

**30 YEARS OF COMPASSION
THE JOURNEY OF
MAISON CHANCE**

**FIGHTING
MALNUTRITION
IN DAK NONG**

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**PROJECT UPDATE:
"MEALS FOR THE
UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN"**



TIM ALINE REBEAUD
HOÀNG NỮ NGỌC TIM
Founder and Director
of Maison Chance



Dear friends,

The series of events celebrating Maison Chance's 30th anniversary began late last year in Canada and continued this April in Washington DC, USA. These celebrations will proceed in Ho Chi Minh City on September 21, in Paris on October 6, in Crissier (near Lausanne, Switzerland) on October 12, and in Brussels on October 19. Mark your calendars and join us!

In Vietnam, I have accompanied many members who have grown up but are now facing psychological issues and struggling with addiction. Most of them are orphans or people with disabilities who have been raised and helped by Maison Chance but find it challenging to integrate into society. To me, they are family. Though I wish to spend more time supporting them, it is beyond my capacity. Therefore, Maison Chance has invited a psychologist to better listen and support these members. A consulting room has also been arranged to ensure comfortable and private sessions.

Currently, Maison Chance's special education classes are supporting many children with autism and intellectual disabilities. Besides teaching essential life skills and basic knowledge, we aim to bring joy and peace to these children through therapeutic methods, including Snoezelen. This therapy is designed for members with severe intellectual and/or physical disabilities, especially those who are shy and avoid communication. By using sensory and movement stimulation methods, Snoezelen encourages participants to reconnect with the world around them. This is extremely beneficial for members who exhibit communication refusal and withdraw from others and their surroundings.

We have completed the construction of the Snoezelen room and are working with a specialist to list the necessary equipment for this new space. From Canada, this expert will come to Vietnam later this year to assist with the installation and provide guidance to Maison Chance's medical team.

Additionally, a new construction project is underway. A kindergarten class will be opened at the Dak Nong Center. In the current situation where there is no kindergarten classes for children from six months old and above, this project will provide practical support for the children of poor families in the region as well as for the staff working at the center. To make this project a reality, we need your help. I am deeply grateful to those who have been, are, and will be with us to bring a brighter future to those in need.

Sincerely,
Tim




Ms. Tim and the children on stage at the
Maison Chance 20th anniversary celebration

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MAISON CHANCE VIET NAM
TAKE WING CENTER

NEWSLETTER MAISON CHANCE
JUNE - 2024

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GADIF HONORARY AWARD 2024

On March 20, 2024, Tim Aline had the honor of receiving the GADIF Honorary Award 2024 during the International Francophonie Day ceremony organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Asia-Pacific Office of the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF) in Vietnam.

This award is a well-deserved recognition for Tim's tireless efforts in promoting and spreading French cultural and linguistic values within the community. This recognition event not only highlights Tim's personal achievements but also affirms the importance of her work at Maison Chance, thereby contributing to the creation of a united and compassionate community.



Mr. Pierre du Ville, Head of the Wallonia-Brussels Delegation in Vietnam, President of the French-speaking Ambassadors Group in Hanoi, presenting the Honorary Award

HORSES: EXCEPTIONAL THERAPISTS FOR CHILDREN

In Dak Nong, we have three specially designed classes for children with physical and mental disabilities. Our goal is to create an environment conducive to comprehensive development. As a part of this, Maison Chance has integrated animal therapy into its program. Through interaction with horses and participation in horseback riding, we strive to enhance the children's motor skills, increase their flexibility and self-confidence, and foster meaningful connections between humans and animals. To ensure the children's safety, a staff member is always present to hold the reins.

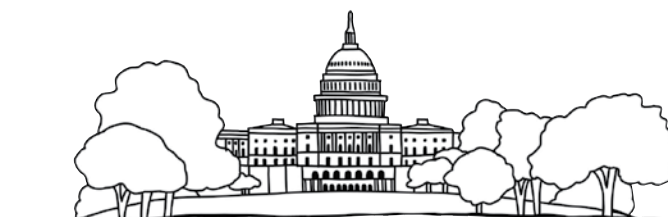
Each therapy session not only helps children overcome physical barriers but also marks a significant step in their emotional recovery. The horses serve as more than just therapists; they are loyal companions, understanding and empathetic, helping the children confront their fears and doubts.

