



DUC SON CHILD

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English version

Biannual journal from Duc Son Child association, founded in 2011, from french law 1901 recognized as a general interest association, able to deliver tax receipts upon donation.



EDITORIAL



WARRIORS OF THE HEART

We did not expect it, but when it struck us the sanitary crisis left its mark. Physically for the less fortunate and morally for others. We have lived through weeks of doubt of fear and anguish. This pushed us to refocus on ourselves, to find loved ones from a distance, to appreciate a certain forgotten way of life and to finally open our eyes to what really matters. But did we really use this time to keep moving forward?

In January 2021, we will celebrate the ten years mark of the association. Since our hazardous beginning to today and all our ongoing projects, we had to overcome several obstacles. We had our doubts: among others, failed partnerships, limited funds, personal constraints, and all this combined with our inexperience has often made us doubt. Even then, our will to act was intact, and putting our heart into it made perfect sense. During these years, all the volunteers have helped to grow the association. Years after years, we have matured, we have improved our management, optimized our finances, and worked consistently to be more efficient to finally realize our objectives. Today, we are extremely proud to manage our center for orphans and poor children.

The children who live there are not that different from elsewhere. They dream of the same things: of growing up, of exploring and marveling at what is left of the world. Life at our center is simple. We support these kids, helping them to grow, to study, to adopt good habits and to think of others. We hope this environment at the center will help them to achieve their dreams and goals. Obtaining their university

diploma is a first necessary milestone to this.

We have always believed that this diploma is a prerequisite for a peaceful start to their life project. The public exams in Vietnam are demanding, and the diploma is a good start for their project. In Vietnam, too many kids and children have to give up and cannot pursue higher education. They lack of time to study, lack money or funding or simply are caught by the poor life in the countryside of Vietnam, where education is a luxury most cannot afford. Unfortunately, being smart and hard working is not enough for these children. At the association, we are committed to funding all costs and tuition fees until these kids graduate. In return, they have themselves all committed to take responsibility and upon graduation, they will become also sponsors and help finance other poor children. Courage and generosity, here are the essential qualities of a warrior of the heart.

Courage and generosity have been the core values of our association. Time will tell if our decisions have paid off. Let's stop thinking at our past failures, live our present mindfully, continue to try and be brave to follow our heart.

Let's stay safe in this troubled time and continue to turn our dreams into reality.

■ Olivier DINH



At Duc Son, we wear uniform to go to school

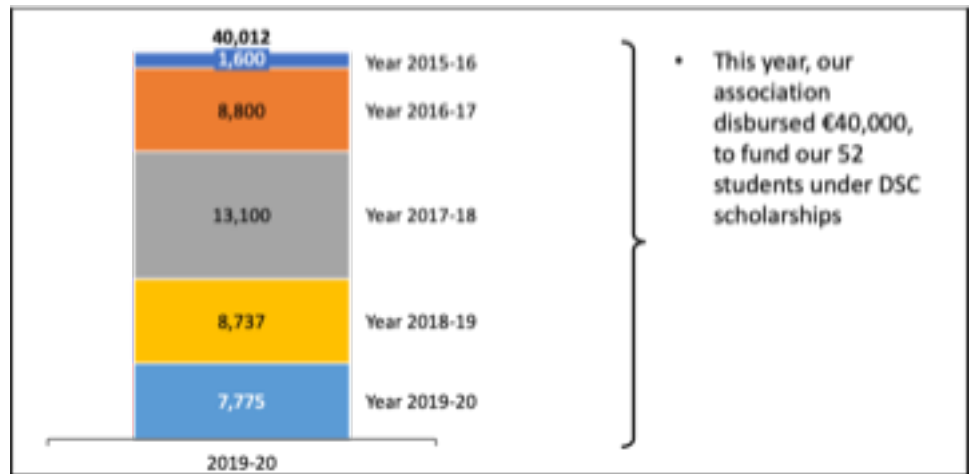
OUR ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT



A retrospective of the past year : our projects, our actions and our results

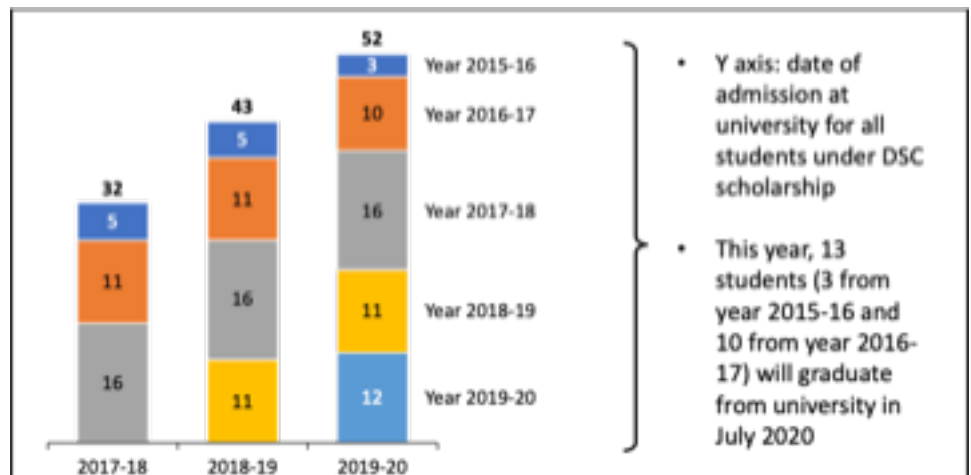
Duc Son Child's university scholarships

One of the traditional activities of Duc Son Child has been scholarships for university students. This year again, they were the main focus of our social actions for the country. In 2019-20, our association distributed a total of 52 school scholarships to help students during their university studies. The amount spent, between 800 and 1100 euros per year, per kids allow our students to cover all costs (accommodation, meals, school registration fees and all other expenses).



Number of students benefiting from scholarships, per year (2017-2020)

- This year, our association disbursed €40,000, to fund our 52 students under DSC scholarships



Amount spent by DSC for scholarships, in euros

- Y axis: date of admission at university for all students under DSC scholarship
- This year, 13 students (3 from year 2015-16 and 10 from year 2016-17) will graduate from university in July 2020

Students graduated situation in June 2020		
Name	University	Current situation
Tran Thi Diep	Hue University of Fine Arts	Found a job as a decorator in Hue
Tran Du	Da Nang Polytechnic University	Got a job in a Danang construction and engineering company
Le Van Tam	Saigon Military University	Was assigned to a military barracks in a new economic zone
Ton That Phuoc	Saigon University of Industry	Found a job as a computer engineer in Saigon
Vo Tran Ngoc Trang	saigon university of natural sciences	Received two job offers: 1 pharmacy in Saigon, 1 pharmacy in Niha Trang
Ha Thi Huong	Hue University of Sciences	Received several job offers
Nguyen Thi Tuyet Nhu	Da Nang Foreign Languages University	Received several job offers
Le Phu Tuong	Danang University of Economics	Received several job offers
Nguyen Thi Ty	Saigon University of Telecommunications	Received several job offers
Nguyen Huu Quang Truong	Danang University of Economics	Received several job offers
Truong Thi My Trinh	Danang University of Economics	Found an accountant job in Phu Bai, near Hue
Nguyen Van Quang	Duy Tran University of Pharmacy	Found an accountant job in Danang
Nguyen Thi Ngoc Hanh	Hue University of Economics	Found a marketing position in Hue

This year is an important milestones for our small association: our first major promotion of scholarship students graduated this year. 14 students received their diplomas at the end of June, and all of them announced to us that they had received job offers despite the difficult economic situation.



Au centre de Phu Thuong, samedi 23 mai 2020.

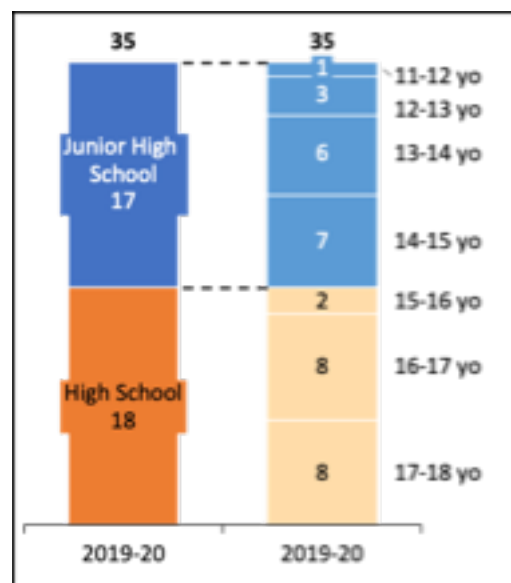
Phu Thuong's foster home

This year marks the third year in which our association has taken full charge of Phu Thuong center, and the 35 junior high and high school students who live there. The foster home, which welcomes orphans and / or very poor and deserving children, is one of the only private foster homes in Vietnam (neither affiliated with the state, nor with the Buddhist association or the Vietnamese church). It is characterized by its academic excellence: the poorest and / or orphans are welcomed there, on academic criteria. All students admitted to the foster homes (places are limited, since the

center is unfortunately small) are coached until the end of the 12th grade, and since the creation of the foster home, the rate of admission to university (very selective in Vietnam) has always been 100%.

This year again, the foster home's academic results are excellent, with marks and honors : 15 students received congratulations, 15 satisfactory (almost all of the students had received honorable mentions from the junior high school or high school). 7 high school students in their last year also successfully passed the

The first major batch of our scholarship students graduated this year. 14 graduated at the end of June.



