

## Introduction



*The year of the dragon has started well and we are full of energy for this important year. We are very busy with the preparations of our project of the heart, our own orphanage. We hope that we can continue with the construction of houses for the poorest in the provinces of Cần Thơ, Sóc Trăng and Dong Nai.*

*We would like to thank everybody who supports us for our activities in Vietnam with money or time.*

Marc de Muynck

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## Orphanages

### Visit ophthalmology

Here some more pictures of the visit we wrote about in the last newsletter.



### Truyen Tin orphanage

Children and supervisors.



The youngest children.

### Trip to Đại Nam



Sunday 5 March last twenty children of Minh Tam orphanage and seven members of the management went to the water park Dai Nam.

They were accompanied by some volunteers who live in Ho Chi Minh City. The park is located at 35 km from Ho Chi Minh City. We departed from Minh Tam at 9 am by bus or motorcycle because there were not enough seats in the bus and not enough people to hire a larger bus or because otherwise the child would become very sick in the bus. The volunteers sang and played



games, and all this to animate the children in order to make the travelling time goes quicker. After having bought the tickets, the children and the volunteers changed into bathing suits. As you can see on the pictures the Vietnamese wear a different model than the Western people.



Both the children and the adults spent a large part of the morning in the swimming pool with waves, swimming and playing while the nuns were watching over them.



After this a meal to regain forces was needed. Then some did take a massage of the feet by the little fish (doctor fish) used for "ichtyotherapy".



They have the ability to secrete a very active enzyme that helps to combat psoriasis. You should not be too sensitive to tickling though. Finally, the children chose their next attraction (most needs to be paid for). It was de

labyrinth of the dragon. Not really a good choice, because three did not dare to go down the first steps of the stairs and others cried inside. We finished the day with ice creams and after that we took the small train to



get at the exit of the park. That is, however, not easy thing with a large group and Vietnamese habits. Around 5 pm we arrived at Minh Tam and the volunteers who

took the bus were offered a tasteful soup. Then return home which was neither easy nor quick as a result of various flat tires. Children and adults spent a day full of joy together. We thank the volunteers as well as the donors who made this trip possible.



## Foster parents

### Operation of a Vietnamese girl



On the morning of 18 January last Marc met the family Nguyễn Văn Dũng in the hospital for children (Bệnh Viện Nhi Đồng 2). Thu Phương, the girl, underwent a delicate heart operation in France, considering that Vietnam does not have the techniques and especially not the material needed for this kind of intervention. Both parents work for a salary of about 100€ per month, the father is an operator and the mother a house keeper. During her recovery in France, Thu Phương stayed with a foster family. Her transport was taken care of by "Aviation sans frontière" (aviation without borders, <http://www.asf-fr.org/en>). The foster family wants to sponsor this child through our association. On behalf of the family, Mr. Truong Da Luu, the cardio-pediatrician, has asked for a computer to this girl whom works very well so she can put into practice the course she has at school and also to learn French with CDs. A computer costs about 350USD. If you wish to take part in this gift, please send your donation to our set. For more information on how to make a donation, please read [here](#).

### Children and their foster mom and foster dad

Until today we have 33 foster children, fostered by persons of French, Swiss, Dutch, Vietnamese, Belgian and Spanish origins.

**Phuc** fostered by Anne - **Hoà** fostered by Catherine  
**Bao** fostered by Laura - **Lan Anh** fostered by Olatz  
**Uyen** fostered by David - **Khang** fostered by Hélène  
**Hoa Sen** fostered by Claudie and Thierry  
**Bé Hạnh** fostered by Aline - **Lan** fostered by Pascal  
**Chung** fostered by Vincent - **Hoang** fostered by Anny  
**Sang** fostered by Laetitia - **Tâm** fostered by Tam and Anne  
**Trúc** fostered by Caroline - **Tài Phú** fostered by Trong Son  
**Thảo** fostered by Micheline and Maurice - **Nhân** fostered by Jan  
The twin boys **Tâm and Đạo** fostered by Lan and Céline  
**Ân Nhi** fostered by Marie Christine - **Anh** fostered by Patrick  
**Hạ** fostered by Stéphanie - **Cát Tường** fostered by Christine  
**Bươm** fostered by Evelyne - **Huy** fostered by Marieke  
**Bich Ngoc** fostered by Nadine - **Vy** fostered by Madeleine  
**Dung** fostered by Thi - **Thanh Phuong** fostered by Marleen  
**Ngoc Anh** fostered by Sophie - **An Nhu** fostered by Béatrice  
**Ngoc Han** fostered by Anne - **Dai** fostered by Christine

Here after some pictures of the foster parents with their foster son or daughter. Not all the foster parents have already had the possibility to visit their foster son or daughter. Some have seen them via Skype with the help of Tam, when he was in Vietnam (see for more information the newsletter of January 2012).



