



family matters



A 2024 REPORT FROM
MAI NHA
Children Foundation Vietnam

Designed by



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Dear Mai Nha family,

Another year has passed and we thank you for your continued support. Your commitment reminds us what it truly means to be family - it's being there for each other.

We are happy to share with you the milestones of 2024 from the Mai Nha home and beyond. The children are growing up well. Our scholars are moving up as well as giving back. And our staff and team are as devoted as ever.

Like any family, there are moments of joy, laughter, but also challenges. They all lead to lessons learned and memories made. Through it all, we stick together and with each passing year, the family grows stronger.



oh how the kids have grown

(update on the 16 kids)

Would you believe that our 16 children are now mostly teenagers?

Many of them came to Mai Nha the day they were born. Now, our eldest Tuyen is 16. The youngest in the family will always be our baby, but little Duong is not so little anymore! She turned 10 this year. Indeed how time flies. It's a striking change but we couldn't be prouder to see each of our children grow into such unique individuals.

They are developing strong characters, each with his or her own nuanced personality and different areas of interest. This also means that our local staff is adjusting to the changing needs of our teens and pre-teens. They are taking into account the children's particularities, from varying emotional needs, to schooling needs. Different kids will need different ways of coaching, motivating and guidance. The intent is to support them in honing good foundations to grow into disciplined, mature and well-balanced adults.

a family where everyone contributes

The children take pride in their responsibilities. Without exception, they all take care of cleaning their bedrooms and they all help out in the daily chores. They've also grown closer through shared activities like sports and sharing hobbies like reading and watching TV. As much as able, screen time is regulated in the home. It's good that the kids have developed a love for outdoor activities as well.

In fact, last summer, all the kids were enrolled in swimming lessons. Not only is it an important life skill, it built their confidence and they all just loved the experience!

oh how the kids have grown

(update on the 16 kids)

family + friends

Part of growing up is making friends and we're happy to share that all the children have been showing healthy social skills. At school, they enjoy playing with their friends and these friends are invited to Mai Nha for special occasions like birthdays.

looking up to each other

One of the most important values instilled in the children is that they are to look after one another. They are brothers and sisters in the Mai Nha home.

But beyond that, we're happy to see that the older kids are becoming good role models for the younger ones.

Our eldest Tuyen is now in second year High School. We're proud to underline her extremely positive attitude as our first teenager. She does her best in school and follows safety rules when it is outside her Mai Nha home. She is clearly a perfect example to her 15 siblings.

Our girl An started middle school this year. She is such a strong young lady doing her best to overcome her handicap both physically and in subjects like math. She clearly loves the arts. Thanks to the multiple hand surgeries she braved through, she is now able to fully express her artistic talents. She told us before that her dream is to be an art teacher! She is definitely on her way to achieving that dream and inspiring the whole family.



our extended family

(update on the Mai Nha support system)

it takes a village

Raising a child is no easy feat. Raising 16 kids in one family is all the more an endeavor.

But we are so blessed to have such dedicated local staff and support system, including volunteers.

To support the children in their schooling, a highly effective system has been implemented.

- 5 days a week, all children benefit from highly committed tutors who come on site for one-on-ones and homework help.
- On weekends, an English teacher comes to Mai Nha. We have noticed great progress in the children's communication skills and the interaction between the children and the teacher has been very positive.

This system has been very valuable especially since only 2 children are in primary school and 13 are already in middle school.

On top of the local staff who is taking care of the children on a full time basis since the very first day they were welcomed at Mai Nha, our psychologists Mrs. Hoa and Mrs. Lam continue to visit the children regularly. They provide highly professional support with love and sincere care.



anh chi: big bro & big sis

(update on our scholars)

Mai Nha scholars

This year, Mai Nha has decided to support 54 students of the Thien Nghiep community including 14 university students. The selection process has been optimized to ensure that the qualification process is fair and that deserving students get the right support.



Mai Nha's scholarship program started 12 years ago. The cooperation with the local authorities in this process has been excellent as well. It is notably a tangible solution to optimizing the schooling potential of the children of Thien Nghiep regardless of the financial capabilities of their parents or families.



mentoring programs

We have always advocated that education is more than just enrolling children in a school. Empowering them with the support they need to thrive is as important as opening the opportunity for them to study.

Our one-on-one mentoring program for Saigon-based university scholars has been further expanded. We successfully mounted two gatherings of our alumni. All of them expressed gratitude towards Mai Nha for enabling them to pursue formal education that helps them find jobs and support themselves and their families. More than saying thanks, many expressed the desire to give back, offering their time and talents to mentor the next generation of Mai Nha scholars.

