



SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP



**BY BECOMING A SPONSOR, YOU ARE GIVING
A CHILD THE CHANCE TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE!**

WHO ARE WE?

Mission Enfance is an international solidarity organisation
founded in 1991 with the aim of
help children in distress around the world.

Our **operational objective**, over and above creating or strengthening local
school systems, is to **make it possible for children in difficult regions
to go to school.**

THE COUNTRIES

In Vietnam, Lebanon, Armenia and Burkina Faso,
access to school is often difficult for children.

The economic situation of parents, the distance between schools and their
homes, the labour that children sometimes represent for families,
These are just some of the reasons why children stay away from school.

Mission Enfance, through its local
partners, **identifies the most
vulnerable children and the
structures that can look after them.**

Thanks to sponsorship
these children are welcomed
in schools, in homes
or in after-school activity centres.

They are living their childhood!



EDUCATION IS THE GATEWAY TO THEIR FUTURE...



Through your relationship as sponsors
**you can discover their world
while sharing your own!**

Your sponsorship will **enable a
child to continue their
education in good conditions
in their own environment.**

This donation will enable the
child to go to school but also
clothing and food.

**Your godchild will receive all
the conditions he or she needs
to grow up in a reassuring,
stable and fulfilling
environment.**

...YOU ARE THE KEY

The sponsor agrees to pay **€35 per month, €105 per quarter or €420 per year for at least one year.**

When **you sponsor a child or student**, you exchange letters throughout the year, you receive their school report and they share their life with you.

For **project sponsorship**, the managers of our literacy centres and nurseries will send you an annual report on the living conditions of the children and babies you sponsor.

**After
tax reduction
your sponsorship
amounts to
12€
per month**

Once a year, our sponsorship manager visits each of the godchildren in the field to **ensure that your sponsorship is effective, to see how the children are progressing and to pass on your letters.**

This mission also enables us to send you
**a detailed report on your sponsorship and provide you with updates
concerning your sponsored child.**

**To turn this key to the future, contact Marie Vauban :
+377 92 05 32 03 / parrainage@enfance.org**



SCHOOL AND PROJECT SPONSORSHIP IN VIETNAM



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A BIT OF HISTORY

The country's recent history is dominated by the years of war against Japan in 1940, France in 1954, the United States in 1975 and then between South and North Vietnam.

At the junction of East Asia and South-East Asia, bathed for 2,000 kilometres by the China Sea, **Vietnam occupies an incomparable strategic position**. The fact that it was the focus of one of the longest conflicts of the twentieth century should not obscure the fact that, as a state, it is older than the kingdoms of France or England. Since the country's reunification in 1975, Vietnam has stretched 1,600 kilometres from north to south, and its surface area of 330,000 km² is comparable to that of Italy. Vietnam's population has grown from 20 million in 1960 to over 100 million today.



While 70% of Vietnamese are Buddhists, a significant minority (10%) are Catholics.

The symbolism of their flag is very strong. It consists of a red field with a large yellow five-pointed star in the centre. The red symbolises revolution and blood, while the five-pointed star represents the five elements of the population - peasants, workers, intellectuals, shopkeepers and soldiers - uniting to build socialism.



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CURRENT HISTORY

Vietnam today is a country **in search of a solution, torn between ideology and pragmatism**: the Vietnamese communist regime is trying to open up to the outside world, opening its borders to tourism and making commercial and international connections. **Despite these liberalisation efforts, the economic and social situation is worrying.** Like most countries in transition, it remains a land of paradoxes. **The problems of malnutrition and overpopulation remain unresolved** (39% of the population is undernourished). Education and health continue to deteriorate, to the benefit of other more lucrative sectors.

Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, the former capital of South Vietnam, **has grown in the space of 20 years from 4 to 13 million inhabitants and is the largest city in the country.** It is an active, hectic, frantic city, a city of a thousand lights that attracts so many people who will become outcasts, rejected and, gradually, crushed. In 1975, after the fall of South Vietnam, the change of regime was supposed to bring happiness to all, so social workers and psychologists were asked to change jobs. These social professions are sorely lacking today. In Ho Chi Minh City, **24% of the population is under 15 years of age and is in an alarming situation**: 8% of newborns weigh less than 2 kg, **50% of pre-school children are undernourished. Almost 30,000 children live on the streets.** The number of families living on the streets or on boats has gradually decreased, driven out by the government in order to "clean up" the city. **The obligation to find housing has increased the debt load of these poor families.** Today, most of them live in a room of a few square metres, with 10 or 15 people. **The Vietnamese authorities, aware of these problems, tolerate the opening of reception centres that give children a chance to leave the streets and receive a basic education that will help them secure their future.**

Some additional data:

- Number of inhabitants: 102,730,000, one of the highest population densities in the world. 54 different ethnic groups are recognised, the majority of which are "Kinh",
- 331,210 km² in area, with borders on Cambodia, China and Laos,
- Capital city: Hanoi,
- Official language: Vietnamese. English is also widely spoken. Few still speak French,
- Human Development Index: 118th / 189 countries,
- Life expectancy: 71 years,
- Literacy rate: 90%.



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YOUR SPONSORED CHILD'S SCHOOLS

The Vietnamese school system is still **modelled on that of France**. Classes are organised by "level". From 1 to 5 for primary school; 6 to 12 for secondary school. A baccalaureate is awarded at the end of the twelfth level. **School is officially compulsory**. The exponential growth of the city is also leading to an increase in the cost of living that is unbearable for many families.

Your sponsorship is particularly important in Vietnam, where state school fees average 400 euros a year for schoolchildren and up to 2,000 euros a year for university students.

Mission Enfance, which has been working in Vietnam since 1991, has become a partner of the Daughters of Charity in the face of the tragedy of illiterate street children. **Today, thanks to the pooling of 170 sponsorships, more than 500 children, 79 individually sponsored children and 101 project sponsorships are fully supported by our association.** The head office of the Daughters of Charity in Vietnam is in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon). It is thanks to their social centre that families receive educational, food or health assistance when they refer it. **The follow-up of individual sponsorships is organised by this social centre and the sisters in charge, under the name 42 TU XUONG.** There are also affection centres and schools in the town and outlying areas.

The majority of the children pass the state school entrance exams and, thanks to the dedication of the nuns, obtain official identity papers enabling them to attend state schools. The children who continue their education in state schools continue to be monitored by the centre managers. But these good results should not blind us to the short-lived nature of some of the children's stay at the centre. **Despite all the affection they receive from the sisters, these children remain fragile because they suffer from material deprivation and the ups and downs of their families.** Some leave the centres suddenly. In the majority of cases, the family's aim is to make the children productive: selling sweets, lottery tickets, shoeshines, etc.... Or to get out from under excessive debts. Other families have improved their situation thanks to a stable job, but often outside Saigon, in which case the child leaves the centre. Finally, 2 to 3% of cases involve children who have been forcibly removed from Saigon because their family has become undesirable (theft by a family member, family tragedy, illness, etc.). These families are rebuilt around an uncle or a distant relative in the provinces. In each case, the centre managers do everything they can to find the children so that they can go back to school or to check that they are continuing their education despite the move. If your godchild leaves the centre, you will be informed as soon as possible and we will offer you the opportunity to transfer your help to another child. But please note that in order to give these children every chance, Mission Enfance gives the nuns one month's notice before stopping the sponsorship. This period is necessary to convince the families to send the children back to school.



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In reality, there is a large population of "marginalised" children who do not benefit from the school system due to a lack of financial resources and children's birth certificates (required to enrol a child in school). **These are the children who are taken in by the centres you sponsor. In these centres, traditional schooling is adapted to enable them to catch up academically and psychologically so that they can one day return to the normal school system.** When they enter a centre, the children are often illiterate and very fearful. **Many of them have enormous difficulties that need to be tackled through affection and listening.**

The Cho Quan centre has 6 classes from pre-school to grade 5 (equivalent to the last year of nursery school to CM2). There are 160 children enrolled and 8 teachers, including an English teacher and an IT teacher.

The children also have the chance to take part in a number of extra-curricular activities, such as drawing and sports sessions, which are run by volunteers.

Pupils follow the same curriculum as in state schools and sit their end-of-year exams with other Vietnamese students. Classes start at 7am, although some children arrive earlier because they live outside Saigon. Classes end at 11am and the children have lunch at the centre.



