

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

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November 2014 Newsletter - Volume 11 Issue 10

Fundraiser 2014 - THANK-YOU!

Our annual donation goal was \$125,000. Through November 7th, it's exciting to announce that we have surpassed that target with \$125,244 in total contributions (this includes the \$34,500 in Challenge Funds). Your support made it happen!!

Make it count twice!!

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 **\$34,500** (a combination of the two challenges). The program ends on December 31, 2014 or whenever the cap is reached.



Her bowl will stay full for yet another year...thanks to you.

Challenge #1 (\$24,500) benefactors

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

Challenge #2 (\$10,000) benefactors

- Bart Ruud
- Mike & Sharon Bauerly
- Clyde & Connie Lewandowski
- Dennis & Pat Coyne
- Dave & Elaine Chaix
- Mike & Tina Burke

Matching Donation Program

Once again, this program has been a huge success! We have already received \$38,185 in contributions since August. Of that total, \$34,500 was matched. Although we have maximized the program, we continue to solicit donations through year end. Every dime is spent on the children and their care givers.



Photos courtesy of Joanne Glah and Steve Fisher



Christmas Cards That Give

We all buy cards to send to our loved ones. Why not turn that purchase into something that can make a difference in the lives of the children at Vinh Son. This was the thinking behind the visit Joanne Glah and Steve Fisher made to the Vinh Son Orphanages, which we wrote about in our April Newsletter. The talented young artists produced beautiful drawings, four of which have been turned into Christmas Cards. (As the project continues, birthday cards and blank greeting cards will also be available.)

The cards are a beautiful depiction of Christmas as seen through the eyes of a Vietnamese child. As the inside of the cards reads: **"Joy to the world! Celebrate the season with love that has no borders,"** we are reminded to share our love globally, which the purchase of these cards does. A pack of 12 cards, containing three of each of the four designs below, sells for \$12. The cost of the printing has been donated, so all \$12 goes directly to Vinh Son Orphanages, where that \$12 supports a child for one month.

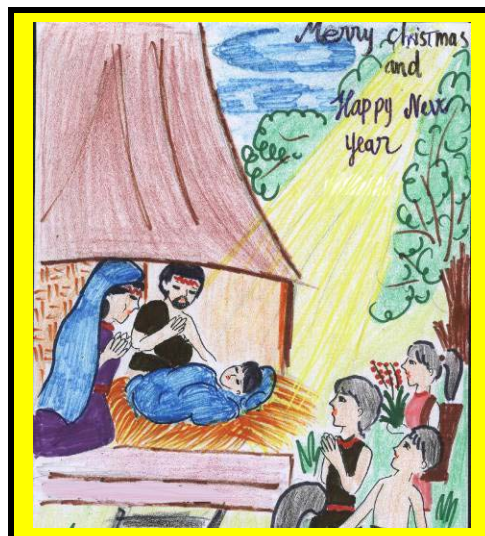
Not only does the purchase of these cards directly support the children, but it also helps spread the word about the very important work being done by Friends of Vinh Son Orphanage through the information on the back of the cards.

Looking for a gift idea? We all purchase those token gifts for acquaintances and coworkers, struggling over not wanting to spend too much money but wanting to get something "nice". Here is an idea for a gift that both you and the recipient will feel great about. You can purchase, for \$12, a card that reads, "I have made a donation in your name to the Vinh Son Orphanage that will care for one child for a month." You can proudly sign your name to this card, knowing that this year your token gift to a friend has made a real difference in the life of a child. **"In your name"** cards are offered in groups of 3, 5, or 10 and can also be purchased through the link below.

This year, let your Christmas cards make a difference in the lives of the children. Make your purchase through: www.etsy.com/shop/LoveWithoutBorders



Traditional villages were often tucked away into the middle of highland jungles. It never hurt to have water nearby.



Montagnards are very musical, depicted here with gong and drum

Christmas Cards, continued

On the back of each card (right), there is a brief summary that places Vinh Son into an historical context. There is also an invitation to learn more about the orphanages and become involved by donating.

