



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

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## November 2016 Newsletter - Volume 13 Issue 9

### Matching Donation Program Update

- Challenge #1 - \$20,000 achieved
- Challenge #2 - \$18,800 ongoing

**Total Aug-Sep-Oct donations = \$36,249**

**When matched, the total contributions for the period-to-date have reached \$72,498!**

**Still time to take the "Challenge"**



### Challenge #2 Benefactors

Steve Holly  
 Dave & Elaine Chaix  
 Richard & Elaine Lahey  
 Clyde & Connie Lewandowski  
 Pat & Melinda Leary  
 Pat & Dennis Coyne  
 Alan Brooks  
 San Juan Capistrano Rotary  
 Auburn Rotary  
 Ann & Mark Thelen  
 Michael & Tina Burke  
 Bart Ruud  
 Colleen & Tim Sands

***"You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving."***

**— Amy Carmichael**

We have made unbelievable progress in making life better for everyone living and working at VSO, by capitalizing on opportunities presented to us as they arise. The Matching Fund Challenge for 2016 is another of those opportunities. Your donation this year can be doubled by using matching funds from the Challenge pool that has been established by a group of FVSO donors. Please keep the Challenge fund in mind as you make your donation this year. For information on our overall progress, please read the article "Reflections" in this issue.

### Education Follow-up

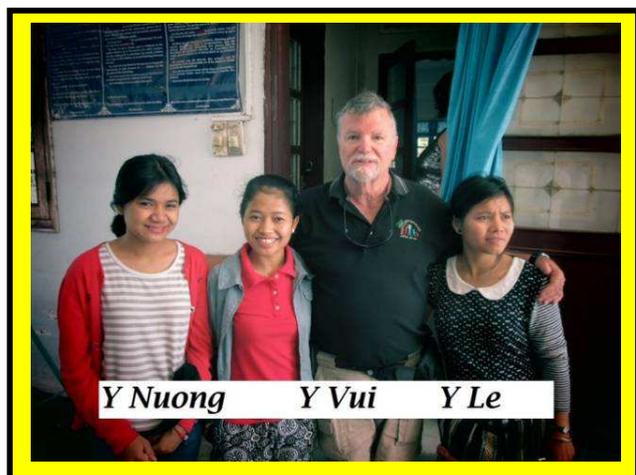
**Here's an update on the girls in the photo with Dave Chaix.**

Y Nuong is going to Garment Technology School in Saigon and is supported by the von Rappard family.

Y Vui recently graduated from the Pharmacy Program in Kontum and joined the convent to become a Sister.

Y Le recently graduated from the Pharmacy Program and is working in the Vinh Son 1 Pharmacy. We continue to try to get a visa for her to work for two years here in the US, but are hitting dead ends so far.

Thanks to Richard "Doc" Blanchfield and Lilian Ferretti for their support of the Pharmacy students.



**Y Nuong      Y Vui      Y Le**



## REFLECTIONS

By  
Patrick McKee, Senior VP, FVSO

It was nearly 16 years ago that Dave Chaix and I first saw the children of Vinh Son. It was on our first trip to Vietnam in March of 2001 with Milspec Tours. We visited VS-1 and that visit impacted both of our lives forever.

My memory of the Orphanage tour is vivid and etched in my mind like a scar. We saw real suffering on the faces of the children and fear on the faces of the Sisters and the caregivers.

The children were sick although they probably didn't know it because they had felt the same way all of their lives. Malnourished, parasitic worms, no medicine, poor water supply and hygiene were just some of the problems. The Sisters and caregivers were afraid because they had simply run out of hope.

Although we didn't actually articulate it, I believe that is when Dave and I got the idea that they didn't even have "basic needs" that were necessary for even the most modest comfort and health. That is when we began our efforts to provide at least basic needs for the children.

When our FVSO President, Patrick Leary, shared the pictures of the children a few weeks ago, the difference in the condition is stark. I am thankful for my painful memory of the children when we first saw them because now things are so different. You can see it in their faces. Look at the quality and abundance of food and their overall happiness. They have a look of well being and health that is obvious.

Through the generosity and long term support of our donors, we are coming upon an entire generation of Orphans at VSO that have never known hunger and suffering. They have been healthy, had clean water, medical and dental care, proper shelter, education and opportunity for several years, if not all of their lives.

The Sisters and caregivers have hope for the future for the first time ever and they are working hard to reduce their dependence on us. They are raising some of their own food and working hard to become more self reliant. They have shown us that if given an opportunity to improve their lot, they can and will do it.

Thousands of children have benefited from the generous donations of FVSO supporters in the past 15 years, but there is much work yet to do. To paraphrase a famous quote, "We can't save all the children in the world, but we can save these."

**Thank you and God bless you all.**

**Happy Thanksgiving!!**



### 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