

January Newsletter 2022 - Volume 10 Issue 1

Contact & Donation Information

FVSO: P.O. Box 9322, Auburn, CA 95604

Email: FriendsofVSO@gmail.com

Web: www.FriendsofVSO.org

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2021 Annual Report, Presented by Patrick Leary, FVSO President

At the end of 2020 we were blessed by the generosity of our donors especially bucking the headwinds of the pandemic. Despite 2020 being the first year of the pandemic, we reached and surpassed our budgeted revenue expectations. Setting a budget for a charity is tricky even in the best of times. We had special challenges as the pandemic continued into 2021. We set our budget with cautious optimism.

2021 donations started out well below expectations and we had to pull funds from our investment account twice, once in March and once in June, to meet the commitments we made to the Sisters. We started our Fall fundraising campaign a month early hoping to catch up. Entering December, we were well behind our target but still maintained hopes of reaching our budget goals. By the end of December you, our donors, once again demonstrated an amazing generosity and a personal connection to our mission for the kids in Kontum and Pleiku. Not only did we meet our goal to cover the 2021 budget but also we surpassed it by a large amount. We were able to pay back the funds we borrowed from investments.



Christmas celebrations may have been curtailed this year, but little A Soa, age 9 months, is definitely feeling the holiday spirit.

Below is a brief summary:

Our 2021 budgets were set at \$300K for revenues and \$275K for expenses. We actually exceeded both. Revenues came in at \$338K, while expenses finished the year at \$296K.

38%	\$129,200	Primary Needs
34%	\$116,000	Agriculture and Building Maintenance
12%	\$42,000	Investment Fund Allocation
5%	\$17,500	Secondary Education
5%	\$15,500	Healthcare
3%	\$10,000	Primary Education
2%	\$7,800	Administrative expense (Board Funded)

We will be discussing our budget in detail during our January Board meeting and finalizing it by the end of January. Once again, we will remain cautious but optimistic.

There are many people involved in our mission to make this happen. Look at the last page of the newsletter. The names of the Board and the Newsletter Staff are there. With their dedication and your support, these kids are building a foundation for their future. **What a wonderful team for the kids.**

The Christmas Story From Kontum, Vietnam

Christmas of the year 2021

Facing the situation of Covid 19 pandemic which is still very complicated with its very bad effects so all the preparation to organize the celebration of Christmas this year had to be appropriate according to the assessment of the Ministry of Health on the pandemic level by province, city district and commune, including four following colors: red is a very high-risk area, orange is a high risk, yellow is a medium risk and blue are safe areas with very few people infected with Coronavirus so the people have their daily activities and their travel or their work which are followed or controlled or lockdown up to the kind of color classification where they live. Vietnamese government tried their best with strict measures to prevent the spread of the Delta variant Coronavirus in the community.

At this Christmas time of previous years, there were many catholic Christians in remote parishes of Kontum province, and even the tourists gathered in front of the wooden church to attend Christmas Eve Mass .

Concerned about the spread of the Covid pandemic, Christmas Eve Mass this year was celebrated in a shorter and simpler way and strictly followed pandemic prevention measures especially wearing the mask and keeping the two-meter distance between two people. During the Christmas Eve Mass, there were some policemen and the self-defense militias of the local Ward remind everyone to follow the measures of Covid prevention and there was a limit to the number of Christians who wished to attend Mass this year. Kontum province is classified as a Yellow zone so the parishioners can go to church to attend the Masses.

The parishioners in Kontum want to attend Christmas Masses, they must have two shots of vaccine, and the parishioners who have symptoms as fever, cough, sore throat were encouraged to stay at home and should not go to church to attend the Mass.

Particularly at the 6 VSO, the kids have a common activity which is to make a Christmas Crib every year at each VSO to help them practice virtuous habits, know to decorate the cribs and do their collective work, know to cooperate with the Sisters and help and love each other more. Differently from previous years, all the five VSO there were the priests who came to celebrate the Christmas Eve Mass at each VSO, except for VS1 which is very close to the Wooden Church so the Sisters of VS1 chose the representatives from all the children there who have two shots of the vaccine to go to attend the Mass. Although the Covid pandemic has broken out again, the Sisters have tried to create a joyful atmosphere for the children during the Christmas season, particularly after the Christmas Eve Mass, when they had a good Christmas party. They also got gifts, played some joyous games and sang Christmas carols which made them very happy.

