



A Humanitarian Non-profit Organization Approved by IRS Code 501(c) 3 & California Section 23701D

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December 2016 Newsletter - Volume 13 Issue 10

- Fundraising update...WOW!
- Christmas drawings and celebration party
- Note of appreciation from student Y Thoai
- Christmas greeting cards on sale now
- VHPA Aviator magazine ad finds new supporters

The Matching Donation Challenge – A huge success!
The total matching dollar fund reached \$45,300 because of our generous benefactors listed below.



Total regular donations received for Aug-Nov were
\$56,394

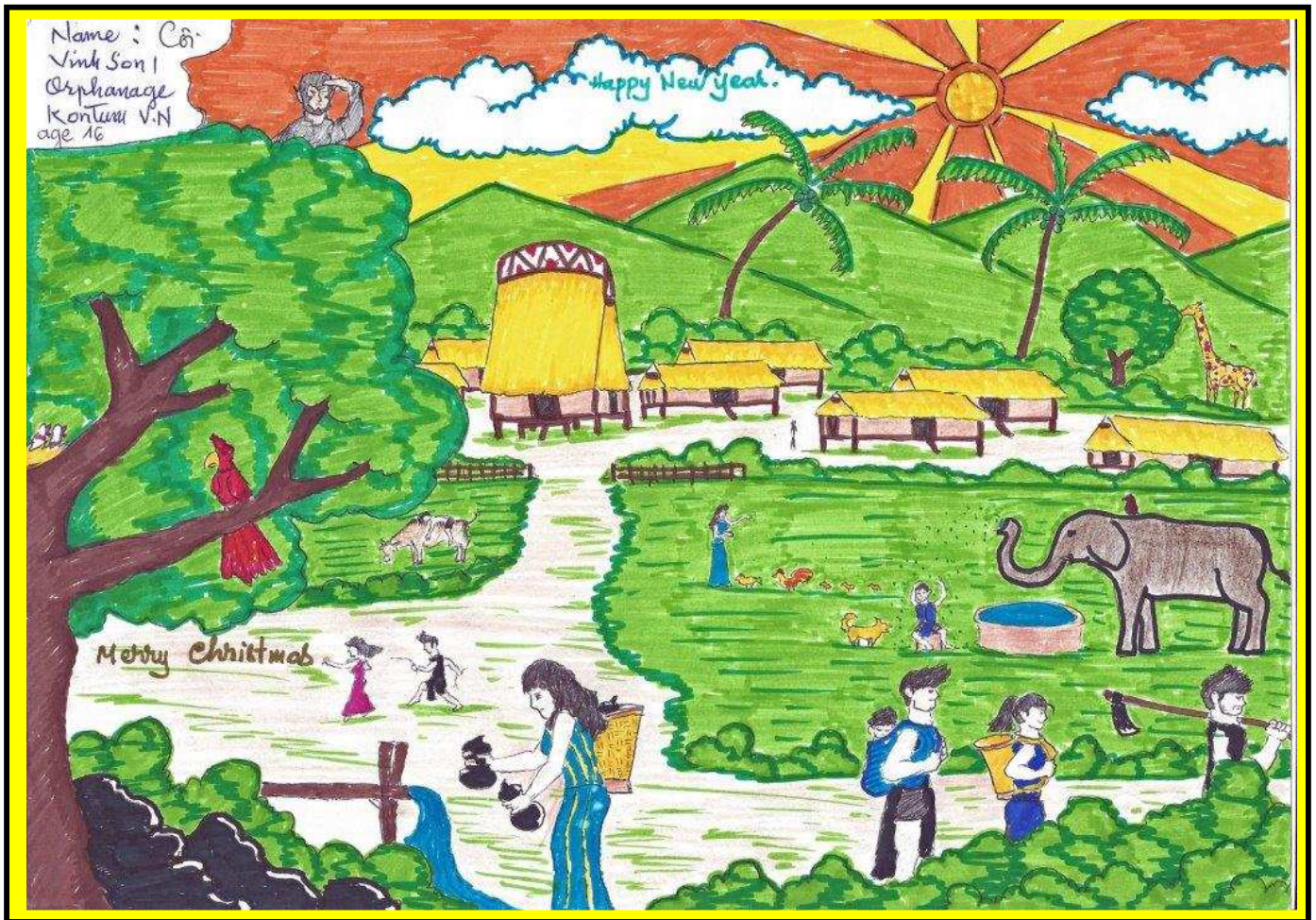
When matched with Challenge funds, the total is
\$101,694

Year-ending donations continue to come in for which we are most grateful. Tax deductible!