30 YEARS OF COMPASSION THE JOURNEY OF MAISON CHANCE



Fate often leads to unexpected encounters. Tim's journey in Vietnam began 30 years ago, marked by meetings, miraculous stories of generosity, significant changes, and new lives for many less fortunate individuals. This is the journey of founding a home called "Maison Chance" (Lucky House), a place where love and hope can be reborn.

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of Maison Chance, volunteers and over 100 esteemed guests gathered at the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC, with Tim Aline in attendance. The event began with a video summarizing the organization's development and moving testimonies from those who grew up at Maison Chance. These children, once naive and shy, have grown into confident and determined young adults. Over time, beneficiaries come and go; some leave to live independently, while others continue to accompany Tim on her journey. Each life story is a testament to the strength of the community.



Despite the ongoing challenge of securing funds, Maison Chance has always welcomed beneficiaries with empathy. This environment of kindness has become an unwavering force that nurtures everyone involved. Volunteers and benefactors, both near and far, have contributed to building and developing Maison Chance into what it is today.



Almost 14 years ago, my wife and I encountered Maison Chance at Village Chance in Vietnam. We have witnessed and shared in this environment of love, which has given our lives a deeper sense of fulfillment. Although we did not seek it out, our encounter with the people of Maison Chance provided us with a great cause to support and work for.

Maison Chance not only brings hope to the less fortunate but also gives more meaning to our own lives. Perhaps this meeting 14 years ago was also a matter of fate. In Vietnamese, we call it "cơ duyên".

Mr. Trung Nguyen- Maison Chance USA

In honor of Vietnam Day of Persons with Disabilities on April 18th, a para-sports competition including Pickleball and Boccia was organized by Tan Binh Sport & Cultural Center.

The event started early in the morning to avoid the afternoon heat. We arrived early enough to arrange the specialized wheelchairs at the designated location. Players from various teams also arrived and began warming up. With everything in place, the competition began.

With every Pickleball serve, as a supporter, I could feel the players' passion. The same enthusiasm was evident among the Boccia players. Participants motivated each other, offered advice, and strategized to regain control or secure victory. Each game won was celebrated with shouts of joy and victory dances.



The award ceremony at around 11 AM was an emotional highlight. The Maison Chance team had the honor of winning several prizes: a silver medal in Pickleball, a silver medal in Boccia, and a bronze medal in Boccia. These achievements underscore the significant improvements resulting from their training. In addition to the medals, winners received beautiful certificates to proudly display in their homes.

The para sports event brought pride not only to the Maison Chance team but also to the community. More than just victories, I got to know more beneficiaries and supported them throughout the event.

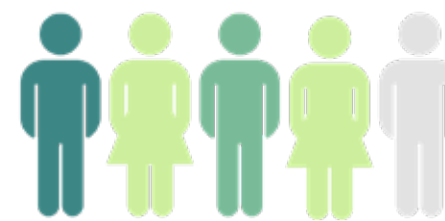
It was a beautiful morning filled with moments of sharing and cheering on the teams and players. Athletes, supporters, and volunteers together created a joyful and warm atmosphere where everyone felt loved and valued.

Clara Bourhis

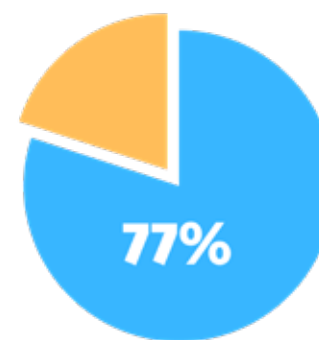


With deep gratitude, we are excited to share the progress of the "Meals for the Underprivileged Children" project – an initiative to provide nutritious lunches to the less fortunate students in Village Chance, thereby giving them the energy needed to learn and develop.

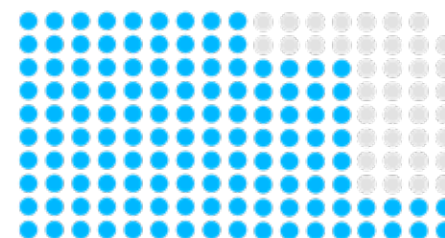
The project has achieved promising results:



Number of sponsored classes



Sponsorship rate



Total sponsorships



Scan the QR code to join the project:

In September 2023, we began implementing this project in five primary school classes in Saigon. The next phase of the project will be launched during the upcoming school year in five additional primary classes at the Maison Chance center in Dak Nong Province.



