

# VSO Friends of Vinh Son Montagnard Orphanage

## December Newsletter 2017 Volume 14 Issue 10

### Special Edition

### The FVSO Newsletter

### Keeping Everyone in the Loop

### Contact & Donation Information

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Besides keeping us (Board Members and donors) personally connected through information sharing, our Newsletters provide insightful snapshots of the Vinh Son and Sao Mai orphanages. If any of the photo's and articles have moved you emotionally, that was our intent. Because of your generosity over the years, FVSO has continually improved the living conditions of these beautiful children. By sharing the results of your donations, the Newsletter is also an expression of our appreciation to you, our faithful supporters.

In 2017, we will have published 10 Newsletters during the year. The many images and articles have been meant to highlight results and maintain your trust. Each edition should also assure you that FVSO activities are transparent and that after much consultation, your funds are always spent wisely. By telling "our story," Newsletters are also perfect vehicles to help educate other potential contributors. We hope you share our stories with friends and family. Visit our web site at: [www.FriendsofVSO.org](http://www.FriendsofVSO.org) or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Vinh-Son-Orphanages-117442035007912/> Both are easy ways to stay in touch with us and follow our progress.

For this December issue, we've done something a little different. Of the 50 or so photographs we used in newsletters during the year, the best have been chosen here for re-publication to celebrate their impact and significance during the year. Additionally, a listing of newsletter "topics" is included, meant to provide an example of just how diverse FVSO is in its range of activities and interactions with the orphanages.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the Newsletters this year. It's been a group effort for sure, and we hope it's helped validate all the work required to be "Friends" of Vinh Son. Submitted articles and photos are always appreciated. Tell us what you think of your association with FVSO and the children. With permission, your remarks might find their way into the Newsletter.

The last page of the Newsletter is reserved for facts and figures, along with special recognition for long-time organizations who back FVSO. We're proud to have them in the "family." You've also read the "words to live by" or "words of wisdom" section. Sometimes we all need a little "push" to jump-start the desire to help those who are in need. Hopefully, the Newsletter has helped supply the emotional nudge to open hearts to the children of Vinh Son and Sao Mai. **Thank-you for continuing to support FVSO!**

**Thanks to our donors, we have exceeded our Challenge donation this year and achieved our budget target. Even though there is so much more we can do, we're in good shape to begin 2018. Thanks so much for making that possible! The year-end numbers should be available in the January Newsletter.**

**Thank you for another great year! The smiles are genuine and so is the care they give to each other**

## 2017 Newsletter topics

### January

Financial results 2016  
Christmas Party  
Y Hoi visits a leprosy village  
Board meeting notes

### February

On-site report (Chaix)  
Scholarship update  
Lyly letter to Lewandowski's  
Amazon Smile program

### March

Legacy Fund  
A Marine returns to VN  
Derek Smith's book

### May

On-Site report (Leary & Lewandowski)  
Meeting with Nuns, outline projects  
Book recommendations

### June/July

Letter from college student A Xok  
Additional on-site reporting  
Dental program  
Two kids hospitalized in HCMC  
Benefit concert another success

### August

Annual fundraiser begins  
Welcome new FVSO Secretary  
Tech advisor joins team  
Y Nhun gets married

### September

Fundraiser update (Leary's remarks)  
Construction projects almost done  
Education report  
Mid-year Board meeting notes

### October

Back-to-School ceremony

### November

Fundraising review  
College student letter of thanks  
FVSO donor family outlined  
Christmas preview



**Vinh Son will leave a lasting impression. In 2017, 3 Board members made the trip.**



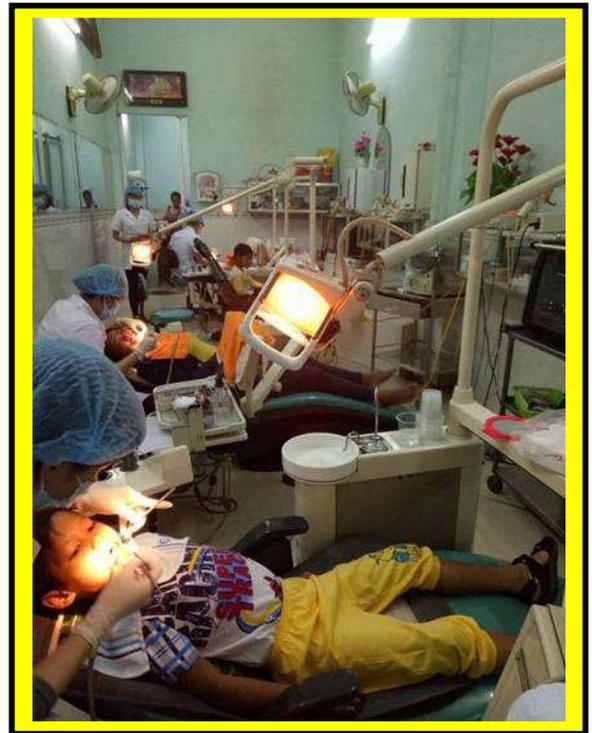
Last minute donations are welcome and tax deductible. Please forward the Newsletter to friends and family to spread the word.



# MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!



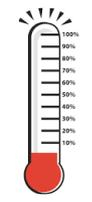
The annual Dental Clinic will soon start up again...the kids love it!



**Legacy Fund Update**  
Target is \$2.0m in 10 years

Total contributions to date  
**\$407,216**

% achieved = 20.4%



### Legacy Contributors

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

### Legacy Contributors

- VVA Chapter 535
- 

### Long-term supporting organizations

- 189<sup>th</sup> & 155<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Companies
- 227<sup>th</sup> 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
- 14<sup>th</sup> 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

**amazon**smile

Support FVSO by starting your shopping at  
[smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

### Words Of Wisdom

*Long years you've kept the door ajar  
To greet me, coming from afar.  
Long years in my accustomed place  
I've read my welcome in your face.*

-- Robert Bridges

### Vinh Son & Sao Mai Orphanage Facts

- About 830 Montagnard children live in seven orphanage facilities in the Kontum/Pleiku area, Vietnam
- FVSO is a humanitarian, Non-Profit organization approved by IRS Code 501©3. Donations are tax deductible.
- Run by Sisters of the Miraculous Medal & St Paul Chartres

### 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  
  
\$12 feeds, shelters and educates one child for one month