Trong Son and his family with Pha Tai (left).



Marleen and Thanh Phuong (right).



Evelyne and Buom (left).



Patrick, Francine and Hoang An (right).



Caroline and Trúc (left).



Tam and Tam (right).



Marieke and Huy.

Here pictures of some of the children who have a foster mom or dad, but have not yet met them.



### Foster project of "Hữu Nghị" ("friendship")

Marc and the members of the French association "Hữu Nghị" visited the poor families for whom we already built a house. The association proposes to foster the children of these families. It is common practice that our association stays in touch with them.

### Our orphanage

We are still very busy with our heart project 'our orphanage' about which we wrote in the last newsletter. We have made detailed plans and here after a 3D picture of the project. At the moment we are busy to negotiate with the authorities to obtain the land and the permits.



If you are interested in participating in this project and would like to receive a copy of the file, please contact us: [contact@lesenfantsdudragon.com](mailto:contact@lesenfantsdudragon.com).

## Contributions

### Gifts for the children

Doctor Hiệp Tan and his family came to gifts to the children. Hiệp Tan is a former heart surgeon and is now a clinical practitioner and emergency doctor at EMS-93.



Touched by the sincerity of our actions he assured us that, on his return in France, he would do everything to develop our network of friends and support "Les Enfants du Dragon". We thank him as well as his family for their generosity.

## Auction sale

Jordane Nguyen



What better then to start the year of the dragon by joining the association les Enfants du Dragon? In February 2012, the volunteer group "open your heart and make the kids smile" joined

les Enfants du Dragon to support scholarships for Hoa Sen school.

The school in Binh Tân district gathers 134 children from 5 to 10 of poor families. The children go to only part-time to school, the other time of the day they contribute in the support of the needs of their families. Most of them derive from sometimes very poor families and their parents do not have enough money to send them to school. Therefore the children at a very young age start working to help their family Besides this sacrifice they are deprived of the possibility to have access to education and therefore it is difficult for them to brake this chain of poverty. By offering them scholarships, we do not only change their future, but we also create a durable solution for the development of their area and their families.



Our challenge is to help the children to complete primary school for basic skills (reading, writing and counting) and if possible to send them to secondary school. The scholarships are given yearly under the supervision of the People's Committee of Tân Binh district.



The school also would like to open vocational training for IT and to start artistic activities (sewing, painting, pottery and basketry). For these activities material like sewing machines,

some computers are needed so they can be trained in Word and Excel and other software like Photoshop and Corel Draw, the latter wanted by the photo laboratories (all pictures are always retouched here). A computer costs about 350USD. Finally the art work shop needs drawing and painting material, so it is necessary to buy that (paint, charcoal, pencils, brushes, easels, etc.). We want to hire teachers for these professional workshops (2 million VND/month), volunteers are welcome too. Through these workshops, the children eventually can sell their works of art at charity events in order to pursue their study.

The group organises various actions to support this goal and 26 February last a support manifestation took place in the form of an auction sale in the Havana bar in Ho Chi Minh City.



Numerous persons have donated objects and gift vouchers for dance classes or other sports, beauty treatments or dinners. The two MCs: Philippe and Robert managed to create festive atmosphere in the welcoming ambiance of la Habana. The total revenue of the sales and donations is almost 24 million VND (about €890).



The school was opened in 2005 and the association Les Enfants du Dragon supports it since 2011 and participates in improving the living conditions and education of the children as well as the general functioning of the establishment, which has only small financial means. A renovation of the building is necessary (painting, gates and washrooms) as well as the creation of an activity room (drawing, painting and IT) and a small library. This project costs around 3.000€.

A visit to Hoa Sen school is foreseen for 28 March next and the total revenue of the event will be given to the association les Enfants du Dragon. For this occasion, we would like to invite the volunteers to join this visit so they can see with their own eyes the state the school is in. A renovation is really necessary for hygienic reasons and safety of the children. A team of volunteers could go do the job

during a weekend in order to create a better living environment for the children.

