

August Newsletter 2021 - Volume 18 Issue 8

Contact & Donation Information

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2021 Donation Target

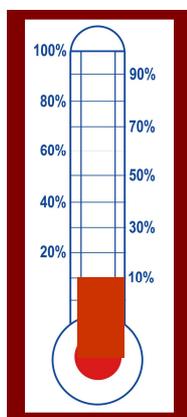
\$150,000

Donations To Date

\$ 14,185

Needed To Reach Target

\$ 135,815



In This Issue

- Fundraising Update
- Fields of Joy
- Y Thuy Has Grown Up
- The Face of Hunger
- No slow-down at Sao Mai

Fundraiser: Strong 1st Month

Every donation that FVSO receives makes a huge difference in the lives of the VS children; just take time to appreciate the photo's that Martha recently shared with us (on page 3). Conditions in remote villages in the Highlands are so different compared to the environment at Vinh Son.

YOU do make the difference



QUESTION: What makes the children rejoice with so much joy? ANSWER: "Gardening!"

During the Coronavirus lockdowns, the children living at each of the Vinh Son locations were not allowed to leave their orphanage. As a result, and due to other Covid protocols, there have been no reported cases of the virus at VS. Thank God. In an air of excitement, the kids were recently unleashed to work in the fields, while some children tended to other self-sustaining FVSO success stories...from chickens to pigs, farmland to banana trees...the goal has always been to foster independence. They love to work together.

From Child to Adult, She's Full of Compassion & Gratitude

Yesteryear



Today



Her Name Is Y Thuy

For years, FVSO has utilized the image of the little girl (left) in newsletters, mailings, and advertising. Her gentle stare pierces the soul, as she seems to be saying, "I'm thankful for this meal, but I hope there will be more soon." We recently caught up with the older Y Thuy (right), and asked her to comment on how having adequate food has impacted her life.

My name is Y Thuy, and I'm 17 years old now, and have lived 12 years in the VS-4 Orphanage. I feel very happy and lucky to live in Vinh Son because I have enough food for my daily life. My favorite food is pork and chicken which is rare and precious for people living in the ethnic minority village. They eat rice, vegetables, salted dry fish, sodium glutamate every day and if they are lucky, they can catch wild rats, frogs, toads, snakes, fish, crayfish to improve the daily meals. But now, it is very hard to find food because of the deforestation, don't have good environment as in the past time. I saw many children in the village who are always hungry and very poor. I have three meals every day thanks to FVSO supporters' funds for food. Without FVSO's help, I will get the malnutrition and my health will be worse and worse. So, I hope the benefactors will continue to help us enough food to save my life. I promise all our benefactors to study well at school to look after myself and help the poor people in the future.

A passing young man, named A Vy, had this to comment about the food at VS-1

It is very different at Vinh Son orphanage. I have lived there for 14 years, and all my friends and I have been healthy during this time. There is no one in my orphanage who is rickety, thin and weak because of malnutrition. Thanks to the donors and benefactors of FVSO, who every year give us funds for food. I love our daily meals: instant rice noodles, bread, milk, omelet for breakfast, fish, pork, tofu, chicken and vegetable soup for lunch, and fish, pork, shrimps, salad and fruit for dinner. We also we have clean water to drink every day.

Remote Montagnard Villages Fight Hunger

All photographs taken by Martha in a Xedang village near Dak To



Martha reports on life in the Highlands

July 2021

I recently traveled to the Dak To area to visit the Xedang people who live there, and document conditions. It is so different from Vinh Son. They are very miserable and have no daily adequate food source. They rely on nature, which only supplies some of their needs. Most of them are farmers who do their farming every day in infertile fields on the hills. Their families cannot earn enough money to pay the school fees or provide for their children' daily meals.

The poorest Montagnards have only one meal a day with very simple and poor food. They have salt and chilli pounded, soup of cassave leaf and rice. That is barely enough for a main family meal. I took photos of the children, but there were not many smiles. It was easy to see they also suffer from many illnesses that make them look pale, rickety, and skinny. They are uncertain about their future life.



Whether it's investigating a friend's nose or reading a good book, Sao Mai is a lively home



A Sumer in Hope

Sao Mai children are living in a joyful atmosphere, enjoying a wonderful summer, but besides that, they always carry the common mood of all people: wishing for the Covid Pandemic to end soon so that everyone activities and life back to normal.

Although the summer is fun, the children do not forget to review their lessons every day and prepare knowledge for the upcoming new school year. They also have time to read books, read stories, read newspapers to expand their knowledge, as well as know more about the situation in the country and the world. May Sao Mai always be filled with joy and always be a refuge for everyone who comes.

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Comments are welcome!

Words of Wisdom

I'm enough of a realist to understand that I can't possibly reach all the children, but I'm also more of an optimist to get up every morning and try.

Don't ever think what you have in your hand is insignificant. There's definitely someone out there who needs it.

Darkness can't drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hunger can't drive out hunger; only food can do that.

Legacy Fund Update

The goal is:

**\$2 million dollars
by March 2027**

Legacy Fund Balance

\$912,211



AmazonSmile is a simple, automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization, at no cost to you. Shop at smile.amazon.com, and find the same convenient experience with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. Just type in the Vinh Son Montagnard Orphanage to make your choice.

Orphanage Facts

About 775 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.