street children and handicapped people to enable a life in dignity and autonomy for them.



UNITS

Maison Chance Vietnam comprises four specialized units. While the Shelter, Take Wing Center and Village Chance are located in HCMC, the Social Center is in the rural area of Dak Nong province.

- **The Shelter:** It is home to orphans and disabled people.
- **Take Wing Center:** It serves as a place for vocational training where beneficiaries learn skills and handicrafts in workshops like sewing, painting, stone cutting and IT.
- **Village Chance:** Our third center includes a kindergarten, a primary school and special needs classes. In the complex, there are also apartments for family with members with disabilities, a guesthouse, a pool for aqua therapy, a restaurant and a bakery where young beneficiaries learn the art of baking and confectionery.
- **Social Center Dak Nong:** It is the living place for heavily disadvantaged people. The Center also offers children primary school education and vocational trainings.

1993

MAISON CHANCE TIMELINE

Tim Aline Rebeaud founded Maison
Chance in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.



1998

Non governmental organization (NGO)

The Association was officially recognized as NGO in Vietnam in 1998. Maison Chance Switzerland had been founded one year earlier.

2006

Inauguration of the Take Wing Center

The Take Wing Center is the place where people with disabilities are trained and work.



2011

Inauguration of Village Chance

Village Chance is a combination of a kindergarten, a primary school and apartments adapted for people living in wheelchairs.



2016

Construction of the Social Center in Dak Nong

This project was started in 2012 to respond to the needs of our elder beneficiaries with serious disabilities and to expand our aid to the people of the Central Highlands.



2018

First new school year ceremony in Dak Nong


The primary school at the Social Center in Dak Nong opened its doors to the first 118 children. All are disadvantaged children from ethnic families who can not afford their schooling.

2019

Inauguration of the Social Center in Dak Nong

The 14th December 2019 was marked by the official inauguration of Maison Chance Social Center in Dak Nong. The new center is composed of around 30 buildings and infrastructures erected on a 2.7 ha field.





“With time and the love of every member of our family, they were all aware of a new life and vision and from this point onward, the unlucky handicapped people would step up from the bottom rung of the ladder.” (Tim)

NGUYỄN HOÀI THANH at the IT workshop

OUR PROGRAMS

Our goal is to enable destitute people to regain self-confidence in a welcoming home atmosphere and give them opportunities for reintegration into society.



OUR PROGRAMS

Welcoming into a home atmosphere

To welcome people ostracized by society and offer them a home atmosphere our beneficiaries are provided with housing, food, physical therapy as well as special care for handicapped who suffer from bedsores or urinary infection.

Physically fit adolescents help paralyzed adults in their daily lives. In return, elders provide a social framework necessary for the emotional and psychological development of the teenagers. This fellowship between residents creates a balance and a family environment at the Shelter.





OUR PROGRAMS

Education & training

Our educational project has three goals:

- Ensure equality of educational opportunity for boys and girls
- Offer adapted vocational training to allow people with disabilities to reach independence
- Help the most disadvantaged to regain their sense of dignity, get a stable and adapted job and thereby occupy a sustained role in society

Nursery education in HCMC

Since September 2012, Maison Chance has operated a kindergarten. Most Vietnamese children attend nursery from the age of two. Some of our disabled beneficiaries having infants find it difficult to bring them to the kindergarten, not to mention the financial burden due to high childcare costs. Therefore, Maison Chance offers this service at a symbolic price. Our kindergarten welcomes toddlers and babies as young as six months.

Primary school education in HCMC and Dak Nong

Based on their level of knowledge and schooling, beneficiaries enter one of the five classes of primary school education. They follow the official national curriculum and thus receive a national diploma. Teenagers and adults who are behind in schooling have the opportunity to participate simultaneously in the program of primary education and vocational training.

Also an inclusive education program for children with special needs has been provided in Village Chance and Dak Nong..

Today's children, tomorrow's world!




Students at Village Chance primary school



Playing football in the schoolyard



Playing chess

A man in a white shirt is focused on sewing at a white industrial sewing machine. He is in a workshop setting with other people in the background, some using wheelchairs. The floor is tiled in a pattern of orange and white. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, italicized font.

At Maison Chance, the Vietnamese saying "Give a man a fish, feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, feed him for a lifetime" is practiced every day.

