

## Introduction

We hope you enjoyed the first edition of the newsletter issued in English, French and Vietnamese. You will notice that the lay-out of this edition of the newsletter differs slightly from the first one. This is because we use the official logo now in the heading. It was designed for the association, so we should use it. Enjoy reading this newsletter.

Marc de Muynck

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## Orphanages

In the coming editions of the newsletter we will introduce the four orphanages we support at the moment. We start with Nhà Mồ Côi Truyền Tin Truyền Tin located in district Bình Tân in the west of Ho Chi Minh city.

### The orphanage Truyền Tin



My name is Maria Nguyen Thi Cu and I am in charge of Nhà Mồ Côi Truyền Tin Truyền Tin. I belong to the congregation of the lovers of the Holy Cross of Tân lập. I was born in a traditional family in which education is built on faith, which pushes me to do this work with my heart and conscience. I feel the unhappiness of the others, especially of the orphans I try to help. They came into the world in a dark life, full of threats and have been abandoned when they had two or three days.

The shelter 'Truyền tin' was created in 1995. At my side there is also my family and the sisters of the same community. The five sisters who help us are all volunteers without a salary. In the beginning we had many difficulties, morally and materially. We had to beg for cans of rice, tins of milk to feed them.

We have overcome the difficulties and that already since ten years. We mainly survive thanks to the help of our benefactors, according to their possibilities, availabilities. We do not receive permanent contributions, so during various actions, the children need to make artisanal objects, souvenirs, like artificial flowers, stuffed animals made of pearls. At a day in the shelter, there are always worries about food, study costs, milk, transport of the children to school and nameless other things. Our goal is that the children become good citizens, receive a fitting education for their best future. We try to form them into human beings useful for the catholic community and society.

At the moment we have sixty children, most of them have been abandoned when they had one or two days. The others are orphans by father or mother, without support. There are five children, whose parents cannot send them to school, because they do not have a place to stay, even though they are very studious.

Two special events have arrived to two of the children in our shelter. Hà Duy Minh, born in 2007, had a heart disease from his birth. At the age of two days, he was abandoned at the orphanage. We have noticed his disease two months later and we have taken him to the children hospital. He has been operated when he had five months. We have spent a large amount for him, and he is at the maternity school now in good health. Nguyễn Hồng Phúc, born in 2001, was abandoned in the forest, the villagers warned the priest. We have quickly gone to Binh Long to get him, his mother being violated.



In name of the orphans we wish you a good health, peace and health in your life. For sixteen long years, we have faced many challenges and overcome many difficulties in order to have achieved today's result. The children are divided as follows: fourteen do not go to school yet, nine to kindergarten, nineteen to primary school, twelve to secondary school, first cycle, two to college and six to university.

Once again, we wish you happiness and a good health in the love of a neighbour and we hope to maintain your attention for the orphans in the future,

so they can have a bit more love and happiness in order to forget the past misfortune of their own lives. For more pictures, see:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/marcopolo1949/sets/72157625848479547/>

## Contributions

### Bikes

In July we received some children's bikes from Theresa Bird.

### English classes

We also received some offers from people interested in volunteering to teach English. However, it is not always easy to match the available time of the volunteer with the time that is convenient for the orphanage, because the children go to school.

### Spectacle

Saturday 24 September last the spectacle "YU in YU Man Show" was performed in Marseille, France. The entire proceeds will be for the association "The Children of the Dragon".

### House (Nhà Tình thương)

#### 2008

In 2008 with the help of twelve students of the Central School of Lyon eight houses were built in Phú An. Kevin Caille, former student of this school, returned there. Here you can read his testimony: <http://www.lesenfantsdudragon.com/attachments/Fil e/Temoignage-Kevin-Caille-Phu-An.pdf>.

#### 2011

In the last newsletter we informed you about the project for the *Châu Mạ* minority in Xã Gia Canh. Here some pictures of the construction of the first house that has been built and the official inauguration on 21 July last.



We are happy to announce that soon another house can be built thanks to the contribution of a member of the association.



The house will be for a sympathetic family consisting of the parents, Mr. Hiên et Mrs. Ka Diệp, both laborers in the country side. They live in this 'shack' in great poverty with their youngest daughter, Ka-Liêu of 9, the eldest daughter Ka-Hân of 14 lives at a boarding school. The parents toil and exhaust themselves working hard during long days in the hope to give their children a better future. They deprive themselves to feed them as best as they can with a 'salary' of 30.000-50.000VND a day (1€ = about 29.000VND nowadays). The ethnic group *Châu Mạ* comprises 41,405 members and lives mainly in the provinces of Binh Phuoc, Dak Nong, Dong Nai and Lam Dong. Le *Châu Mạ* belong to the Ma who believes in the existence of spirits in the river, the mountains and the rice field. The Ma language belongs to the Mon-Khmer Group. The Ma possesses a rich folklore including many ancient tales, myths, and legends. Often, the children carry the family name of the mother according to the tradition of this minority.

