

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

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## 2015 Christmas Greeting – Newsletter Volume 12 Issue 10

On December 20<sup>th</sup>, the children of Vinh Son and Sao Mai will enjoy their annual Christmas parties, thanks to the many volunteers and contributors who make them possible. No doubt, we'll have some photos to share with you in the January newsletter, but for now, just know that because of your generosity, Santa will visit the orphanages, bringing gifts and joy to the 800+ children who call Vinh Son and Sao Mai home.

### Fundraising/Financial Update

This year, we had a record setting fundraising initiative. With support from our benefactors, we asked you to match \$46,650, and you answered with generosity that exceeded our wildest expectations. During the matching fund period of August-December, donations reached \$69,350! Even more impressive is the year-do-date total of \$187,082 vs. a target of \$125,000. Your support of the kids provides them with security, hope, and a future. But most importantly, they know that from far away...you care.

### Message from the FVSO President

As 2015 comes to a close, I can look back and see what a marvelous year it has been. On behalf of the FVSO Board of Directors and myself, I want to thank for your generous support. The year has not closed yet, but I believe this will set a record year for donations, allowing us to do so much more to improve the lives of the kids at Vinh Son and Sao Mai. In addition to supporting basic needs throughout the year, we were able to deliver improved dental care, and kick-off a scholarship program for advanced education beyond high school, focused on trade schools and professional careers.

As the year draws to an end, we are very busy planning for 2016. Our semi-annual Board meeting on 30 December will focus on developing a long term plan that will define our work into the future. We will continue to improve our dental care and scholarship programs in addition to supporting basic needs. We also have several Board member trips tentatively planned in 2016. (All expenses are paid by the Board members themselves). As we develop details, we will let you know so you can join us if you wish.

**From the entire Board, please have a Merry and Blessed Christmas and a most wonderful New Year. You have brought love and joy to so many!**

**Pat Leary**



**Everyone lends a hand**

### 2015 Accomplishments

**A lot of work goes into these**

- Basic needs (food, shelter, clothing, medical/dental care and clean drinking water)
- New dorm at VS-4
- Expanded dental coverage
- Parasite medicine
- Scholarship program
- Water system maintenance
- Creation of the Advisory Board

**We're also grateful to the other charitable groups who partner with us to support these efforts.**

The eyes of Y Thuy (the girl with the bowl) have invited us to join her at the table of Vinh Son and become part of her world. Because of you, that bowl was full a minute ago.

