

October Newsletter 2021 - Volume 18 Issue 10

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2021 Donation Target

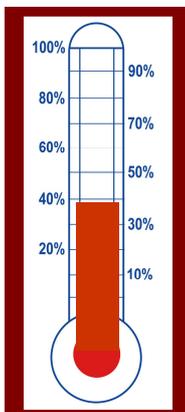
\$150,000

Donations To Date

\$ 57,043

Needed To Reach Target

\$ 92,957

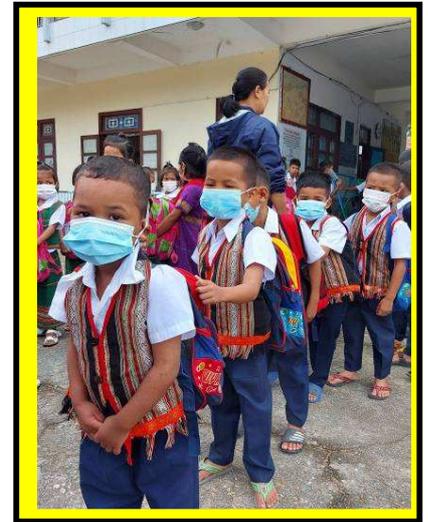


Fundraiser Update

We have reached 38% of our goal with 3 months left to go. Although we can't project the outcome, we remain hopeful that the \$150,000 goal can be reached. Your donations provide stability for the nuns and the kids. It's been a challenging year, as Vietnam is still a 3rd world country and struggles with COVID-19 and the required lock down protocols. The nuns have had their hands full, managing 750 kids in this environment. Your support keeps their hopes alive.

Future corporate executives, ready to take on the world!





Everyone is dressed to the max, but these little Vinh Son kids could use some practice with the official salute!

Remote Learning: Back-to-School September 5, 2021

Due to Covid-19, which still unfolds in a very complicated manner, there is a serious social distancing order directive No.16 from the Prime Minister. The ceremony for the new school year 2021-2022 was at hand, but so many schools had to have their ceremony on the first day of the new school year remotely.

In the morning on September 5th, there were 567 children of the 6 Vinh Son sites, who attended the new school year ceremony at home. In order to attend the ceremony, the Sisters had the children gather in their clean school uniforms of blue trousers and white shirt and red scarf with new sandals or white sports shoes. The children looked very elegant and serious, as is their manner at school. The participants attending the new school year ceremony remotely included students of kindergarten, primary school, junior and senior high school, and all the Sisters and workers of each VSO. Although the ceremony was held without teachers and classmates around, the children felt happy and eager to start their new school year with their friends and the Sisters.

The New School Year ceremony was enjoyed remotely for every student in Kontum province and was organized at the Kontum public senior High school at 8 A.M of Sunday on September 5th, 2021. It was live-streamed by Kontum TV station. Present were the vice-chairman of the People's Committee of Kontum province and some leaders of Kontum Service of Education and Formation. Also there were representatives of teachers and of the school Board, along with student parents. There were enough good traditional rites that made the official ceremony seem usual.

In Classroom: Back to School September 20, 2021

Although the opening ceremonies had already taken place on 9/5, teachers and students soon received the news that actual classroom instruction would begin on September 20th. Teachers and students changed gears and quickly began to make preparations for attending the school environment they loved so much. Backpacks were re-filled, uniforms dusted off, while white face masks hid their beautiful smiles. But nothing could hide their excitement.

No longer needing remote learning devices, the children marched off to school knowing they had everything they needed to succeed. Covid 19 protocols are still in effect, and the government will closely monitor conditions in Kontum. Martha will continue to keep us posted.





The Moon Festival, September 2021

Note: This year's Moon Festival was much like last year's limited celebration, all due to the continuing pandemic. As you see from the photos, however, one of the surviving traditions was the receiving Moon Cakes. Thanks to VietDreams for their generous contribution and a little help from FVSO, over 650 individually wrapped cakes were purchased and handed out to every child in the Vinh Son world.

On the occasion of the Mid-Fall Festival every year, thousands of children experience this Festival full of joy, and happiness beside their friends, parents, grandparents and family relatives. However, the children of the six VSO orphanages had to celebrate their Mid-Fall Festival differently again this year. Because of the social distancing rule, there were no visitor groups, or parties to hand out special gifts to the children.

Because of the pandemic, the Sisters organized the Mid-Fall Festival separately, so each Vinh Son orphanage held their own activities. They celebrated with a special Mass and a delicious dinner. Although this year's Mid-Autumn Festival was not as splendid as earlier ones, it did not take away the cheerfulness and warmth of the children.



A major construction project is completed

I am Sr Maria Goretti Y Phép. Representing all the Sisters and all the children of Vinh Son 4 orphanage, I would like to send to you our greeting, and our wishes of good health and of peace in God. Today is September 4th 2021, and the construction of the boys' house of Vinh Son 4 is done well and the boys can move to stay in their new clean, comfortable, safe house. Looking at their smiles of joy and their eagerness while moving into their new house, makes us joyous and happy.

Sincerely, we thank FVSO for giving us the funds to rebuild the new house for the boys of our orphanage. We don't know how to pay back to your help for us for a longtime. Thanks to your help and your support of funds, the children have a cozy house to stay in and study and play and realize their dream of going to school like their other classmates.

We will remember you in our daily prayers and hope that you will continue to help the miserable orphans. Once again, thank you very much for your help.

Sr Maria Goretti Y Phép





Y Thuan also writes that she is learning other languages to stay busy. With the resort being closed due to Covid, there isn't much else to do.

Four days ago, I was able to get the Covid vaccine. This helps me feel more secure so that I can continue to practice as soon as possible. I really want to knead the dough and decorate the cake. I hope their company will be open soon. I also have a small flower garden on the balcony of the Dormitory and every day that goes by I can see those flowers change, grow slowly from flower bud to bloom and eventually grow old. It makes me always happy.
Word from Y Thuan

Staying Positive at Sao Mai

The experience of this summer is quite interesting, because thanks to that, the children talk more with each other, know how to care about the friends around, know how to help the Sisters in small daily things like playing with babies, sweeping the house, helping in the kitchen. Not only that, they also know how to care for the poor, the victims of the Covid pandemic. Many people do not have food to eat, many people fall into a state of fear and disappointment because of isolation, or because a loved one has passed away. During this pandemic, there are many generous hearts such as doctors and nurses, who are dedicated to their patients. Let's join hands to help each other overcome the pandemic.

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Comments are welcome!

Legacy Fund Update

**The goal is:
 \$2 million dollars
 by March 2027**

**Legacy Fund Balance
 \$900,010**



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.