SEWING WORKSHOP AT TAKE WING CENTER



TAKE WING CENTER



OUR PROGRAMS

Vocational Training & Production Workshops

Our Center offers vocational training given in different workshops, each run by a teacher. This system allows apprentices to practice skills in a production activity. Each beneficiary is paid for her/his work. They immediately receive 30 % of the market price of the sold product. The remaining 70 % are placed on a separate account. By reaching complete independence they will be paid out and thus have a small seed capital to start their new lives.

- At the **Sewing Workshop**, apprentices are taught all basic techniques including embroidery. After completing the course, they obtain skills allowing them to start producing for sale on their own.
- The beneficiaries working in the **Information Technology Workshop** receive training in graphic design, website development and management. They provide services to businesses and individuals in Vietnam and overseas.
- At the **Painting Workshop**, beneficiaries create graphics and pictorial work, such as advertising boards, hand-drawn greeting cards or paintings made on request. They receive ongoing training including courses like observational art and oil painting.



Income generating activities



- At the **Stone Cutting Workshop**, apprentices are taught how to shape gems, later used to decorate necklaces, bracelets, and earrings. They also shape precious and semi-precious stones into small Buddha sculptures and other figures.
- At the **Baking Workshop**, young beneficiaries learn how to make Western style bread and pastries. Thanks to the commercial license obtained at the end of 2014, the bakery started the production with an order of nearly 3,600 boxes of cookies.

Maison Chance has also developed income generating activities for its beneficiaries such as an in-house **restaurant** and **guesthouse at the Village Chance (HCMC) and in Dak Nong**.

Restaurant - The restaurant at the Village Chance offers simple and popular dishes. Young people with difficult social backgrounds work here. Often without a degree, they find an opportunity to learn a skill that will help them to improve their own lives and those of their families.

Guesthouse – Our guesthouses in HCMC and Dak Nong offer accommodations adapted for people with disabilities. Following the concept of responsible tourism, visitors are welcomed to enter the life of the Maison Chance family. This experience enables to dive into a new culture and simultaneously raise awareness about disability and how it is handled in Vietnam. In Dak Nong, we also offer touristic tours in the region, which is know for its beautiful waterfalls.

OUR PROGRAMS

Promoting self-sufficiency

The various programs pursue the main goal to achieve independence for the beneficiaries at Maison Chance.

However, people using wheelchairs face difficulties when preparing to leave the Shelter. Housing available for rent is not adapted to their needs and the rent is often too high.

In awareness of the problems, the Maison Chance team decided to create housing that meets the needs of people with disabilities, in terms of facilities and costs. Village Chance, a complex of adapted apartments, was inaugurated in January 2011.

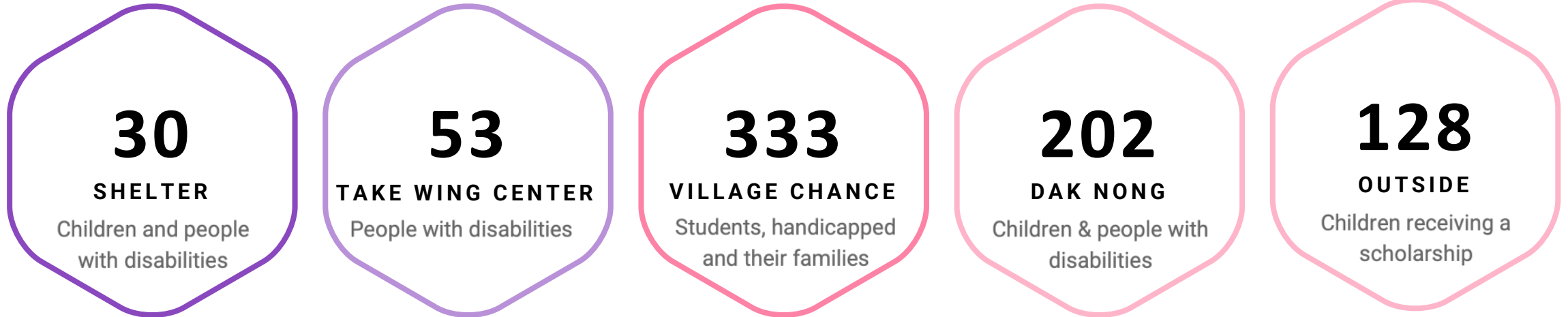


A photograph of a woman and a man smiling while holding a baby. The woman is on the left, wearing a red top, and the man is on the right, wearing a grey shirt. The baby is in the center, wearing a white floral dress. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. A large, faint white circle is overlaid on the right side of the image.