Breakdown of the children of Phu Thuong center, by class and age (2019-20)

university entrance exam (100% success, for the fourth

Other social and humanitarian actions of the year: support operation in mountain villages

Our association funded and participated, along with the Uu Dam pagoda, in the distribution of food, medicine and other basic necessities, to help poor villages in the mountainous regions of Hue province. These are undoubtedly the poorest populations in Vietnam, since the villagers here earn an average less than two dollars a day (most are therefore below the poverty line of the World Bank). For Tết, the operation made it possible to distribute a hundred rations (which include rice, medicines and other basic necessities) for a hundred very poor families of the

DUCSONCHILD ANNUEL REPORT 2019-2020

villages

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR 2019-2020



People living in mountain regions



Tết operation permits to offer feed to different villages



Kilos of rice distributed

Financials - in Euro	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (P)
Spending					
Scholarship program - Phu Thuong	2 600,00 €	12 400,00 €	25 500,00 €	34 500,00 €	37 900,00 €
Scholarship program - Uu Dam			1 100,00 €	2 000,00 €	2 112,44 €
Scholarship program - Duc Son	1 100,00 €	1 350,00 €	1 000,00 €	1 500,00 €	1 000,00 €
Full management of Phu Thuong				28 368,97 €	28 368,97 €
Buying land - Duc Son (1)			18 480,00 €		
Buying land - Duc Son (2)				- €	
Tet mission - Uu Dam				900,00 €	1 000,00 €
Other fees	114,00 €	147,72 €	250,00 €	246,98 €	246,98 €
Total	3 814,00 €	13 897,72 €	46 330,00 €	67 515,95 €	70 628,39 €
Revenues					
Individual donors - france - sponsors	6 174,75 €	5 452,04 €	15 122,00 €	3 600,00 €	3 500,00 €
Corporate donors and sponsors				21 000,00 €	10 000,00 €
Operations in France			3 973,86 €	5 000,00 €	5 000,00 €
Operations in US					9 000,00 €
Individual donors - Vietnam	2 600,00 €	12 400,00 €	22 513,00 €	30 000,00 €	26 000,00 €
Individual donors - Australia					3 000,00 €
Fund raising for land purchase			10 000,00 €	- €	
Donation from Association "Avenir"			4 000,00 €	7 300,00 €	12 000,00 €
Other donations				4 524,98 €	2 000,00 €
Donation for tet operation "Uu Dam"				900,00 €	
Total	8 774,75 €	17 852,04 €	55 608,86 €	66 900,00 €	70 500,00 €

This year, the association spent more than 70,000 euros on humanitarian actions, to fulfill our mission of aid to Vietnam and the city of Hue. These expenses, essentially, were allocated to our student scholarships and to the management of our center in Phu Thuong.

We warmly thank all our donors, individuals and businesses, who have enabled us to finance and carry out all of these activities. In particular, we

want to honor:

- The company Linkbynet, which donated 10,000 euros this year
- Doctor Nhân, who contributed during our fundraising, in San José in the United States with a 10,000 dollars donation.
- Mr. Dung, business man, who contributed to our fundraising, in San José in the United States, with a 5,000 dollars donation.

■ HN

This year, association spent more than 70,000 euros in humanitarian projects

DUCSONCHILD INTERVIEW

ASSOCIATION INTERVIEW



Here is the interview of the founders of the association to understand its history, its mode of operation and its projects

Where did the idea to do humanitarian work come from?

It was after returning from a trip to Hue in Vietnam, during which we visited the "Duc Son" orphanage, that we naturally wanted to create an association to be able to help these children. Our first goal was to send money to subsidize the purchase of milk and food for abandoned kids.

When did you create your association?

It was on January 31, 2011 that the official statutes of the association were created and that we were officially published in the French official journal.

How do you work?

We are a small structure with 5 permanent members and a pool of around ten volunteers in France and Vietnam, ready to help with all



our projects.

Where are your humanitarian actions taking place?

We decided to focus on the Hue region in central Vietnam. This is where we started with our first partnership with the "Duc Son" pagoda / orphanage, then a second with "Uu Dam" pagoda / orphanage. Then recently we became the association in charge of our own "Phu Thuong" center, the 3rd.

You have different centers in Hue, how do you communicate with them?

We have direct contact with the "Duc Son" and "Uu Dam" orphanages. They are managed by Buddhist nuns with whom we are in constant contact throughout the year. "Phu Thuong" center is managed directly by us. Our Vice-



Duc Son Child project report and the need of the orphanage

President moved to Vietnam and hence we can closely follow the progress of our projects. This proximity has allowed us to establish for several years now a real trust and friendship with these children and these centers.

