

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

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August 2014 Newsletter - Volume 11 Issue 7

## Annual 5-Month Fundraiser - Aug-Dec 2014

Our annual donation goal is \$125,000. So far this year, we have received \$56,726 in contributions (not counting the \$25,500 in Challenge funds). That means our August-December target is **\$42,774** (or about \$8,600 per month)....**We Can Do It!!**

### Make it count twice!!

Once again, we are very fortunate to have benefactors who enhance and maximize our annual fundraising appeal. Beginning in August, every dollar donated to Friends of Vinh Son will be **MATCHED** up to **\$25,500**. The program ends on December 31, 2014 or whenever the cap is reached. It's the perfect way to make your support count **TWICE!**

#### Join us in thanking our benefactors

- Dave & Claire Christensen
- Hanson McLain Financial Advisors
- Bruce & Susan Herron
- Bob & Carolyn Lee
- VVA Chapter 535, Nevada County
- Steve Holley
- Fr. Thomas Relihan
- Tim & Ann Sullivan

Our loyal supporters continue to come through for the children of Vinh Son and Sao Mai. We've come a long way since 2005, and it's been very rewarding to see, firsthand, the difference the FVSO family has made in their lives. Developing working relationships with other non-profits has allowed us to be more efficient, and that will remain a key focus. We are grateful for their collaboration.

Please share the FVSO story where you can. Every dollar counts, and goes directly to support the kids. We are humbled by your generosity. **THANK YOU!**

**Dave Chaix, President, FVSO**



### Matching Donation Program

**Beginning August 20, every dollar donated to FVSO will be MATCHED up to \$25,500!**



Happy VS-4 children are learning songs and/or watching movies using the new equipment provided by FVSO and Children of Vinh Son

The VVA **VETERAN** magazine will once again carry our message



## Friends of Vinh Son Orphanages (FVSO) Vietnam

Over 800 children (predominately Montagnards) live in Vietnam's Vinh Son and Sao Mai orphanages, located in the Central Highlands (Kontum/Pleiku). Because they are completely dependent on outside assistance for their everyday existence, FVSO makes this annual appeal for donations on behalf of these orphaned children.

### Please Help

A non-profit humanitarian organization, FVSO was formed in 2005 for the sole purpose of meeting the needs of these very special children. Your donations are critical to that mission, and are tax deductible. 100% of the money goes to the care of the children.

### Keep Their Bowls Full

#### Please Join Us By Reaching Out To:

FVSO, P.O. Box 9322-A, Auburn, California 95604-9322

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

Email: [info@FriendsofVSO.org](mailto:info@FriendsofVSO.org)

**These children are often left on the doorstep of mercy. No one is ever tuned away. We at FVSO dearly love the kids, and hope you'll open your heart to them as well.**

This year, our FVSO advertisement will run in the VVA **VETERAN** magazine beginning with the September-October edition, and closing out with the November-December issue. Our message will reach a total circulation of 73,088. What's really impressive is the list of some of the influential recipients who receive the magazine: all members of Congress, all members of VVA, members of Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, VVA supporters, VA Medical Centers and Vet Centers, as well as many libraries, colleges, and research institutions.

**We have a story to tell. The VETERAN helps tell it. While our donor base is both veteran and non-veteran, this is an opportunity to reach those who still carry the cloud of war, and the chance to heal.**



Photo Courtesy of Richard Grame



Photo Courtesy of My Tran

Girls from Vinh Son 1 and boys from Vinh Son 6 carry the same message to you: **THANKS!**



## A bus ride to Ho Chi Minh City yields fantastic results for Lyly!



Lyly has spent her life at Vinh Son 2, and has graduated from high school...truly a great accomplishment! Now, she is hoping to continue her education, perhaps becoming a teacher or nurse.

Clyde and Connie Lewandowski share the recent news from their special friend, Lyly. She has braved the hectic confines of Ho Chi Minh City to take her university entrance exams.

*During the time I stayed in Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City), I saw a lot of beautiful things which only exist in a busy city. When I entered the city, I felt like I stepped into a totally different world. People's lifestyle is very different from Kontum. It is very strange to me because the city is much more advanced compared to Kontum.*

*When I came to the city, the only thing in my head was whether or not I could find the school to take the exam! I didn't think about doing anything else because things seemed so strange, and I was afraid. Many times I lost my way, but I did find the school and felt much better. The school was about one hour from where I was staying. One time I took a taxi, but the driver cheated me.*

*While I lived in Saigon, I went out to eat with two friends who were familiar with Saigon. They also helped me understand the roads.*

*At present, I am done with my exam in Qui Nhon and Saigon. I'm back at VS-2 and wait for the results.*

**Update:** Lyly successfully passed the exam for the HCMC University of Art and Design. **CONGRATS!!!**

Clyde will keep us posted on where she goes from here.

### Long-term supporting organizations

- 189<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Company
- Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 535, Nevada County, CA
- Counterparts
- 14<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Btn. Assoc.
- MilSpec Tours
- Fr. Luke Tran (VN-SHEP)
- Social Health Education Projects



### Vinh Son & Sao Mai Orphanage Facts

- Population – approximately 830 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

**President** - Dave Chaix  
**Secretary** - Dennis Coyne  
**Treasurer** - Colleen Sands  
**Senior VP** - Pat McKee  
**1st VP** - Sr. Marie Dominique  
**2nd VP** - Michael Little

### Board

Hank Gonzales  
 Rich Lahey  
 Clyde Lewandowski  
 Bart Ruud  
 Patrick Leary

### 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