

December Newsletter 2021 - Volume 18 Issue 12

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Fundraiser Update

Because of our amazing supporters, we will again surpass our Fundraising goal. For the last two years, through all the uncertainty and disruption, I have been humbled by the generosity of our donors. On behalf of the FVSO Board, we are most grateful. We are providing a future for these kids, a future we promised them many years ago. There is still time to make your commitment to the Vinh Son and Sao Mai communities. While we expect to exceed our goal for the year, every dollar will help ensure the quality of life the children deserve. While there are always unexpected needs, especially in this time of Covid-19, FVSO will be ready, willing and capable to help.

The funds we raise this year will provide a guideline for our budget next year. It's vitally important that each orphanage understands the limitations and expectations for the resources we will plan for the upcoming year. Because of your continued generosity, the Nuns will not be disappointed. Basic needs, education and self sufficiency will be a focus, along with any emergency efforts to fight the effects of the pandemic. In January, the Board will define and approve a budget for 2022, confident that the funds will be adequate to meet all their needs. **Because you care.**



Sister Gabriel at Vinh Son 3

We would like to ask you to continue to open your arms of love to help our children to have their good and happy lives now and in the future. We feel very grateful.



Back to school they march from Vinh Son-1, the children hope and pray that schools stay open for in-class teaching because they don't have the electric devices to help them learn. One day, it's the morning trek to school; then, the next day, they are ordered to remain at home. Life is confusing living under the cloud of Covid

This edition is dedicated to all the nuns and caregivers who spend every day caring for the orphan children (young and old) of Vinh Son and Sao Mai. There are no days off and with over 700 kids under their care, it “ain’t always easy.” In this newsletter, they express their gratitude and hopes for the future.

Sister Thuot at Vinh Son 4:

We don't have anything to pay back to your help and your support to all the children of our VS4 orphanage. We just know to pray for all of you, our benefactors and we promise you, we will try our best to look after all the orphans of VS4 so as not to betray your love and your support which you have sacrificed for all the children here. We pray God and our Mother of God Mary grant all of you good health and peace and we wish all your charitable would bring happiness to unfortunate orphans here.



Sister Tran at Vinh Son 1: All the Sisters and all the children of VS1, we feel very happy to be helped and supported to improve our children's lives better and better every day by all the benefactors and donors of FVSO.

Sister Tuyet at Vinh Son 2: We thank all the donors of FVSO very much and we ask all of you to continue to open your generosity to help and improve the orphan's lives of VS2 better and better every day.

Sister Kham at Vinh Son 5: We thank you very much for not abandoning our orphans of Vinh Son 5 in any difficult situation. As for us, we promise to take care of them and educate them.

Sister Thuynh at Vinh Son 6: We thank you very much for all your help and your support to our orphans of VS6 during the past time until now and in the future.



Like the year before, 2021 was very difficult for the children at the 6 Vinh Son orphanages because of Covid-19. Below is a review of their “new normal.”

Martha Phanh and John Ho

Covid 19 isolated the children for a long time. Their schools were closed so they couldn't study in a good teaching environment. Those children attending senior high schools had to study online, but there weren't enough devices like computers and laptops. Some of them did study online thanks to the smartphones that they borrowed from friends. For the children of junior high schools or primary schools, they couldn't study online like Vietnamese children because there weren't enough devices for them either. The teachers of their classes sent the orphanages photocopies of lessons and exercises. The children did the exercises the best they could, and gave them back to the teachers to be corrected and to receive their grades. Because of this situation, most of the younger children could not study directly or online during the period of the Covid -19 pandemic.

Most of the districts of Kontum province had positive cases, people who came back from Ho Chi Minh City or from nearby provinces, making it very easy for them to be positive. Also, the variant Delta virus spread very fast in the community. Due to the social distance, isolation, and lockdown in most of the districts of Kontum province, families couldn't come to visit the orphanages as before. The children became homesick, worried and sad. They were also disappointed because they didn't have their summer or TET vacations since they must stay all the time in their orphanages. There were no musical programs nor lion dances to enjoy during the Mid-Fall Festival; instead, everyone received cakes and candy, which still made them happy.

The Covid-19 pandemic broke out again and again, creating havoc in most provinces and cities in Vietnam. It has affected everyone's lives. The children of Vinh Son have endured the Covid hardship the best they could. They are used to caring for one another. With all their heart, they pray the pandemic will disappear soon and life returns as it was before. **Good news:** vaccines have been given to everyone 12 years and older at Vinh Son and So Mai orphanages, which has lifted everyone's spirits.

Education and isolation were the two most difficult conditions for the kids to confront and understand. Covid-19 over-shadowed everything. Never the less, they “fought” for each other every day by following the 5 K protocols.



The Covid-19 5K program refers to five Vietnamese words that begin with the letter “K.” 5K signs are found in hospitals, malls, streets, schools, villages, churches, restaurants, and all six VS orphanages. Everyone must follow the 5K rules.

1. Masks
2. Distance
3. Disinfection
4. Gatherings
5. Declarations





Sister My recently took Sao Mai orphans to a very poor minority village. Everyone was moved by the experience and vowed to be more sensitive to the poor. Above: a moment of Sao Mai lov!

Words of Wisdom

There is a moment which is simple but special and meaningful. It cannot be forgotten. This is a gift that does not need to be bought, but has a big value when we give it. We only can feel this gift by our heart and soul. It's a loving message, and when sent it becomes a meaningful and special moment, because it makes the world warmer.

Sister My, Sao Mai Orphanage

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Comments are welcome!

Legacy Fund Update

The goal is:

**\$2 million dollars
by March 2027**

Legacy Fund Balance

\$907,236



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).

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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.