

December Newsletter 2018

Volume 15 Issue 12

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Christmas Preparation – December 8th

We belong to the 6 orphanages, and all of us are college students, studying different majors (medical, teacher and social work). On this day, we prepared for the Christmas celebration. Our program was a full day, beginning at 7:30am. Most of the time, we practiced songs and dances, which we really enjoyed. After that, we made Christmas Cards. We do miss and remember each of you in our prayers. Thank you for supporting us! That's Sister Martha in the middle, wishing everyone a Merry Christmas!

Sleigh Bells over Kontum - The Annual Christmas Celebration

It is Sunday, December 16, 2018, and there is excitement in the air. Today, there will be a big Christmas celebration for all the orphans of the six Vinh Son orphanages in the Kontum area. Because there are so many children, the party will be held in the yard of the Immaculate Miraculous Medal Convent (near VS-1). At seven o'clock in the morning, all the orphans will gather in the yard to participate in the celebration, with help from the group BAFA of Poussiere de Vie. This year, we received funding to support this celebration from FVSO and Mrs. Diny.

This year's program includes two parts: 1) in the morning, the children play games, then 2) the afternoon will be filled with the children performing their dances. There are 4 collective big games: Tug of war, Pick up apples, Select bean in one color, Carry Water and bind the eyes to feed each other. The groups who win the games are given rewards. After a morning of playing games, it will be time for a delicious lunch of rice, meat, egg and vegetable, sweet drink and ice cream, fruit.

In the afternoon, each Vinh Son orphanage celebrates Christmas by performing two musical dances each on the stage. They are very happy with their performances. Before the end of the celebration, there is a friendly visit by Santa Claus who gives out a small Christmas gift to everyone to take back home.

We would like to thank you for making this day happen. We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New year to you all friends and family. May you have a blessed year ahead.

Every year, FVSO contributes \$1,150 to the Vinh Son and Sao Mai Christmas parties.



**What do Santa, bobbing for apples and tug of war all have in common? Answer: a fun time at Vinh Son
Below: it truly was a feast!**



Sister Martha's camera has an eye for the most expressive images and you'll see more of them in our upcoming Newsletters

"I cannot say anything but good wishes, a Happy Christmas"

Y Luin

Hello FVSO!

Y THO

I am writing this letter today to tell you about my life in the last 3 months. As for my education, I am now studying English in Kon Tum, thanks to the help of my friends and teachers, so I am studying very well. After school, I can help the younger children, look after them, help them do their chores, clean the church, clean the catechetical room and teach the catechism. Christmas is coming to wish you a happy Christmas, and peace for your family.

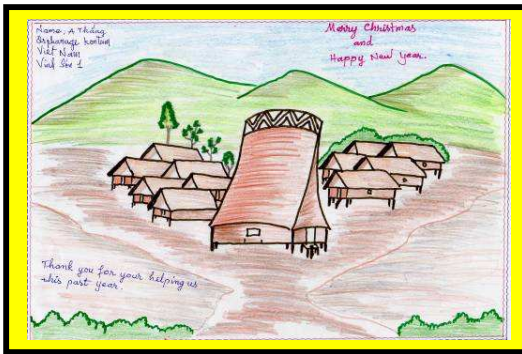
Y Bach

Whenever I have a break, my free time, I cook for the children, clean my house, go to the church, and take care of the flowers. Thank you, and I will not forget to pray for you in my daily prayers. Good luck, and health.

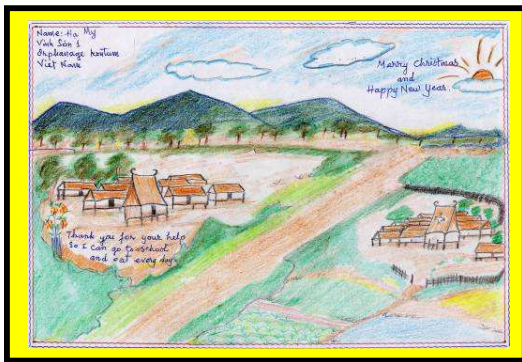
A Ngoai

22 more days to the birth of the Christ Child. I wish the benefactors abundant health and full of grace and peace. I will not forget to pray for the benefactors every day. I would like to wish all of you the best of luck in this December for your health and good days. I sincerely thank the benefactors.

FVSO stays involved with the scholarship students



Every year, the children show off their artistic abilities by creating these beautiful Christmas cards as a way of expressing THANKS!



New Sister at VS-1

Please join us welcoming **Sister Pier Marie** (see below) as she assumes the leadership position at the Vinh Son-1 location. Also, Sister Marie Kham, formerly at VS-1, will take over duties at Vinh Son-5.

"Good Luck Sisters!"



Banana Project

VS-1 has requested help with the purchase of a small land parcel close to Kontum. Their intention is to use this land to plant about 150 banana trees. It will take a year before they bear fruit. The bananas themselves could be traded for other nutritional needs, or to sell at the market.

Potentially, a banana farm would be another small step toward Vinh Son becoming more self-sustaining.

A great \$2,300 investment!



GuideStar

GuideStar gathers, organizes & distributes information about U.S. nonprofits. They advance transparency & enable users to make better decisions about their charitable giving. FVSO currently has a Bronze rating, but look to see that climb over time.



Amazon Smile

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support. Just type in **Vinh Son Orphanage** to make your choice.

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.

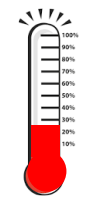


Legacy Fund Update

Target is \$2.0m in 10 years

Total contributions to date
\$509,822

% achieved = 25.5%



Legacy Contributors

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

Legacy Contributors

- **VVA Chapter 535**
- **Jim McCauley**
- **Bart Ruud**

Long-term supporting organizations

- 189th & 155th Assault Helicopter Companies
- 227th 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
- 14th 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

amazonsmile

Support FVSO by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com

A Christmas Greeting

“Christmas is forever, not for just one day. For loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away.”

Norman Wesley Brooks

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.
- Orphanages run by Sisters of the Miraculous Medal & St Paul Chartres

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Secretary - Nga Wynne
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1st VP - Open
2nd VP - Michael Little

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 Dave Chaix
 Colleen Sands
Social Media Advisor
 Sean Grame

Donation Information

Please make checks payable to FVSO or Friends of Vinh Son
 \$12 per month provides each child one nutritious meal every day.
 Donations are accepted year round