With such positive momentum, plans are on the way to creating a Mai Nha Alumni Club. This would make mentorship a sustainable cycle. It not only helps the young scholars, it also brings out the teacher in our graduates and makes for a fulfilling, full circle experience.

anh chi: big bro & big sis

(update on our scholars)

homecoming

To cap the year, we're happy to share that on early November, we organized the 12th Back to School Celebration at Mai Nha. It was an event that brought together all current scholars and former alumni. On top of the students, we invited our sponsors and local authorities who applauded Mai Nha's long term support for the village of Thien Nghiep. It strengthened the excellent relationship of our organization with the local authorities as well as the local community. It's was a great day for all!

This paves the way for what's in store for the future of Mai Nha.



family plans

With all the reasons to celebrate the year, it is still every parent's responsibility to plan for the future.

space for sports

We first looked into how we can improve the environment where our children are growing in. For our Mai Nha home, we reviewed investments in sports related infrastructure and equipment, perhaps for soccer, badminton or volleyball. As the children are showing much interest in sports, it would be a good avenue for them to develop good values like teamwork, and sportsmanship as well as literally keep them in good health , and develop their sport talents



stepping outside Thien Nghiep

The dear dream we have is to grow the Mai Nha family and expand its impact beyond one village.

In the world of traditional orphanages, it's a radical innovation to adopt children into a secure home with a long-term goal of raising them in a family setting. But Mai Nha has proven that the system is both possible and promising. The blueprint of the Mai Nha foundation has the potential to be replicated elsewhere in Vietnam. We are looking out for organizations or even individuals who are driven to commit to such a passion project.

The same level of long-term commitment, hands on involvement and high quality standards can serve bigger communities in Vietnam. It will be sustained by 100% local resources with tight financial management, integrity and transparency.

Mai Nha's programs and accomplishments over the past 13 years is living proof that a holistic, family-centric approach works in truly uplifting the lives of underprivileged children. It allows for a healthy growing environment so each child taken in can grow into their full potential.

The philosophy of a family-centric upbringing is that by raising our children well - with their needs met and their individuality respected - we are raising the potential of changing the world for the better.

from our family to yours

(letter from Marc & Pauline)

We see the kids every year, but we're always still in shock to see just how fast they are growing.

2024 has been a good year at Mai Nha. And we were happy to visit them last November. It fills our hearts with pride and joy as we witness our babies turn into teens. During our visit, we had our usual one on one conversations with the children as well as the staff. These moments are always the highlight of our visit. Every secret shared when one child decides to open up is a piece of gold we carry in our hearts. Every smile and every hug fills us with a profound sense of... there's not even a word for it. It just reassures us that we're doing the right thing and the kids are all right.

Of course, no family is perfect, and ours is far from. We still hear the whisper of a worry. Knowing the disadvantage that these children were born into, are we providing enough support to give them a fair chance or even give them an advantage at life?

It may also be why we continue to do more beyond the walls of Mai Nha. We raise scholars and build community to better shape the world our children will enter into. And there is no stopping this momentum of community service and uplifting human life.



from our family to yours

(letter from Marc & Pauline)



As we end the year by looking back at the achievements and milestones of Mai Nha Children's Foundation, it is always with great humility that we know we have not done this alone. We are ever so grateful and honored to be in the receiving end of the loyalty, trust and generous support of our sponsors and partners.

We promise to never stop, no parent ever can! And we will continue to do all we can to support our children and make their world a little kinder and a little brighter every day.

To you reading these words, we thank you. From our family to yours, we wish you a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year.

Best regards,

Marc & Pauline Witlox Co-founder-President & Vice-President Mai Nha Children Foundation Vietnam

IN VIETNAM



Beneficiary: **Co so nuoi duong tre mo coi Mai Nha**

Vietcombank – Ho Chi Minh Branch Address:
VBB Tower, 05 Cong Truong Me Linh Street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh city

Account VND: 0071000877585	Account USD: 0071370877593	Account EUR: 0071141093710	Swift code: BFTVVNVX 007
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IN FRANCE



Beneficiary: **Mai Nha, la maison des enfants au Vietnam**

Bank: CCF Paris ; Palais Royal Branch Office

Account Number EUR: 30056 00045 00450094122 12	IBAN: FR76 3005 6000 4500 4500 9412 212	BIC: CCFRFRPP
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Personal cheque:

Beneficiary: « Association Mai Nha » sent to the following address:
Postal address : Association Mai Nha, la maison des enfants au Vietnam
36 Rue des Petits Champs, 75002 Paris, France

IN USA



Beneficiary: **Friends of Mai Nha Children's Foundation Vietnam**

CITY NATIONAL BANK 89 South Lake Avenue PASADENA, CA91101

Account USD: 26258006	Swift Code: CINAUS6L	ROUTING#: 122016066
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Checks:

Beneficiary: "Friends of Mai Nha Children's Foundation Vietnam"
Address: 4215 Hayvenhurst Drive, Los Angeles, CA 91436, USA

IN NETHERLANDS



Beneficiary: **Stichting Mai Nha**

Bank: Rabo Bank

IBAN:
NL83RABO 0102221332