Regarding the one you are managing directly, how do you operate?

When we took over, we decided to be fully in charge financially of everything. This includes rent, food, healthcare spending and the education curriculum: we define all the guidelines and budget for the forty or so people living in the center.

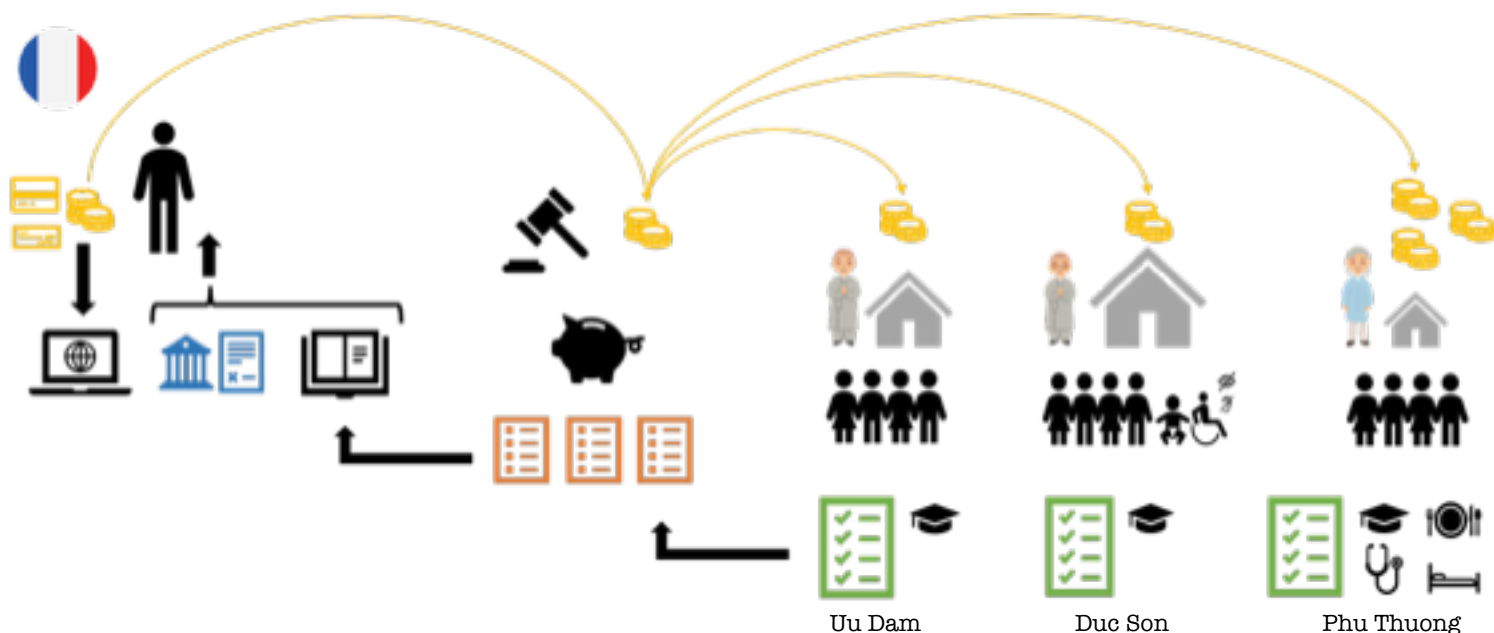


Deliver official issue tax receipts as declared as general interest association.



DUCSONCHILD INTERVIEW

TOTAL TRANSPARENCY WITHOUT INTERMEDIARY FEES



That's a lot of children, do you have people to supervise them?

Yes of course. There are 7 staff who take turns to supervise the children and carry out the daily tasks. They do not substitute for the roles of parents and it is therefore natural that these children have become independent and mature fairly quickly. We try to provide them with maximum comfort when it comes to what is necessary because our priority is that they are in good health and that they focus in studying.

So does that include tuition from high school to university?

Absolutely. We agree to fund all of their studies on condition that they continue to study, do not

aid in scholarships, medical care and household expenses

miss class and have good grades. In return, they agree to become a student sponsor as soon as they get a job. With this moral contract and obligation, we hope at term to self-finance school scholarships.

As an individual, how can we help and support you?

By talking about us in your companies, for instance within the Corporate Social Responsibility programs or funds. Depending on the actions carried out, subsidies are granted for projects like ours with our orphanages / centers or projects. By becoming a student sponsor. By making a tax-deductible donation. (You can deduct it on the official government website and tax form.

We issue you a tax deduction report upon receipt). Otherwise just by telling your friends about us and continuing to follow us. There are no small actions.

We can donate, but how do you make sure the money is being used properly?

