

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

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Year-End 2012 Newsletter - Volume 9 Issue 7

So much to be thankful for

After a very rough start in life, little A Ga Ney has recovered from his illness and in late October, he returned to the Vinh Son orphanage in Kontum. Evidently, he had contracted pulmonary tuberculosis, which he inherited from his mother, who had died during childbirth.

“Vietnam has about 175,000 new cases of tuberculosis each year and it is one of just 22 countries that have 80 per cent of the cases of TB. In 1995, TB was declared a national priority by our Government and many efforts have been made to screen and treat infectious individuals to stop the spread of TB.” Dr. Kim Cuong, Hanoi Medical University

While Ney was in hospital, he shared a room with an infant, whose family quickly “adopted” him, providing love, care and physical comforts. How grateful we are to Tram Anh and her lovely family for their acts of kindness!

A special thanks goes out to the 189th AHC, who funded all related expenses (medical-travel-living).

A Ga Ney still must fight the battles of a premature birth, but he is strong and ready for the road ahead.

Sister Marie Kham has also recovered and returned home in time for the Christmas celebration.



A Ga Ney will enjoy his first Christmas at the old Wooden Church



Thank-You!!

From Vinh Son 6



Matching Fund
\$30,000
Contributions to Date
\$25,000
To Go
\$5,000

As we close out the year...

2012 has been another very satisfying year! We're on target to achieve our annual financial goal, which translates into food, medicine, shelter and education for the children of the Vinh Son/Soa Mai communities for another year. In the January newsletter, we'll spell out just how your generous contributions meant all the difference. But for now, please accept the gratitude of the kids, caregivers, and the Board of FVSO. You made it happen, once again!

Our Matching Fund benefactors donated \$30,000 this year, and there's still time for you to take advantage of “doubling your money!”

Wishing you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Just in time for Christmas



We love joint projects! Partnering with our friends from Australia and the Netherlands, we've been able to activate two very significant construction efforts. A new kitchen at Vinh Son 3 will provide healthy food for over 60 children; while the major reconstruction of the main dormitory at Vinh Son 5 (above with VS5 kids) will provide a clean environment and a "real" bathroom for its 90 children. Because of our intense focus on basic needs, we couldn't undertake these kinds of building projects without the wonderful support from our international partners.

2012 Christmas celebrations will be held at each of the orphanage sites, a group effort supported by:

- Orphans of Kontum, Netherlands (Diny Jansen)
- Viet Dreams, California (Khac-Quan Nguyen)
- Ask@VSO, Australia (Derek Smith)
- Poussieres de Vie, France (Patrick DeSir)
- FVSO, California (Dave Chaix)

This is the only time the children receive a gift all year long, and it's also the last chance you have to see your FVSO donations doubled. Please join us in wishing the children and caregivers a **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



FVSO secretary, Dennis Coyne, has created a 2013 calendar with beautiful images like those above, featuring the kids from Vinh Son and Sao Mai. These unique calendars are available for purchase by: Emailing us at: info@FriendsofVSO.org

Or mailing a request to:

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Veteran Organizations supporting FVSO

- 189th Assault Helicopter Company
- Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 535, Nevada County, CA
- Counterparts
- 4th Infantry Division Association (NY & NJ Chapter)

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 - Dave Chaix
Secretary - Dennis Coyne
Treasurer - Colleen Sands
Senior VP - Pat McKee
1st VP - Sr. Marie Dominique
2nd VP - Michael Little

Board

Hank Gonzales
 Rich Lahey
 Clyde Lewandowski
 Bart Ruud
 Patrick Leary
 Alan Brooks

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