The older children of junior and senior high school did not forget to get up early the following day to continue to do their 1st-semester exam because there is no Christmas vacation in Vietnam. Although there are many difficulties and hardships during the time of the Covid 19 pandemic, we can see the bright, hopeful faces of the children of VSO here in Kontum. We, and all the children, thank you, all the donors and benefactors of FVSO with all our hearts. We look forward to your continued support and help so that our VSO can join hands with FVSO to improve the lives of the most unfortunate ethnic minority orphans in Kontum.

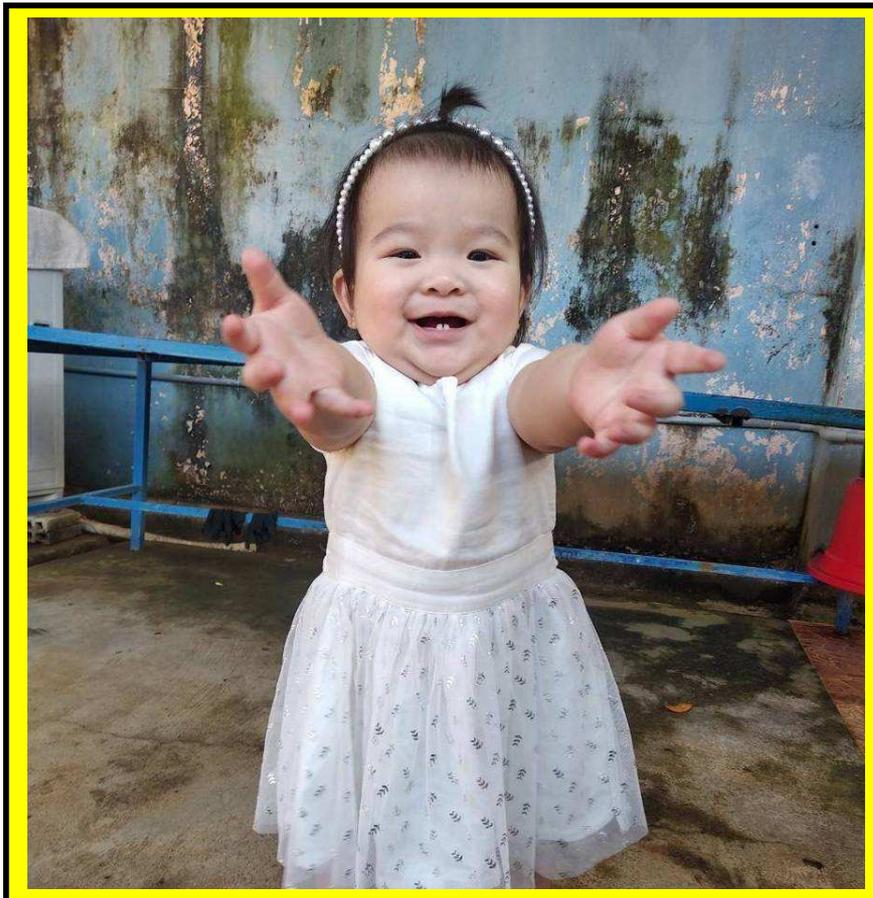


The Christmas spirit was felt by the children of Vinh Son



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Baby Ngo Mai Lan of Sao Mai greets everyone with a hug

From the Sisters and children of Sao Mai's home, would like to thank Mr. Patrick and FVSO for the past year of favoring Sao Mai.

With lots of love, words of encouragement, along with spiritual and material gifts, Sao Mai does not know how to repay your generous heart, other than prayers and efforts to live well, hoping to partially repay FVSO's love for us. May God bless you and your family with abundant blessings.

Newsletter Staff

Mike Little	Editor
Martha Phanh	Associate Editor
John Ho	Translator
Sister Anna	Sao Mai
Ngo thi My	Contributor

Email: FriendsofVSO@gmail.com

Comments are welcome!

Legacy Fund Update

**The goal is:
\$2 million dollars
by March 2027**

**Legacy Fund Balance
\$920,660**



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 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).

Officers & Board Members

Patrick Leary	President
Nga Wynne	Secretary
Gene Mapa	Treasurer
Bart Ruud	Senior VP
Clyde Lewandowski	1st VP
Michael Little	2nd VP
Pat McKee	3rd VP
Dave Chaix	Board Member
Hank Gonzales	Board Member
Ken Tokutomi	Board Member

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.