

June Newsletter 2022 - Volume 19 Issue 6

Contact & Donation Information

FVSO: P.O. Box 9322, Auburn, CA 95604

Email: FriendsofVSO@gmail.com

Web: www.FriendsofVSO.org

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Front Row, Center Stage

On their way to morning Mass, the children and caregivers from VS-1 stopped long enough for this photo op...and who did we spot in the crowd?...the little boy named **A Soi**, no longer a baby boy, he is dressed in a colorful, striped shirt (above), and by the looks of his smile (left), he's doing just fine.

Having fully recovered from Covid-19, A Soi now has lots of energy to run and play, especially with a pet dog. He is always joyous, sharing that big smile of his with everyone. His favorite hobbies are dancing and watching animated films.

The consensus at Vinh Son 1: "A Soi is a good looking boy! He eats well and talks much!"

Another School Year Has Ended

The old school year 2021-2022 is about to pass together with the sound of the cicadas squeaking and red flamboyant blossoms blooming throughout the streets. The old school year has closed with different feelings that are difficult to express for each student of six VSO whose study at school was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic which caused a lot of big obstacles that disrupted their school work but not so that they were discouraged. They decided to overcome all obstacles, to strive in their study at school as well as in their daily lives. Most of them have successfully completed their task during the old school year with high results.

In the morning of May 23, 2022, the children of six VSO were well prepared after having finished the housework from the previous night to go to school on time for their closing ceremony of the old school year. Most of them were eager, and joyous in wearing their nice school uniforms: a white cap with their tribal traditional school uniforms for the little children of the primary school, a white shirt and blue trousers for the students of junior high school, and white traditional Vietnamese ao dai for the schoolgirls of senior high school and at school, they didn't forget to observe five measures of government for preventing Coronavirus and for being safe in the period of the pandemic.

Thank God the school results of most of the students of six VSO are good: All go upper grade, no one has to retake the exam to go upper grade and a lot of children got certificates of merit and rewards.

Thanks to Martha and John for this fine report.



Update: Safe Drinking Water

We often tell you about how your donations directly affect the children with food, medicine and shelter. Your donations also sponsor major projects that do much to improve their lives. One of these projects is providing clean and safe drinking water. Our partner (VietDreams), specializes in providing water systems throughout Vietnam. We have contracted with them since 2011 to provide and maintain the systems in all 7 locations. Each system is sized for the specific location. It includes a micro filtration system as well as a UV system to purify the water.

Each water system is inspected quarterly by professionals, changing out the filters and inspecting all mechanics. Clean water and health go hand in hand. Since 2011, we've seen significant improvement in the overall health of the kids. Your donations and VietDreams have made this possible.

For more info on Viet Dreams, see our January 2021 newsletter



Update: Covid -19

At a height of 200 cases from the six Vinh Son sites, the children have now recovered and no new Coronus cases reported. Vaccination efforts continue to reach children as young as 6 years old.

The Government said COVID-19 fight remains a key task in order to protect public's health and lives while trying to turn the country into "new normal" as soon as possible.



Update: VS-5 Project

Dear Patrick and all Board Members of FVSO

I am Sr Mary Y Kham, responsible for the Vinh Son 5 orphanage. Representing all the Sisters and all the children of Vinh Son 5 orphanage, I would like to say thank you very much for your love and your help to the poor orphans of VS5 to have a good house to stay and sleep in the rainy season this year. Now all things for building the house are finished and we can use the house for the children to stay in.

It was time to re-build



Update: Sao Mai Orphanage

The Covid pandemic situation is still complicated, but everything is going as normal. Up to now, the school has organized vaccination for primary school students. Therefore, children with diseases and disabilities in Sao Mai shelter are vaccinated. They continue to go to school directly to prepare for the second exam, ending the school year 2021-2022. After a period of social distancing, benefactors still remembered the little souls in Sao Mai's home. The children received the love of so many people and charity groups who sent boxes of milk, instant noodles, confectionery... worried that the children would have enough to eat and be healthy during this Covid season.

May you have joy and health!



Wheelchairs at Sao Mai were provided by the Wheelchair Foundation of Danville, California

**Ken Tokutomi
1950 - 2022**



It is with sadness that we report the passing of Ken Tokutomi. Ken served with many charitable organizations in the Auburn CA community. We were blessed to have him as the Treasurer of FVSO for several years, and as a Board Member with wise council for several years after that. Ken's work on the behalf of FVSO has had a significant impact on so many people, literally thousands of children in Vietnam. His guidance will be missed.

Words of Wisdom

There are many ways you can make an impact on the world. But there is no greater impact that you can make than spreading education, and empowering people who'll empower and teach people, who, in turn, will empower and teach more.



GuideStar, a philanthropic research database, is designed to fill in the knowledge gaps you need to find the best charities to which to donate.

Newsletter Staff

Mike Little	Editor
Martha Phan	Associate Editor
John Ho	Translator
Sister Anna	Sao Mai
Ngo thi My	Contributor

Email: FriendsofVSO@gmail.com

Comments are welcome!

Legacy Fund Update



The goal is \$2 million dollars by March, 2027

**Current Legacy Fund Balance
\$907,023**



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 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.