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## Introduction

*In the first place, all our teams renew their best wishes for 2013. Here in Vietnam, we are busy with the preparations for the Lunar New Year, the year of the snake which begins on 10 February.*

*Then we would like to thank all those who are helping us today and especially all translators. Without their contributions our activities and actions would be impossible. They work in the shadow, but they are essential for the dissemination of our information in English and Vietnamese.*

*The year 2013 promises to be a good one, it has seen the departure of co-operation with a new province Long An and the reception of a large sum for our heart project. Soon we will celebrate Tet in Vietnam, and we hope that the Vietnamese year will confirm this good start.*

*You have seen table of content has been added to our newsletter. This is the result of a suggestion made by one of our subscribers. If you have ideas or*

*suggestions to improve the newsletter or website, please let us know.*

*"Chúc mừng năm mới!"*

*Marc de Muynck*

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## Orphanages

### Volunteer Jenna in Son Ky

Jenna has arrived at the end of her stay. Marc has given here the certificate of appreciation for 3 months volunteering with the young people of Son Ky and a neighbouring centre, where she helped the children and the students to improve their level of English. Now she fosters Van and her sister Kiet, 2 boys living in Son Ky. Read more about her adventure in Vietnam in the newsletter of [November 2012](#).



### Foster son Phuc

Phuc, the first child that was fostered, received a gift from his foster mom. He is the only one still living in the Tien Phuc pagoda. In the past the association has supported the pagoda a lot and hopes to continue in the future after an interrupted period. Read more about his foster mom in the newsletter of [September 2011](#) and hereafter about her new position as secretary of the association.



### Animation in Son Ky

Ludovic Albisser, one of the founders of the association [Ludolangue](#), performed a workshop in Son Ky. He wanted to do a training workshop on sign language. Because of language difficulties he changed his original project and created a small [video clip](#).



Ludolangue is a publishing house, whose goal is to provide a link between the world of young people and the world of foreign language teaching.

### Cooperation contract for Minh Tam

At the end of January Marc signed a partnership contract with the People's Committee of District 12, in the north of Ho Chi Minh City. Now the construction works can start in Minh Tam.

### Greeting cards from France



At the Teresa of Avila College in Lille there is a club called TAPORI, "friends of the world" that meets every

Monday at noon. It is a small group of about twenty students from the 6th-5th class. They make friendship messages, drawings, poems and even board games for other young people abroad. They in return can send them their messages or creations by mail or post. The children decided to send cards to the children of Minh Tam and Truyen Tin. They have made greeting cards for Christmas and New Year, containing their messages of friendship and peace, and to show them their support and friendship between young people.

On behalf of the children of Minh Tam and Truyen Tin, we thank the pupils and their teacher for this initiative.

### Visit to foster daughters

At the end of December 2012, the foster mom of Ngoc Anh visited here in Tryen Tin.



In the beginning of January the family who fosters Kim Hoang in Truyen Tin, visited her with their daughter. The foster daughter is the biggest of all the girls. You also see Buom, fostered by Evelyne (read more about the impressions of Evelyne in the newsletter of [January 2012](#)).



### Foster parent

#### Concert of Rémi Bauchmann



The concert of our foster parent, Rémi Bauchmann, in the Protestant church of Hyères did go very well. The alderman for culture was present and represented the municipality. Rémi and Lan-Hue had invited the hemiplegic artist Amandine, a young Vietnamese orphan adopted at the age of 5 months in Vietnam. A distinguished guest joined Rémi at the request for this humanitarian concert, the contrabass player Norbert Bianco, internationally well-known. They raised a few hundred Euros, despite the fact that it is very difficult to mobilise people for the humanitarian actions during the current crisis.



In 2013 there will be 2 concerts in the Var: Saturday, 16 March at 9 p.m. in the auditorium of Saint Raphael with an entrance fee of 15 euros and the second in Hyères in December 2013. Rémi would also like to do a tour in Vietnam. We will keep you informed.

