



Three years ago was my first trip to Viet Nam and the chance to visit the orphanages with Dave Chaix leading the way. I returned for two more trips since and each time I go back to the FVSO orphanages I become more committed to the children and the need to help in any way that I can. Next January will be my fourth trip to

Viet Nam with Dave and I plan on continuing with visiting the orphanages in the future even if not with an organized group tour as has been in the past.

On my first visit, my wife Susan, now deceased, and I met an wonderful girl at VSO 6 named Y Uen. She talked to us in broken English, explained that she wanted to be a teacher and from watching her with the other children at VSO 6, we knew that she was going to be a leader and a great example for all the other children. We decided to help her with her college education and she has become a wonderful young lady and has kept us informed about her life in school, her grades, friends and her continuing personal assistance and support at VSO 6. She is a great example of how "pay it forward" will work. I have been helping her and she is continuing to help out the Sisters and children at VSO 6.

I am passionate about helping the children and wish I could do more. This last February I met a young lady at VSO 5, Y Lay. In talking to her through Tano, I found out that she also wants to help the children at the orphanages in the future and possibly become a Sister. When she is ready, I would also help her with her advanced education.

For a brief summary of my background, I graduated from California Maritime Academy in 1971 and became a licensed Marine Engineer in the US Merchant Marine. At the same time, I received a commission in the US Naval Reserve as an Ensign. I worked in some capacity of the

maritime industry for the next 41 years, either on a ship or working in the office with ship management, safety, or inspections.