

FVSO Friends of Vinh Son Montagnard Orphanage

October Newsletter 2022 - Volume 19 Issue 10

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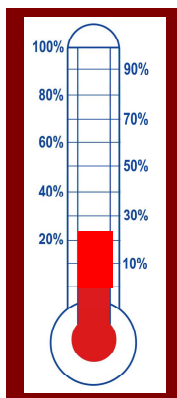
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Fundraiser Target (July-Dec)
\$150,000

Donations To Date
\$ 39,040

% Achieved
26 %

Balance Needed
\$ 110,960



Fundraiser Update

We launched our fundraising drive in July with a goal of \$150,000. That would amount to \$260,000 in donations for the year, and would cover our promised contributions to the nuns. Despite facing difficult obstacles this year, our donors have continued to support the kids. We are currently at 26% of our goal with 3 months to go. We are very grateful for your continued support.

Patrick R. Leary, President FVSO



Happiness is giving and receiving a Moon Cake!

HEADLINE: Every year Vietnam and other Asian countries celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival or Moon Festival. It is one of the two most important holidays of the year. It is a tradition over 3,100 years old. On the first full moon after the 8th month, they celebrate three important cornerstones of their lives: Family, Thanksgiving and Prayers for the Future.

The children in the orphanages gathered together to celebrate as a family with prayers, singing, dancing and of course the traditional Lion Dance. For the children, the most important event is the giving of Moon Cakes, sweet little delicacy that they can enjoy with their friends. This year FVSO, in partnership with VietDreams, made sure each child in VSO and Sao Mai had a moon cake to enjoy.



The Lion Dance at Sao Mai

MID-YEAR HAPPINESS at Sao Mai

On September 10, 2022 was also the full moon of the 8th lunar month in Vietnam, everywhere jubilantly welcoming the Mid-Autumn Festival. The children shared lanterns, gifts, cakes, and went to see the lion dance. The orphans of Sao Mai did not enjoy the Mid-Autumn Festival with their parents, but they were in charge of organizing the activities with the children.

Every Mid-Autumn Festival, all the children aspire and wish to happily process the lights and watch the lion dance. Understanding that wish, the Sisters invited the lion troupe to perform. The atmosphere was bustling with jubilant drums. The children's eyes lit up as they watched each dance of the two lions. Bustling laughter makes the Mid-Autumn Festival joyful and warm.

At Sao Mai, each child has a different situation, but when they live here, they all love, support and help each other. Sharing the cakes and candies is so touching. Older children help younger children in daily activities as well as in learning. Despite the lack of parental love, the children are still cared for. The children's happiness is thanks to the love and help of benefactors near and far (VietDreams and FVSO). Not only helping them have a meaningful and happy Mid-Autumn Festival, but also supporting them throughout their life journey.



VietDreams and FVSO shared the expenses for this year's celebration

Martha and John Ho describe the joyful “Full Moon Festival” that was especially appreciated this year

On September 15, 2022, each Vinh Son orphanage organized a joyful "Full Moon Festival" with a lot of interesting and exciting activities and this was a chance for all the children to show their solidarity, their love and to share their feelings, help them understand more about these customs of this Mid-Autumn Festival which has tightened the feelings of attachment and their life in their own Vinh Son orphanage.

At 7.00 p.m, most of the children of each Vinh Son orphanage gathered in holding the lanterns in their hands to join the lantern procession in the yard in front of the house. There were many kinds of fruits, candies, and some gifts for the children to have fun. And the children could watch the Lion dances performed by the children's teams of Lion dance. At night, under the full moon, the drums of Lion dance mingled with the clear laughter resounding throughout their own Vinh Son orphanage.

Under the sparkling candle lights of their lanterns, the children have served out a mid-Autumn festival cake and fruit together: They ate cakes and drank soft drinks while watching the Lion dances and the musical items and everyone was very cheerful and happy. Especially this year, all the six Vinh Son orphanages have all organized the Mid-Autumn Festival at home and at the parish churches where the children of Vinh Son could see each other and celebrate this Festival together with other children in the villages of each parish.

Particularly, the children of Vinh Son 1 and Vinh Son 2 orphanages joined the magnificent lantern procession at the old Wooden Church. They exchanged with other children of the villages of their parish, as well as Special Mid Autumn Festival characters such as Miss Hang and Uncle Cuoi. There was also a Lion dance team, invited from Ho Chi Minh City by the parish priest, and supported by the VS Sisters. The children were served out together with the mid-Autumn Festival cakes and fruit.

All the children have felt joyful, excited, and full of happiness to receive gifts, joined the lantern procession, and enjoyed tasting cakes given thanks to the money of FVSO and VietDreams association's benefactors who have supported funds for this Festival with 695 Mid-Autumn Festival cakes, one given to each child of the six Vinh Son orphanages.



All the children have felt the joy, excitement, and happiness to receive the tasty cakes, and joining the lantern procession. They look just a little camera-shy here, but it wouldn't be long before the smiles returned to their faces.



A safe and easy way
to make your FVSO
donation

The links and QR code will take you to
the Friends of Vinh Son Montagnard
Orphanage web page.

<http://www.PayPal.me/FVSO>

[http://www.
paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1362165](http://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1362165)

No Transaction Fee



Founded by Vietnam Veterans, FVSO supports seven orphanages, over 750 ethnic minority Montagnard children from ages 1 week to 18 years old in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. We provide funds for food, medicine, clean water, dental care, housing and education. We also sponsor 20 students in trade schools or college level education every year. These orphanages are run by Catholic Nuns.

Source: PayPal Giving Fund Charity Profile

Newsletter Staff

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



Legacy Fund Update

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

Legacy Fund Balance

\$825,536



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 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

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Gene Mapa
Bart Ruud
Clyde Lewandowski
Michael Little
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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.