

Introduction

While summer is nearing in Europe, here the rainy season has started earlier than normal this year. But regardless the weather, misery does not care about the seasons and our activities continue.

We are pleased to announce the creation of our new a trilingual website. If you have not visited it yet, I invite you to discover it now:

<http://lesenfantsdudragon.com>

Marc de Muynck

* * *

Orphanages



Did you know that:

- at this moment there are 36 fostered children, 10 boys and 26 girls?
- those children live in the three orphanages we support, one in a pagoda and one with her parents (read the last newsletter for her story)?
- the average age about 7,65 years is?
- 16 children are older and 20 children are younger than the average age?
- the youngest 1 year old is and the oldest 17 years?
- you can see the [pictures](#) of all the fostered children?
- you can see the [pictures](#) of some foster mothers and fathers?
- you can see the [pictures](#) of our council and volunteers in France and Vietnam?
- if you are interested in fostering a child you can find more information [here](#) or you can contact us: contact@lesenfantsdudragon.com?

Orphanage Son Ky

Marc and brother Jérôme (Son Ky) have been to Biên Hoà where the brother plans to construct a



shelter for abandoned children. He requests the support of us and we informed him that we will try to present people to him that might be interested to his project, without losing our important project to create our own orphanage out of sight.

Truyen Tin

Tam and Anne, before the return of Anne, visited their foster child Tam (Tam-Tam) in the orphanage Truyen Tin. They gave her a small present for her birthday which made her very shy, she has not said a word anymore.



The other children were not shy at all, on the contrary, as the pictures show.

Letters of the foster children

Marc asked all the children who can write to write a short letter to their foster parents, in the hope that they will reply them. It is a lot of work that takes hours of translating. A first shipment of the children of the orphanage "Minh Tam" took place in May, the other foster parents will receive their mail in June.



On the picture you see Phuc, our first fostered child and who is the only one who stayed in "Tien Phuoc II" pagoda, his little friends were placed in another orphanage in 2010. He is sort of our mascot of the foster children.

Projects Gia Canh Houses

At the end of March Marc and Thuy as interpreter went to Gia Canh with Marleen and her husband Gus who are financing the construction of a house for the family of Mr. and Mrs. Lưu Văn Lâm and their two children. Mr. Lưu suffers from a corneal disease



that will render him blind. We have asked the People's Committee to have his disease diagnosed. We will pay for the costs of this check and if possible his treatment and costs of an operation if necessary.



At the end of April he did go see the construction in progress of this house. The family has received many second-hand construction materials from friends and neighbours. Their children participated in the construction too.

Some pictures of the house before and during the construction.



During the visit to Gia Canh, Marc and Thuy met also two other families, in order to integrate them in our social relocation program in this region. The heads of the family are brothers. It is for the following families: family Lê Hoàng Dung, Khmer wife with one child and the family Lê Thanh Liêm with three children.



In the beginning of May Tam (from Geneva) and his wife visited the house they financed and the family for the house was built. They were accompanied by Marc, Lien and Marieke (volunteers in HCMC). Before going to meet the family they bought a bed that almost did not enter the bedroom. They lunched with the vice-chair of the People's Committee, the President of the Red Cross, the President of the Popular Front and the



President of the Women's Association. After lunch they went to visit the family for whom the next house will be built. It is for the family Hoang Van Chung, consisting of the parents and three



children, two of them are handicapped and one also has leukemia. The eldest (daughter) has received one of the bicycles we donated the week before.



27 May last the official handing over of two houses took place in the presence of our volunteer Pierre-André and his girlfriend, as Marc is not in Vietnam at the moment. There were also representatives of the authorities and family and friends of the family for who the houses have been built.



Till now six houses have been built and soon the construction of other houses will start.

If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact us at contact@lesenfantsdudragon.com.

Water stations



The queue we wrote about in our last edition, in front of the water station on

the market square of Gia Canh.

At the end of April Marc went to Gia Canh for the finalization of the construction of the second station for drinkable water in the village. This station will be used for the primary school of the neighbouring hamlets (about 400 young children) and the local population. The unpurified water will be collected in a reservoir and can be used for household activities during the numerous power cuts in this region.



Contributions

Charity concert "choirs and church music"



On 15 April the "Quartet Cantores" of Famars was performed in the church of Saint Antoine of Quarouble. Admission was free, but fundfundraising is organized in favour of our association. A nice sum was collected. Created in June 2008, the

quartet Dei Cantores, after having sung during various liturgical services in Famars and being formed in vocalm singing is now flying on its own. Led by Jean-Marc Dubus, the quartet is specialized in sacred music, drawing his vast repertoire from compositions dating from the Renaissance to the twentieth century, passing through the Baroque age and the Negro spiritual.