As you can read we do not have accumulated yet the funds needed to start the project. If you are interested in contributing to this project, contact us: [contact@lesenfantsdudragon.com](mailto:contact@lesenfantsdudragon.com).

We thank the group "Open your heart and make the kids smile" to have organised this event and the financial contribution to this project.

### Art and gifts for the children

[Michell Pontie](#), born in Chợ Lớn, lives and works in the south of France and in Vietnam as a painter trained specialised in the production of traditional lacquer ware. Michell is a member of the Association of lacquerware in France. She came with several friends to offer a snack and gifts to the children of the orphanage "Truyen Tin".



She gave us two of her pieces of art for the auction sale organized at the end of February by the group "Open your heart and make the kids smile". Unfortunately they have not been sold for the minimum price set for these works of art.

All the members of the association and the organisers of the event thank her very much.

### Projects

#### Xa Gia Canh Houses

At the end of January the inauguration of the fourth house took place. The groupe attending this inauguration left at 7 a.m. with the car of the donators, Mr Lâm Mẫn Dũng and Mrs. Nguyễn Hồng Hạnh for Xa Gia Canh. The official ceremony for finishing the house for the family of the widow Mrs. Trần Kim Lê took place in the presence of local authorities. The whole group shared a sympathetic meal before returning to Saigon.



We are pleased to announce that soon the construction of the fifth house will start. This house will be for the Lưu văn Lâm family who has four children, one of whom is handicapped.



We still have 15 houses more to construct, so if you would like to participate in this project, please contact us: [contact@lesenfantsdudragon.com](mailto:contact@lesenfantsdudragon.com).

#### Water treatment station

Half March the construction of the second water treatment station started and will be installed in the courtyard of the primary school annex kindergarten



for about 400 children adjacent to the People's Committee. A distribution point, accessible from the main street is also foreseen for the inhabitants of the neighbouring areas (up to 5 km away). The first station built on the market place did not meet the needs of the whole population, till today 90 m<sup>3</sup> have been distributed. Long queues await the opening of the station every morning from 5 to 8 a.m. and evening from 5 to 7 p.m. In order to pay the person in charge of the station and to cover maintenance the population is asked to pay 2.000VND (8 eurocent per container of 20 litres) for water of excellent quality. We have elevated the tank of 2 000 litres in order to allow a faster distribution of the water.

#### General Assembly

18 December last the general assembly took place and as already announced in the January edition, with some delay here some information. At the end of 2011 there were 23 members, 32 foster moms and dads for the children, a foster dad for the association (Rémy Bauchmann), 36 donators and a positive balance. The membership fee will not change and remains 12€ per year.

In 2011 two houses in Soc Trang and three houses in Xa Gia Canh were built, a well with water reservoirs was drilled and a water treatment station for drinking water installed to meet the needs of about 200 persons. Various supports have been given (payment of hospital bills, trips with children, help to the poor together with befriended organisations and the women's committee of the fatherland committee in Ho Chi Minh City. The production of spiruline has started. The majority of

the production is meant for free distribution to children and poor people. We need to find a way to commercialise the sale of the remaining spiruline.

For 2012 the following activities are foreseen in France: concerts (various dates and cities) of our foster parent Rémy Bauchmann, a flea market in Saint-Saulve in June and flea markets in Quarouble in May and September 2012. In Vietnam the following activities are foreseen: preparation of the construction of our orphanage, awarding scholarships and renovation of a school.

The mayor of Quarouble and the representatives of the association develop ideas to obtain more funds for the association and its projects. The council for 2012 is composed of Mr. Bui Huy Lan, president, Mr. Marc de Muynck, vice-president, Mr. Thierry Letaut, treasurer, Mr. Yves Lefebvre secretary and Mrs. Marie-France Bailleul assistant secretary and in charge of the foster children.

### Impressions of a foster mom



#### Can you tell something about yourself?

My name is Laura and I am 15 since 14 January. I am in third grade of college in Marseille (France) where I learn Spanish, English and Chinese. I have two older sisters and I live with my mom. I came to Vietnam to Hanoi in Christmas 2010, after that I went to Beijing in China and in July I will go to Indonesia.

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

Since a year now.

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

What made me decide is that I was able to see myself the misery and the families in difficulties in Vietnam when I visited by foot.

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

It is important for me to be able to help and give affection to another child, because I am lucky not to lack anything.

