

## June Newsletter 2018 Volume 15 Issue 6

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### Contact & Donation Information

**FVSO: P.O. Box 9322, Auburn, CA 95604-9322**

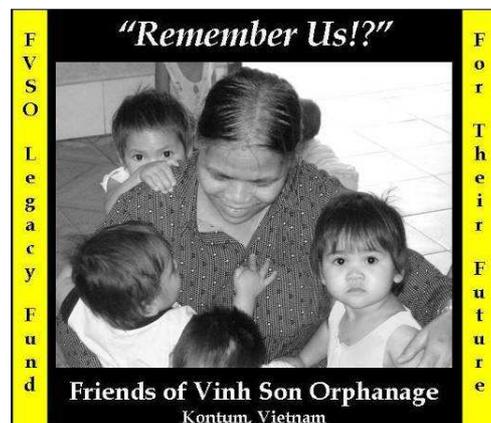
**Email: [FriendsofVSO@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofVSO@gmail.com)**

**Web: [www.FriendsofVSO.org](http://www.FriendsofVSO.org)**

### Consider the FVSO Legacy Fund

Since March of 2017 we have grown our Legacy Fund to \$519,378. Our goal is \$2,000,000. Why?

We aren't getting any younger. I'm sure you have heard that before. The Board of FVSO takes that "advice" very seriously. We share a deep passion along with our donors of helping the Montagnard children, the descendants of the tribesmen who loyally supported us in the 60's and 70's. We have a fervent desire that FVSO will continue long into the future, but there is also a possibility it may not. After a lot of thought and many hours of discussion, we launched our Legacy Fund in March of 2017.



Since the seed of FVSO was planted in March 2001, we have become an important part of the support system for 850 children and their caregivers. We have grown from a helping hand to a responsibility. We are encouraged by our successes over 17 years in supporting the Sisters to develop these children into young adults who go out and become valuable members of their community. We understand that at some point we will not be here to help. We also understand that because of economic, social and political reasons there will always be orphans and kids that need help.

The purpose of our Legacy Fund is straightforward. When the current Board is no longer able to do what we do we want to leave a Trust Fund in place that will provide support into the future. If we are successful in developing future Board members we will leave them with a wonderful gift to continue our mission. If not, our Trust Fund will help the kids far past our due date. One of our founding principles is that 100% of your donations go to the kids. That is embedded into our charter and also our Trust Fund. So 100% of our Legacy Fund will always be used for the kids.

As you plan your future, please consider adding your legacy to our Legacy Fund. Please feel free to contact with questions about best ways to do this.



## The annual Dental Program is a Top Priority

This year's FVSO dental program cost \$13,400; half of that expenditure coming from Marie Tran's group, **Children of Vinh Son**. Another success story: 1,651 procedures on 689 patients. That includes teeth cleaning, minor cavities filled, tooth extractions and fluoride treatments. Note, the Sao Mai children will receive their dental care later this summer. A great big **THANK YOU** goes out to Sister Basile, who makes the schedules and gets all the children organized, not an easy task. The photos below tell the story.



# Letters from the Young and the Old

## You're never too old to get involved

20 May 2018

### Vinh Son Orphanage Group,

Saw your display ad in the VVA magazine then googled your organization. You are a special bunch of guys. Impressive. I am 92 years old and it took me back many years.

I was in the Highlands based in Ban Me Thuot during 1963. When I was in the compound I bunked in the Grand Bungalow.

As an Infantry Captain, although I was primarily a Battalion Advisor to the RVN, I had a lot of contact with the Montagnard. One of my duties was to visit their villages to get them to act as observers and report to us. During those visits, it was heart-breaking to see the children with open sores and some really ill. I mentioned it to our team doctor and asked if he could help in some way.

Doc Landry was a real healer. He made up a rather extensive medical kit. A Montagnard we used as an interpreter volunteered to carry it. It worked out quite well. Mostly first aid type fixes on the sores and minor injuries.

They were proud, self sufficient people who took care of their own. I hope they are doing ok in their present environment. I am not up to making a continuing donation, but enclosed is a check for \$100. Please use it to support those lovely kids. I'll try to contribute again in the future.

Regards and keep up the good work.