“We had to sell our home and our land to pay for my father to go to the hospital. We therefore ran into severe financial difficulty.” (Tram)

OUR BENEFICIARIES

Maison Chance currently serves approximately 746 beneficiaries daily



- About 13 orphans or street children (from the age of six) were sent to the Shelter by social services or people concerned about their fate. They live together with 17 adults who are severely disabled (paraplegic or quadriplegic). In total, 30 people live now at Maison Chance’s Shelter.
- 53 disabled apprentices and disadvantaged teenagers receive vocational training according to their talents and choices at the Take Wing Center.
- The primary school, the kindergarten and the special needs class counts a total of 235 pupils who are provided with free schooling. About 30 families with one or two disabled members are living at the Village Chance in complete self-sufficiency (98 persons).
- About 171 children from ethnical minorities profit from free accommodation and schooling at the Social Center in Dak Nong, including 30 kids with disabilities. The Center also hosts around 31 tetraplegic adults who are learning and working in 4 professional workshops
- 128 disadvantaged children (including 56 in HCMC and 72 in Dak Nong) received a scholarship to continue their studies in high schools and universities.

STAFF

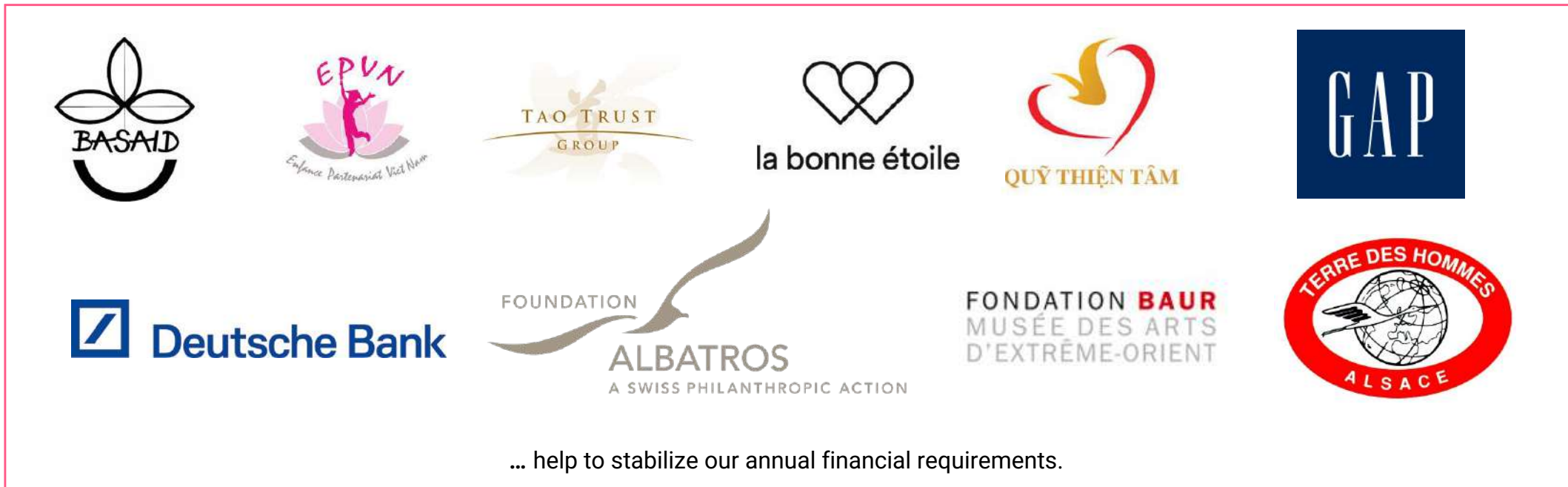
Maison Chance Vietnam currently employs 73 people in HCMC and 54 people in Dak Nong province. There are also about 10 to 20 volunteers from Vietnam and from abroad coming to give a hand. Most of them work directly with and for the beneficiaries in the areas of education, vocational training, general care, cooking and administration.

Aline Rebeaud/Hoang Nu Ngoc Tim is the CEO and Vice-President of the Management Committee.




BUDGET

Financial Resources - Donations from Europe (Switzerland, Belgium, Germany and France), North America (United States, Canada), and Vietnam and many other foundations, associations, businesses and individuals...



Expenditures - The total expenses of Maison Chance Vietnam in 2023 amounted to more than **US\$ 1'198'283**. 92% of the annual budget is directly involved in the development of our projects, 8% are spent for administration costs.