We would like to thank Rémi Bauchmann, Lan Hue, as well as Amandine and Norbert Bianco, and the visitors for their contribution.

### Our orphanage

#### Good news



The association has received a positive reply from the Abbé Pierre Foundation for the request of a donation for our heart project: the construction of our orphanage.

We thank the Abbé Pierre Foundation on behalf of the children in Vietnam.

### Contributions

#### Supporters of the association

The mother of our treasurer sold some objects for the benefit of the association. Her sport club friends all bought a t-shirt.



We thank the mother and her friends for their support and to have made publicity for our association.

#### The association and the press

An article about the association was published in 2 magazines "[Fous de Food](#)" (Crazy about Food) and "[Même pas Mâles](#)" (Not even Masculine). These magazines have been distributed in the shops in France in the week of 16 January 2013.

We would like to thank Laurence Lallement and her colleagues for this contribution.

### Projects

#### Gia Canh – Dong Nai Province

##### Report on our stay in Gia Canh

Freddy and Céline

*4 p.m. A very heavy rain falls on the metal roof that shelters us, it is almost dark, we hardly can hear each other talking, we wonder if our shelter will hold, we look at each other, we wait.*

*6 p.m, They make us understand that we are going to eat. Seated cross-legged on the floor, we eat, the rain continues without stopping, suddenly the light switches off, we look at each other, nobody seems to be worried, we end up eating with the light of a flashlight, the t-shirt of the head of the family is full of flying ants attracted by the light, it does not seem to bother him, the house stays okay.*

*6.30 p.m. We return to our room. Lying on a low table made of wood that according to what they told us is our bed, we wait, suddenly a noise in the middle of the rain that does not stop, we look at each other, a big toad in our room, we look at each*

other, I understand that I must intervene. My mission accomplished I join her. In the light of my headlamp, she looks at me with tears in her eyes.

It is 2 November 2012, we are in Gia Canh, a village in Dong Nai Province in Vietnam, at a distance of 15,000km of our beloved Bask Country and this is our first night with our host family. The friendly organisers of this nice evening are the people in charge of the association les Enfants du Dragon we decided to help for 3 weeks. Our mission: participating in the construction of a charity house for a poor family of the village. We, Céline Miranda, osteopath of 25 freshly graduated from the Toulouse Institute of Osteopathy and Freddy Biscary, engineer in the construction of 28 working in Toulouse.



Following these first moments of "acclimatisation" we spent unforgettable moments from all points of view: an active participation in the project alongside local masons in a friendly atmosphere, a total immersion in the village allowing a privileged discovery of the Vietnamese culture and lifestyle, simple but strong human relationships, culinary and faunistic (!)surprises and so many other things we forget.



These 3 weeks that seem to be long from the point of view of the first night have passed too fast and we without realising it, we find ourselves toasting in honour of our departure, the tears even come to the party. At the time of the goodbyes, we have of course a special thought for the group BETOM, where Freddy works, that funded the project and for members in Vietnam including Marc, Tam and Marieke for their dedication, their hospitality and friendliness.



We have not finished thinking about these 3 weeks "outside the western time", we are not close about forgetting that first night, with time we certainly will regret the flying ants, the toad and other creatures (they do not tell you everything...). We promised each other we will turn back; we keep our fingers crossed...

## Can Giuoc – Long An Province

### Start of the cooperation with Long An Province



Half January Marc finalised the formalities for the cooperation with Long An Province and the start of the program. The association will finance

the construction of homes and water tanks to collect rainwater in Can Giuoc. [Can Giuoc District](#) is located 25km south of Ho Chi Minh City. Marc will meet the families who will benefit from a house soon. The construction of 10 tanks of 50m<sup>3</sup> will start in the beginning of February.

