

July Newsletter 2021 - Volume 18 Issue 7

Contact & Donation Information

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2021 Donation Target

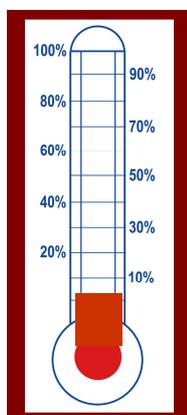
\$150,000

Donations To Date

\$ tbd

Needed To Reach Target

\$ tbd



FOR THE KIDS

The target for the 2021 Fund Drive is \$150,000

Since February 2020, the world has been topsy-turvy. This is especially true in Vietnam, a third world country that has yet to see any formal medical relief from COVID. To their credit, they have not had severe epidemic outbreaks, but it was at the cost of drastic social and economic shutdowns. The economy has suffered as you can imagine. FVSO has been able to provide a reliable foundation of food and shelter security for the kids. With your generous help in 2020, we sent \$150,000 to support basic needs and \$100,000 to support building projects and recovery from the late season flood. In 2021, we again have committed \$150,000 to the Sisters to support basic needs and \$85,000 to support needed building repairs. It seems like a lot of money for building projects but a review of our newsletters will show you how valuable your contributions have been. We have provided funds so they can build a solid foundation of self-support through bakeries, farm animals and farmland. The buildings get a lot of wear and tear with 750 kids using them daily. The tropical weather of monsoons and high heat also take a toll on third world construction.

Last year we set a goal of \$150,000. We are setting the same goal this year. Last year, we blew past our goal and your generous donations reached \$193,000. This enabled us to increase our spending for building projects, farms and animals in 2020 and 2021.

When you make your donation please know the promise of a better future you are making available for these children. Also, know that 100% of your donation goes to the kids. The FVSO Board pays for all administrative costs.

Patrick Leary, President FVSO

Pease consider helping us reach our goal

Teenagers share their feelings and express their appreciation

Y Van

A Sam

Y H'Ngok

Y Ha Mua

Y May



These five high School students, long time residents of Vinh Son, were asked to share their feelings about life at the orphanage and their relationship with FVSO. Two common themes came through: 1) the hope that benefactors would continue to donate, and 2) the appreciation for what they have due to support from FVSO.

My name is Y May "...benefactors of FVSO look like an umbrella that covers and protects our orphanages. We are orphans and our families are very poor and difficult and if we stayed with our families, we would have nothing, no food and rice, clothes, medicines, or a good education, friends, and we don't have our good future. We were very lucky to be helped and supported by our donors and benefactors of FVSO who have sacrificed time and money to improve our lives..."

My name is Y Ha Mua "...without your help and support, our Vinh Son orphanage would be dissolved because we don't have any food, money to pay school fees, and we have to come back to our poorest families in the remote areas of Kontum province and then we don't know how our future lives will happen? So, I hope and ask our donors and benefactors to continue to help and support us to avoid our hunger and poverty in the future...."

My name is Y Van "...seeing the houses, the rooms, food, rice, clothes, books, school things, and money for our study at school, I am very very emotional for the help and support from our donors and benefactors of FVSO and I think without FVSO's help, we don't have our good lives as we have now..."

My name is A Sam...." I am in grade 9. I am from Vinh Son 3 orphanage. One Sunday, I walked around Kontum city and I passed some restaurants. I saw many people who were attending wedding parties of the rich families and most of the guests were very happy to drink beer and eat very good dishes.

Suddenly, I saw groups of ethnic minority orphans from nearby villages who were standing outside the restaurants to wait for the end of wedding parties to ask for some food and drink leftovers to bring back to their poor families. But the owner of the wedding party did not agree to help them. Maybe they wanted to collect all the leftovers for dogs or pigs. I saw many poor ethnic minority children rush into the restaurant and quickly snatch the leftovers on the tables (half a loaf of bread or half a can of coke) that the guests did not finish and then ran out like robbers.

Thinking about my life, I feel very happy to live in our Vinh Son 3 and thanks for FVSO's help and support, I have enough meals every day and I was educated well at school and at our orphanage. Without FVSO's help, maybe I am one child of poor orphan group who tried to snatch food and drink leftovers. In my mind and my heart, I always thank our donors and benefactors who saved our lives and improved them every day..."

My name is Y H'Ngok of Vinh Son 5 "...I went downtown to buy something for my life and I saw some beggars who are very young and they were wearing dirty and ragged clothes. They tried to beg from shops by shops, person by person, but no one loved and gave them money nor something. But, they were very patient to beg everywhere and they are not shy to be beggars. There are many rich people who despise them or chased them away. Some rich people even called dogs to chase them out because they were scared of the beggars who could steal something.