Our management is completely transparent. Each donation received is used in its entirety for the children and orphans in our centers. Our international transfer costs have been reduced to zero thanks to the neo-banks while the association's structural costs are paid directly by volunteers through annual membership fees. Rest assured, everything is recorded and available on our site in our reports. We do not work with intermediaries for the transfer of money.

DUCSONCHILD INTERVIEW

Can we go there to meet the centers?

Of course. Every year we have volunteers or visitors. Either through internship agreements or simply on a personal basis during a trip. We inform the centers of your arrival and put you in touch with our trusted contacts on site. We appreciate in return some pictures of your passage to feed our galleries and continue to give news from our centers.

In the short term what are your projects?

Launching our journal, finding grants for our new students and throwing a big fund raising party for our 10th birthday.

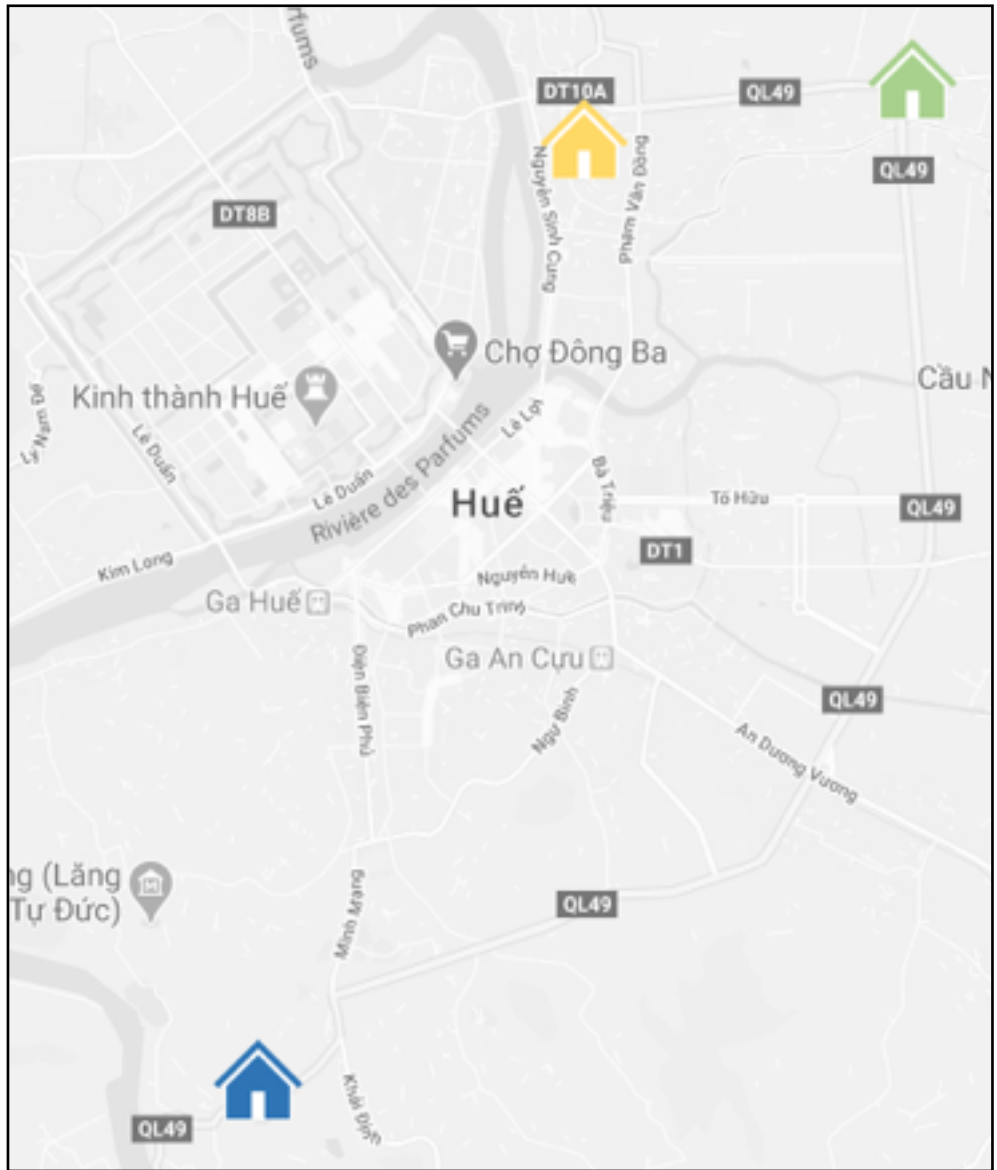
In the long-term ?

Getting to self-finance our scholarships and potentially create our school or another center.

Any last word?

The association has grown so much since the beginning, thanks to the many volunteers who have helped and contributed over the years. Everyone has made their contribution and for that we cannot thank them enough. We look forward to thanking them during the association's 10th anniversary.

