



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

August 2017 Newsletter - Volume 14 Issue 6

In this issue

- The annual fundraiser is underway
- Meet the new FVSO secretary
- Going high tech with an IT expert
- A wedding at Vinh Son

Matching Fund Donation Challenge

Beginning in August, every dollar donated to FVSO will be **MATCHED** up to \$28,150



August kicks off our annual Fundraising Challenge, when your generous donations will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$28,150. FVSO is again fortunate to have a number of benefactors who have made the matching funds program possible. If we match their contributions, a total of \$56,300 will have been raised. To date, we have received \$77,922 in total 2017 donations, and with an annual operating budget of \$125,000, the Matching Challenge could meet our commitment to the children.

THANK-YOU!!

Please join us in thanking these benefactors for supporting the Matching Fund Donation Challenge

Hanson McClain Financial Advisors, Sacramento, CA
VVA Chapter 535 Nevada County, CA
Dave and Claire Christensen, Auburn, CA
Fr. Thomas Relihan & Parishioners, Lone, CA
Michael and Tina Burke, Auburn, CA
Jim and Jane Gardner, Mount Aukum, CA
Marine Corps League 711, Monterey Bay, CA
Jim and Susan Sheahan, Camp Verde, AZ



An important role in FVSO is finally filled

June 2017 email from Clyde Lewandowski to the FVSO Board of Directors:

In April 2016, Nga Wynne traveled to Vietnam with our small group. While we were there, I talked to her about our difficulty finding younger Board members who are passionate about helping the kids.

This morning, Nga asked if she could join the FVSO Board of Directors.

Nga was born in Can Tho, which is in the delta region. At the age of 19, on her 5th attempt, she escaped by boat to the United States. Nga is about 20 years younger than most of us Board members, has 3 sons and is married to Craig Wynne. She is the head teller for 2 of the 5 branches of Bremer Bank, a regional bank group. When we were in Vietnam, Nga seemed to be the first one to offer help when we saw someone in need. Nga has willingly done a lot of translating from Vietnamese to English for me. She knows what is required of a volunteer Secretary and eagerly accepts the challenge. Without a doubt, I recommend a "Yes" vote.

A vote was recently taken, and we are happy to announce that Nga Wynne has joined the Board immediately as our Secretary.

WELCOME ABOARD, NGA!!

Dear FVSO Board Members,

I would like to sincerely thank you for giving me the opportunity to be part of FVSO. After attending the board conference call in June, I only became more excited at the prospect of joining the FVSO organization. From the bottom of my heart, I truly appreciate the courtesy and warm welcome from Patrick and each of the Board members.

A little bit about myself, I was born and grew up in the Mekong Delta, South Vietnam. During the War throughout my childhood, I saw and met many orphanage kids the same age as me. I left my motherland in 1984 as one of the boat people. I've lived in the U.S most of my life, dreaming some day that I could go back to Vietnam to help the children in my memories.

In 2016, my husband, Craig Wynne, and I had the opportunity to accompany Clyde Lewandowski to visit Vinh Son 1, Vinh Son 2 and Sao Mai orphanages. I spent much time with the children to understand their life styles and also their needs. It was easy to see how FVSO affects and supports the lives of the children in so many ways. I was touched deeply and, at times, could not hold back my tears. FVSO inspires me in so many ways. Since my return to the U.S, I have committed myself to join FVSO to make a difference in the children's lives.

Nga Wynne-

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."



Nga (upper right) is enthusiastically welcomed by Y Vui and the little one below



FVSO joins the technology world with new Advisor

We have tech support !

Sean Grame has answered our quest to help us with expanding our message with Social Media. I am most excited. Sean has our passion. Sean is a high school student at Athenian HS in Danville CA. His experience includes a great story. He and some friends got together and for the cost of a pizza and soda raised over \$750 for a local charity on a crowd sourcing endeavor in one night. He has visited Kontum 2x with his grandpa Rich and like us you can feel and hear his passion for what we do when you talk to him.

Although WEB, Facebook, and Youtube are "so old school" they are the backbone of any social media presence. I am going to continue to work on the WEB site myself. It will be the basis of our Social Media content. Sean will start by organizing and maintaining our existing FACEBOOK and Youtube presence. He will work closely with me. After we put a saddle on FACEBOOK and Youtube, (means educating you and me !) we will expand into Twitter, Instagram and whatever else seems valuable.