Thanks to the dedication and love of sponsors, the students have received consistent support for their lunches throughout the school year. Although the sponsorship rate was 77%, all students were given comprehensive attention and care. We ensure that no child feels alone or neglected due to a lack of sponsors.

The main advantage of group sponsorship compared to individual support is clear. From

the sponsor's perspective, they can be assured that even if their contribution is limited, their attention and support will equally reach all the less fortunate children.

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, Village Chance is seeking sponsors to join our project and support underprivileged children on their educational journey towards a brighter future.

One of the core values of the project is to create an equitable support environment where each member receives the necessary attention and care. Therefore, this project is implemented in the form of collective sponsorship.

EXPECTED PROGRAM PLAN

Phase 1: Improving Daily Life Quality

In the first phase, the project focuses on improving the quality of life for people with disabilities. With a cost of **3,500,000 VND (~144 USD)** per year for each beneficiary, the support covers food and regular physical therapy sessions. An adequate nutritional diet and physical therapy exercises help beneficiaries strengthen their health, reduce pain and movement difficulties, and thus improve their spirits and autonomy in daily activities.

Phase 2: Vocational Training & Employment Access

Since its creation, Maison Chance has prioritized vocational training for beneficiaries with disabilities. However, budget constraints and high training costs often cause interruptions. Once the first phase of the Disabled Sponsorship Program gains stable support, phase 2 will be launched to ensure the continuity of vocational training and increase employment opportunities.



The Disabled Sponsorship Program was created to provide practical and comprehensive support to less fortunate disabled individuals, helping them overcome difficulties. As a stepping stone, the program helps beneficiaries feel more confident and fosters greater understanding and empathy from society towards the challenges faced by people with disabilities.

Your participation is crucial for the development of the project and for bringing about positive changes, helping people with disabilities regain confidence and motivation to make progress in life. Share our message with your friends, family, and community. Each small action on your part can create wonders for others in the future.

Every child is born with a remarkable gift: imagination. This gift plays a crucial role in mental development, fostering joy and creativity. Imagination also nurtures problem-solving skills as children learn to think creatively and generate new ideas.

Recognizing that creativity varies among children but can always be cultivated, a new artistic education project has been launched to provide children with diverse cultural and artistic experiences. The goal is to spark an interest in art and nurture creativity, while also bringing joy and well-being to children, many of whom come from challenging backgrounds.



Each Saturday, children participated in hour-long sessions with instructors from Breathing Fingers. For kindergarteners, the activities focused on simple themes such as animals, faces, and emotions. Primary school students engaged in more complex tasks, including learning mono-printing techniques. They also explore natural patterns and shapes, experimenting with various painting tools like brushes, pipettes, and rollers, allowing their creativity to flourish.



The artists from Breathing Fingers provide constant support, listening, encouraging, and offering guidance without imposing restrictions. With a backdrop of relaxing and then stimulating music, children work individually or in groups, enhancing both their independent and collaborative skills. The sessions conclude with a 10-minute presentation where children proudly showcase their work. Initially shy, they soon become eager and confident speakers. Additionally, they develop good habits like sharing, helping each other, and cleaning up after their workshops.

Time flies during these sessions, and by the end, all the children eagerly await the next Saturday.



BREATHING FINGER STUDIO

Founded in February 2024 out of a passion for art, Breathing Finger (facebook.com/taythostudio) is an organization of dedicated young artists, aimed at promoting, educating, and popularizing artistic experiences for art enthusiasts in Saigon.

Hello! My name is Guylaine Arsenault, and I am a member of Casira, an association based in Quebec, Canada. Our group primarily consists of retirees who are passionate about supporting humanitarian efforts through volunteer work.

We spent two weeks at Maison Chance Saigon and another two weeks at the Maison Chance location in Dak Nong province. During our time there, we dedicated ourselves to painting and repair work.

I was deeply impressed by the dedication and mission of Maison Chance. Their work with disabled individuals and children is truly inspiring. The educational and vocational training opportunities they provide help beneficiaries achieve self-reliance, which is particularly noteworthy.

 **Guylaine ARSENAULT**

I am Clara Bourhis, a French student in Saigon.