## Meetings

### General Assembly

The general assembly was held on 15 December last at the seat of the association. The new council has been elected and the statutes have been changed to create local branches. Each branch is independent with regard to its actions, but will report every year during the general assembly. It has also been decided to held the general assembly in January and not in December anymore. The participants of the meeting have discussed current and future projects. The finance report has been approved.



### Council elected:

President France: Mr. BUI Huy Lan  
President Vietnam and Directeur Operations: Mr. Marc DE MUYNCK  
Secretary: Mrs. Anne BRILLER-RUFFIN  
Deputy-Secretary: Mr. Eric BRILLER  
Treasurer: Mrs. Stéphany RAULT  
Responsible for foster-parent ships : Mrs. Marie France BAILLEUL

### Local branches:

Ruch (33) : Mr. Alexandre PERRET  
Voiron (38) : Mr. Patrick FAY  
Véron (89) : Mr. Laurent DUBOUCHET  
Canada : Mr. Yannick MORVAN  
Suisse : Mr. LE Duy Tam  
Vietnam : Mr. Marc DE MUYNCK

## Local branches

### Activity of the local branch in Voiron



A short report of the afternoon presentation in the festivity hall of Voiron organised by the mayor for the retired. There were very few people. The cold and sidewalks still full of snow probably kept people away. When the weather is too nice, as during the forum of associations (see the article on the [forum](#)), people do not come, they prefer to go out, and when it's bad, they do not come either.... But we are always happy to meet interested people.

Patrick was able to talk about the association with the people present representing the "branch" for about 2 hours. The people enjoyed, according to

those who spoke with him at the end of the session. Result: a new membership and 5 conical hats sold.

We thank Patrick for his contribution and the participants for their attendance and we also would like to thank the mayor of Voiron.

### **Impressions of a foster mom**



#### **Can you tell something about yourself?**

My name is Catherine. I am 39 years old, I am married and have two children, a boy of 13 and a girl of 8. I'm a jack of all trades so I had different jobs in different countries such as France where I was born, England, Scotland. I taught commercial French for 6 years as an assistant at the University of Potchefstroom in South Africa. Since our return in Europe, more precisely in Belgium after 12 years of absence, I dedicate myself to my children and I resumed studying art.

#### **Since when are you a foster parent?**

I am a foster parent since one and a half year.

#### **What made you decide to become a foster parent?**

I sponsor children as well as associations in South Africa, and I therefore I wanted to continue my momentum and to do the same for another child in another part of the world.

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

It makes me very happy! I love that thanks to my support and that of others I know a child is in good hands and he has a future. I know we cannot save the whole planet, but being a small drop of water that makes the difference reassures me on my opinion I have about human-beings. I am a humanist and I think that the power to help is in our hands and there are people who work hard to help others, and who dedicate their entire lives to this task. I think that if each of us would give a bit every day, it would solve some problems. Being a foster parent is to allow a child to remain in his or her environment, give it a possibility for a future without uprooting him or her. And at the same let him or her know that in this world, there are people who live far away and who are concerned about his or her fate.

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

I discovered les Enfants du Dragon by accident. I was looking for an association to sponsor a child in Asia, but I wanted to give a boost to a small association. When I read the blog of Mark, I

immediately saw he needed help, but mostly he was ready to do anything for these children. It moved me deeply, and I immediately decided to follow him.

#### **Did you choose a boy or a girl?**

I did not choose. I was ready to sponsor a child, whatever the sex. Almost as if I myself was carrying this small life. You do not choose the sex of your children, so I let providence do it for me

#### **Did you already meet your foster child?**

Unfortunately I did not physically meet, but we spoke several times on Skype with the help of Tam. It was a great and magic moment! To see this small child with her friends, and in her orphanage. She is very shy, but knowing she is happy makes me happy.

#### **Will you visit her soon?**

I really have the intention of going to Vietnam with my children and my husband within the next 3 years. But I would like us to spend some time as a volunteer to help the association. So, it is a journey that needs to be planned and I wait till my daughter is a little bit bigger so she can understand the purpose of this trip.

