

A Humanitarian Non-profit Organization Approved by IRS Code 501(c) 3 & California Section 23701D

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Kicking off 2012

February Newsletter - Volume 9 Issue 1

"We have so much to be thankful for!"

On behalf of our Board members, all the children and their caregivers, I'd like to express my personal gratitude to everyone who has supported the Vinh Son and Sao Mai orphanages in Vietnam. Your generosity helped make 2011 another record breaking year for donations (\$160,362 up 45%), as well as for what was spent on actual projects (\$119,848 up 70%). Importantly, we were also able to increase our Reserve Fund.

The year-end fundraiser was another huge success. The matching fund challenge was maximized which resulted in an additional \$39,244 in donations.

We begin 2012 in great shape. With your continued support, we can accomplish our ever increasing goals, both short and long term. Although basic needs remain priority #1, FVSO will also address education, hygiene and improved living conditions.

Again, **THANK YOU** for being a member of this wonderful and grateful family.

Dave Chaix, FVSO President



For the last 7 years, an FVSO delegation has visited the orphanages and come away with great stories, photos and first-hand needs assessment. Although there won't be a group trip this year, we do have individual Board members who will be our "eyes on the ground." Rich Game and Bart Ruud will visit at different times in February; Pat Leary lands in March. We can expect valuable feedback from them upon their return. Stay tuned for the trip reports.

In the last newsletter, we were introduced to new Board member, Rich Game, and his personal efforts to assist in the diagnosis and treatment of 3 orphan girls and one nun caregiver. This project is ongoing as, Rich will return to Vietnam soon and report back.

Rich has contributed much during his brief tenure, and has helped identify serious health conditions that face the kids, like epilepsy, lymphoma, tuberculosis, goiter, thyroid and other cardiovascular conditions. He has also pointed out opportunities to add bar soap and daily milk consumption to their basic needs.

In his own words, Rich sums up his experience: ***"I am stuck on delivering nutrition, hygiene, safety and education to keep them healthy in body and mind."***



**Johnny Cash & Patsy Cline
Tribute Show**
Featuring
THE Rhythm Riders

THE Rhythm Riders

Saturday, February 11, 2012
Show Time: 8:00 pm
Prices: \$40 and \$50
(plus taxes & fees)

DIRECTIONS
1200 Athens Avenue, Lincoln, CA 95648
From Sacramento, take I-80 East. Exit Hwy 65. Turn left on Sunset.
Phone: (916) 408-7777 or toll-free (877) 468-8777

The concert benefits these organizations:
Friends of Vinh Son Montagnard Orphanage – Boys & Girls Club of Auburn
Auburn Placer Performing Arts Center

Our 2nd annual Rhythm Riders concert takes place on February 11th. Last year, this event netted \$8,700 for FVSO, and we expect to do even better this year!

Overview: Current Special Projects

Total Amount Supported by FVSO = \$35,944

1. East Meets West Foundation Dental Clinic (Approved 2/22/11) - Funds of \$3,000 sent June 24, 2011 to East Meets West Foundation, Oakland, CA. This is a joint project with Friends of the Central Highlands, Kersey, PA (FoCH).
2. Collegiate Study Tuition and Fees for six Sisters, approved 6/17/2011 for \$4,560 in total with an annual cost of \$1,680. Four scholarships are to be dispersed over 3 years while two scholarships will be dispersed over 2 years.
3. VS-6 Kitchen/Dining Room project – a 50:50 joint venture with Derek Smith of Australia – was approved 6/20/2011 for \$7,000. FVSO funds (\$7,000) were provided for by Fr. Relihan's Parish (Ione, CA), Hanson McClain Financial Advisors (Sacramento, CA) & Bob and Carolyn Lee (Moraga, CA).
4. Praise Awards for students who earn "Praise Certificates" in school. Approved July 14, 2011 for up to approximately \$1,650.
5. Drilling of deep wells at VS-4 and VS-6 for \$5,000. This was a joint project with Viet Dreams (Milpitas, CA), which contributed \$8,000 for the project. Ultimately, funds were not used at VS-4 but were utilized at VS-2 because some other organization installed a well at VS-4.
6. BAFA Educational Project for VS-4. Approved 8/21/2011 for \$3,200 for one year trial project. This is a joint effort with Possieres de Vie, a French organization.
7. Medication Funding of \$390 approved 10/17/2011 for Nurse Sue Gray (Australia) to be used in December 2011.
8. A VS-1 Roofing project was submitted to the Board on 11/7/2011 as an "Information Item" only. This project was fully funded (\$5,800) by Hanson-McClain Financial Advisors (Sacramento, CA) and C4K (the Netherlands).
9. VS-3 Domestic Supplies. Approved 11/7/2011 for \$585.
10. VS-3 Electric Fans. Approved 11/7/2011 for \$37.50.
11. VS-3 Corrugated Roofing. Approved 11/7/2011 for \$1,540.
12. VS-4 Blankets, Mats & Mosquito Nets. Approved 11/7/2011 for \$780. **Note: This was picked up and paid by Orphans of Kontum (the Netherlands).**
13. VS-5 Blankets, Mats & Mosquito Nets. Approved 11/7/2011 for \$480. **Note: This was picked up and paid for by Orphans of Kontum (the Netherlands).**
14. VS-5 Clothes Drying Structure. Approved 11/7/2011 for \$1,600
15. VS-6 Blankets, Mats & Mosquito Nets. Approved 11/7/2011. **Note: This was picked up and paid for by Orphans of Kontum (the Netherlands).**
16. Diapers for two Handicapped Children at Sao Mai. Approved 11/10/2011 as an ongoing project at \$35 per month with funds to be sent on a quarterly basis.
17. VS-1 Water Purification System for Boys' Dorm. Approved 11/17/2011 for \$2,500.
18. VS-4 Water Purification & Filtration System. Approved 11/17/2011 for an estimated \$3,400. **This system was funded by Colour-4-Kids (the Netherlands).**
19. VS-1 – 6 Water Purification System Maintenance at two-month intervals, by contract with the MK Company (Da Nang, VN) and coordinated by Viet Dreams Milpitas, CA) at an annual cost of \$4,212. Approved 11/17/2011. On or about Nov. 21, 2011 half this sum, or \$2,106, was sent to Viet Dreams (Milpitas, CA) to cover six months. The remaining half of \$2,106 will be sent around May 2012.
20. Lymphoma Assessment in HCMC for Y Don approved for an estimated \$250 on 12/7/2011. Y Don lives at VS-4.



FVSO is fortunate to have some really talented people who keep track of all the projects we undertake, on our own and in partnership with other groups. Most of those listed here will flow into 2012. Each of these projects has been approved by the Board.

Basic needs are not subject to vote. They automatically stay at the top of the priority list.

Special thanks to Dave and Claire Christensen (Auburn, CA) who funded the dental programs for VS 3, 4, 6 and Sao Mai; to Ms. Thien (Pleiku) who handles everything from paying the dentist, providing reports and transporting the children.



"You make us smile!"

Vinh Son & Sao Mai Orphanage Facts

- Population – approximately 730 Montagnard children in seven orphanage facilities
- Administered by the Sisters of the Miraculous Medal & St. Paul Chartres
- Location – Kontum/Pleiku, Vietnam
- \$12 feeds, shelters, and educates one child for one month

Officers

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1st VP - Sr. Marie Dominique
2nd VP - Michael Little

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 Alan Brooks
 Janette Maring
 Richard Grame

Donation Information

Please make checks payable to FVSO or Friends of Vinh Son

Donations are gratefully accepted year round

100% of administrative costs are paid by the Board and Officers