

April Newsletter 2022 - Volume 19 Issue 4

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It's off to work they go

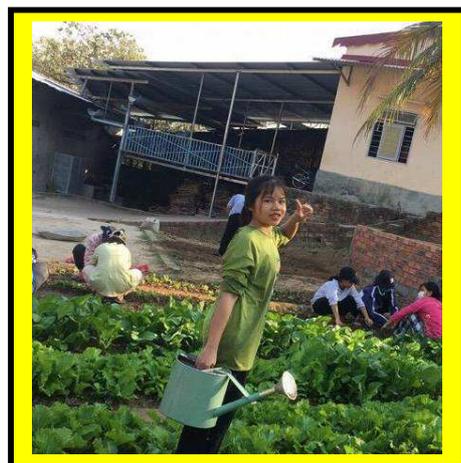
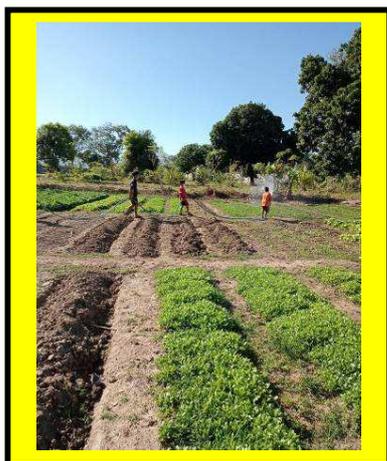
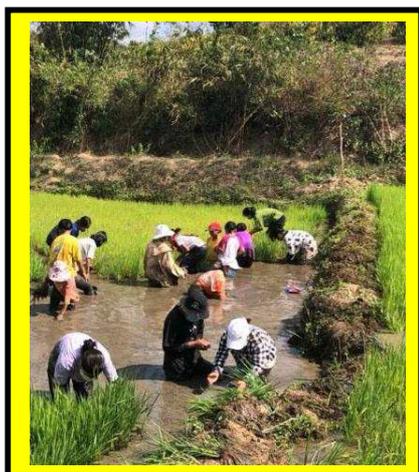
We asked Martha and John to provide our Readers with a glimpse into the Vinh Son farming operations. As usual, they went the extra mile by writing a very informative article based on what they saw, the children at work. And, of course, dozens of photographs were taken, some of which are shared in this newsletter. The large variety of crops and the different types of farmland they toiled are very impressive. The Vinh Son "Farming Corps" may be young, but they sure are motivated. Their "Field of Dreams" becomes real every time they enter fields void of disease or suffering.



During the time when the situation of Covid 19 still unfolded, most of the children of VSO have to study online instead of going to school directly every day as usual, but in return, they have more free time for relaxing, playing sports, and doing their farming in the fields to contribute a little effort for their VSO. They get up at 5 AM to do morning exercise and help the Sisters cook rice, sweep and clean the rooms, tidy every mess in order, do washing up, dry the younger children's clothes or help them study lessons and do their school exercises. The Sisters also teach the orphans to plant flowers in front of their orphanage and grow vegetables, raise pigs and chickens behind their house. Always create a fresh, healthy environment for the children.

In order to help the orphans not to have panic and fear of the fast spread and danger of Coronavirus in the community nearby, the Sisters arranged farming work for the older children to do in the fields and they are taken on the trails of tractors on Saturdays every week. The younger ones can stay at home to do chores. Most of the older children are very eager and joyous to get on the trails of their tractors to go to work in their fields near Dak Bla riverside or near the jungle. Before going to do their farming in the fields, they prepare farming tools such as machetes, hoes, filtered big plastic pails for drinking, medical tools, and necessary medicines and food for their lunch and supplies for a break after lunch.

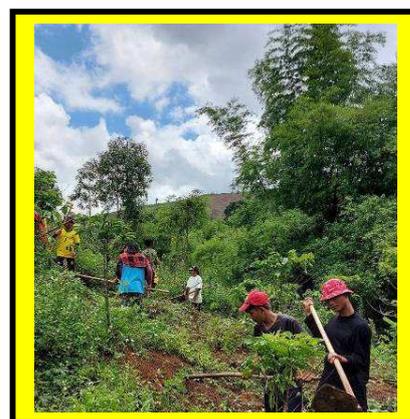
Watching the tractors full of older orphans, working in the fields on Saturdays filled with laughter and talk like a flock of birds chirping on green tree branches. In their fields, according to each VSO, the children grow many kinds of agricultural industrial crops like cassavas, corn, coffee trees, rice, fruit trees, bananas, rubber trees, and tallow laurel whose bark is sticky to make incense sticks for worshipping. The older orphans know how to grow their own crops, fertilize and harvest themselves. Every time they return to their VSO, they always have a bright and cheerful face and are proud to practice hard adult farming.