While searching for associations in Saigon, I discovered Maison Chance and decided to volunteer there. My motivation for volunteering is to ensure that my daily activities have meaning. I want to use my time for a good cause. Being healthy and fortunate enough to have access to quality education, I want to share my good fortune by helping those less fortunate in society.

My support for Maison Chance involves writing and translating documents for donors, the website, and other communication channels. This commitment has greatly enriched my personal and professional experience, allowing me to develop new skills and meet new friends.

Thanks to Maison Chance, I have met incredibly radiant, resourceful, and generous people, from beneficiaries to employees. The Projects Office team welcomed me with open arms, and I quickly felt like part of the team. I am truly grateful to be able to help Maison Chance.

Clara BOUHRIS

Volunteering is a profoundly meaningful and noble endeavor, embodying the values of sharing and compassion, particularly at Maison Chance. We warmly embrace volunteers of all ages, nationalities, and professions who are eager to make a difference in our community and empower the less fortunate towards a brighter future.

“Giving to others is also giving to ourselves”

Child malnutrition remains a pressing issue, particularly in Dak Nong, a region still grappling with poverty and complex life stories. In the past school year, Maison Chance in Dak Nong Province welcomed 23 students suffering from malnutrition. These children's weight and height were only 60 to 70% of the standards set by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Before the intervention of Maison Chance, these children were emaciated, with pale complexions and lifeless eyes. They frequently suffered from respiratory infections, intestinal issues, sleeplessness, and a lack of appetite. After five months of relentless efforts, eight children have moved from being malnourished to merely underweight, thanks to a project that provided milk, syrups, probiotics, and two extra snacks at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily—a promising sign of recovery and hope.

However, fifteen children remain malnourished. Although progress is not immediate for all, Maison Chance and its sponsors continue to provide proper nutrition and love. Their ongoing efforts aim to improve the health and morale of these less fortunate children, enabling them to learn better, play alongside their peers, and have a brighter future in the long run.



In a small, impoverished village in Cu Jut District, Dak Nong Province, two brothers, Nong Truong Sinh (born in 2008), and Nong Van Huy (born in 2010), from the Nung ethnic group, have a story that touches the heart. Their mother abandoned them when they were very young, leaving them with deep longing for warm hugs and return of the mother, but their calls were met with silence. To make matters worse, their paternal grandmother suffers from minor mental disorders, and age-related frailty, preventing her from fully caring for her grandchildren. All the responsibilities fell on their father's shoulders, but with fragile health and a meager income from a casual job, he struggled to provide for them.

The family lives in a modest house built with contributions from local authorities and the church. Their household possessions are limited to a gas stove, an old wooden bed, and a used motorcycle. Due to their impoverished circumstances and lack of affection, the children eventually dropped out of school. They spent their days in cybercafes and resorted to stealing to survive.

Yet, even in the most challenging times, hope can be found. In 2021, Sinh and Huy were welcomed to Maison Chance. Here, they received medical care, food, and education, and most importantly, they found a home filled with love and hope.

Sinh, now 16 and in the 7th grade, and Huy, 14 and in the 5th grade at Maison Chance Dak Nong's primary school, have thrived under the care of mother Tim and the support of their friends and teachers. They have learned to care for others, study hard, and aspire for a brighter future.

Sinh and Huy are just two of the many children Maison Chance support and care for. Each child's story is unique, but they are all connected by our association's mission: to bring light and hope to those who need it most.

Huy and Sinh before joining Maison Chance



MUSIC HOUSE AND MULTIPURPOSE AREA AT MAISON CHANCE DAK NONG

At the end of April, the Maison Chance center in Dak Nong reached a significant milestone with the completion of two new buildings. This development marks the fruition of a major project for the organization, with rooms expected to be fully equipped and operational by May and June, offering a promising new start for its beneficiaries

MULTIPURPOSE AREA

While each room within the multipurpose area serves a specific function, they collectively aim to support people with disabilities and students facing challenging circumstances.

Agricultural Product Processing Workshop:

This area includes workshops for producing and processing local agricultural products such as cashew nuts, dried fruits, coffee, lemongrass essential oil, and vanilla. These activities offer professional training, allowing beneficiaries to develop new skills and gain employment opportunities, helping them achieve a stable life.

