

# Friends of Vinh Son Montagnard Orphanage

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

2022

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They came from all over Kontum Province, eager to share their proud spirit and love for one another. In all, there are about 30 different ethnic minority groups living in the Central Highlands, and for the Gong Festival, many were clothed in their traditional dress. BEAUTIFUL!

## FUNDRAISER UPDATE (AS OF 11/09/2022)

<b>\$150,000</b>	•••••	<b>\$92,506</b>	•••••	<b>61.7%</b>	•••••	<b>\$57,494</b>
FUNDRAISER TARGET (JULY-DEC)		DONATIONS TO DATE		% ACHIEVED		BALANCE NEEDED

This has been a most challenging year, with inflation, market turmoil etc. However, your generosity has continued to provide a stable foundation of income for the Nuns. This security has paid off. Our newsletters document many of the achievements the Nuns have made because they feel confident in the future. Each year, we adopt a conservative budget and in late November, we begin the planning process for 2023. In large part, the new years spending depends on the final 2022 donations.

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# SCHOLARSHIP ACTIVITY

As of November 10, 2022, we have awarded scholarships to a total of 71 students. With an annual scholarship budget of approximately \$18,000, we currently support 17 students who are attending college now. In all, 30 have graduated, while 24 have left the program for various reasons. Some of those who have left are continuing their education on their own. We also send money to all students for 3 months following their graduation to assist them pursue their dreams.

One of our primary missions is to prepare the young children for the future. All get a solid primary education in the Vietnamese public school system, enhanced by education from the dedicated nuns. Most make it through High School. Some make it through college or trade school. We have one doctor, several nurses, pharmacists, teachers, IT professionals, mechanics, electricians and bakers amongst the FVSO and Sao Mai alumni. Your donations have been instrumental in their foundation and success. Below are letters from two of our success stories!



**This letter is from Y Chan, one of our scholarship students who is just completing her pharmacy program at school.**

This internship at the pharmacy is for me to complete my graduation course at the end of this year, and I will apply all the knowledge I learned in school into practice. Of course, I'll work without pay, and I'm just an intern, not a full-time employee of the pharmacy.

Because it is a big and famous pharmacy in Vietnam, new trainees like me can't work at the counter to sell drugs to customers.

**Y Le Hang (wearing the white hat), is studying to be a pharmacist and also assists with the FVSO scholarship finances.**

This month, I'm preparing for a clinical internship at the hospital. Confused and excited alternately. I was surprised when I was allowed to practice at the Hospital for the first time, afraid of not knowing, afraid of not being able to do it, afraid of many people. But also, constantly enjoying when I can practice and accumulate a lot of useful knowledge from everyone. Theory must go hand in hand with practice to be able to absorb quickly.

I thank all the Aunts and Uncles in the FVSO Association for accompanying me.



## **Special Blessings from Sao Mai Orphanage**

The Church sets aside October each year as the month of the Rosary in honor of Our Lady. All for Our Lady, the children in Sao Mai Shelter also prayed the Rosary and offered flowers to God's children around the world.

Being aware that everything is a gift from God and Mary is always with them, protecting them. Sao Mai Shelter organizes for the children to give flowers to their mother. The beautiful little flowers express each child's gratitude to Mother. The children dignified and fervently presented their mother with fresh flowers. And ask her to continue to be with you and protect you. Pray for benefactors to always be healthy in body and soul so that they can continue to be in the arms of Mary.



## GONG FESTIVAL CELEBRATES CULTURE OF VIETNAM'S ETHNIC COMMUNITIES IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

The reputation of gong culture of the Central Highlands of Vietnam has crossed the national border to become the property of mankind. Its unique and quintessential values are praised and honored by the international community for its creativity and ingenuity from the ethnic minority people's ancestors with musical deep sounds mixed with one of the winds and the hearts of all the tribes in the Central Highlands.

In order to preserve and promote the gong culture, gong dances and traditional costumes of ethnic tribes in Kontum for ethnic minority students of 16 public schools in Kontum city, the Service of Culture and the Service of Education and Training of Kontum province have coordinated to organize this Festival of Competition with 16 teams of playing gongs and performing the different traditional tribal costumes together with their own different tribal gong dances. On this occasion, there were 100 children of Vinh Son 1 orphanage chosen in their gong school teams to participate in this gong cultural Festival of Competition.

Gong cultural Festival, gong dances, and performance of tribal traditional costumes this year for most of the ethnic minority students of 16 schools of Kontum city to create a useful cultural playground to help the young ethnic generation appreciate their traditional heritage from their own ancestors for the young generation to preserve and promote them and not be lost later.

Cheers to the gong cultural festival competition, gong dances, and performance of traditional ethnic costumes organized in the yard of the Rong House of Kon Klor village near the Suspension Bridge were successful. Especially 100 children of Vinh Son 1 who participated in this Festival brought joy and rewards thanks to their efforts and eagerness during the day on October 29, 2022.





## Khac-Quan Nguyen will be a great addition

By unanimous vote, Khac-Quan Nguyen, joins the FVSO team! Below, he shares some of his experiences and efforts to improve the lives of Vietnam's less fortunate. We know him well, every time a child takes a drink of water.

**"Hello everyone, I am very excited to join the FVSO team and look forward to working with you to transform the lives of many children in Vietnam"**

Khac-Quan graduated from University of Phoenix with a Bachelor degree in Information Technology and Master degree in Information Management. He is now working as Administrative System Analyst at Ohlone College, California. Khac-Quan spent the last 20 years at Ohlone College helping to improve the Online Education experience.

In August of 2010, he founded VietDreams a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization specializing in installing clean drinking water systems that support disadvantaged children in Vietnam. In the last 12 years, Khac-Quan and his team were able to install more than 320 systems at schools and orphanages in 7 different cities in Vietnam. This benefited more than 120,000 children. VietDreams also built more than 70 houses for underserved families and elders in the Southern parts of Vietnam.

## NEWSLETTER STAFF

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**Comments are welcome!**



**Legacy Fund Update**  
**The goal is \$2million by 03 / 2027**  
**Legacy Fund Balance**  
**\$841,379**



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## ORPHANAGE FACTS

About 700 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 (Vinh Son) and St. Paul Chartres (Sao Mai).

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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.