

VSO Friends of Vinh Son Montagnard Orphanage

**January Newsletter
2018
Volume 15 Issue 1**

Contact & Donation Information

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

Email: FriendsofVSO@gmail.com

Web: www.FriendsofVSO.org



Summing Up 2017

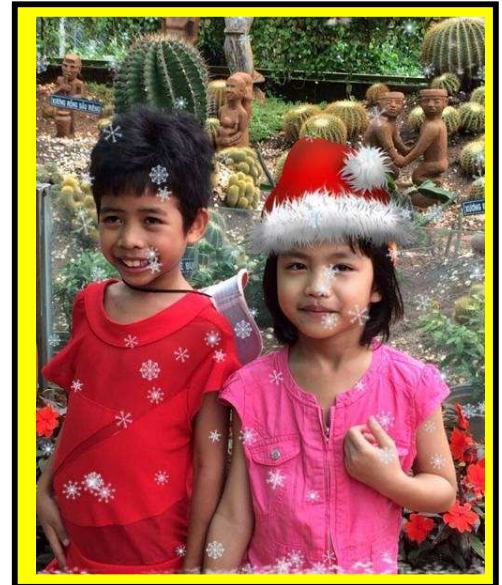
“Raising the Bar....Again!”

On behalf of the entire Board, I want to thank you for your generosity during the past year, and for trusting us with your donations that support the Montagnard children. In 2017, we completed our 14th year of helping the orphans in Kontum and Pleiku. It has been an incredible journey for all of us. As I look back on 2017, I cannot think of one day or one event that stands out from the others. I can see that there were many small steps forward. When I look back at the trail of those small steps, I see a most impressive journey. In 2017, we continued to provide the basic nutrition and medical support. The FVSO family can be proud of the many other achievements from last year, listed on the next page.

2017 set us up for another successful year in 2018

Christmas Party-goers

- Each of the 7 locations has clean water systems that are professionally maintained
- There are now 5 locations with bakeries that supply fresh bread weekly
- Professional dental care and check ups delivered annually for children and caregivers
- Medicines purchased to prevent worms and lice
- 19 students in post high school college or trade school programs
- Two major security walls erected to keep the children safe at VS4 and VS6
- Co-sponsored the annual Christmas celebration with other non-profits, who often partner with us on special projects throughout the year



The 2017 Annual Review, continued

On December 27th we held our annual Board meeting. We are happy to report that in 2017 we exceeded our budget goals. **Thank You !!** As a result, in 2018 we will be able to increase our budget for the sisters by 28%, specifically funding for nutrition. We are hopeful that we can maintain this level in future years.

We discussed two important topics that I would like to share with you. Foremost is succession planning. We would like to maintain FVSO for as long as possible, but we also understand the realities of an aging Board. Our goal is to recruit new Board members, but we are also backing that up with our Legacy Fund. We hope to build the Legacy Fund to a self-sustaining point of \$2 million. We are currently at \$420 thousand thanks to the guidance of Dave Chaix. We accept contributions directly to the Legacy Fund for those who want to contribute to the future.

Education was the other major topic of discussion. We currently support 19 students in post high school or trade school programs. This number has grown from 12 last year and we are excited about the growth rate. We contribute \$1,000 annually to each student and send monthly increments. Each student is required to maintain a minimum grade level of "C". The Education Fund is supported only by contributions specifically earmarked for education. As of today, we have enough funds to support the current students through the next 4 years. We hope to continue to grow this program under the leadership of Board Members, Clyde Lewandowski and Nga Wynne. Education is a wonderful way to contribute to a bright future for these students.

Several trips are planned this year to monitor our progress and evaluate needs. Each Board Member visiting the orphanages will personally pay for all of their expenses. I'm sure they will return with lasting memories and a list of opportunities for improving life at Vinh Son and Sao Mai. Because of you, FVSO will be up to the challenge.

Again, thanks so much for your generosity and trust. I am looking forward to many more small steps in 2018, and another wonderful year helping the kids.