Below is card #4. And yes, little children would ride on the backs of huge water buffalos!



Vinh Son Orphanages
Kon Tum, Vietnam

In the Central Highlands of Vietnam live tribal people called Montagnards--a French word meaning mountain people.

Many served loyally with the U.S. Special Forces and other military units during the Vietnam War. When the war ended, this allegiance resulted in lasting repercussions.

The Sisters of the Miraculous Medal started caring for the children during the war, and there are now 6 orphanages with over 900 children. The Sisters rely on contributions from people like you, and the efforts of the children who help with farming, and selling crafts and drawings like this card.

DONATIONS WELCOMED
We hope you will be moved to help the children with a donation. The price of one take-out large pizza (about \$12) will feed, educate, and shelter one orphan for one month.

If you wish to contribute, we encourage you to not only make a personal contribution, but to spread the word about our work to other Vets, your church and community groups.

www.friendsofvso.org
www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Vinh-Son-Orphanages

DONOR'S GIFTS TO FVSO KEEP ON GIVING

Most of our loyal Donors know by now that in October we hit the one million dollar mark in money raised for the benefit of the kids at Vinh Son Orphanages. But the benefits from those dollars don't stop there.

Nearly all of the money that is raised is spent locally in Kon Tum supporting the needs of the Orphanages. It is spent at the local markets, businesses and construction trades. It is spent for food, clothing, medicine, and services that make life for the kids so much better.

The following are excerpts from an article published by Vietnamplus on Oct. 13, 2013:

Central Highland province Kon Tum strives to progress

After being re-established more than 20 years ago, with great efforts Kon Tum province has attained impressive and important socioeconomic achievements, particularly in poverty reduction.

Annual economic growth for the periods:

1992-1995	9.15%	
1996-2000	9.85%	
2001-2005	11%	(Donations started Mar.2001)
2005-2010	14.51%	(FVSO started in 2005)
2011-2012	13.89%	
2013 (est)	12.4%	

As one can see the Donors of FVSO have had an enormous impact on the entire region, not just the Orphanages, to reduce poverty and improve the lives of everyone in the Kon Tum area.

Please keep this in mind with your next contribution. Your dollar keeps on giving the gift of hope and prosperity to thousands of people living in and around Kon Tum.

Article submitted by Pat McKee, Sr. VP Friends of VSO

Taking care of mind and body



We received this letter from Sister Guong and thought you'd like to see how she is progressing. FVSO is quite proud of the efforts these 10 Sisters are making. This 3-year program has been funded by Paul and Nancy St. Pierre (story highlighted in the June newsletter).

My name is Guong in the Miraculous Medal, 14 Nguyen Hue Kontum. I would like to say hello and my best wishes to you from Kontum Vietnam.

As for the permission of my Mother Superior and the Sisters of my English evening class English class, I would like to say thank you for supporting our English class last year. Studying a foreign language is interesting. All of the Sisters are trying to study hard. We have had a homework of writing a paragraph entitled and to present and talk in front of the class. After one of our speeches, other students can put some questions and the presenter tried to answer them. How interesting it was!

We would like to thank you and all of the members of your FVSO's support. Thanks to your help, we have been learning such interesting things in our English class. So, we are trying our best to study and practice English everyday. We hope that you and your FVSO will continue to support us for this English evening class. On the occasion of Christmas Day 2014 which is at hand, we wish you and all our benefactors of FVSO a merry Christmas full of joy, of peace of our Lord Child Jesus and a new year 2015 full of luckiness and of happiness.

Best wishes.
God bless you all.

Sr ANNE MARIE GUONG



Because clean water is such a high priority, a new fence was recently built to protect the water system at VS-1. Discretionary funds were used, and the project was overseen by our partner, Viet Dreams.

Long-term supporting organizations

- 189th Assault Helicopter Company
- Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 535, Nevada County, CA
- Counterparts
- 14th 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