■ OD



Duc Son home far from city center.



Uu Dam home outside city and close to highway



Phu Thuong home inside city center.



At Duc Son, each meal is a quiet time where table are divided by gender and age.



At Duc Son, during break, children take time to play together

ON DAY AT OUR CENTERS



On May 23 and 24, the DSC team from Vietnam visited our three foster homes, along with our sponsor Linkbynet, who wanted to visit the foster home of Phu Thuong which they help us finance (the company disbursed 32,000 euros over the last three years).



In Phu Thuong foster home, Saturday May 23rd, 2020

This was the first visit since the COVID pandemic. We had stayed in contact with our three foster homes during the crisis, but were obviously impatient to be able to come back again and see the situation.

In Phu Thuong. The COVID crisis obviously affected our foster home, in strict lockdown like the rest of the country for 3 weeks. Most of the children, who have been allowed to return to their villages or to their families since the end of February, are all back to the foster home, now that the schools are open again (since the beginning of May all the schools have reopened in Vietnam). The foster home received meager state support during the crisis, which sent two hundred kilos of rice and milk to

the children of the foster home. Despite this help, the months of crisis were difficult from a financial point of view. None of the fixed costs (rent or staff costs for example) has been really reduced, and it will be necessary for our association, which fully finances the foster home of Phu Thuong, to face very heavy months of May

COVID crisis affected our orphanage, with a strict lockdown during 3 days.

and June (since we will have to cover the tuition fees of the second semester with the reopening of the schools).

In the neighborhood of Phu Thuong foster home, in the poor

little district of Lai The, the manager tells us about the atmosphere of disarray; according to her, most of the families in the neighborhood have lost their jobs, and have been living on their savings since the crisis. We are yet slowly returning to normal, and, despite COVID, in Phu Thuong we are celebrating one of the most illustrious promotions of the foster home. In June 2020, 14 students who were residents in the foster home will receive their university degree, and most of them have already found a job (see dedicated article). In July of this year, moreover, 7 students currently in their final year in high school will enter university.



At Phu Thuong, students listen carefully to advices

ONE DAY IN IMMERSION



In Uu Dam, with 4 of our sponsored students (Nhu Y, Tai, Phat, Thuong)

At Uu Dam. Life is getting back to normal, after several months of lockdown since the end of the Têt and the lunar year. Co Phuoc Thien, the head of the orphanage, is pleased that all 40 residents are in good health. However, COVID has largely affected the orphanage, which needs donations from the population and tourists to operate. According to her, for more than three months, these donations have decreased by more than half, and to continue to function, like many families, cô Phuoc Thien has spent the small amount of savings available (some 7000 euros in savings, spent to cover the operating costs of the orphanage during COVID period).

Co Phuoc Thien is proud because in her orphanage everyone are in good health .

Yet cô Phuoc Thien reminds us that her orphanage did rather well; cyclo drivers, street vendors and lottery ticket sellers (precarious workers in cities, who earn a few euros a day at best) are the ones who suffer the most. Among her many activities that she runs, she reopened last week her restaurant for the poorest and students (meals are either offered, or symbolically charged 5000 dong, or 20 cents), and a lot of the precarious workers of the town started to pour in again.

As for our five sponsored students,

they were able to keep on studying during these few months in spite of all. They are quietly continuing their studies, with exams arriving in late June / early July as to close the second semester of the year. In addition, next year, 2 students currently in their final year of high school should join the contingent of scholarship students, sponsored by our association.



With Co Phuoc Thien, head of the Uu Dam orphanage.



At Uu Dam, Co Phuoc Thien loves to farm her garden. « safety become our priority »



At Phu Thuong, it is always a good mood even when doing the cleaning. « We love all those kids »

ONE DAY IN IMMERSION

In Duc Son. The orphanage, which is located in a rural area, has seen a record number of newborn babies abandoned since the COVID crisis. The day before my visit, on the evening of May 23, an infant had just been picked up; I am told that the local peasants brought this little one to the pagoda, abandoned only a few weeks after his birth. He is in addition to the 4 other newborns and babies who have been taken in by the orphanage since the end of February



Last newborn, welcomed into the orphanage on the evening of May 23. As tradition dictates, he will be given a name only after one month spent at the orphanage.

Duc Son home has seen a record number of abandoned newborns since the COVID crisis.