Having Sean help us with his youth, his passion and his skills is most exciting for me and will certainly manifest itself in helping the kids.

Please welcome Sean as our Social Media and IT Advisor !!



Good Evening All,

I appreciate all of the warm welcomes from Patrick and the rest of the Board. A little background about me. Quite a few years ago my grandfather started a company in Vietnam and was introduced to the orphanages. Years later, when I was around 8 years old, he took me to Vietnam and passed his passion for helping the children on to me. From the first trip I took to Vietnam, I solidified my belief that all children deserve a future, and I made it my goal to insure that. From then on, I have spread the word about the orphanages to friends and family. I am inexpressibly excited to work with FVSO because not only do I get to work with honorable Vietnam War Veterans, we can also work together helping the cause we all are passionate for. Through this opportunity you have granted me, you're empowering me to make the change that I have sought after.

I am currently attending The Athenian School near Mount Diablo, in Danville, CA. I have built computers, developed apps, and created websites from scratch. Technology is my forte and that is what I plan to bring to the table.

Together, incorporating all of our skills, we can work to make our online/social media presence strong and take FVSO's appearance to the next level. I have made plans to up our Facebook out put to a weekly/bi weekly basis and to upload YouTube videos more frequently. Videos are basically slideshows of photos with text incorporated showing both sides of life in the orphanages. More importantly, showing how the money we raise is implemented into each child's life and the significant difference it is making.

It's a group effort changing lives! I would love to hear from all of you about what changes/improvement I can help on. Also, if there are any comments or questions you have, I would love to address them.

I cannot thank all of you enough for granting me this opportunity to work with you.

Many children, many orphanages, one common goal;

Sean Grame

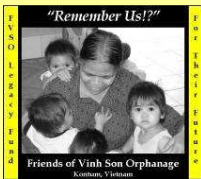
“I do” on a special day



She was 6 months old when she came to Vinh Son 1, Kontum, in April of 1996. Three years later, she reached out a hand to a stranger, Marion Little, who was visiting the orphanage with her husband, Mike (A FVSO Board Member). That was the beginning of special relationship that has lasted to this day. The child's name....**Y NHUN**.

Now 20-yr's old, Y Nhun has left Vinh Son, and on June 29th, she was married in the old Wooden Church to her groom, Han. Although Mike and Marion could not attend the ceremony, Y Nhun helped share the moment by posting a number of photos on Facebook

Please join us in wishing Y Nhun and Han a long and happy marriage.

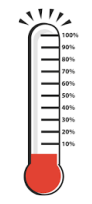


Legacy Fund Update

Target is \$2.0m in 10 years

Total contributions to date
\$393,338

% achieved = 19.7%



Legacy Contributors

- Jim & Jane Gardner
- Henry Huddleston
- Glen Smith
- William Higbee
- Corps Detachment 711

Legacy Contributors

Long-term supporting organizations

- 189th & 155th Assault Helicopter Companies
- 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion (A and D Companies)
- VN Veterans of America, Chapter 535, Nevada Cnty, CA
- Marine Corps League Detachment 711, Salinas, CA
- Counterparts Association
- 14th Combat Engineer Btn. Association
- MilSpec Tours (800-953-5812)
- Fr. Luke Tran (VN-SHEP) Social Health Education Projects
- Fr. Relihan, Sacred Heart Church, Lone, CA
- Rotary Club of San Juan Capistrano, CA

amazonsmile

Support FVSO by starting your shopping at
smile.amazon.com

Words Of Wisdom

Where I was born and how I have lived is unimportant. It is what I have done with where I have been that should be of interest.

-- Georgia O'Keefe

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 – Pat Leary
Secretary - Nga Wynne
Treasurer – Ken Tokutomi
Senior VP - Pat McKee
1st VP - Sr. Marie Dominique
2nd VP - Michael Little

Board of Directors

Hank Gonzales
 Rich Lahey
 Clyde Lewandowski
 Bart Ruud
 Dave Chaix
 Colleen Sands
Social Media Advisor
 Sean Grame

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