John D. (Jack) Imhof, LTC USA (Ret)

### Message from Y Uen to Gene Mapa, April 26th

I received the money this afternoon, thank you very much. Here, I will tell you about my activities that I did in April. I thought it is very interesting to you:

7/4/2018: The Sisters and I volunteered in a poor village of Gia Lai. Here, everyone is poor but they are very affectionate and very friendly. I think I should thank God for letting me go on that meaningful trip.

Now, it is almost at the end of the semester, my class schedule is less. Main tasks are group study. This week, one of the children at Vinh Son is sick so I along with others took turns to take care of him. I usually help in the morning because I have to go to work in the afternoon.

If I have a class in the afternoon, I usually go to work from 5 pm to 10 pm; if there is no afternoon class, I go to work from 3:30 to 10 pm (like today). My work during week day here is fine and I normally ask for permission to go to Vinh Son on the weekend.

The money you sent to me, I save it and will use for study purposes. I use the money from work to pay for my daily living expenses. I work at a Pho restaurant along side the road. I think working is not only to help me to pay for my expenses but also help me to have more experience, more knowledge in life.

Pictures are where we volunteered.

Thank you uncle,  
Wish you have a good day,  
**Y Uen, scholarship student**





## Cutest Photo of the Year (so far)

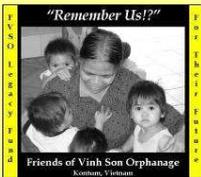
The image on the left comes to us from Y Uen, taken while she was participating in a recent "mission of mercy." Uen was really moved by the poverty conditions there.

## Enlisting new benefactors

We can help you connect with potential new supporters of the Vinh Son and Sao Mai orphanages.



- Board Members are available to speak at military reunions or to local civilian groups.
- Distribute copies of the monthly FVSO newsletter to your friends and interested groups. Forward the on-line versions and website information via e-mail.
- A Power Point presentation, detailing the FVSO story, is available for your use.
- Tell your personal story. Why are you a member of this team? What would you tell a potential supporter about FVSO? Your history might prompt others to reach out to the children of FVSO.



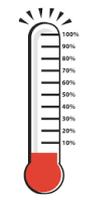
### Legacy Fund Update

Target is \$2.0m in 10 years

Total contributions to date

**\$519,378**

% achieved = 26%



### Legacy Contributors

- Jim & Jane Gardner
- Henry Huddleston
- Glen Smith
- William Higbee
- Corps Detachment 711

### Legacy Contributors

- VVA Chapter 535
- 

## Long-term supporting organizations

- 189<sup>th</sup> & 155<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Companies
- 227<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Battalion (A and D Companies)
- VN Veterans of America, Chapter 535, Nevada Cnty, CA
- Marine Corps League Detachment 711, Salinas, CA
- Counterparts Association
- 14<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Btn. Association
- MilSpec Tours (800-953-5812)
- Fr. Luke Tran (VN-SHEP) Social Health Education Projects
- Fr. Relihan, Sacred Heart Church, Lone, CA
- Rotary Club of San Juan Capistrano, CA

**amazon**smile

Support FVSO by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

## Words of Wisdom

*Age does not protect you from love. But love, to some extent, protects you from age.*

-- Jeanne Moreau

### Vinh Son & Sao Mai Orphanage Facts

- About 830 Montagnard children live in seven orphanage facilities in the Kontum/Pleiku area, Vietnam
- FVSO is a humanitarian, Non-Profit organization approved by IRS Code 501(c)3. Donations are tax deductible.
- Run by Sisters of the Miraculous Medal & St Paul Chartres

### Officers

**President** – Pat Leary  
**Secretary** - Nga Wynne  
**Treasurer** – Ken Tokutomi  
**Senior VP** - Pat McKee  
**1st VP**  
**2nd VP** - Michael Little

### Board of Directors

Hank Gonzales  
 Rich Lahey  
 Clyde Lewandowski  
 Bart Ruud  
 Dave Chaix  
 Colleen Sands  
**Social Media Advisor**  
 Sean Grame

### Donation Information

Please make checks payable to FVSO or Friends of Vinh Son  
 Donations are gratefully accepted year round  
 \$12 feeds, shelters and educates one child for one month