

## May Newsletter 2020 Volume 17 Issue 5

### Contact & Donation Information

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### Back to School Issue

- Their smiles are back
- New rules for new times  
School protocol
- Masked Men

### Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>

Millions of schoolchildren in Vietnam returned to class on Monday after the country reported its 17th straight day of no domestically transmitted coronavirus infections. The decision to reopen schools came after the Southeast Asian nation eased social distancing measures at the end of April -- with experts pointing to a decisive response involving mass quarantines and expansive contact tracing for its apparent success in containing the disease.

### Smiles have returned to Vinh Son



# The masks will go back on, but first a smile or two

## Restarting School

Prepared by Ms. Martha and Mr. Ho

During the long time of staying home to avoid the spread of the Covid 19 pandemic. Most of the orphans of 6 Vinh Son orphanages missed their schools, their teachers and their classmates very much and their favorite subjects too. Although they must stay at home to avoid the pandemic, they could receive the exercises and the lesson of the main subjects such as math, Vietnamese literature and English thanks to the teachers who tried to guide their online study at home.

Now, after a long time of social distance due to Covid-19, according to the order of the government to permit to reopen the schools which has made all the orphans very happy and eager to come back to school again. All of them have their confidence and their enthusiasm in their eyes. Someone said they have waited for a longtime and the night before the first day of coming back school, they could not sleep well because they wish they were at school soon the following day.

While knowing they will come back to school on May 4th, 2020, they feel happy and sad and worried: Happy because tomorrow they will see again their teachers and their classmates after the long time of social distance and sad because they had gotten used to the family activities. Worried because they don't know exactly that they are safe completely with covid-19 at school now. So they still feel a bit scared and they have their feeling while meeting their classmates and their teachers as a person who comes back to their hometown after a longtime of being absent.



**THANKS!** goes to Ms. Martha for taking all these great photo's! It was a very special day for the kids. Going back to school made them so happy. But now it's time to put the masks back on.



**...continued**

They no longer feel bewildered and anxious, now they feel peaceful, safe and warm thanks to the Sisters' care. They thank God and the Sisters who have sacrificed their lives and their time to love and take care of them. Especially they do not forget to thank their American donors and benefactors who have the same anxiety, fear, and damages due to Covid-19 pandemic. But, they always love and pray for the poor ethnic minority orphans of Vinh Son to be safe and peaceful and healthy.

This morning on May 4th, the orphans restarted to go to school at 6.30 because they have to go to school sooner to be taken their temperature before coming in school at the school gate and they have to wash their hands with antiseptic alcoholic gel and they have to remember to always wear a mask during the time in class at school. They also have to keep the distance of 2 meters from other person and they mustn't gather in a three, five person groups to prevent the spread of Co-vid pandemic. When the school is over, they have to line up one rang with a distance of 2 meters apart for each one and gets out of the school gate slowly and no jostling out.

According to their forms, the classes are divided into the morning time or afternoon time. Some study in class with the teachers in front of the blackboard and some others learn online with the teachers' help. If the total of the student's number is crowded, their classes are divided into two different classes to have the safe distance of two meters between 2 students. On the first day of coming back to school, the children have their revision after they studied online on internet during their time of staying home. They have to work hard with a lot of exercises and doing their 15 - minute test.

Although they have a lot of difficulty and challenges after their long absence from school, they all tried their best to overcome the pandemic to have the good results of their lives later on. We wish all the orphans of Vinh Son orphanages were healthy and good in their study now with many good achievements and progresses this school year 2020.



**Marching, safely, to school, by wearing masks and keeping social distancing (not so easy with the little ones)**

## “Who are those masked men?”

These Vinh Son boys are proudly wearing traditional clothing in honor of the school opening. Their masks, along with those for the other 5 Vinh Son orphanages, were donated by the Catholic Church. That’s about 800 altogether!



**amazon**smile

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**

**\$657,065**

We won't always know whose lives we touched and made better for our having cared, because actions can sometimes have unforeseen ramifications. What's important is that you do care and you act.

*Charlotte Lunsford*

### 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.