



Monaco, March 2024

Dear Sponsor,

Hô Chi Minh (HCMV), a city that never sleeps. Amid the tall buildings, traditional houses and pagodas along the river, cars, trucks, scooters, street vendors and lottery ticket sellers cross paths. To cross the road as a pedestrian, you need to be patient and vigilant to avoid being knocked over. Nestled in the middle of these wide streets are small crossings where the children of the families we support live.

This city of exponential growth lives to the rhythm of international markets, but also of domestic industry closures. Over the past year, several large local industries have gone bankrupt in the HCMV industrial zone as a result of the global economic recession, leaving thousands of people without jobs. Precarious living conditions, unstable employment and high food costs keep many families in a state of extreme vulnerability. The children sponsored or enrolled in the schools you support all have very difficult backgrounds. Many of them, even the youngest, work outside school to help their parents. A family needs an average of 25 kg of rice a month, and the price is now around €20, while the average parental salary is around €100 a month. Lottery ticket sellers earn a maximum of €3 a day, equivalent to a daily meal for one person.

It is for these families, the poorest and most vulnerable, that the sisters of the Congregation of the Daughters of Charity, with whom we work, are involved on a daily basis. Thanks to their social services and your sponsorship, they support children in their schooling and families in their most basic needs. Their support is essential and relentless. All individual sponsorships are therefore linked to their convent, a center called 42 Tu Xuong, and since last September, you've also been able to sponsor children from the town of Dinh Quan. This town in the Vietnamese countryside has a different dynamic to that of HCMV, but we also come across families in a very precarious situation. Without school sponsorship, these children would not be able to continue their studies in the long term. The Daughters of Charity have communities all over Vietnam. In Dinh Quan, five sisters live year-round in a home for 16 young girls. Their local roots and links with families now enable us to also offer sponsorship to the most vulnerable children in this province of Vietnam.



Nguyen, 8, a student at the Cho Quan center, received a radio for his good results. After lunch, he has to rush home to sell 100 lottery tickets before nightfall, to support his family.



During our travels with the sisters, we visit some of the children in their own homes. These encounters enable us to tell you about the extremely precarious conditions in which they live. Often living in large numbers in one or two rooms, the families are unable to move because they can't afford to pay more rent. Several generations may live under the same roof, as in the case of Thi Thu Ngân, who lives with her 93-year-old great-grandmother, her 90-year-old great-aunt, her 70-year-old grandmother and her father. Their only source of income is the small grocery store at the front of their house.

We also visited Van Sang, a young boy who, thanks to our sponsorship, is now in the fifth grade. His family, consisting of his grandmother, mother, aunt, sister and cousin, lives on the converted roof of a building. The main amenities are outdoors. Van San's younger sister suffers from a degenerative disease that prevents her from walking. As a result, she has no way of getting to school, which she does only through her older brother's stories. Sponsorship is a lifeline for this family. Finally, we were also extremely touched by the visit of the family of Minh Thanh, a student sponsored for 13 years, in his fifth year of medicine. He lives with his parents and brother in a single room in an insalubrious building. He revises his lessons on the same workbench where his parents, to earn a little money, have set up their tiny sewing workshop. The perseverance of Minh Thanh, whose university fees amount to almost €1,500 every year, is an example of Vietnamese youth determined to forge a better future for itself. For him, sponsorship is the support he needs to achieve this goal.



*Minh Thanh et sa maman
lors de notre rencontre à
leur domicile.*

For the opportunity you offer to all these children and young people, we thank you wholeheartedly! Thanks to you, we have 76 children sponsored in Vietnam and four centres grouping together your 100 project sponsorships. There are many requests for sponsorship, so spreading the word is already helping them!

For all our sponsors this year, whether you are sponsoring a child or a center, please find enclosed a report on all the projects supported by your sponsorships. In these few lines, we would like to introduce you to the tireless work of the many sisters in this community on behalf of the most disadvantaged children. Thank you to all our sponsors who have supported the Binh Tan school, the Mai Anh B school, the Cho Quan school and the Dinh Quan girls' home for making these actions possible for so many years!

On our website, www.mission.enfance.org, you'll find information and photos relating to sponsorship. If you would like further information about Vietnam or your godchild, please do not hesitate to contact me. For those of you who live in our region, I would be delighted to welcome you to our offices.

Yours sincerely,

Marie Vauban



SPONSORSHIP URGENTLY NEEDED!

Do Thi Anh, aged 15, attended the Binh Tan school and obtained excellent results in his primary school leaving exams. He lives with his sick mother, who is responsible for three children and cannot afford the high cost of his schooling.

Do Thi Anh is a charming, lively and intelligent teenager, just waiting for sponsorship to continue his studies at college. Contact me to save this child.