

A Humanitarian Non-profit Organization Approved by IRS Code 501(c) 3 & California Section 23701D

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## Annual Appeal: September-December 2011 Volume 8 Issue 6



### The 2011 Matching Gift Challenge

You can turn  
**\$30,000**  
Into  
**\$60,000**



### Letter from Dave Chaix FVSO President

Each year, we actively solicit donations during the later part of the year, September through December. This is our Annual Fund Drive, and its success dictates the level of support FVSO can provide for the Vinh Son and Sao Mai orphanages in the coming year. While we gratefully accept donations year round, this is your opportunity to maximize each dollar you entrust to us, through the "matching gift program" (see right).

Thanks to our contributors, 2011 has been another year where the needs of the children, both short and long term, have been met. While we have accomplished much, there is always more to do, as each year brings new challenges and expenses. While our first commitment to the children is always basic needs (food, medical and dental care and education), we also collaborate with our partner organizations to complete major building projects, as well as provide clean, potable water where it did not exist before. These types of efforts greatly enhance daily living conditions at the orphanages.

This year, we also placed another site under our care, Soa Mai Orphanage in Pleiku, which is about 45 miles south on the Vinh Son Orphanages in Kontum. Originally known as Tu Tam Orphanage, it was actually founded and supported by some of our Board members during the Vietnam War over 40 years ago.

### Two is better than one!!

It's simple. Every dollar you donate to FVSO (Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> to Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>) is doubled (up to \$30,000) because of these generous folks:

- \* St. Cloud Truck Sales
- \* Clyde & Connie Lewandowski  
St. Cloud, Minnesota

**To continuing donors - thank you!**  
**To potential donors - now's a great  
time to join the Vinh Son family!**

Embracing the opportunity to offer hope and care to the 52 children at Sao Mai, FVSO is truly pleased to lend its helping hand. In the August newsletter, our newest Board member, Janette Maring, shared her innermost thoughts about her time as an orphan there. In a way, we have come full circle since those meager beginnings.

Expanded reach, major building projects, basic needs, water purification systems, advanced education...each of these focus areas requires a continued and increased need for funds. That's why we count on you to make it happen each year. Everyone on the FVSO Board shares a personal connection to the children of Vinh Son and Sao Mai; this is your chance to "grasp the hand" of a child and make a difference in their life.

**Please pass the word along. THANK-YOU!**

# And the work goes on

## Vinh Son 6 to get a new dining room & kitchen



At left, the 34 children who call Vinh Son 6 their home proudly pose. Soon, life is going to get a whole lot better. Their new dining room and kitchen has truly been a joint effort by various contributors, and as you can see, it's well on the way to completion.

Typically, most of FVSO funds support basic needs for all the orphanages; however, this became an opportunity to utilize funds from sources who earmarked their donations to a specific project. **The children wish to thank:**

- ❖ Hanson/McClain Financial Advisors (Sacramento, CA)
- ❖ Derek Smith's group (Australia)
- ❖ Father Relihan congregation (Ione, CA)
- ❖ Bob & Carolyn Lee (Moraga, CA)

### Vinh Son nuns are off to college!

Six of our Vinh Son caregivers will be attending a school in Kontum to gain teaching and accounting skills that will enable them to better prepare the children for the adult world. FVSO is pleased to support these educational efforts. At right are 4 of these promising students...**GOOD LUCK!**



Y Reo

Y Thuat

Y Van

Y Phep



Our children face unknown futures, but one thing remains certain...they have each other. They study hard and work hard for their common good. Your support provides for a nurturing and safe childhood environment, and the tools necessary to achieve their goals away from the orphanage. They may not know you by name, but they sense you in their hearts. You inspire them by your generosity.

### Vinh Son & Sao Mai Orphanage Facts

- Population – approximately 730 Montagnard children in seven orphanage facilities
- Administered by the Sisters of the Miraculous Medal & St. Paul Chartres
- Location – Kontum/Pleiku, Vietnam
- \$12 feeds, shelters, and educates one child for one month

### Officers

- President** - Dave Chaix
- Secretary** - Dennis Coyne
- Treasurer** - Colleen Sands
- Senior VP** - Pat McKee
- 1st VP** - Sr. Marie Dominique
- 2nd VP** - Michael Little

### Board

- Hank Gonzales
- Rich Lahey
- Clyde Lewandowski
- Bart Ruud
- Patrick Leary
- Pat Keegan
- Alan Brooks
- Janette Maring

### Donation Information

- Please make checks payable to FVSO or Friends of Vinh Son
- Donations are gratefully accepted year round
- 100% of administrative costs are paid by the Board and Officers