

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

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October Newsletter, 2013 - Volume 10 Issue 7

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Part 2



Part 2



Fundraising Update and Matching Donation Program

Great News: by the end of October, we will have maxed out the \$26,000 Matching Donation fund! That means \$52,000 has been raised for FVSO through this program.

Greater News: we are announcing a Part 2 Matching Donation opportunity, with a fund of \$12,900. This was made possible by:

Benefactors

- Bart Ruud
- Clyde & Connie Lewandowski
- Al & Chris Brooks
- Dave & Elaine Chaix
- Hank & Glenda Gonzales
- Mike & Sharon Bauerly

Benefactors

- Pat & Susan McKee
- 189th AHC
- VVA Chapter 535
- Colleen & Tim Sands

Our goal is within sight thanks to you!

Below is a very insightful and complimentary report written by Minh Huong, Acting Director/ National Dental Program Coordinator for East Meets West. We are so grateful for dedicated partners like the people at EMW. After food and medicine, dental care has become one of our major objectives.

East Meets West Dental Outreach Summary Kontum, August 2013



Dear Dave Chaix, Mel Potter, All Donors/Friends of FoVS, and Volunteers of the EMW Dental Program,

Time flew fast – a month since the date we left Kon Tum August 25th, everything is still quite fresh as if it just happened yesterday.

Thanks to the wonderful sponsorship of Friends of Vinh Son Montagnard Orphanages (FoVS), the East Meets West Dental Program again had another opportunity coming back to Kon Tum. The dental outreach in this summer 2013 was the fifth time we partnered with the FoVS to help provide dental care to the children in Kon Tum since 2008.

The dental program will continue in 2014

EMW, continued

There were 3,257 quality dental services provided to 924 visits of 896 children, estimated at \$162,850 humanitarian value during 5.5 treatment days of August 19-24, 2013 (i). Of which, 343 children of Vinh Son Orphanages No.1,2,5&6 were treated with 1,332 dental services. Besides the number of children from Vinh Son Orphanages annually given dental care under the sponsorship of FoVS, the rest other 553 children also treated this time were from two other primary schools nearby - Quang Trung (30% ethnic children from Social Assistant Center of Kon Tum Province) and Phan Chu Trinh. In our 18-year history program, we have never reached such a high population of children treated as this outreach mission.

Different from other previous trips, the number of preventive and restorative dental care (2,642 services) provided in this trip was four times more than emergency care (615 services). Especially, we were happy to find that over 85% of children coming from Vinh Son Orphanages need mainly preventive care and the quality dental services given annually from previous years still remained well on many kids.



3,257 dental services + 924 visits + 896 children = smiles like this!

The tremendous success was achieved to the great enthusiasm and whole-heartedly dedication of the entire 25 participants –10 volunteers from Hong Kong Universities, Canada, the US, Da Nang and Kon Tum; 5 domestic dental students from Ho Chi Minh University and 8 EMW Dental Staff. It was a wonderful opportunity for everyone working together, sharing the workload and experiences, knowledge and culture. All left the local authorities, children, children's parents and teacher nice images and good impressions.

The same with the past recent years, we were also given the hospitality of the local authorities, warm welcome by the children and teachers. The Department of Health (DoH) as well as Department of Education & Training (DoET) of Kon Tum province sent their staff joining us daily with their great supportive and active cooperation at both sites of Quang Trung and Phan Chu Trinh Schools.

During this mission, we did also have a short meeting with the DoH and DoET of Kon Tum to share lessons learned for our better performance next time. I am happy to update with you that they expressed their gratitude to all volunteers, EMW Staff and sponsors/donors for this trip and their warm welcome us back next year. We finalized the approved date for next year is April 21-25, 2014 (ii).

Thank you very much for being thoughtful and loyal sponsors of the children of Vinh Son Orphanages and also the poor children in Kon Tum. We are looking forward to your continued support together EMW Dental Program to bring back more healthy smiles to the children of Kon Tum in 2014. **Minh Huong**

Check out our 7-minute video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LTK5s2OsltY&feature=youtu.be>

Contributions come from all walks of life



From left to right: Dave Chaix, Father Luke, Kim, Bart Ruud

On October 7th FVSO Board members Hank Gonzales and Bart Ruud, together with FVSO President Dave Chaix, had the good fortune to meet with Father Luke and his sister, Kim, at a Sacramento area Vietnamese restaurant. Father Luke, an Assistant parish priest in New Jersey, was on the west coast to attend a nationwide gathering of some 200 Vietnamese Catholic priests in southern California.

Father Luke is a humanitarian to the core and finds his service to mankind the richest kind of reward. As a leader of a benevolent group of Vietnamese Americans, VN-SHEP (Vietnam-Social Health Education Projects), he has spearheaded contributions over the past six years for FVSO. With Father Luke's encouragement, the New Jersey group's philanthropy continues. Father Luke has visited the Vinh Son Orphanages and he knows first hand of the good accomplished by FVSO. This explains his ongoing support. The FVSO officers and board members regard that support as the strongest kind of compliment.

Bart Ruud

Sometimes, a note accompanies a donation, and we thought it appropriate to share this one written by Sgt. James Ackerman, 7/17 Air Cav, Pleiku, VN '68-'69

"You and the others help so much. I gladly contribute to such a great organization. I served with the Army in Pleiku and was on many medical visits to Montagnard villages. They were always such warm, friendly people. We had a saying, 'once you make a Montagnard friend, you will always have a friend.' They were so grateful for our help."



...and they are grateful today too!

Organizations supporting FVSO

- 189th Assault Helicopter Company
- Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 535, Nevada County, CA
- Counterparts
- 4th Infantry Division Association (NY & NJ Chapter)
- 14th Combat Engineer Btn. Assoc.
- MilSpec Tours



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 - Dave Chaix
Secretary - Dennis Coyne
Treasurer - Colleen Sands
Senior VP - Pat McKee
1st VP - Sr. Marie Dominique
2nd VP - Michael Little

Board

Hank Gonzales
 Rich Lahey
 Clyde Lewandowski
 Bart Ruud
 Patrick Leary
 Alan Brooks

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