We thank the Quator and the people who attended the performance for their contribution.

Scholarships in Gia Canh

At the end of April Marc did go to Xa Gia Canh for the installation of the water treatment stations. He also delivered 25 bikes for children living in areas far from school (till 15 km and some do it on foot) and 50 encouraging scholarships for the most deserving children. We will renew this action in July after receiving the funds for it. The People's Committee has invited Marc and Thuy to share a meal and the three dishes were: wild rabbit stew, iguana salad and



roasted squirrel.

Scholarships for Binh Hung Hoa School

In the newsletter of March you could read about the auction organised by the group of volunteers "Open your heart and make the kids smile" for the scholarships of the Binh Hung Hoa School, one of our projects.

Recently the handing over of the received donations at the auction has taken place. Our representative Thiện Phước alias "Coca" has accompanied the team of "Make the kids smile" to the Binh Hung Hoa school in Binh Tan district where they had been invited.



14 pupils among the most deserving have received a scholarship (1 million VND/child) as well as books for the next class, school material and two pair of shoes. The People's Committee has given small presents to the pupils of the grades 1-4.

The teaches made up the balance of the year: of the 134 pupils in the beginning of the year, 113 finished the school year, 3 will have to do the same class agein and the others dropped out of school for various reasons. The pupils have promised to

continue with school. The afternoon ended in a happy atmosphere.

We express the wish that those children succeed in their studies and we once again thank Jordane (in the middle of the picture on the left) and An Đỗ as well as the whole team of "Open your heart and make the kids smile" for the support they have given for this action.

Certification of merit of HUFO

The Ho Chi Minh City union of friendship organisations (HUFO - Liên hiệp các tổ chức hữu nghị) organised an information morning for NGOs. During its intervention PACCOM has given information about the regulations on work permits for foreigners and announced that as from 1 June 2012 new rules would be applicable for NGOs and the creation of their offices. Those new rules would make the current ones in force less strict. PACCOM will send the new directives by mail to the ONG.



After this, 36 NGOs have received a certification of merit from the president of "HUFO" for their activities in Vietnam.

Our young representative Thiện Phước alias Coca was very honoured to receive the certificate for our association. At the end of the morning all the participants gathered around a buffet organised by "HUFO".

Preparation of a media project for 2013

Yannick, a Brittan originating from Locminé (Morbihan) and an expatriate in Edmonton in Alberta, is planning to go on an original trip. He wants to go to Saigon overland (except Canada-Europe) in 2013, with one of those huge "monster trucks" you only see in these vast regions.



In the beginning, his project was a personal challenge, but it has evolved progressively during our contacts. He now offers to carry material to offer to the children of the shelters we support in the Saigon area and to raise funds in the various countries he will cross in order to help us to finance the construction of an orphanage in the suburbs of Ho Chi Minh (see our [site](#)).

We are in contact with organizations of expatriate Vietnamese, from Brittany and also with other organizations for various reasons (TV coverage, preparation of appointments with Internet users). We are only in the preparation phase of the project, which is planned to take place in about a year (*official departure from Locminé on 21/08/2013*). We count on everyone's help to put us into contact us

with everybody likely to be attracted to participate in this event, which can be described as exceptional. We think about large enterprises that would be willing to put their logo on the truck.

The planned route is: Canada → Great Britain → France → Italy → Croatia → Bulgaria → Turkey → Iran → Pakistan → India → Singapore → Malaysia → Cambodia → Vietnam, but is not final yet. In any case passing through Brittany is mandatory (*Locminé, La Gacilly*), as well as Paris.

Short portrait of Yannik



Yannick, alias "Filocharde or Filoche (silk net)", was born in 1956, in Moustoir-Ac in Brittany. Nationality: French-Canadian, speaks French and English, basic Spanish and German, is learning Russian and Arabic. His taste for adventure have taken him to the icy roads of Northern Canada. Now Yannick now is thinking about this dream that he absolutely wants to achieve in order to help us fund an orphanage in Vietnam.

Our foster parents

Foster mother



We have the pleasure to present you our new godmother: Anh Đào Traxel, born as Dương Anh Đào on 22 August 1957, is the daughter of heart (not adopted) accepted as such by Jacques and Bernadette Chirac at the age of 21.

On 2 May 2012, Mr. Emmanuel Traxel, secretary general of the EEDCM association (Etoile Européenne du Dévouement Civil et Militaire, European star of civil and military devotion) informed us that Mrs. Anh Đào Traxel, nicknamed by the press "Ambassador of the weakest and neediest", but also President of the association "l'EEDCM", was delighted to accept to become the godmother of our association.