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a blue t-shirt and dark shorts, is sitting on a wooden floor. He is holding a string attached to a large, bright pink balloon. The background is a blurred, warm-toned interior. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image, enclosed in a thin white circular border.

*“I often wonder for those who were unlucky like me, if there was no Maison Chance, where would we be? What would become of us? How would we survive?”
(Dinh Cong Duy)*



First 118 CHILDREN AT MAISON CHANCE SOCIAL CENTER IN DAK NONG

MAISON CHANCE SOCIAL CENTER IN DAK NONG

Over the years, it became clear that the rehabilitation of people with severe disabilities is more complex than for other beneficiaries. Originally from the countryside, these residents are getting old, unable to find their place in the urban area of HCMC, notably because of their modest educational background. By worrying about their well-being and future our latest project emerged gradually since 2012 – the building of the Maison Chance Social Center in Dak Nong.

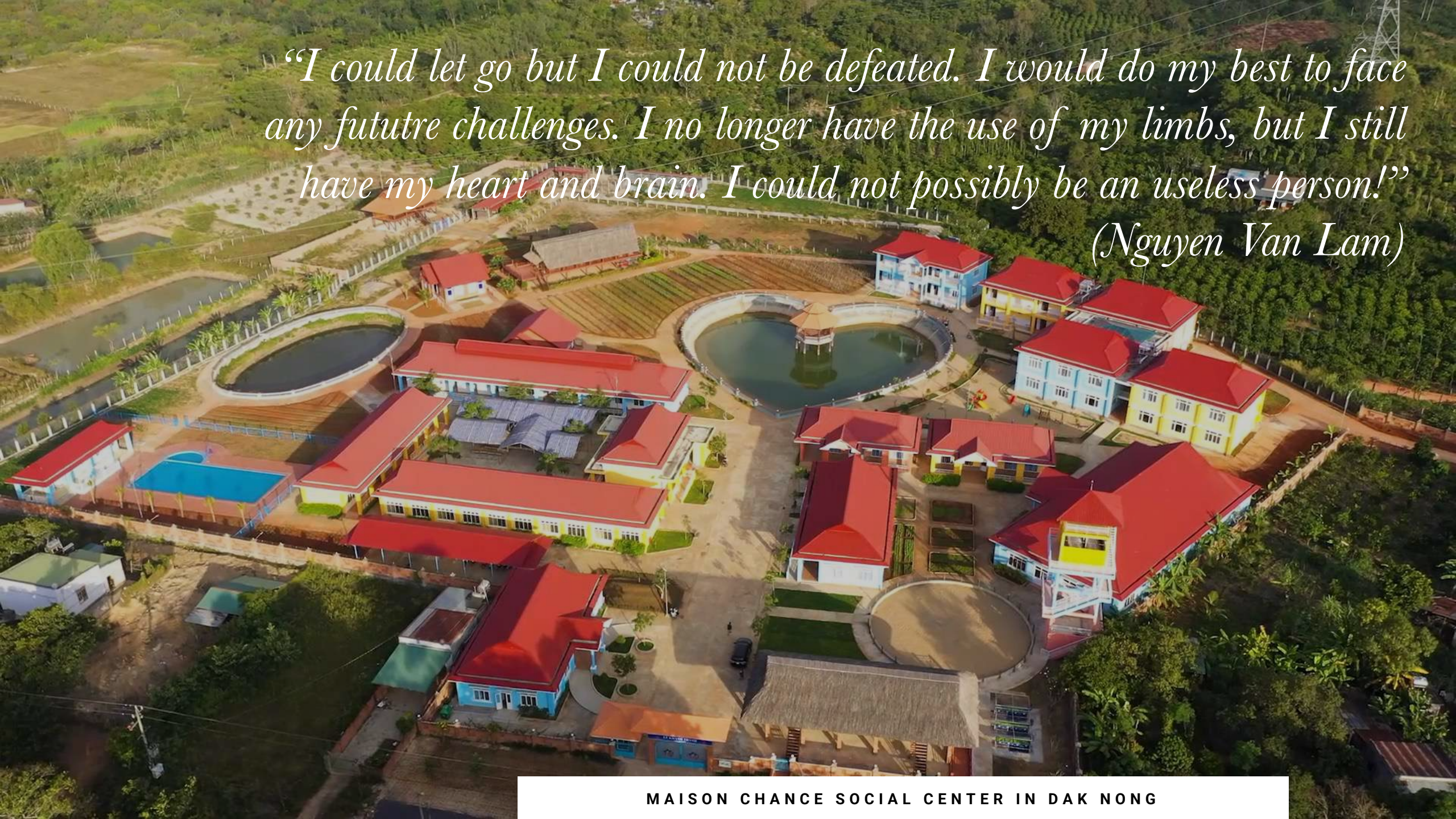
Based on the same principle of coexistence between disadvantaged adults and children as practiced in the centers in HCMC, the newly built center has the specificity to provide better life quality to a greater diversity of beneficiaries. It opens its doors to people with mental and physical disabilities regardless of age, but also to children and teenagers in need. It gives them a chance to feel respected and useful in the family community that we created.

