

## January Newsletter 2021

### Volume 18 Issue 1

#### “For The Kids” Final Results **WE DID IT!!**

Your generosity has guaranteed FVSO support for Vinh Son and Sao Mai orphanages through 2021. As in the past, we will maintain our focus on Basic Needs (food & medicine), Education (primary and graduate levels), Legacy Fund, and projects that encourage self-sufficiency. **The kids thank you!!**

#### In This Issue

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2020 Fund Drive Target

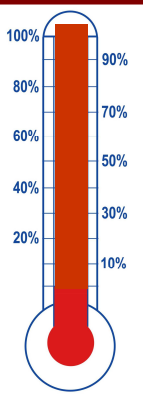
**\$150,000**

Total Donations (Aug-Dec)

**\$192,681**

Exceeded Target By

**\$42,681**



#### Introducing Our Newest Resident

Her name is Y Nuong and she was taken to Vinh Son 2 orphanage on November 19, when she was only hours old. Her mother had just died from lung cancer and “water on the lungs.” Since Y Nuong’s father could not take care of a newborn daughter, he took her to Vinh Son 2. She will begin her life there under the care of Sister Y Men, who is also a nurse (she’s the one holding the baby).

The family is from the Jarai tribe, and their village is very remote. Baby Nuong has 4 siblings, who will someday visit their sister at her new home.

**% Achieved Through Dec. 30 = 128.5%**



## Expressing the Joy of Christmas

Due to the pandemic, the annual Christmas party, funded by FVSO, was cancelled. However, the talented young artists of Vinh Son have drawn a number of Christmas cards that honor their unique cultural background. It's become an annual activity; it's their way of expressing their gratitude.



## Reclaiming the Land by Vinh Son 2

What a change in landscape! Mustard greens, morning glory and onions, with cassava and corn yet to come. The vegetables are shared with other Vinh Son locations. They love working in the gardens.



## Having Fun...Lollypops and a Movie

Often, when visitors come to Vinh Son, treats are handed out to the kids, and one of their favorites is the Lollypop! Of course, gathering to see a cartoon film is high on their list as well!



## Looking back at 2020

The improvements we have seen at the orphanages in 2020 have been directly enabled by your contributions. In 2021, we will continue our focus on our Mission Statement: Basic Needs, Health Care, and Education. We will also set aside funds for projects yet unknown, as there always are. We are proud that the Sisters are on their way to a self-sustaining environment. We still have a long way to go, as theirs is a fragile existence. Drought, floods, medical emergencies, all could have drastic impacts on their lives. They are blessed with your support.

**Patrick Leary, FVSO President**



**On Christmas Eve, these kindergarten children from Vinh Son 1 dressed for the occasion.... a special visit to see the Baby Jesus.**

## A MOST DIFFICULT YEAR

**Martha Y Phanh reflects on a year of challenges**

**Coronavirus.** The Year 2020 is the one when its start is not very lucky because the Covid 19 has spread all over the world and Vietnam. While facing it with the anxiety and the difficulty in life, the students had to change their school schedule and apply and reapply all the measures to prevent and avoid the Coronavirus. They kept their social distance, isolation, obeying strictly the blockade order of the government and they had to wear a mask. Also, washing hands with antiseptic alcoholic gel or special soap, no gathering in a group of more than 5 people and keeping the 2 meter distance when talking.

**Typhoons.** While the Covid 19 was spreading, another natural disaster appeared. Typhoons caused floods and landslides, devastating many coastal provinces and cities in Central Vietnam with a lot of damage to houses, animals, farm crops and human lives. Like the devastating consequences in the central provinces, the six VSO saw damage to farm crops, houses, sewage, water drains, fences and so on. But thanks to FVSO, repairs and upgrades helped with these problems.

**Christmas.** On the occasion of Christmas every year, all the children of the six VSO always have a special celebration where everyone comes together. But this year, because of the recurrence of the Covid 19 pandemic in Ho Chi Minh city, their Christmas party had to be canceled. Nevertheless, all the orphanage children enjoyed Christmas with happiness on their faces that reflected their natural joy. Instead of dances and songs, the 2020 Christmas party was celebrated in their hearts.

**School.** The Sisters did a wonderful job with an improvised plan to home school 800 children. Just thinking about that is exhausting. They kept to the rules and nobody got sick. Just when schools opened again, a second wave hit Vietnam and schools were closed again. It was fortunate that our college students came "home" and stepped up to help the Sisters.

**Friends of Vinh Son Orphanage.** Looking back all the past events to see all the love, the generous heart, the noble sacrifice from the benefactors of FVSO and donors during the year 2020 which are a good example and a lesson of human charity for the children to follow. Once again, everyone at Vinh Son thanks all the members and donors of FVSO and we wish all of you a new year full of good health, joy and luckiness. God bless you.

**One of the most important partnerships we have  
And one of the most vital resources for the children**



FVSO has been fortunate to have such dedicated partners as **VIET DREAMS**. Below is a portion of their mission statement, and on the right is an example of the water systems they maintain.

Since 2011, Viet Dreams has been collaborating with Friends of Vinh Son to help 7 orphanages in Kontum and Pleiku on clean water. Every 2 months, with support from Viet Dreams and FVSO, more than 12 clean drinking water systems at these locations receive regular maintenance and service to make sure more than 1,000 users always receive the best water.

Viet Dreams is a 501(c)(3) charity non-profit organization founded by musicians, artists, and music enthusiasts who all share a common goal – to provide disadvantaged children in Vietnam with better educational opportunities and a more healthy, sustainable way of living. It is our duty to provide these children with vital medical supplies and educational assistance.

**WE ARE DEVOTED TO GIVING THESE CHILDREN A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE AND A PROMISING EDUCATIONAL FUTURE.**



### FVSO Contact Information

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**Web: [www.FriendsofVSO.org](http://www.FriendsofVSO.org)**



### Legacy Fund Update

**The goals are:**

**\$1.0m by Dec 2020**

**\$2.0m by Dec 2025**

**Legacy Fund Balance**

**\$818,490**

### SPREAD THE WORD

Board Members are available to speak at military reunions or to local civilian groups. Please distribute copies of the monthly FVSO newsletter to your friends and interested groups. Forward the on-line versions and website information via e-mail.

### FVSO Board Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on **Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>**. A summary will be found in the February newsletter.

### Orphanage Facts

About 830 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 and St. Paul Chartres.

### Officers & Board Members

Patrick Leary  
Nga Wynne  
Gene Mapa  
Bart Ruud  
Clyde Lewandowski  
Michael Little  
Pat McKee  
Dave Chaix  
Hank Gonzales  
Ken Tokutomi

President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Senior VP  
1<sup>st</sup> VP  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
3<sup>rd</sup> VP  
Board Member  
Board Member  
Board Member

### 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.