In her capacity of foster mother, she can, if her full agenda allows her, support our charity events with her presence.

You can see the national and international solidarity actions of EEDCM on the following site: www.eedcm.com.

On behalf of all the members and volunteers of our association in Vietnam and France who are very honoured to learn that Mme Anh Đào Traxel accepted to become the foster mother, we thank her sincerely and very much.

We are convinced that her reputation and her generosity will strengthen our credibility and being a

serious organization. They will contribute to improve our communications both in France and in Vietnam where each of us hopes to meet her one day. The issues in common are the fundamental values we share and we would like to express the wish that our friendship stays alive as long as possible.

Foster father

On 23 and 31 March two concerts of our foster parent, [Rémi Bauchmann](#), took place. These are some pictures of the concert in the protestant temple in Toulon,



Amandine who is hemiplegic on her left side, played first parts of the compositions with her right hand. A very moving moment of the concert! She was adopted when she was 5 days old and originates from an orphanage in Vietnam. The concerts in St-Raphael and Toulon collected a nice sum of money for the orphans and Lan-Huê and Rémi are very happy with this result.

Before the concert Lan-Huê was interviewed by RTF. You can listen to it when you click [here](#).

A very large "well done" and many thanks to the organisers of these events. We address our warmest thanks to Rémi, his partner Lan-Huê and Amandine.

New internet site



As already announced in the introduction, we now have a trilingual website: Vietnamese, French and English. There are still some small parts that need to be translated, but it is nothing compared to the work already accomplished. We would like to thank everybody who helped us to make our new website. It really has been an international project of cooperation, in which people participated with Vietnamese, French, Swiss and Dutch nationalities living in Vietnam, Switzerland or France, male and female, young and less young. On the site, you will find the information about all our activities, what you can do to support us and of course pictures. Our

thanks also go to our webmaster, Sylvain, for having created the structure. Now it is up to us and you to fill the pages. . If you have a suggestion or you miss something, please let us know.

Partnership

In May 2012, in reaction to the request of the Femmes Internationales Mures Brisés (International Women Broken Walls) we accepted their proposal for a partnership. So now we are partner of the solidarity cluster of the worldwide network [FIMB](#). One of the objectives is to form partnerships for projects which values we share. FIMB is a network for mutual assistance and is present in 70 countries. proposing actions around three themes: education, humanitarian and environment.



Impressions of a foster dad (and mom)



Can you tell something about yourself?

My name is Son and I am from Vietnamese origin. With Marine, my partner, we decided to become involved in a French-Vietnamese cultural association in Indre et Loire. Vietnamese colours, for our two children and then for everybody interested in Vietnamese culture living close to Tours.

Since when are you a foster parent?

Marine and I, we support the education of a child since December 2010.

What made you decide to become a foster parent?

We wanted to help according to our possibilities, a child in Vietnam but also a humanitarian association able to be active in the field and monitor daily how Marc de Muynck does very efficiently.

Can you tell some more about what is it like to be a foster parent?

I suppose the term foster parent does not have the same meaning for everybody. For us, we wish to encourage our foster child to pursue his education so he can flourish according to his qualities. And we wanted to allow our children to have a link with a brother in Vietnam.

Why did you choose Vietnam and the association 'dragon's children'?

We knew the integrity of the association and its actions in south Vietnam and invited President Huy Lan and Celine, his wife, to come and speak of the

dragon's children during Tet Trung thu party we organised in Mettray not far from Tours in 2010.

Did you choose a boy or a girl?

We choose a boy because we have two boys.

Did you already meet your foster child?

Yes, in July 2011.

Can you tell more about your impression?

A moment of joy and shared surprise because that day we met by accident Marc and volunteering students from Lille who were in Vietnam for a humanitarian project.

In what way do you communicate with your foster child?

For the moment we just follow the activities of the orphanage from the emails we receive from the association. We wait, perhaps in vain, till our oldest boy of 4 years starts writing him in Vietnamese or send him drawings for some kind of correspondence.

Can you tell us about your most moving moment?

The most moving was to see him draw with his friends and our children. Then to see the other children approach us and have them guess in Vietnamese the coloured animals.

Do you have a tip for the other foster parents?

Avoid coming with notebooks, pencils and candies from France like we did. You can find everything at FAHASA library and supermarkets in Ho Chi Minh City!

Do you want to share something else with the readers?

We were happy to meet our foster son, but even more so to know that he was in good company and that somehow, we became foster parents, within our means, of a lot of children.

Impressions of a council member



Can you tell something about yourself?

I present myself, Yves, 49 years, married, two children. I am IT project manager in a consulting company and I like the personal side of the job. My work has allowed me to work in different sectors (mail order, banks) in Franc, Belgium and England. In my free time I read and walk with our dog.