2016 Benefactors

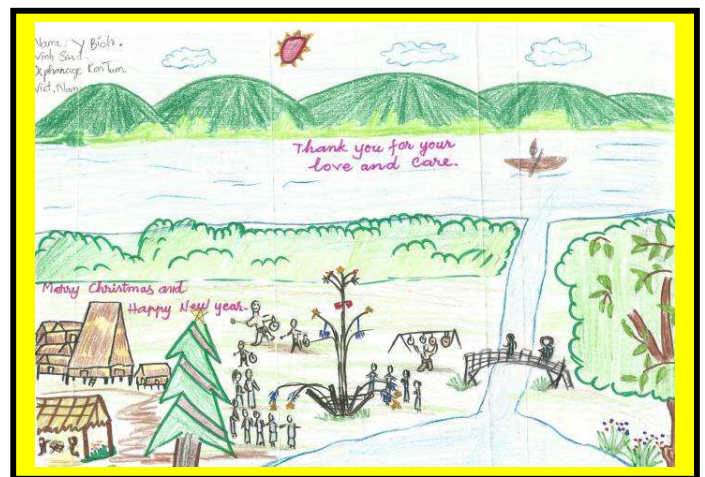
Hanson McClain Financial Advisors
Bob and Carolyn Lee
VVA Chapter 535 Nevada County CA
Dave and Claire Christensen
Jerry Sherburne
Father Thomas Relihan
Michael and Tina Burke
Steve Holley
Dave & Elaine Chaix
Richard & Elaine Lahey
Clyde & Connie Lewandowski
Pat & Melinda Leary
Pat & Dennis Coyne
Alan Brooks
San Juan Capistrano Rotary
Auburn CA Rotary
Ann & Mark Thelen
Bart Ruud
Colleen & Tim Sands
Mike & Sharon Bauerly





The Christmas greetings (above and below) are original drawings by the children at Vinh Son, Kontum. It is their way of sending you thanks for your generous support in 2016. Their environment is still fragile. The possibility of drought, floods, unpredictable government programs, disease or any number of other calamities is always present. Yet, the pictures the kids draw show an innocent picture of their world. It is a world full of bright skies, fertile fields, community and hope. It underlines that the greeting **“Peace on Earth and Goodwill to Men”** is truly a deeply embedded universal hope for us all. Thank you for your part in helping to foster that hope. May this Christmas and New Year be one of joy, happiness and promise for you and your loved ones.

The Board of FVSO



On December 18th, the children of Vinh Son will enjoy their annual Christmas party, thanks to the many volunteers and contributors who make it possible. This year's celebration will take place in the daytime, which should make the activities easier for everyone involved (games, dinner, musical performances and presents from Santa). Below are scenes from last year; we'll have a complete summary and new pictures in the January 2017 newsletter. Can you imagine throwing a party for 700 excited kids! Stay tuned...



Long time FVSO supporter and Marine Corps Vet, Steve Holley, is providing the funding for Y Thoai's higher education. Below is her recent email.



November 16, 2016

Hello, my name is Y Thoai and I live at Vinh Son 2 which is in Ly Thai Ward, Kontum city. I am enrolled in the Nursing Program at Medical High School in Kontum. Thank you for your love and kindness. I wish you peace, health, and happiness.

I received the money you sent in October and am very happy to receive the 1,600,000 you sent for living expenses and also the additional 2,200,000 which I used to buy a Samsung Galaxy smart phone. For a student like me, it is a huge amount of money which will be used to cover the cost of my education. I really love everyone from Friends of Vinh Son for helping a poor student like me.