IT Room:

Designed to accommodate 180 students, the IT room provides direct access to technology. This resource helps students explore the world, expand their knowledge, and boost their confidence and motivation to pursue their studies. It empowers them to overcome challenges and work towards a bright future.

The new buildings will officially open in July. We eagerly await these promising changes and will keep you informed of the latest developments.



Music is not only an art form but also a comforting therapy that soothes sadness, brings happiness, and strengthens the community. The construction of the Music House provides beneficiaries with a space to unwind after long days at school or work. Here, they can freely express themselves and pursue their passion for music.



CURRENT SITUATION

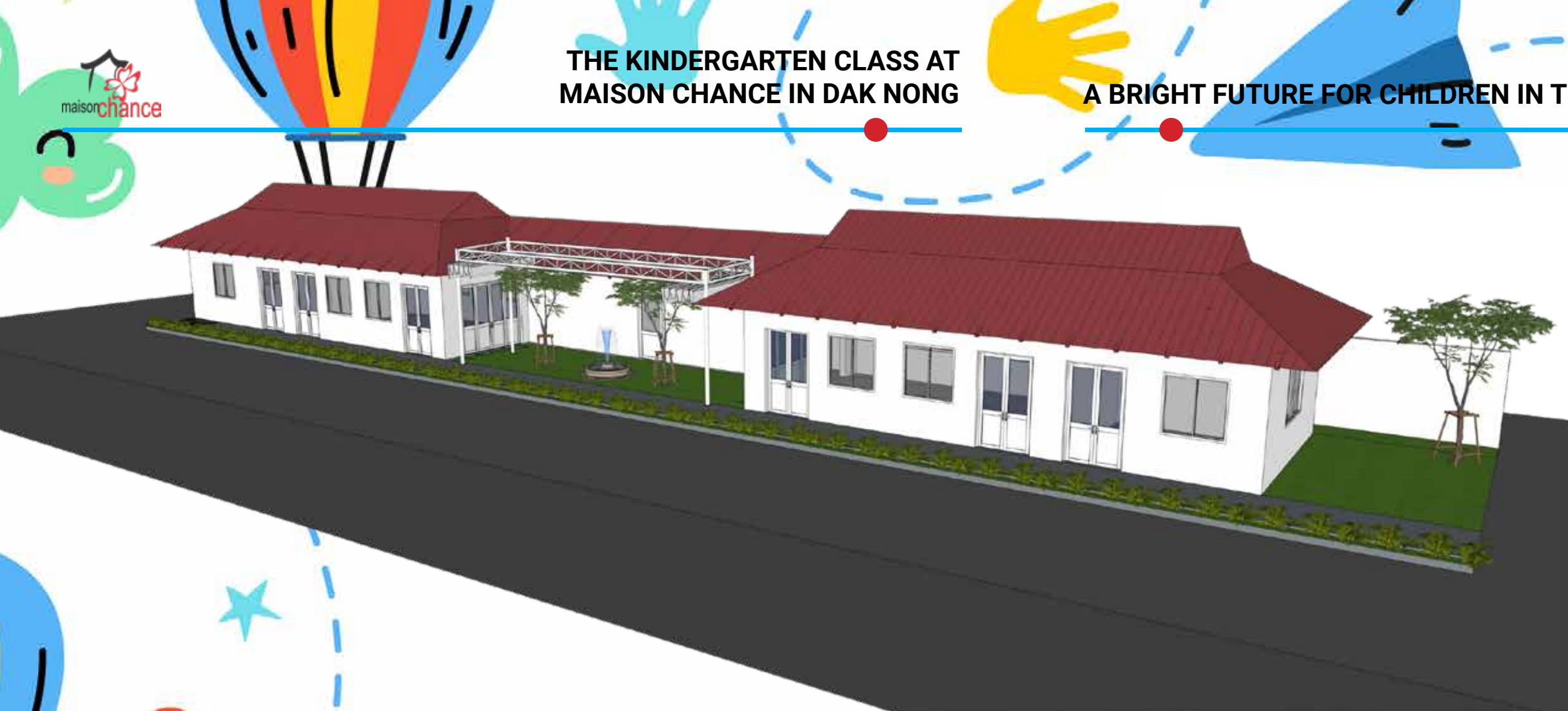
In rural areas like Dak Nong, residents face numerous challenges. This is particularly true in the Central Highlands of Vietnam, where the lack of facilities and child care services is a significant issue.