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

A boy, Bao. I personally asked to become the foster mom of my small and lovely Bao, because I found him adorable on the picture on the website of "les Enfants du Dragon".

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

I have not been able to visit Bao in his orphanage in Vietnam, but I am busy with the preparations.

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

Of course I have pictures of Bao in my room and I have sent him pictures of myself too. We have been able to see each other via Skype with Tam, great and wonderful!!! But to really see each other is important for the link that unites us, and tell him that he is part of my family, that we love him and that I will be at his side for a long time. But Vietnam is far.

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

I am happy to be a foster mom and I hope that many other adolescents will commit themselves with the association.

### Impressions of a volunteer



#### Can you tell something about yourself?

My name is Coca (that is not my official name, but everybody calls me that). I studied in France and I just returned to Vietnam. I am a volunteer for the association only recently, but I try to put in all my heart in what I do for the association and the children.

#### Since when are you a volunteer?

I am a volunteer since January 2012.

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

I wanted to help people who need us, our help.

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

Yes, I was a volunteer for the French Red Cross in 2011.

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

In Vietnam.

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

The activities in each country are different according to what is needed. In Vietnam the number of poor people is still high so the activities of our association are different from those in France or elsewhere.

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

It is the dynamism of the association and the 'good heart' of Marc that helped to become a volunteer of the association. I learned about her via my sister and brother-in-law who are already active for the association.

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

I help with translations and interpretations. I sometimes accompany the vice-president, Marc, to meetings or appointments. I participated also in the trip to Dai Nam.

**Can you tell about what it is like to be a volunteer?**

I feel useful and seeing the smiles of the children makes me happy.

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

The most moving moment till now for me was to see the smiles, tears and happiness of the families when the keys of the houses were handed over.

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

You cannot give to everybody so you have to choose the person that needs most. Why this one and not the other one....? Why can we not help everybody? That is the greatest difficulty of being a volunteer.

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

Do what you can do according to your capacities; the essential thing is to do it with a good heart.

**Impressions of a council member**



**Can you tell something about yourself?**

My name is Marie-France. I am married and I have four children and six grandchildren. I have retired and am a volunteer since 2009 of another association "knowledge for success" that combats illiteracy and its exclusion in society and is aimed at the 16-25 year old. In this association, I foster a young person in difficulties. So I have a reversed position with regard to the "Enfants du Dragon" where I am in charge of the foster children. This allows me to be in front of and behind the mirror.

**Since when are you in charge of the foster children?**

It was in November 2011 that I joined the association.

**What made you decide to become the person in charge of the foster children for an association for orphans in Vietnam?**

Simply the desire to share, whether the children are in Vietnam or elsewhere it does not make a difference for me. These children need someone who holds their hand and if I can contribute to their well being, even better, I reply: "Present!"

**Have you already visited Vietnam?**

Unfortunately not!!! I know it is a beautiful country with a rich and profound culture.

**If not, do you have the intention of visiting Vietnam in the near future?**

Yes, I would like to very much, but you cannot always realise your dreams. Besides, it is this feeling that nurtures our desire to... So, maybe, till soon over there.

**Can you tell something more about how it works to be in charge of the foster children of an association who works in Vietnam while you and most members of the council live in France?**

It is simple, because there is our pillar, Marc who is in Vietnam with whom I correspond daily via the internet, Mr. Bui, our president who lives near me and Mr. Letaut, our treasurer. The communication goes well between us and the cohesion is good within the steering group.

**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 most moving moment was when I consulted for the first time the files of the foster children. I saw the pictures of those children growing up at the other end of the world soaked in their culture thanks to the help of this chain of solidarity of which I am only a small link. That was really heartwarming for me.

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

No, I have not yet encountered a problem, because I know we are a team. If I have a doubt, a question, there is always a council member who explains. So from there, it works well and we can go forward.

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

For me, there is not a most important or most impressive achievement, because all that is done with regard to the association is important and impressive.

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

I would like to tell them that we live a beautiful adventure. The sharing and the love we maintain with regard to these children knowing that we should not expect anything in return because it is a gratuitous act!!! It is a bit like giving a part of yourself. We must understand and know to fully and serenely live this wonderful adventure.

**Would you like to share something else with the readers?**

Let us live a long and happy continuation of the project which is the association "*Les Enfants du Dragon*".

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For more information about the association and its 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).