But, your country is a sky away from us and I do not know how I can return the favor except to tell you, "Thank You" from the bottom of my heart. Please accept my deepest gratitude. I always hope that you will visit Kontum again so I can say thank you in person. Please forgive my delay in sending this message.

Yours, Y Thoai I sincerely thank you!

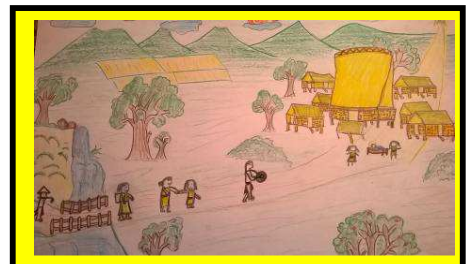
Y Thoai is 20 years old and has been at Vinh Son 2 since she was 10 years old. She came to the orphanage when her mother passed away. In September, 2016, she enrolled in the Nursing program at Kontum Medical School. While going to school she plans to continue to live at VS-2 where she will help care for the little kids in exchange for room and board.

Christmas Greeting Card Offer

Christmas, as seen through the eyes of Vietnamese minority children, is depicted in these beautiful cards drawn by children at the Vinh Son Orphanages, Kontum, Vietnam. We have printed a few of our favorites, and sell them in packs of 12 for \$12. The cost of the printing has been donated, so all \$12 goes to post high school education tuition for children from the 6 Vinh Son orphanages.

To purchase cards, go to
<https://www.etsy.com/shop/LoveWithoutBorders>

To learn more about FRIENDS OF VINH SON, go to
<http://www.friendsofvso.org/>



*Joy to the world!
 Celebrate the season
 with love
 that has no borders.*



**The VHPA
AVIATOR**
The Newsletter of The Vietnam Helicopter Pilot Association

Getting the FVSO message out has always been a top priority. We're grateful to these former "chopper pilots" for helping us spread the word!

Friends of Vinh Son Orphanages (FVSO), Vietnam

FVSO helps support 850 Montagnard children living at 7 orphanage sites in the Kontum and Pleiku area. Founded in 2005 by servicemen who served in the Central Highlands, we are a small organization and are proud that 100% of your donations go to the children and their caregivers.

FVSO Board members pay for all of the administrative expenses and any on-site visits. Our mission is to provide for basic needs (food, medicine, clothing and shelter) & education.



It takes \$12 per month to provide adequate nutrition for one child and \$80 per year to send a child to school (covering primary & secondary). Operated by the Catholic Sisters of the Miraculous Medal.



FVSO is a non-profit and all donations are tax deductible
For more information or to make a contribution, please see our contact info below. THANK-YOU for helping!



Our ad ran in the Nov/Dec edition of the Aviator, a publication of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilot Association (VHPA). The VHPA has a membership of over 15,700 helicopter pilots from around the world, out of the approximately 40,000 who served as helicopter pilots in the Vietnam War. They publish six magazines each year and this is our first advertisement in the Aviator.

Long-term supporting organizations

- 189th Assault Helicopter Company
- 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion (A and D Companies)
- Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 535, Nevada County, 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

Words to live by

Do all the good you can,
in all the ways you can,
to all the souls you can,
in every place you can,
at all the times you can,
with all the zeal you can,
as long as ever you can.

-- John Wesley

Vinh Son & Sao Mai Orphanage Facts

- Population – approximately 830 Montagnard children in seven orphanage facilities
- Administered by the Sisters of the Miraculous Medal & St. Paul Chartres
- Location – Kontum/Pleiku, Vietnam
- \$12 feeds, shelters, and educates one child for one month

Officers

President – Pat Leary
Secretary - Open
Treasurer - Colleen Sands
Senior VP - Pat McKee
1st VP - Sr. Marie Dominique
2nd VP - Michael Little

Board of Directors

Hank Gonzales
Rich Lahey
Clyde Lewandowski
Bart Ruud
Dave Chaix
J. Glah & S. Fisher

Advisory Board

John Scott & Bruce Herron

Donation Information

Please make checks payable to FVSO or Friends of Vinh Son
Donations are gratefully accepted year round
100% of administrative costs are paid by the Board and Officers