From Bananas to Rubber, Teamwork Prevails

Photos and article courtesy of Martha and John, who spent time in the fields to chronicle the farming efforts of the Vinh Son children. While each VS orphanage operation may vary, one thing is universal.

They do it for each other



Covid-19 Update as of April 1st

Now, thousands of people in Kontum have been infected from Delta Coronavirus. At first, Local authority in Kontum tried to watch the positive cases and tried to make them 14-days isolated in the concentrate centers. They locked down some districts and many communes or wards where there were some positive cases to prevent the spread of Covid 19. But step by step, the virus spread so fast that the government could not control it and now every one has to cohabit with Covid 19 pandemic. Now Covid 19 is considered as the common flu and the students can go to school every day, although there are still some positive cases there. Most of the patients who were infected from Covid-19 have a lot of bad sequels (long Covid), such as forgetfulness, headache, insomnia, digestive disorder, severe pneumonia, shortness of breath. There are over 200 positive cases in all the six VSO, but luckily there are no deaths nor any cases that needed hospitalization in Kontum hospital. Now there are many little children or babies under 12 years old infected from Coronavirus who are without any shots of vaccine.

My name is Y Dieu, from VS4. I was infected from Coronavirus with symptoms such as hardness for breathing, tiredness, laziness to eat, and fever. But after being treated, I am recovering well. I feel happy to continue to go to school. I am lucky to be alive while there are many deaths every day

My name is A Ky Hoa, from VS2. I am in grade 8 of junior high school. Covid 19 pandemic made my work at school interrupted and it made our lives harder. But, in return during my study online and my isolation, I feel everyone knows to have more solidarity, more love, and more help during this time.

My name is Y Trua, from VS5. I got positive with Coronavirus and it made me very puzzled and fearful with the bad symptoms but luckily after my one-week treatment, I was recovered well but I think I have to suffer from some bad sequels (long Covid) later on.



When asked, kids like Y Dieu, A Ky Hoa and Y Trua said they worried about school and the lasting effects of Covid-19. They shared some of their experiences.



Sao Mai sympathizes with the pain of UKRAINE



Nguyen Ngoc Ky Duyen (above) is a 3rd grader and a survivor of Covid-19. She was isolated and treated at Sao Mai. Unlike the older children, the elementary school students have not been vaccinated.

We join the beat of millions of hearts around the world who are turning to Ukraine, in the fight for freedom, peace and national independence. All people, all countries have given spiritual and material support to Ukraine. And here at this dear Sao Mai Orphanage, what are the children doing to show their sympathy to their brothers and sisters who are suffering and struggling because of the war?

Small Ukraine is suffering from the sky and earth because of epidemics and war bombs. Looking at scenes of relatives and families being separated, mourning. I can't contain my emotions! With small faith and simple trust, at every meal the children are reminded to pray for Covid and war victims who are suffering from hunger and thirst.

Every evening, the children kneel down to offer God the Mercy rosary, entrusting to God their loved ones, benefactors and those who are in need of God's Mercy. Before going to sleep, remembering the advice of the Sisters, the children sat upright on their small beds to offer prayers to God for the world, for your benefactors and loved ones. Those unceasing prayers for peace are still resounding in prayer and in daily sacrifices.



On a Serious Note

Both Martha and John, and their families, have recently suffered through the Covid-19 virus. They survived the typical symptoms and have thankfully, made a full recovery. They continue to serve the children of Vinh Son.



GuideStar is a philanthropic research database designed to fill in the knowledge gaps you need to find the best charities to which to donate in the area you most care about.

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Comments are welcome!

Legacy Fund Update

The goal is:

**\$2 million dollars
by March 2027**

Legacy Fund Balance

\$951,906



AmazonSmile is a simple, automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization, at no cost to you. Shop at smile.amazon.com, and find the same convenient experience with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. Just type in the Vinh Son Montagnard Orphanage to make your choice.

Orphanage Facts

About 700 Montagnard children live in 7 orphanage facilities in the Kontum/Pleiku areas of Vietnam.

\$12 per month provides each child one nutritious meal every day.

Orphanages are run by the Sisters of Miraculous Medal (Vinh Son) and St. Paul Chartres (Sao Mai).

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Donation Information

Checks should be payable to FVSO or Friends of Vinh Son.

FVSO is a humanitarian, non-profit organization approved by IRS code 501©(3). Donations are tax deductible.

Donations are accepted year round and are also available on-line.