If you have not seen it with your own eyes, it is difficult to imagine under which circumstances these people live, but the picture does not lie. Therefore we ask your attention again for this important project.

## Spiruline

The production continues and we are busy commercializing the sales of spiruline.

## Foster program

Since the last newsletter we have been able to foster another girl. However, we need many more foster parents. Here after you can read the

impressions of the first foster mom of the association.

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

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

My name is Anne Ruffin, I am 34 years old and I am the director of an association of services for persons. I have a daughter of almost 4, named Angèle.

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

2010

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

The project of this association is very interesting. I had the intention to help children in this region in difficulty in my way. This allows improving their daily living conditions.

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

It is very important for me. I know that what we do favours the children very much.

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

Simply because I have always been attracted by Asian countries and the association has already realized many projects.

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

A boy, named Phuc.

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

No, I did not have the opportunity yet.

#### **Will you visit him soon?**

If my company continues to grow, my family and I will visit him.

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

We write to each other from time to time.

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

The most moving moment was when I received his first letter.

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

We must help the association so the children do not lack anything and these kinds of projects evolve.

### **Impressions of a volunteer**



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

My name is Ly Thu Thuy and I have been a teacher at a higher education school (l'Ecole Normale Supérieure) of Saigon during 20 years, now I have retired. I have been a French language teacher at the institute of cultural exchanges with France (l'IDECAP) since 15 years. I still teach as a lecturer at the university. I am a researcher in linguistics and I am passionate of literature, philosophy, history and geography.

#### **Since when are you a volunteer?**

Since always. Since 2009 with the Children of the dragon.

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

Nothing, it goes without saying.

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

Yes, in Vietnam. On an ad hoc basis. I respond to every call, if I am available, which is not always the case. But I try to arrange my time.

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

In Vietnam

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

I do not have anything to compare.

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

I saw an advertisement of an ONG looking for an interpreter for a film in 2009, I reacted. As I did not have time later, I stopped, but I continued to translate and interpret for the Children of the Dragon.

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

Translating, interpreting.

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

It is team work. A number of Vietnamese proverbs, illustrate this activity: "Một cây làm chẳng nên non" (a tree cannot be a mountain, but three trees can make one) or "lá lành đùm lá rách" (an intact leaf covers a torn leaf).

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

The joy of the smallest orphans.

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

Bureaucracy.

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

Not particularly. When you are a volunteer, you are animated by noble and natural feelings.

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

It feels good to go out and see other people. If you are feeling the blues, visit a shelter, an orphanage. You will see life through pink glasses again after having had negative thoughts.

**Impressions of a council member**



**Can you tell something about yourself?**

My name is Huy-Lan Bui. I was born in Dalat in Viêt-Nam 49 years ago. And, I left it at the age of 19 to go France. After my study of dental surgery in Paris, I married Céline Bui-Lam, who is also a dental surgeon. We have four children. Since twenty years, I live in Quarouble and I practice full-time, what not means all the time, but almost. My passion is to relieve the suffering of others in all manners, so, to improve the daily living circumstances of people. This is what allowed me to accept to found with Marc de Muynck, the humanitarian association "Les Enfants du Dragon".

**What made you decide to establish an association for orphans in Vietnam?**

Being a native Vietnamese, it is a normal gesture.

**What is the origin of the name of the association?**

According to the legend, the viêt people descend from the union between a goddess and a dragon.

**Since when are you the president?**

Since the creation of the association.

**Can you tell something more about how it is to be the president of the association?**

I fulfill my duty of gratitude towards the people I belong to, and towards France.

**Can you tell some more about how it is to be the president of an association whose activities take place Vietnam while you live in France?**

I give the association what is in my power, in the first place, my native language, Vietnamese culture. For the rest I only can do what my full working schedule allows me to do.

**Do you often go to Vietnam?**

No, my friend Marc is already there.

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

I set foot on Vietnamese ground again for the first time in 1994.

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

No, because I try to contribute as much as I can and to allow our friends-members and supporters to participate according to their possibilities.

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

To found the association and being recognized by the authorities as ONG, for the rest, I have faith in everybody.

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

Always give your best at the appropriate moment. The present moment is the most sacred moment, do not waste it!

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

I always look for simple ways to improve the lives of my people and everybody. I found them. I will talk about them soon.

**Second informal meeting**

On 17 September last several people living in HCMC met and discussed the current projects, the new projects like the association's shelter, financial contributions by volunteers, A separate report of the meeting will be distributed.

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For more information about the association and the activities see: <http://www.lesenfantsdudragon.com/>.

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