

April Newsletter 2019

Volume 16 Issue 4

Contact & Donation Information

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

Email: FriendsofVSO@gmail.com

Web: www.FriendsofVSO.org

In This Issue

- Heartbeat Vietnam
- The Love of a Caregiver
- Projects making a difference
- In Memory of Juris

Lunch Time for the Boys

“Losing your parent at a tender age is like losing everything. The love, care, support and what have you. It only takes determination, strong will and the love, care and support from others to make a difference in the lives of these ones as they grow to face their future. You and I can impact their lives...Just a little love, a little care, a little support can make a huge difference in a child's life. Support an orphan today!”

– Oziohu Sanni

“I don't really know them, but I know this: they're just like your kids were. Or are. Sweet, trusting, good in ways we adults hardly even remember. We have to look out for them. Not because of the tattoos, or in spite of them, but because they're kids and we're supposed to look out for kids.”

– Sabrina Vourvoulis



Photo courtesy of Byron Pipkin, fellow traveler with the Dave Chaix tour group. Read Byron's impressions of Vinh Son in the May Newsletter

FVSO has been contacted to assist Heartbeat Vietnam, a subsidiary of the VinaCapital Foundation (vinacapitalfoundation.org).



Heartbeat Vietnam funds life-saving heart operations for the most financially disadvantaged children in Vietnam.

It is proposed that FVSO contribute \$1,200 to fund a team of four MDs and support staff who will screen the children of Vinh Son and Sao Mai for heart defects. It is estimated 1 in 100 children have some sort of treatable heart issues, many caused by agent orange exposure. Once identified, Heartbeat Vietnam will pay for the cost of treatment.

A recent study of heart surgeries in Vietnam estimates that there are thousands of children waiting at any given time to receive this surgery. Many of these children are never diagnosed. Many will die waiting for help. **The FVSO Board has approved this project, and will report back (currently delayed, waiting for governmental approval)**



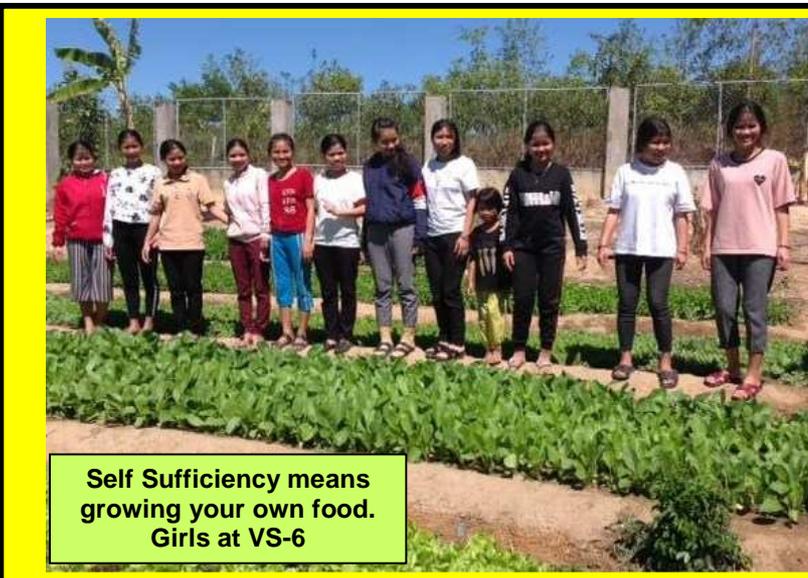
TWENTY- SIX YEARS of SERVICE

Mrs. Y Blan, a seventy-one year old Bahnar caregiver, lives in Plei Tongia village of Kontum City. She has a happy family, but no children. She works at Vinh Son-1 all day, seven days a week, from 8 am to 5 pm and once a week, she stays overnight to take care of the babies.

Her daily duties include: bathing, washing clothes and feeding the kids. She works very hard and loves the babies with all her heart and sacrifice. She is pleased to see the orphan babies grow up and be healthy every day. She is really the orphan baby's mother of Vinh Son. Despite not having children of her own, Y Blan takes great pride in watching the children take their first steps into the world.

Thanks to her sacrifice and her care, Y Blan has made the orphan baby's life happier, safer and more peaceful. For 26 years, Y Blan has given her life to "her children," and she is loved by everyone.

With Gratitude, Sister Martha



Self Sufficiency means growing your own food. Girls at VS-6



Projects that will make a huge difference in their lives

Two new toilets for VS-5

\$1,000

The toilets are needed for health and sanitation reasons, crowding and too few toilets currently for the population. They will be installed in the main house where Sr Marie Kham is in charge. This was a high priority project.

“Once again, thank you for all you do for us.”