Thinking about the agonies and miseries that the orphaned beggars suffered moved me to tears and I feel pretty luckier than them a lot because I have enough daily meals, clothes, room to stay in when it is rainy or sunny and we have the Catholic Sisters who love us as our own mothers. I can go to school with our classmates every day, but I wonder if without funds from the donors and benefactors how my life would be, and maybe I would become a young beggar like the ones I saw in the town. So, I ask FVSO to continue to help and support us because I am scared to be a beggar. Thank you a thousand times for the FVSO donor's help to improve my life..."

Dental treatment is on hold due to the Coronavirus recurrence, but the children remain up-beat

During the annual screening process, each child's oral condition was determined, and follow-up by the dentist was scheduled for those who needed additional treatment. This project is so successful because of support from Children of Vinh Son (CoVS).



The situation of the pandemic Covid-19 has affected the dental program and life of the children at the 6 Vinh Son Orphanages

We had the dental screening program which took place on May 20th, 2021 and it is very lucky for us and the six VSO because after that, the Coronavirus emerged again strongly so we had to postpone the dental treatment temporarily at the THACH SANH clinic in Kontum city. We have to wait for the allowance from the Service of Internal Affairs of Kontum province for re-opening the shops and the business offices in Kontum. The Thach Sanh Clinic will let us know the date of dental treatment.

Now the order of the Vietnamese government for the Covid-19 prevention with these measures: no gathering with the crowd over 20 people, wearing the mask while out of the house, distance of 2 meters for two people's meeting and medical declaration. If anyone does not comply with these pandemic preventions, they will be administratively or criminally fined. For the businesses that do not comply, they will be fined, their licenses revoked, and their business suspended at once.

Most of the VSO's activities and their incomes were stopped and interrupted badly because there were not any donors or benefactors who came to visit and support them as usual. So it is very difficult for them now. But luckily there is still FVSO's funds each quarter of the year to help with education, food, clothes, diapers, milk, rice, medicines and so much more. The Vinh Son Orphanages are happy and joyous although the pandemic Covid 19 is still raging strongly.

Thanks to the Sisters' care, most of the orphans are safe from Coronavirus. The Sisters always remind the orphans to about the preventions. During the period of Variant Coronavirus, the orphans tried to arrange their daily activities and their schooling schedule at home to review the lessons and to do exercises. Older children are allowed to work in the fields. They also have relaxation time like, having soccer games, or playing musical instruments, or reading. They also gathered in the halls to pray for themselves and their benefactors in Vietnam and abroad.

Ms. Martha & Mr. Ho



DIFFERENT SUMMER – LOVE SHARE SEASON

The situation of the Covid pandemic is complicated, society is distancing, all buying and selling activities have also stopped, people and families keep their distance. However, there is one thing that cannot be separated, which is the human heart. When society is separating from all activities, people's hearts are closer together, worrying for each other, asking questions, advising with loving words, phone calls.

And the little community of Sao Mai is always in everyone's heart. In addition to loving instructions to protect their health, they also receive the love of so many people, charity groups, sending boxes of milk, instant noodles, confectionery... worried for the children to have enough to eat and be healthy during this Covid season.

"Get love in return for love" Little Sao Mai felt loved and saw many more pitiful people, so they shared it with their ethnic friends in the village and in the deep, mountainous areas.



Summer fun at Sao Mai

"This summer must have been a summer of many memories, a summer of many meanings. Especially for children who are about to enter 2nd grade. This is the time when they practice being adults.

This age is probably being cherished and pampered, but for Sao Mai children getting used to work to learn to take care of themselves is a mature step for them. They look so happy to be able to work and take care of themselves (left)."

Words of Wisdom

To make a difference in someone's life, you don't have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful, or perfect. You just have to care.

At the end of the day, the only questions I will ask myself are... Did I love enough? Did I laugh enough? Did I make a difference?

Legacy Fund Update

The goal is:
\$2 million dollars
by March 2027

Legacy Fund Balance
\$905,741



AmazonSmile is a simple, automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization, at no cost to you. Shop at smile.amazon.com, and find the same convenient experience with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. Just type in the Vinh Son Montagnard Orphanage to make your choice.

Orphanage Facts

About 775 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 (Vinh Son) and St. Paul Chartres (Sao Mai).

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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.