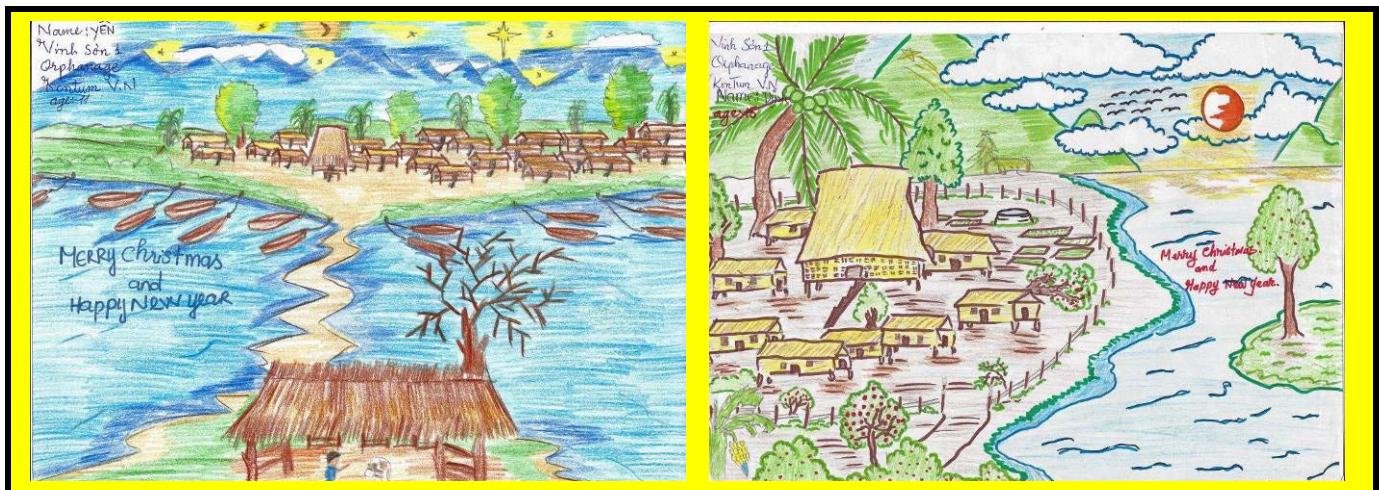
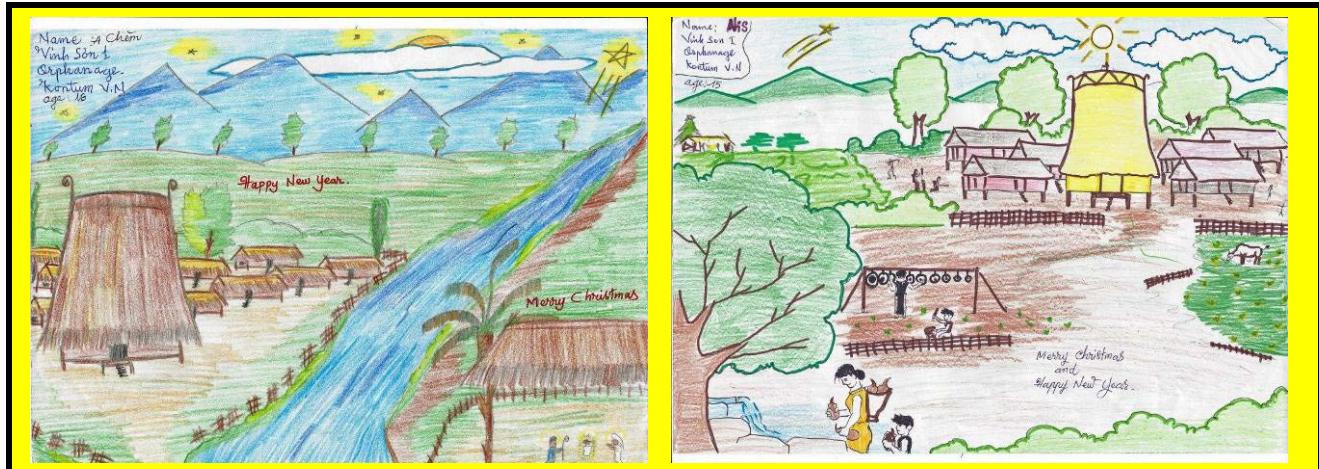


Gratitude is a never ending gift of joy. We at VSO are most grateful for your support to the children.

Since our official recognition 10 years ago, together, we have made a wonderful difference in their lives.

Thank you!

# Each year we ask the “budding artists” at Vinh Son 1 to share their Christmas visions and extend their best holiday wishes to you



## Long-term supporting organizations

- 189<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Company
- Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 535, Nevada Cnty, CA
- Counterparts Association
- 14<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Btn. Assoc.
- MilSpec Tours
- Fr. Luke Tran (VN-SHEP) Social Health Education Projects
- Fr. Relihan, Sacred Heart Church, Lone, CA
- Rotary Club of San Juan Capistrano, CA

**Never get tired of doing little things for others. Sometimes, those little things occupy the biggest part of their hearts.**

— Unknown

**How wonderful that no one need wait a single moment to improve the world.**

— Anne Frank

## Vinh Son & Sao Mai Orphanage Facts

- Population – approximately 830 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** – Pat Leary  
**Secretary** - Dennis Coyne  
**Treasurer** - Colleen Sands  
**Senior VP** - Pat McKee  
**1st VP** - Sr. Marie Dominique  
**2nd VP** - Michael Little

## Board of Directors

- Hank Gonzales  
Rich Lahey  
Clyde Lewandowski  
Bart Ruud  
Dave Chaix  
Steve Fisher/J. Glah

## 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

## Advisory Board

- John Scott  
Bruce Herron