Expanded classroom at VS-3

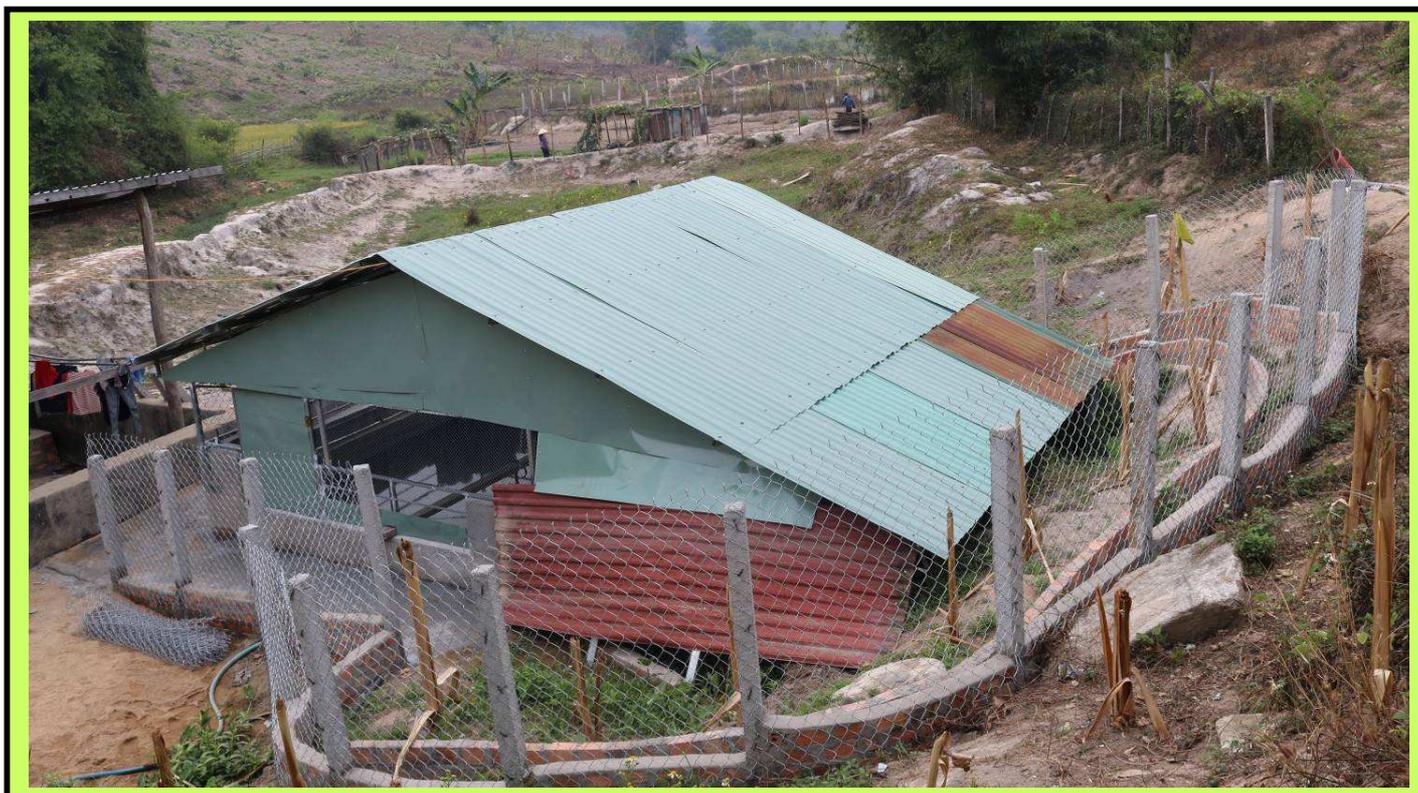
\$13,000

Sister Gabriel does an incredible job at VS-3. An improved classroom facility will long stand as a tribute to her wonderful work. An improved physical resource will surely empower the children and result in learning outcomes that will open the door to a better future for the children.

With Dave’s on-site assessment in hand, FVSO was positioned to address a number of important projects across the Vinh Son world. As a result of your support, we’ve highlighted some of these major achievements.

Drilling for new water source at VS-4 (project completed as viewed below)

\$2,275



Relocate the piggyery at VS-5

\$2,200

The current piggyery is entirely too close to the main housing facility. As such, it represents a serious health hazard and it makes sense to relocate it as a means to reduce potential health problems. This project was noted as a relatively high priority item by Dave and his team during their visit.

Purchase land title for VS-2

\$7,000

Because of complications and complexities of land ownership and transfer, the VS-2 orphanage was in jeopardy of losing their land. **“Our land is cultivated land so we have to pay all the taxes and fees when changing hands. With your help, our lands will not be at risk and we will not be worried about losing our land. I thank all the Board very much.”** Sister Basile Y Ngat

Juris Jurjevics (1943 – 2017)

Long time supporter and friend of FVSO, has passed away at age 75. A memorial service was held in Brooklyn on March 26, where his friends and family were invited to make donations in Juri's memory by supporting his favorite charity, Friends of Vinh Son. Thousands of dollars were gratefully received in his name.

Sister Martha of Vinh Son 1 had a personal friendship with Juris. Years ago, he had supported her while she was getting her education in the Philippines. **“He was a good person with a good heart...we will remember him in our prayers.”**



We pray for Juris in our daily prayer (Sao Mai orphanage)



Enlisting new benefactors

We can help you connect with potential new supporters of the Vinh Son and Sao Mai orphanages.



- Board Members are available to speak at military reunions or to local civilian groups.
- Distribute copies of the monthly FVSO newsletter to your friends and interested groups. Forward the on-line versions and website information via e-mail.
- A Power Point presentation, detailing the FVSO story, is available for your use.
- Tell your personal story. Why are you a member of this team? What would you tell a potential supporter about FVSO? Your history might prompt others to reach out to the children of FVSO.

Legacy Fund Update

The goals are:

\$1.0m by Dec 2020

\$2.0m by Dec 2025

Total Contributions

\$592,490



Words of Wisdom

“It seemed like an unachievable goal for one person to bring sunshine to one hundred little faces when what they need is a mother's piece.”

— Jean Webster

“Orphanages are the only places that ever left me feeling empty and full at the same time.”

— John M. Simmons

Vinh Son & Sao Mai Orphanage Facts

- About 830 Montagnard children live in seven orphanage facilities in the Kontum/Pleiku area, Vietnam
- FVSO is a humanitarian, Non-Profit organization approved by IRS Code 501(c)3. Donations are tax deductible.
- Orphanages run by Sisters of the Miraculous Medal & St Paul Chartres

Officers & Board Members

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

The Kids



Donation Information

Please make checks payable to FVSO or Friends of Vinh Son

\$12 per month provides each child one nutritious meal every day.

Donations are accepted year round