

VSO Friends of Vinh Son Montagnard Orphanage

**October Newsletter
2017
Volume 14 Issue 8**

Contact & Donation Information

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Matching Fund Donation Challenge, Increased

Matching Fund Update for September

Thanks to the new donors listed on the right, the Matching Fund Challenge has been raised from 28,150 to **\$42,400**.

The total August-September donations were **\$29,401** and have been matched dollar-for-dollar.

\$12,999 remain in matching dollars – Please Donate

New Challenge Donors

Pat & Melinda Leary
Bart Ruud
Dave & Elaine Chaix
Jack & Cindy Selman
Michael & Tina Burk
Tim & Colleen Sands
Clyde & Connie Lewandowski

Buckle-Up, it's Back-To-School time in Vietnam

Every September, we receive a report from the Nuns at Vinh Son that describes the ceremonies taking place on the 1st day of school throughout Vietnam. Thus, Sister Marie has provided her description of the activities that recently took place in the Kontum schools. As you will see, she has also sent some photos that reflect the children's excitement and nun's efforts to co-ordinate the joy of that day. This story has only been slightly edited; congratulations to Sister Marie for giving us such a personal and intimate view of this very special day.

Dear Mr. Patrick Leary, President of FVSO

Dear the Board Members of FVSO

Dear our good Sponsors and Donors of FVSO

Today, on the occasion of the Great Celebration of the beginning of the new school year, we would like to send you some descriptions about activities at most of the State Schools in Vietnam generally, and particularly at the ones in Kontum City where most of the ethnic minority orphans are going to study and to get good knowledge for their future lives.

Today is September 5th, 2017, different from other normal days of the school summer vacation, all the orphans of the six Vinh Son Orphanages get up early to prepare to attend in time the great Celebration of the first Day of their New School Year. Yesterday, all of them went to school to prepare the Celebration by cleaning the schoolyards and their classrooms and they hung many red national flags with yellow stars and the banners around the schoolyards. According to the School general Responsible Teacher's orders, they put a small dais on the platform so that the Representatives of the wards or of the communes or the Representatives of Kontum City community or Kontum provincial Committee (as usual they are presidents or vice presidents of the committees) together with their school Headmasters and their Vice Principals, go up there to read their speeches of welcoming and greeting. They encourage all the students on this great occasion.

At 7.30 AM, all the students gathered on the school yard in front on two sides of the platform and of the flag pole. They have to cue and stand on the ranks of their own grades and they keep silence well and they are very serious in wearing their nice school uniforms including: white shirts, blue trousers, white shoes, new school color jackets and a white garrison cap on their heads. Especially this morning, there is a school team of clarinets and small drums. Every student looks very proud and happy to hold the strings of the colorful balloons to celebrate their beginning of New School Year. All the people at the school are preparing the clothes for the celebration of national Flag Salute while singing National anthem according the rhythm of the clarinets and of the small drums.



Traditional clothing is worn on the 1st day, and the backpacks are full of supplies. The children lined up for the walk to school under the watchful eye of the caregivers.

The main education goal in Vietnam is "improving people's general knowledge, training quality human resources, and nurturing and fostering talent." Wikipedia

Most of the schools have the same programme of the New School Year Celebration like this: First, the school general Responsible teacher go to the dais to read the programme of the Celebration and secondly the Headmaster of school stepped up the dais to greet all the representatives and the good students' parents for their children are going to get a scholarship with a school Certificate of Merit in the end of the Celebration. The Headmaster of school also reported all the situation of the students study during the last school year, all the results of study from the students including the numbers of the students who get their standards of knowledge (GOOD-QUITE GOOD-AVERAGE-WEAK-BAD) and then he or she promotes a new plan of school for all the students to follow to make progress in learning at school. He or she also introduces to all the present people the numbers of the newcomers in this new school year. After the Headmaster's speeches, the newcomers walk around and in front of the platform with a big flag ahead and a small flag in their hands to wave and greet everyone together with their form teachers following them.

Thirdly, The Vice Principal of school stepped up the platform and stood on the dais to read the State President's letter with the content of welcoming and greeting all the students in nation-wide and his encourages to urge and to advise all the students should try their best to work well at school now in order to be the solid pillars in constructing and in protecting the country in the future. And next, a representative of the school teacher staff steps up the platform to promise to teach all the subjects well with their best daily teaching improvements and then a representative of all the students of school stand on the dais to thank all the representatives, the parents ,the teachers and he or she promises to work well at school and follow all the disciplines and school regulations to get the good results during this new school year.

Finally, the Headmaster of school goes to the big drum and beats three rolls of drum as the sign of the first Day of the New School Year and all the students let the balloons out of their hands together with their loud cheers to start their new school year.

All the Sisters and all the ethnic minority orphans, together with the volunteers of the six Vinh Son Orphanages, always carved in their minds and in their spirit all the gratitude to FVSO Board members, benefactors, sponsors and donors who have sacrificed their time and many funds to improve the poor ethnic minority orphans in Kontum here. They promised in their heart that they will study well at school to pay back their gratitude to all the donors of FVSO.



Let's hear it for the kids of Vinh Son 1. A similar scene would also take place at the other Vinh Son locations

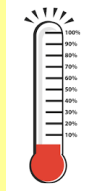




The "bicycle brigade" from VS-1 gets ready to head out to the challenge of another school year. The bikes are courtesy of FVSO.



Legacy Fund Update
 Target is \$2.0m in 10 years
 Total contributions to date
\$402,065
 % achieved = 20%



Please join us in thanking these benefactors for supporting the Matching Fund Donation Challenge

Hanson McClain Financial Advisors, Sacramento, CA
 VVA Chapter 535 Nevada County, CA
 Dave and Claire Christensen, Auburn, CA
 Fr. Thomas Relihan & Parishioners, Lone, CA
 Michael and Tina Burke, Auburn, CA
 Jim and Jane Gardner, Mount Aukum, CA
 Marine Corps League 711, Monterey Bay, CA
 Jim and Susan Sheahan, Camp Verde, AZ

Legacy Contributors

- Jim & Jane Gardner
- Henry Huddleston
- Glen Smith
- William Higbee
- Corps Detachment 711

Legacy Contributors

- William Higbee
- 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

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Support FVSO by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com

Words Of Wisdom

When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive--to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love.

-- Marcus Aurelius

Vinh Son & Sao Mai Orphanage Facts

- 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

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Donation Information

Please make checks payable to FVSO or Friends of Vinh Son
 Donations are gratefully accepted year round
 \$12 feeds, shelters and educates one child for one month