Since when are you the secretary of the association?

I am the secretary since February 2012 and I rely on the experience of Claudie, Lan, Marc and all the members of the association.

What made you decide to become the secretary for an association for orphans in Vietnam?

I was keen to offer my services to an association and my first contact with Marie France was decisive, because it corresponded to my desires: help children with their future, offer my skills to the association.

Have you already visited Vietnam?

No, but I do not exclude that I will go there with my wife in the future. With all the information of the members on site, we live by their side every day. I have to confess that I knew nothing about Vietnam before joining the association. My work as a secretary and performing internet searches for that, and also the desire to bring the maximum make that I learn more about the country.

Can you tell something more about how it works as a secretary of an association who works in Vietnam while you and most members of the council live in France?

I am new to this position and I try to bring the most. In this context, I work as a source of proposals with regard to my experiences as an IT consultant. It is true that my lack of knowledge of the life and customs in Vietnam ask more reflection of me with regard to the expectations and messages of different members. But I do not hesitate to ask advice from vice president Marc.

Can you tell something more about how it works to be the secretary of an association that works in Vietnam while you and most members of the council live in France?

Taking over the position of secretary is taking longer because it requires knowing how everything works and the fact that we have our members in various countries complicates the task a bit more. In the beginning, I learned by reading the messages from the members and their positions. Now I try to simplify our tasks by using document templates and the creation of a list of all our contacts.

Even though you have started only recently, can you tell us about your most moving moment with regard to the activities for the association?

The construction of a house by students was for me a moving moment.

Can you tell us if you have encountered difficulties with regard to the activities for the association?

In the beginning, not knowing the association, I was confronted by obstacles because of my lack of knowledge. For example, I was corresponding with someone to put a twinning project in place between a French and a Vietnamese school, but I did not even know where the location of the school was in Vietnam. Thanks to Tam I was able to locate the school.

Can you already tell us about the most important or most impressive achievement with regard to the activities of the association?

It is too early to mention a realization, a project of someone living in Canada who wants to make a trip for our association by truck, is dear to me and I hope he will realise it.

Do you have a tip for the members, foster parents and volunteers?

We are all united and we all have an experience, so I would say that we need to take advantage of the knowledge of everyone. Organising a show in Valenciennes or Voiron requires the same approach.

Would you like to share something else with the readers?

My wife and I are very happy to be part of this association, we foster little Bé An, and we hope that the project of the creation of an orphanage will come true in the coming years.

Impressions of a volunteer



Can you tell something about yourself?

My name is Liliane, I am mother of three children and a grandmother. I work in the medical field in Marseille where I live since ten years.

Since when are you a volunteer?

I am a volunteer for the association "les enfants du dragon" since 2011.

What made you decide to do volunteer work?

What made me decide to become a volunteer for this association was their commitment with regard to children (having come to Vietnam en 2010 as a backpacker).

Have you been doing volunteer work before and in which country?

I am a volunteer since 1974 in France for various associations: restaurants of the heart (Coluche),

little brothers of the poor (for the elderly only and without much resources), people's aid by taking a child on holiday during one month and the social EMS for the homeless during the winter.

Is there a difference between doing volunteer work in Vietnam or elsewhere?

No!!!! Being a volunteer is spontaneous and without constraints. Volunteering does not have borders. There is no other way to human solidarity than the search for and the respect of individual dignity.

Why did you choose the association the children of the dragon?

I wanted to become involved with an association primarily dealing with children and in Vietnam (as a result of my trip). The association "les enfants du dragon" that are only volunteers. Marc lives in Vietnam and evaluates the urgent needs of the poorest on site. It is an ongoing exchange and dialogue about the actions performed. Since my involvement I have had encounters with other volunteers that are extremely meaningful. It is the spontaneous friendliness of a foster parent going to Vietnam and who took some gifts to our foster children. The association consists of volunteers of the heart.

What has been your most moving moment?

It was one evening when I distributed meals with social EMS and a homeless person shook my hand saying "Thank you that you are here for us!! Because you know, in the street people ignore us!! Jean, homeless today, used to be a teacher at university.

What do you find difficult about being a volunteer in Vietnam (or elsewhere)?

Confronted with certain situations you feel powerless, but continue to invest yourself.

Do you want to share something else with the readers?

*Make small big and little a lot.
Achieve a lot by beginning small.
Spectacular achievements should begin small.*

Lao Tseu

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For more information about us and our activities see: www.lesenfantsdudragon.com/ .

If you have comments or questions do not hesitate to write us at contact@lesenfantsdudragon.com