

Checks payable to: VSO or Vinh Son Orphanage

A Humanitarian Non-profit Approved by IRS Code 501(c)(3)

P.O. Box 9322 Auburn, California 95604-9322 — Email: vinhsonorphanage@yahoo.com

Fundraising Efforts Pay Off!

From July to November 30, 2005, VSO has raised \$7623.35 in donations from generous contributors around the country. We're hopeful that with December donations that we will exceed our 2005 goal of \$9000. A special thank-you goes out to Nativity parish in Cincinnati, OH. They raised \$1579 in their October 16 special collection. Ten months earlier they provided \$2400. This puts them over the \$6,000 level since February 2003. Nativity's continued support



gives us, and the children, great hope for the future.

The Auburn Host Lions continue their strong support of the orphanage by participating for the 5th year in a row.

The Fundraising for the West Coast Auburn group kicked off at the end of October. Their efforts thus far have raised \$6044.35 bringing their total from 2003 to more than \$18,500. Their efforts have really paid dividends. All this fundraising activity guarantees that VSO will meet its commitments for 2005-2006 to provide:

- Basic Daily Needs (food, medicine, school supplies)
- The start-up of the Sewing Machine Project— a unique opportunity to provide and teach life skills

- Communication improvements, through computer upgrades and maintenance

Disbursements of collected funds will commence December 30 at the VSO annual director's meeting. A larger percentage will go immediately to the Basic Daily Needs, while another portion will be delayed based upon on site assessments made at the orphanage in early 2006. Every effort is made to ensure that each dollar meets the children's and their caregivers needs. Large and small, your contributions make a difference, and VSO thanks you!



VSO Board Meeting December 30, 2005

Send your comments/suggestions to our PO Box or email address

Our annual board meeting will occur 10 a.m. Pacific time in Richmond, CA. Our primary objectives will be to assess the progress from our start-up that began July 26, 2005 and plan for 2006.

We welcome any sugges-

tions from our contributors. Your comments may be submitted in writing to the Auburn P.O. Box or by email listed above.

We welcome input that will allow us to better serve the Vinh Son orphans and their caregivers.

If you would like to attend the meeting, we will provide you that information.



December 2005

Volume 1, Issue 2

Board Officers

President:
Dave Chaix

Secretary:
Dennis Coyne

Treasurer:
Pat Keegan

Senior VP:
Pat McKee

1st VP:
Sr Marie Dominique

2nd VP:
Mike Little

3rd VP:
Mike Gregersen

VinhSon Facts

- Population - more than 450 Montagnard children in two facilities
- Administered by the Sisters of the Miraculous Medal
- Location - Kontum, Vietnam in the Central Highlands
- About \$12 feeds, shelters, and educates one child for a month

Meet the officers of the Board

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Your board consists of veterans and friends from California, Kentucky, and Ohio. The following gives you a better understanding of who we are and our commitment to VSO. All trips to Vietnam were solely at the members' expense.

Dave Chaix (below with Sr. Angela) served with the 4th Infantry Division 1967-68 Central Highlands Vietnam and retired from SBC. Dave lives in Auburn, CA.



Dennis Coyne (below with board member Paul Davis at Vinh Son) also served with the 4th Inf. Div. and retired IRS manager in 2004.



Pat Keegan (with Dave Chaix and Sr. Juliana) is an executive at a software/consulting company and resides in Sunnyvale, CA. Pat has extensive leadership in community youth and other charitable organizations.



Mike Gregersen, (with an orphan below) served with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in the Central Highlands 1970-71 and is a construction supervisor with a large firm in the Auburn CA area.



Sister Marie-Dominique Nguyen served the Montagnards in Kontum for 15 years; she taught most of the

current sisters who serve the children today. She contacts them regularly in their own Bahnar language for counseling and financial support.



Mike Little (below with his wife & son during a visit to Vinh Son) served with the US Army in the Central Highlands. Retired from Coca Cola Co., he is currently a sales analyst for the Coors Brewing Company. He has made several trips to Vietnam on behalf of the Montagnards.



Pat McKee (below) is a retired telephone executive. He is active in many service organizations - current two term president of the Auburn Boys & Girls Club. This is Pat's 5th year for raising money for Vinh Son.



Sewing Machine Pilot

As stated in the last issue, the "pilot" project will provide sewing machines to the VinhSon Orphanage and is underway. The older children will learn a usable skill, provide clothing for themselves, and goods to sell. The cost will be

about \$200 to purchase a sewing machine, train a child, and provide material to start the project. We still need funding to ensure success. You may designate your donation for this project if you so desire. Contact Dave Chaix at the mail

or email address listed below if you have any questions.



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