Visiting the Duc Son Pagoda, May 24th

I am told that this is a very sad record, and that the buddhist nuns here have not experienced such an inflow of abandoned newborns for many years. COVID, alas, by impoverishing an entire region, has sent the province of Thua Thien Hue back in time. For Duc Son, the largest and oldest orphanage in the city (170 orphans live there), who lives mainly on donations and private charity, the lockdown generated great difficulties to cover the operating costs. « We managed through the period », says the head of the orphanage, Su Co Minh Tu, « thanks to the garden and the fruit and vegetables from the plot of land donated by the association two years ago ». The orphanage was also able to benefit from exceptional state aid, through a subsidy of 20 euros per month (during the three months of lockdown) for some of the children of the center (only 40 out of the 170 children in the orphanage

were eligible to the subsidy), and 500 kg of rice. Su Co Minh Tu tells me of her relief to see Vietnamese donors coming back, in recent weeks, who donate food, money and other basic necessities for the Duc Son orphanage.

■ HN



Picture of An Nhien, arrived shortly after the Têt at Duc Son



At Duc Son, kids are sleeping together until primary.

HEALTH

Vietnam, affected by COVID-19 after all



Until July 2020, no deaths from COVID



A new resident of Duc Son

Here, less than 300 people are officially infected by the virus, at the end of May 2020. We have rightly rewarded the good management of the crisis, largely well contained here when we feared the worst because of the proximity and the shared border with China. Here, the precautionary principle was quickly applied: schools and other public places were quickly closed, right from the start of the crisis; social distancing was acted on in

mid-March, and the lockdown exit strategy was cautious, progressive, between mid-April and early May. Foreign travelers were quickly systematically tested, quarantined, isolated from the rest of the population to contain the virus. In addition, a clever system of very targeted tests, of all people at risk, made it possible to quickly identify the new patients affected. Put together, all these measures have made Vietnam one of the countries in the world that has best managed the virus. Vietnamese efforts and good management were praised, in particular by Jean Noël Poirier, former French ambassador to Vietnam, in his column "Confucian armies and European hordes", published in Causeur on April 16. We recommend reading it for those who would like more details in managing the crisis in Vietnam. Cured and treated in Vietnam, the former ambassador praised the meticulous management of a poor

"All of these measures have made Vietnam one of the countries in the world that has best managed the virus"

country to cope with the virus.

The encouraging health report should not however make us forget the social and economic disaster in Vietnam due to COVID-19. Here, the combination

of a global economic slowdown and a lockdown of several months, even if this was pretty soft compared to other countries, has resulted in unprecedented job and wage losses for the young and emerging Vietnamese economy. The latest projection by the international labor organization, for the second quarter of this year, is scary: it is announced that between 4 and 10 million workers, in industry and in services, will be at high risk of losing their job or suffering from wage reduction. Behind the health danger, which now appears to be contained, we are heading towards an unprecedented economic and social crisis, in a country unfortunately too poor to put in place large-scale social measures that we can see, for example, in



abandoned during the health crisis

France. No part-time unemployment, no « RSA » as in France, no public welfare available here for workers who have lost their jobs or suffered wage cuts.

We must measure what this implies for a country like Vietnam.



One of the smallest in the Duc Son orphanage

Workers remain precarious here. A worker earns on average 300 euros per month; in services, taxi drivers or delivery people in large cities can expect to earn between 500 and 600 euros per month. These two groups of people are also, paradoxically, privileged: in the countryside, one generally earns less than 200 dollars per month, and it is still estimated that nearly a third of Vietnamese workers still work undeclared, with no proper job

we are heading towards an unprecedented economic and social crisis ... No partial unemployment, no RSA, no public social assistance available

contract, very low wages and high job insecurity. For the vast majority of Vietnamese people, alas, the country's economic downturn is a disaster, which will cut down on hard-earned savings and knock back for several years a country that was just just emerging from extreme poverty.

In Hue, a small town far from the major economic centers, there are many small shops and small boutiques on Chu Van An and Tran Hung Dao streets which have already closed; they were already under heavy pressure, with the sharp drop in the number of tourists in recent years. For them, the COVID-19 crisis was a final blow, which forced the less solid to close their doors. Here in Hue, people welcome the revival of economic and social activity in May, although they obviously understand that it will take several months to gradually return to normal. In Lai The, in the very poor neighborhood where our Phu Thuong foster home is located, I am told that almost all the homes in the neighborhood are now

unemployed or without salary. For all our foster homes, in Phu Thuong, in Uu Dam, in Duc Son, who live in particular on donations and popular charity, the period is obviously difficult. For our scholarship students, especially those in the last year, who are preparing to enter the job market, in addition to the risks of delay (the universities have been closed for several months), the job perspectives are for the first time quite gloomy. There are, moreover, clear signs of how profound the crisis is here. At Duc Son, during these months of COVID-19, we welcomed five newborn babies, abandoned at birth. We were delighted in the past years to see the number of orphans abandoned at birth drop down. Because poverty remain the main reason which



Co Binh, one of the head of Duc Son

unfortunately lead the poorest families to give up their child. With the crisis, alas, it is almost unsurprising that we have seen here the number of family dramas explode.