#### **In what way do you communicate with your foster child?**

I communicate through e-mail, Skype with the help of Tam and I have recently sent her a birthday card with postal mail.

#### **Can you tell us about your most moving moment?**

The first time she wrote me! This really touched me because it was at that moment that I realised the relationship was two-way. I was not only a foster mom, but a person who had a name, a face for my foster daughter.

#### **Do you have a tip for the other foster parents?**

I think that communication is important. So do not hesitate to use the resources that are given to us to communicate with the children, such as Skype and e-mails. And you need to keep yourself informed about what the association does on a regular basis as well as about the country of the child. All this helps to build relationships and to understand him or her better.

#### **Do you want to share something else with the readers?**

I think when you have a lot of love to give, you should not hesitate to share it. There are different ways to invest in helping others. It is also important

to integrate our own children in the relationships we have created with children elsewhere. This allows showing that compassion is not just about money, but that it is also an investment in yourself and a sharing. Giving is more important than receiving, and also very rewarding. This is why being a foster dad or mom not only helps a child, but it is also a personal contribution in terms of spirituality and moving forward morally. We give a bit of ourselves, but we get a lot in return.

### Impressions of a volunteer



#### Can you tell something about yourself?

My name is Tuy and I work in the administration in a foreign company in Saigon. I'd like my work but I also would like to do something good for the underprivileged children.

#### Since when are you a volunteer?

When I was a student, I participated in humanitarian activities.

#### What made you decide to do volunteer work?

I want to do something useful for children and society, even when it is only a small task.

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

Previously, I was a volunteer; I also worked for some time for an NGO that deals with operations related to ortho and burn.

#### In which country are you a volunteer now?

I volunteer in Vietnam.

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

I do not think there is a big difference between being a volunteer here and elsewhere. It is precisely a matter of what you have done, you do and you will do.

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

The activities of this association correspond to the humanitarian actions I want to do.

#### What kind of volunteer work do you do?

I translate the newsletter, and (in if necessary) serve as an interpreter.

#### Can you tell some more about what it is like to be a volunteer?

I feel happiness finishing small useful tasks for the association and for the children.

#### What has been your most moving moment?

That is the moment I see the happiness of a family when a charity house is handed over to them.

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

The budget, human resources and sometimes processes imposed by the government.

#### Do you have a tip for other volunteers?

Do your best and give a helping hand!

#### Would you like to tell something else to the readers?

I want to share more with you if I have more time.

### Impressions of a local representative



#### Can you tell something about yourself?

My name is Laurent. I'm 50 and my wife Zaia, 47. We have 2 adopted children: Clémence 7 years (Vietnam) and Hugo 5 years (Nepal). We live in Burgundy between Sens and Auxerre. I am a partner in an accountant and audit firm of international stature. Zaia is an executive assistant at Prysmian (formerly Pirelli Cables).

The adoption procedures and the trips in the countries of our children made us aware of the concept of sponsorship and support of orphanages. In addition to our involvement in the actions of the Children of the Dragon, we financially help the orphanages where Clémence and Hugo come from. In fact, it seemed essential to us to keep a connection with these structures and within a few years to return there with the children so they can (if they wish) find some of their past again, this because there is no reference to their natural parents.

#### Since when are you a volunteer and representative of the local branch?

I know Marc since 2 years and I am a representative since the last General Assembly in December 2012.

#### What made you decide to become a volunteer and a representative?

I support 2 orphanages directly: 1 in Vietnam (Ba Ria-Vung Tau) and 1 in Nepal (near Kathmandu). With regard to Vietnam, I supported financially (and still do) the orphanage of Clémence, my daughter. However, I had no certainty about the use of the funds and I looked for someone or an association to

help me. Then I have known Marc and the association and I started my activities.