On a daily basis, the sisters **check that the children are attending school regularly, that they are in good health and that their family situation is satisfactory.** Many of the children's situations are tragic. These children live with their families in insalubrious and cramped accommodation in the working class areas of the city. These families are extremely fragile, and their children find their only source of stability in their schools and with their sisters. There are thought to be more than 30,000 children in this situation. **The aim of these schools and centres is to tackle illiteracy, provide the children with one meal a day and create a stable base for their psychological development.** Some of them, aged 14, have never been to school.





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The Binh Tan centre is organised differently:

the 150 children come from very unstable families, and they only stay for a short time at this school: they have never been to school and most of them probably never will be again. The aim of the centre is therefore to teach them to read, write and count as quickly as possible.

The Binh Tan centre currently has 6 classes, from pre-school to grade 5 (equivalent to the last year of nursery school to CM2). There are 160 children enrolled and 5 teachers. One of the teachers teaches CM1 and CM2 at the same time, dividing his blackboard in two. At the time of our visit, the CM1s were having a grammar lesson while the CM2s were having an algebra lesson. Classes start at 7.30 a.m. and finish at 11.30 a.m., followed by lunch.

The Mai Anh B centre consists of a nursery school with 3 classes of different levels. 120 children, taught by six teachers, benefit from this schooling thanks to your sponsorship of this project. The sisters, who follow the distressed families of the children benefiting from this centre, are concerned on a daily basis about their living conditions and continue their support outside the walls of the nursery school. This nursery school is unique, and without the hard work of this team of teachers and its headmistress, the children in the district would have no access to education.



Since March 2023, we have also been offering to sponsor **the Dinh Quan home**.

This centre is located 120 km from Saigon and is run by four sisters who live with 12 young girls currently accommodated there. They live a long way from the city, come from fairly vulnerable families and would have had to drop out of school if they had not been able to benefit from the home. The home has several rooms: a large classroom upstairs, toilets, a dormitory, a kitchen and a dining room. At present, there are only 12 of them and the capacity (beds and cupboards already available) is 15, but they are unable to take in more young people because of a lack of funds.

By helping the centre through project sponsorship, the community of nuns will be able to buy beds and pay the daily and school fees for 18 young girls.



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MISSION ENFANCE AND YOU

**You pay €35 a month for your sponsored child, i.e. €420 a year.
Your donation is the only way for these children to go to school.**

➔ For school sponsorship, the amount is divided as follows:

- ★ €384 is allocated to sponsorship. This sum is used to send the child to school, feed him and take care of his health, if the school fees are not exorbitant. The sisters also help families with social and health issues. They help the most vulnerable families with food donations and basic necessities.
- ★ €36 covers administration costs (stamps, telephone, sponsorship mail, etc.) and monitoring missions in the field.

➔ For project sponsorship, the amount is divided as follows:

- ★ €384 is allocated to the centres, via the local manager, to cover their running costs, staff salaries, food and care for the children, clothing and school supplies.
- ★ €36 covers management costs (stamps, telephone, sponsorship mail, etc.) and monitoring missions in the field.

All the sums indicated are **sent directly to the managers in the various centres and schools**, who, together with their teams, check that the children are present in the schools and check up on them. This process is also carried out under our supervision, and we ensure that this is the case through our monitoring missions in the field and our regular exchanges with the managers.

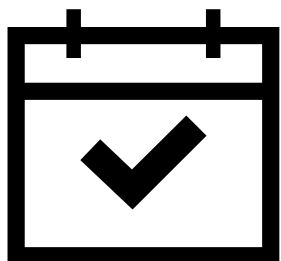
For the good of your godchild, **please send us your payments regularly so that we can send them without delay.** If you have opted for direct debit, please ensure that you have sufficient funds in your bank or post office account to avoid any problems. **Each unpaid direct debit costs the association €7, i.e. 1/4 of a month's sponsorship.**



