

March Newsletter 2022 - Volume 19 Issue 3

Contact & Donation Information

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

Email: FriendsofVSO@gmail.com

Web: www.FriendsofVSO.org

In This Issue: A Family Affair

Somehow destiny comes into play. These children end up with you and you end up with them. It's something quite magical.



Alone No More

The littlest ones at Vinh Son-1 Montagnard Orphanage

When anyone asks for a one-word description of the Vinh Son orphanages, the answer comes easily...**“Family.”** The toddlers (above) may have pensive looks on their young faces, but they have nothing to worry about. Despite being the youngest and most vulnerable, they are protected by the watchful eyes of the older kids. They share a common experience, often the sad result of an incomplete family, missing one or both parents. VS children must learn to rely on each other and their caregivers for everything. FVSO is part of that commitment to make sure these “littlest ones” have what they need to follow their dreams.

This edition of the FVSO newsletter highlights the children’s progression from infant to graduate, from daily suffering to a place full of hope and the chance of a rewarding future.

“Looking at the innocent eyes of the little orphans who do not know anything about the sorrow and loss in their lives makes us heartbroken”



Protecting the Littlest

Y Da My lives at Vinh Son-1 orphanage, the youngest daughter who has two siblings and she belongs to the Rongao tribe. Her parents died when she was a newborn baby, forcing her and their older sisters to stay with their grandmother, who was very poor and could not take care of her granddaughters. Y Da My was allowed to join the orphanage and has stayed there for six years.

The tearful, little girl, **Y Ai Linh**, belongs to the Jeh tribe and is three years old. She is the youngest girl in her family with many siblings. Her mother was paralyzed and could not look after her; therefore, her mother asked the Sisters to let her stay in the orphanage. She has been there since 2019. Now she enjoys her life beside her close friends in the orphanage, and she will start kindergarten next year like the others of her same age.

The little boy, whose name is **A Tranh**, belongs to the Sedang tribe in Kontum. He is 5 years old now and is in kindergarten. His mother died when he was a newborn baby and his father has abandoned him and all his family. Knowing his very difficult family situation, the parish priest has asked the Sisters to allow him to stay in Vinh Son-1 where he has stayed his entire life.

Interesting note: These three children come from three different Montagnard tribes, none of which are Bahnar, the language spoken at the Vinh Son orphanages. Vietnamese is the official language, and is spoken at school.

...Each Other...

Thanking God for the little orphans to be accepted to live in the VSO where the Sisters try their best to create the good condition to help them heal the wounds in their heart together with other volunteers' help, and through that, they have a life of harmony, solidarity and love with each other with the other orphans living in the same situation. They are hopeful to have better lives and good jobs in the future.

Currently, there are many mature young people who have good jobs and stable lives thanks to their efforts and their study at school while living at Vinh Son. At present, there are 18 mature young people who have graduated and amongst them, there are some who have received a scholarship from FVSO.

Following Dreams

My name is **Y So But** and I have just graduated from the 12th grade. I am now looking after the young orphans in Vinh Son-1 orphanage. First, I would like to say thank you to all the donors of FVSO who have helped and supported us to improve our lives in the future. I am a motherless orphan and my family situation was very difficult. My father was always sick, so he could not take care of his children in the family and my siblings had to leave school to work as hired people. They do not have stable lives.

I was accepted to live in Vinh Son-1 when I was two years old until now, and I have learned a lot of good things here and especially during the last month when I was assigned to look after the little children who were infected with Coronavirus. Now all of them are ok and fine. I am proud of my work with the younger orphans here. I am also happy because I have planned to continue my education in the near future. I hope to begin a baker's apprenticeship and want to be a good baker for my life later on.



What are they doing now?

See Below

Martha recently compiled the information needed to make this very interesting and important list of occupations chosen by the children after leaving the VSO orphanage. The lessons learned have served them well and those who were successful finding work after VSO are valuable role models for those following them.

- 1 young priest
- 29 Catholic nuns & 3 monks
- 1 doctor
- 37 teachers
- 19 nurses and medics
- 2 pharmacists
- 1 artist
- 8 musicians
- 6 interpreters
- 4 waiters & waitresses
- 5 workers at AA Comp.
- 3 mechanics of auto's
- 3 work with techno-info
- 1 gymnastic athlete
- 2 interior designers
- 1 chef of cooking
- 8 tailors
- 1 psyche. counseling
- 10 bakers
- 3 agents of offices
- 1 accountant
- 7 electricians
- 7 people in cosmetics

Listed above are some of the fields the children have chosen to pursue after leaving their Vinh Son home.

A Tuan, now at the Teresa Monastery in HCMC



On A Mission

My name is A Tuan. I lived at Vinh Son-4 orphanage for 15 years. I was born into a poor family and the situation was too difficult. So, my parents asked the Sisters of Vinh Son-4 to accept me to stay at the orphanage. I am also one of the students who received a 4-year scholarship from FVSO

Thanks to the Sisters' love and help and the FVSO's donors, I had a good condition and a good opportunity to live and study at the university.

Last June, I graduated with my specialization in Educational Psychology and then I came back to Vinh Son-4 orphanage to help the Sisters teach the children music, human manners, ethics, practice singing, and educated them in life skills. Eventually, I came back to Ho Chi Minh City to join the Carmelite Order.

I have my good life and my good education now and I have made my dream come true. I will try my best to finish my new mission so that I will be able to help the poor children who have a difficult family situation like mine.

Creating Tasty Treats

My name is Y Lieng and I lived in the Vinh Son-2 orphanage, belong to the Sedang tribe. Because of my poor and difficult family situation: my mother died and my father was very sick so he could not nurture nor look after us children & consequently, he asked the Sisters of Vinh Son-2 to accept me and my younger brother to stay at the orphanage. I was only six years old and my younger brother was just four years old.



Looking back on my sixteen-year stay in Vinh Son-2 orphanage, I feel very lucky to be nurtured and educated, and studied well at school to have our better lives in the future. And luckily my dream has become true now: I am a baker and I feel proud to have a good job to take care of myself now. I would like to thank all the donors of FVSO who have helped and supported funds to improve our lives. When I have days off, I always come back to Kontum to see the children because I consider them to be my own family.

Growing Up at Sao Mai

We listen, look and feel the crisp, innocent laughter and the pure eyes of the children, in their hands, the pages of the book are still turned like the pages of life are still cherished. The children's future is like a rose petal that is gradually blooming and on it, the sweet fragrance is the warm aftertaste of human love. With daily efforts and sacrifices, we hope you can experience God's love, the human love that your benefactors, as well as the Sisters, so that in love, children can receive a good education, grow up and mature fully.

Please pray for the Vinh Son children who have been infected and are fighting Covid-19

Jesus, during Your ministry on earth, You showed Your power and caring by healing people of all ages and stations of life from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments. Be present now to people who need Your loving touch because of COVID-19. May they feel Your power of healing through the care of doctors and nurses. Take away the fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Give them a sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others from exposure to the disease. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them.

Milk Break at Sao Mai



GuideStar is a philanthropic research database designed to fill in the knowledge gaps you need to find the best charities to which to donate in the area you most care about.

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

\$950,764



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.