Many children must stay at home because there is no place to send them while their parents or guardians work hard to earn a living. This lack of early education programs and proper care results in delayed physical, intellectual, and social development. Children from poor families are especially disadvantaged, often missing out on the best care and education in their formative years.



URGENT NEED

Maison Chance in Dak Nong has been a refuge for many children in difficult circumstances, but it currently lacks a qualified kindergarten to care for and educate children from six months to five years old. The kindergarten construction project at Maison Chance Dak Nong aims to create a safe environment designed to support the comprehensive development of children, including educational activities and proper nutrition. This kindergarten will serve three main groups: orphans, children of Maison Chance employees, and children from especially disadvantaged local households.



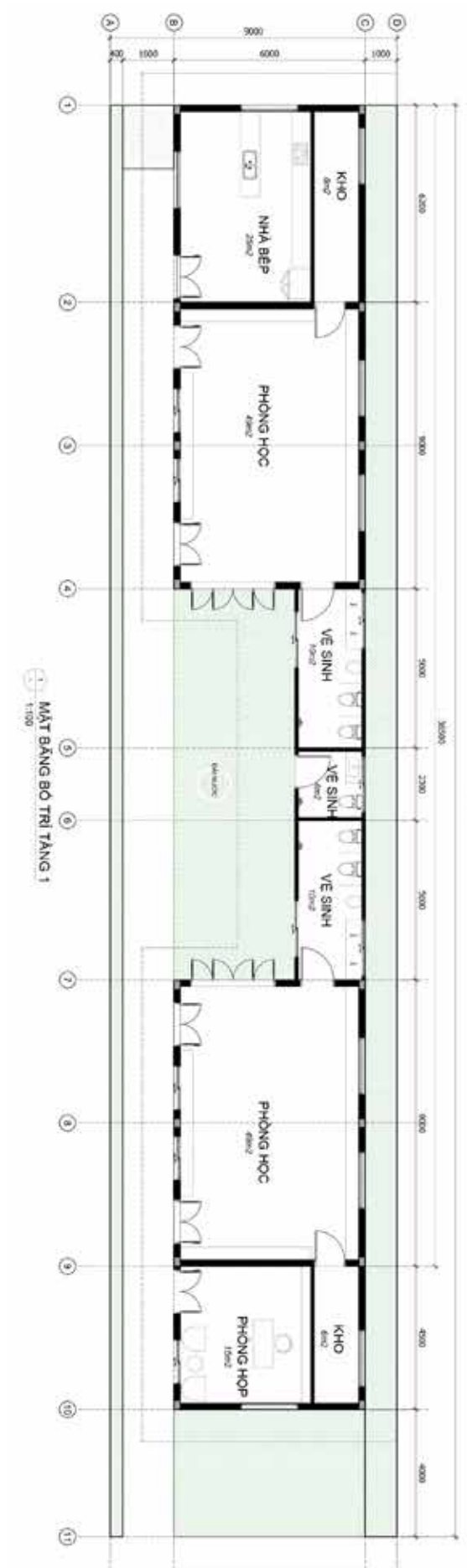
ESTIMATED COSTS AND CALL FOR SUPPORT

We estimate that approximately **\$50,000** is needed to complete this project. These funds will be used to build the necessary infrastructure and purchase equipment and educational toys. Although this is a significant amount, we are confident that the dream of a quality kindergarten for children in Dak Nong will come true with the kindness and support of everyone.

CONCLUSION

We hope that with the community's cooperation, the kindergarten class at Maison Chance Dak Nong will soon be established and operational, providing a warm home and a safe learning and playing environment for many children. Every contribution, big or small, is a valuable step toward making this project happen.

Please join us in making this project a reality, for a brighter future for children in the Central Highlands of Vietnam!



DONATION BY BANK TRANSFER

Bank: Eximbank

Address: 4B Ton Duc Thang, Ben Nghe Ward, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Name: ASSOCIATION MAISON CHANCE

USD: 200014852000517

VND: 200014852005274

EURO: 200014852007054

SWIFT CODE: EBVIVNVX



DONATE ONLINE:

<https://maison-chance.org/en/make-a-donation>

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