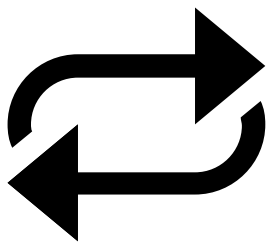


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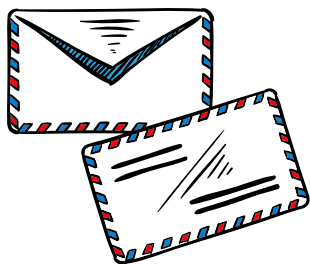
YOUR SPONSORED CHILD/THE PROJECT AND YOU



You have agreed to pay **€35 per month** towards your godchild's school fees. Sponsorship implies continuous and regular action, which is why we have proposed a minimum commitment of one year. But for this education to be effective, it would be preferable for it to be financed and run for 3 years.



Sponsorship normally ends when your godchild leaves school. It may also happen that a child leaves the centre prematurely, because he or she moves to another region or for any other reason. Mission Enfance does not have the possibility of continuing to help individual children outside the centres. Therefore, when the case arises, we will inform you and we will suggest that you defer your support to another child.



At least twice a year, your godchild will write a few words or draw a picture for you. This letter will be attached to a report on your godchild's progress at school, his or her progress and difficulties. This report, forwarded to Mission Enfance by its local correspondents, will then be sent to you. All mail goes through our intermediary to ensure that it is forwarded. A first letter from your godchild will reach you within a few weeks: this is the time needed to get the correspondence system up and running.



Your sponsored child will be delighted to receive letters from you too. As well as giving them pleasure, your letters will be a real source of encouragement! Like all children around the world, your godchild will need to feel supported in his or her efforts: congratulate him or her on his or her progress and you will help him or her to do better in his or her studies. You can also send your godchild small gifts to enclose with your letter.

If you sponsor a project, you will receive an annual report from the project manager and you will enable all the children supported by the project to continue their education.



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YOUR SPONSORED CHILD/THE PROJECT AND YOU

→ A FEW RULES TO FOLLOW:

- ★ All mail addressed to your godchild will go through Mission Enfance.
- ★ The reference number of the child's file will appear on each letter.
- ★ Your address does not appear on the mail intended for your godchild (some parents might write to you to ask for help or a gift, which is contrary to Mission Enfance's approach).
- ★ Small gifts do not exceed 200g and the format is that of an A4 envelope (under no circumstances must we create new inequalities or injustices between the children we help. What's more, your gifts will be transported by a member of the Mission Enfance team, who can only carry 20 kg of luggage). If you want to "do more", you can send your donations to our address, specifying that it is an additional donation for your godchild. You can also make an additional donation for the centres (mentioning it specifically) and this money will be allocated to the project (purchase of essential goods, teaching materials, etc.).

→ SOME ADVICE:

- ★ Write simple words and phrases about your everyday life. A lot of things that seem commonplace to you are totally foreign to them and will be of great interest to them. Your godchild will particularly appreciate receiving photos or postcards that will introduce them to our country.
- ★ Be patient... it will take a little time for your mail to arrive. At ME headquarters, we have to check the references of the letters, group them by country... When a control mission leaves our headquarters for Lebanon, we take the mail with us, which is distributed individually and directly to the children by a member of Mission Enfance. During the same mission, we will collect the letter written by your godchild. This is why it may take some time to receive a reply. But you can be sure that your godchild will always be pleased with your efforts to correspond.
- ★ Meeting your godchild: It's difficult to get your godchild to come to France: he or she is used to a certain way of life, and such a trip needs to be considered carefully. However, if you go to Vietnam, you can visit your godchild, preferably during the school year. If this is the case, please contact our association and we will inform our local manager of your visit, so that he or she can give you a better welcome. The same applies to the centres.



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CONTROL MISSIONS

The money donated by the sponsors is used entirely for the children. Mission Enfance draws up an aid programme and carries out monitoring missions to ensure that the money donated is used properly. **The association meets each sponsored child to monitor their personal situation and report back to you.** Your help is supplemented by Mission Enfance's support for the centres' projects, which benefits all the schoolchildren.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND CONTACT

It is a team that welcomes you to its premises and answers all your questions:

Marie Vauban, sponsorship manager
Charlotte Giannola, assistant

Do not hesitate to contact us from Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 12:30 and 14:00 to 17:00:



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