**Why did you choose the association les Enfants du Dragon?**

In fact, we learnt about les Enfants du Dragon by chance. When I searched, on Google, an association that could "secure" our steps in Vietnam, I found the association. That's how I got to know Mark. The orphanage in Ba Ria-Vung Tau could not be followed by the association, but the exchanges we have had with Marc were interesting and we decided to participate in the adventure of les Enfants du Dragon.

**Can you tell some more about what it means to be a representative of a local branch and what your ideas are for the representation of les Enfants du Dragon locally?**

Difficult questions ... I would say it is an attitude, it's a daily thing. I have a job where the relation is an important part. Within the professional and personal exchanges that I have in the area, I always keep "my hat" of les Enfants du Dragon ready and I am looking for opportunities that can serve the association in the framework of concrete and targeted actions – e.g. file with a request for a donation at a club like the a Rotary or Lions Club.

**What has been your most moving moment during your volunteering?**

Without hesitation when I celebrated my 50th birthday last December. I had the opportunity to gather about 60 people (friends, clients, family, etc.). The theme: les Enfants du Dragon, of course. The invitations I sent were in the colours of the association and in the evening I presented the actions performed by Marc on site. This evening allowed me to obtain donations for the association and some fosterparentships. A great moment and a great party!

**Do you have a tip for other volunteers or representatives of a local branch?**

It is always difficult to give advice or make suggestions. At the moment it is difficult to obtain funds. In this respect, I would say that "everything is acceptable". Concretely and after that the outcome does not matter as long as we do the maximum we can to help the association. For my part, I started working with my closest relations: family, friends. Then gradually I enlarged the circle (clients, contacts) to try (I really say "try") to mobilise goodwill. Then, we must persevere and certainly not become discouraged.

**Impressions of a council member**

**Can you tell something about yourself?**

I'm Anne Ruffin. I am a simple person but with very specific principles. (Read also her impressions as a foster mother in the newsletter of [September 2011](#)).

**Since when are you the secretary of the association?**

Since 15 December 2012.

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

The desire to help the organisation grow and achieve great things.

**Did you already visit Vietnam?**

Unfortunately not.

**Are you planning to visit Vietnam in the (near) future?**

Yes I would like to in the near future.

**Only recently you have been elected as secretary. Can you tell nevertheless some more about how it is to be the secretary of the association?**

The position of secretary is important to manage and process the documents.

**Can you tell us some more how it works to be the secretary for an association whose activities take place in Vietnam while you and most of the Council members live in France?**

It is very difficult given the distance but the secretary is very important for the good functioning of the Council and for the sustainability of projects the association.

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

The complicity that was created in the relation with Stephanie (treasurer) and Marie France (responsible for the fosterparentships).

**Can you tell us if you have encountered difficulties with regard to the work of and for the association?**

Until now no problems.

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

There must be solidarity between us and all should go in the same direction.

**Do you want to tell something else to the readers?**

I am pleased to be part of the association.

**Information about the association**

**Addresses of the association**

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**Council of the association**

President France	BUI Huy-Lan
President Vietnam and Director Operations	Marc DE MUYNCK
Secretary	Anne BRILLER-RUFFIN
Deputy-Secretary	Eric BRILLER
Treasurer	Stéphany RAULT
Communication	Marieke VAN DER PIJL
Webmaster	Sylvain LORILLOU

**Local branches**

Canada	Yannick MORVAN
France - Ruch (33)	Alexandre PERRET
France - Voiron (38)	Patrick FAY
France - Véron (89)	Laurent DUBOUCHET
Switzerland	LE Duy Tam
Vietnam	Marc DE MUYNCK

You can find their email addresses [here](#).

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For more information about us and our activities see: [www.lesenfantsdudragon.com/](http://www.lesenfantsdudragon.com/).

If you have comments or questions do not hesitate to write us at [contact@lesenfantsdudragon.com](mailto:contact@lesenfantsdudragon.com).

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Les Enfants du Dragon  
Aider un enfant au Vietnam