Concrete objectives are:

- Provide housing and food to beneficiaries (orphans, people with disabilities);
- Help them to improve their health by adapted cares and various therapies;
- Support them to reintegrate into society with an education and vocational training program;
- Give elders a place to spend their remaining years in peace;
- Teach families how to take care of their handicapped relatives to facilitate family rehabilitation.



The construction of the Social Center in the commune of Dak Sor (Krong No district, Dak Nong province) started in May 2016. The construction work finished completely in September 2019. In August 2018, the Social Center has welcomed its first beneficiaries who are disadvantaged children and children with disabilities coming from poor minority villages. They children receive free schooling, food and accommodation on weekdays. On the weekends and holidays, a bus brings them home to visit their families.



“I could let go but I could not be defeated. I would do my best to face any future challenges. I no longer have the use of my limbs, but I still have my heart and brain. I could not possibly be an useless person!”

(Nguyen Van Lam)

Projects in Dak Nong

Taking the centers in HCMC as successful model, we carry on supporting beneficiaries with our programs in education, health care and housing.

In addition, we launched new projects ready to spring into action after the completion of the construction and official formalities.



Horse therapy

Our primary goal is to nurture our beneficiaries' well-being and foster their personal growth. Horse therapy, a therapeutic approach involving animals, enhances mental and physical well-being. We currently have approximately ten horses trained for interacting with both children and adults.



Agricultural activities

Organic cultivation is currently underway at the center. The farm includes many kinds of vegetables, fruits, and animals, enhancing the quality of meals served to beneficiaries. An additional 1000 m² plot of land near the site is intended for planting vanilla. This project, in its development phase, will create job opportunities and generate income to sustain Maison Chance's activities.





Aquatic therapy

The 273 m² pool has the function to improve the health conditions of hundreds of beneficiaries in Dak Nong. This is the opportunity to learn how to swim, thereby reducing the risk of drowning, a common accident in remote areas. A small heated pool with jets will offer aqua therapy to paralyzed individuals, helping them relax their muscles and improve their well-being.



Ecotourism

Another source of income is supposed to come from revenues of the sustainable ecotourism project promoted by the Maison Chance Social Enterprise. The location is close to a national park which is well-known for its beautiful waterfalls. The Social Center offers:

- Apartment rental (adapted for disabled people)
- Tours to natural sites and other regions in the area
- Participation in activities together with beneficiaries
- Intercultural and intergenerational exchanges





Snoezelen Therapy

To complement the therapeutic offerings for beneficiaries, the Daknong Social Center of Maison Chance is installing a Snoezelen space. This innovative therapy, which employs a blend of light and soft music, along with other tools, is intended to create a pleasant and secure atmosphere, helping patients, especially those with mental health issues, to relax, regain their balance, and reconnect with their environment.



House of Music

The construction of a House of Music is also underway in Daknong. Accessible to all, including primary school students and people with disabilities, this workshop will allow musical souls to flourish and create. Instruments such as guitars, ukuleles, synthesizers will be available for apprentices. Singing and dance sessions will also be considered.





Workshop for Agricultural Product Processing

A new workspace tailored for disadvantaged youth and adults with multiple disabilities is currently under construction. This workshop will produce agricultural products such as cashew nuts, coffee, pepper, dried fruits, and lemongrass essential oil. In this way, we will provide stable employment opportunities for these vulnerable individuals while generating profits to finance a portion of the center's operating costs.



Information Technology Room

A room for teaching Information Technology will also be located in the same building. Currently, primary school students receive their classes in the library. We hope that the new space will allow them to enjoy engaging and enthusiastic learning hours that will broaden their horizons.





“I made long journeys to different parts of the world to share the lives of less fortunate individuals with all my heart.” (Tim)

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