VSO Friends of Vinh Son Montagnard Orphanage

December Newsletter 2019

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Contact & Donation Information

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Each year the children at Vinh Son-1 express their gratitude through artwork depicting their visions of the Christmas scene. Gifted to you, this is their way of thanking all the donors and benefactors who made their lives better throughout the year. FVSO is happy to sponsor the Vinh Son Christmas party that takes place on December 22nd…photos to appear in the January newsletter.

Water and Wheel Chairs, Making a Difference

Upgraded Water System at VS-4

Finally, and with the support from our partner, VietDreams, the 125 children and caregivers will have a new system to meet the needs for laundry, toilettes, and general maintenance. This system includes: ground water collection tank, pump house on high ground, two 5,000 liter holding tanks, and a plumbing system to distribute the water. Funded by FVSO, the construction management was the work of VietDreams, the experts in water systems.

Wheelchair FOUNDATION

Sister Khiet is surrounded by happy recipients of brand new wheel chairs

Free Wheel Chairs for Sao Mai

The Wheelchair Foundation from Danville, CA, distributes wheel chairs to the disadvantaged in 3rd world countries. This year, they visited Vietnam and partnered with FVSO to deliver 4 wheel chairs to the disabled children at Sao Mai orphanage. Eight chairs also went to our students at the Don Bosco Trade School.

From the Foundation: Our Wheel chairs are custom built, ordered and shipped in bulk to different areas of the world. We collaborate with foreign entities to coordinate local, domestic distribution as specified by our donors (at a cost of $16,500 to $42,000 depending upon quantity). Our Mission: The Wheelchair Foundation is a nonprofit organization leading an international effort to create awareness of the needs and abilities of people with physical disabilities, to promote the joy of giving, create global friendship, and to deliver a wheelchair to every child, teen and adult in the world who needs one, but cannot afford one. For these people, the Wheelchair Foundation delivers Hope, Mobility and Freedom.

The Vinh Son Community Mourns the Loss of Another Saint

The silent sacrifice and the modest fruit of service

Ms. Bil was born in 1950 and passed away on November 25, 2019. She was 69 years old. As a member of the Rongao ethnic minority, she grew up in Kon Monei Kotu village of Kontum town. She is the second daughter of the six children in her family. Her parents passed away when she was still young, which may have led to her becoming a Catholic nun of the Immaculate Miraculous Medal Congregation in 1970. However, in 1994, Sister Bil left that congregation to be a laywoman, eventually becoming a caregiver and teacher at Vinh Son 1.

Ms Bil had a lot of silent sacrifices to love and help the orphans. She wished she could do something to improve the spirit life of the poor ethnic minority orphans and to give them some good experiences that she had in her life. She wanted all the children of Vinh Son 1 to become good citizens for the country and society.

Y Bil had a smile for everyone

Apart from teaching, she was very eager and enthusiast to practice singing with the children. Although her daily work was very hard, she always had a beautiful smile on her lips because she loved the orphans and her daily work. She felt she could find the happiness in her work to help the orphans and the children's happiness is really her own.

Ms Bil worked at Vinh Son 1 for twenty-five years. She was glad and happy in her classes and she reminded the children to obey the disciplines during the time of their studies. Thanks to her charity and her love, most of the children considered her as their own mother and they loved her very much. Ms Bil considered the children to be her own lovely family. She sacrificed her life to help the orphans with her silent and modest life. With much effort, she taught Vietnamese, English and Bahnar languages so that the children could be successful in school. The children will miss her. We all will.

Reported by Martha Phanh and Mr. Ho from VS1

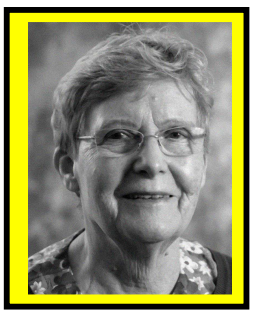
A Final Farewell

Diny of the Netherlands leaves a legacy of giving (see August 2018 newsletter)

Dear Friends,

After almost 18 years supporting the orphans at the Vinh Son Orphanages, we have to take the sad decision to finish our Foundation on December 20, 2019.

Over all those years, we have lost a lot of donors by them passing away and many of them are aged and forgetting to donate. Another problem we have to deal with is the lot of refugees who are coming to our small country and need help, which has reduced our income too since donors have decided to support them. The lost of so many donors and my age of 82 years, being the only one left who has to run the foundation, has made us to decide to finish. I feel very sad about it, but I have to realize what will happen if I will pass away.



We thank you all for the wonderful co-operation during all these years and the friendship we have received from all of you. We will never forget it. We hope you can continue your wonderful help for the orphans some time, because we know there is a time of starting and a time of leaving to all of us.

We thank you for all you have done and still doing and wish you all a lot of success.

Kindest regards. Diny, Evert, Peter, Frank….December 8, 2019

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR
From the boys and girls of Vinh Son and Sao Mai

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

We can help you enlist new benefactors

- 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

The goals are:

$1.0m by Dec 2020
$2.0m by Dec 2025

Total Contributions

$634,393

Orphanage Facts

About 830 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 and St. Paul Chartres.

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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.