Patrick R Leary
President, FVSO

A PARTY FOR THE CHILDREN OF VINH SON

DECEMBER 17th, 2017

Reported by A Loai and Hanna

Introduction

Every year, when Christmas celebration day comes, the children in all 6 orphanages are very happy because they can see their friends from the other Vinh Son orphanages. They love to play games together, to get gifts and enjoy the entertainment dances performed by their friends from the other orphanages.

The Christmas program was fun-fulled

8h30 : Gathering the children from the 6 orphanages at the convent 'Miraculous Image'.

9h00 : Games and activities organized by BAFA leaders - the Capg mini volunteers helped during the games.

11h30 : Lunch.

13h00 : Playing stall games organized by BAFA leaders.

14h00 : Performances of the children from the orphanages.

15h00: Distribution of the gift packages by the Bafa team, Poussi res de vie volunteers and Capg mini volunteers. The performances continue.

16H30 : Sister Maria Kham thanks all donors, volunteers and everyone organizing Christmas day for the children.

16h45 : Departure of the children back to their orphanages.

Every child received a gift

- Gifts for 6 Vinh Son locations:

Sports materials such as 24 pairs of badminton rackets + 6 nets, 6 soccer balls, 6 volleyballs + 6 nets shared for 6 Vinh Son.

- Gifts for each child:

Many candies and cakes + a soft drink.

Logistics

Two small buses brought the children from the 6 orphanages to the covent and returned them back in the evening.

A big Thank You to all the sponsors who helped make this Christmas celebration successful and joyful!

Christmas and Children come together



A mass of humanity, all hands on deck for the party of the year



Growing Our Donor Base is a Key Objective

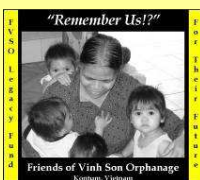
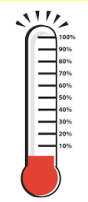
“Let’s get the word out!”

Help us tell the FVSO story

Our Board and donor family are dedicated to helping the 850 children at Vinh Son and Sao Mai. There are many ways you can help us spread our story (see right):

We also welcome your personal story, “**The Why**” you support FVSO with your contributions, year after year. Some possible topics are suggested, but your story is “**Your Story.**”

- Invite us to speak at a reunion or large event. There is a possibility one of us lives close by and we would love to tell our story. Give us 30 minutes or more... I could talk all day about FVSO and the kids.
- Pass out copies of the monthly newsletter to friends and organizations you belong to. We’d be glad to send you extra copies, just let us know.
- Forward our newsletter and website information via e-mail.
- We have a Power Point presentation you are welcome to use.
- **Personal Story:** what prompted you to become a member of this team? What would you tell a potential supporter about FVSO? What keeps you involved year after year? If you permit, these articles could be included in a future newsletter!

	<p>Legacy Fund Update Target is \$2.0m in 10 years</p> <p>Total contributions to date \$420,000</p> <p>% achieved = 21%</p>	
<p>Legacy Contributors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim & Jane Gardner • Henry Huddleston • Glen Smith • William Higbee • Corps Detachment 711 	<p>Legacy Contributors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VVA Chapter 535 • 	

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

Words Of Wisdom

Each person has inside a basic decency and goodness. If he listens to it and acts on it, he is giving a great deal of what it is the world needs most.

-- Pablo Casals

Vinh Son & Sao Mai Orphanage Facts	Officers	Board of Directors	Donation Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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©3. Donations are tax deductible. • Run by Sisters of the Miraculous Medal & St Paul Chartres 	<p>President – Pat Leary</p> <p>Secretary - Nga Wynne</p> <p>Treasurer – Ken Tokutomi</p> <p>Senior VP - Pat McKee</p> <p>1st VP - Sr. Marie Dominique</p> <p>2nd VP - Michael Little</p>	<p>Hank Gonzales</p> <p>Rich Lahey</p> <p>Clyde Lewandowski</p> <p>Bart Ruud</p> <p>Dave Chaix</p> <p>Colleen Sands</p> <p>Social Media Advisor Sean Grame</p>	<p>Please make checks payable to FVSO or Friends of Vinh Son</p> <p>Donations are gratefully accepted year round</p> <p>\$12 feeds, shelters and educates one child for one month</p>