■ HN



While waiting for the older children to return from school

Hô Chi Minh, the new Eldorado?



January 2017. I didn't know it yet but this tourist trip to Vietnam would change my life.

When I came there to spend holidays and find a little bit of myself, I met Huy, a viet keu who had been living in Saigon for more than 10 years, who ran an advertising production company.

After some discussions on his balcony and a few sua da cafes, I left for Paris with a hiring proposal. I hadn't come for this but it seemed that fate was giving me a sign. Huy offered me to run the digital pole of his company.

I had always wanted to work in Vietnam and I had sent a few CVs when I was younger to a few companies, made several phone calls, answered dozens of job offers by email but nothing.

Clearly, if you want to find a job here, my first advice is to come in the field. Even just a month for the holidays, understanding the country, meeting people, expanding your network. Get out there, find out and you'll see the wealth of possibilities and opportunities you've never even thought of.

So I hesitated for a second and a half



Arrived in Vietnam, ready for the new start

and decided to take the plunge. I packed my life in two suitcases, sold my house, said goodbye to my family and friends, and off I went for the greatest adventure of my life.

Ho Chi Minh, impressive economic growth

I was far from imagining what was going to happen.

While in France, I struggled to canvass clients, in Saigon, they came to me quite naturally.

You should know that Saigon has only 5 large production companies while in Paris there must be more than 5000! Thanks to the reputation of the company that hired me, Clubhouse Films, I was overwhelmed by phone calls, briefs, quotes, appointments,

shooting days and projects. It was ... exhilarating!

And I quickly understood that everything was possible here. If the client wants to shoot with twelve buffaloes, a helicopter, 3 ferraris and ten samurais, well indeed, he can. In France, shooting with just one cat, 15 minutes, is already a struggle.

The economy here is crazy. Large companies such as Pepsi, Uniliver, Google, Samsung and others are ready to invest in marketing and communication. The teams are young, voluntary and dynamic. Everything is going fast, very fast. Fortunately for me, I already had over ten years of production experience and a pretty solid background. After some adaptations to the country and the language, success quickly arrived. Financially, you can often claim a salary

equivalent to that which you had in France.

So here is my second tip. Have talent. A real talent, a real training, a real specialty. A real investment idea.

The Vietnamese are gifted and educated and to believe that just because you come from abroad will allow you to steal their job is an heresy. You have to bring real added value.

In two years in Vietnam, I think I have gained more experience than in ten years in Paris.

The network here is quite small and meeting the right people is quite easy. German marketing director, Australian producers, English screenwriter, Canadian artistic director, Saigon is extremely cosmopolitan. Personally and professionally, it was extremely rewarding to rub shoulders with so many nationalities. In one evening, you can go around the world!

Clearly, if you want to find a job here, my first tip is to come here.



My daily life at a frantic pace

Ho Chi Minh, a fragile economy

As I told you, everything is going very fast here. Too fast.

In this crazy race for budgets, I sometimes ended up having customers who did not pay. Or 6 months late.

Of course we sign contracts, but for what they are worth ...! Nothing is certain here.

The pace of life is also dizzying. I sometimes woke up at 3 a.m. to shoot, and didn't come home until dawn the next morning. You can forget the 35 hour week and weekends!

Saigon can be very energy intensive. It's simple, Saigon never sleeps! And neither do customers ...

Here it's the law of the smartest. You have to know how to be

patient, know the rules but also know how to break them and above all adapt to the Vietnamese culture and their way of working. And not the opposite. Money is at the center of many conversations.

Most of the time, things are done in a hurry, sometimes in a sloppy way. There are a lot of bribing and discussions that are sometimes not very clear. It's the V system !

Also, unless you work for a French group based in here, you will not really have job security. Forget also social security and unemployment compensation . You should only rely on yourself and your work.

My third piece of advice will therefore be this: forget your comfort zone! It will be undermined in this country!

You will learn to live a little more day by day and to plan your retirement plan less :)



We live to the rhythm of the city, the notion of time disappears

boulot dodo » Parisian routine. Saigon has many surprises in store for you and everything you plan to do will turn out differently! You will live a real adventure.

Because Saigon is a great springboard. It's up to you to know how to land properly.

Good flight ...

■ DD

Ho Chi Minh, a career accelerator

My last piece of advice will be this: Be ambitious!

Saigon is full of opportunities. You can progress very quickly because you will be given your chance. So aim high.

I noticed a real mutual help in the expatriate network and most of the Vietnamese are caring.

While in France we rely a lot on studies, here we have more confidence in experience and

alertness.

Vietnam is a great country to learn. No, we are not colonists who come to bring civilization to a developing country. Be humble and Saigon will welcome you with open arms.

Know it here, anything is possible!

We are very far from the « métro

In two years in Vietnam, I think I gained more experience than in ten years in Paris.



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