

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

P.O. Box 9322 Auburn, California 95604-9322 - Email: info@FriendsofVSO.org -Web: www.FriendsofVSO.org

January 2013 Newsletter - Volume 10 Issue 1

## Kicking off the New Year



### Message from the Secretary

FVSO strives to communicate with you as best we can. Some of you are on email and some U.S. Mail. Please let us know if we are effectively reaching you, or if you'd like to discontinue receiving the newsletters. Obviously, it's more cost effective for us when we communicate electronically. Feel free to visit our [FriendsofVSO.org](http://FriendsofVSO.org) web site to sign up for the email list.

We welcome your comments or questions. You can contact us at the addresses listed above.

**Dennis Coyne**

### Bottom Line Financial Update

The "Matching Donation" program was another success, closing out the year on a high note. Total annual donations reached \$138,610 (down slightly from year ago), while the actual disbursements to the orphanages were up 32% at \$155,236. Basic needs continue to be our primary focus, although we will entertain large projects when funding partners can be found. Last year, there were so many deserving projects that we had to reach into our reserves, making your donations more appreciated than ever. We anticipate another successful year of support for our Vinh Son and Sao Mai communities!

Normally, FVSO President, Dave Chaix, would be using this opportunity to express his gratitude to all of our donors who helped make 2012 a very successful year. However, Dave is currently in Vietnam doing what he enjoys most, spending time with the children and caregivers of the Vinh Son and Sao Mai orphanages.

Dave has been back to Vietnam a dozen times since 2001. As a veteran, he has a lasting relationship with the country, but it's the children who have become such an integral part of his life. In his own words, he describes the healing process:

***"The 1<sup>st</sup> time back was all about the past; the next was about the past and present; now, the trips are all about the future. Being involved with the children and FVSO has been very good for me."*** It certainly has been great for the kids!

Accompanying Dave this year is the FVSO treasurer, Colleen Sands, her 2<sup>nd</sup> visit. Together, they will meet with Mother Superior at the Convent, and travel to each of the 7 orphanage sites. ***"We need to understand what went well this past year and what did not, so that we can adjust going forward."*** Like you, we look forward to their report and the wonderful photo images.

On behalf of Dave and Colleen, the FVSO Board and Officers extend our deepest gratitude for your support in 2012, the years before, and the years to come. Thank-you!

**Friends of Vinh Son**

**A Ga Ney (right) needed to be hospitalized for a week in mid-January, but is now back at Vinh Son 1, looking healthy and happy.**



# Vinh Son 3 begins the year with new kitchen



Little A Phuoc (top right), along with his 64 brothers and sisters at VS-3, will soon be enjoying meals cooked in their new, modern kitchen & dining room (left). Sister Gabriel has managed this project, jointly supported by a trio of non-profit groups: FVSO, Orphans of Kontum (Netherlands), and ASK (Australians Supporting Kids). These partnerships are vital for the funding of large construction jobs. Dave will take photos for us during his on-site visit. Bon Appétit!!



## 2013 Anticipated Projects (after Basic Needs)

1. Water system maintenance – water filters. A joint project with Khac Quan of Viet Dreams. Anticipate up to \$3,000 for maintenance by MK Water Co. DaNang
2. Tractor tires and tractor maintenance/repair
3. Blankets and mosquito nets
4. Higher Education Fees: University Fees (\$1,770.); Nursing School (\$1,800.); Medical School for 6 students (3,000.); Pedagogy - 3 students (\$840.); Accounting – 2 students (\$560.)
5. Parasite Medication – estimate \$850 about August 2013
6. Epileptic medication for Anh and Khoi at Sao Mai Orphanage - \$195, Quarterly
7. East Meets West Foundation Dental Clinic – August

## Veteran Organizations supporting FVSO



- 189<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Company
- Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 535, Nevada County, CA
- Counterparts
- 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association (NY & NJ Chapter)
- 14<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Btn. Association



### 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