

August Newsletter 2022 - Volume 19 Issue 8

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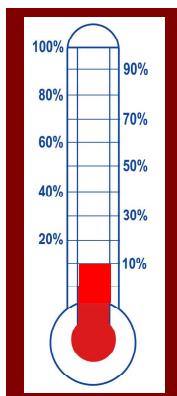
- Fundraiser Update
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Fundraiser Target (July-Dec)
\$150,000

Donations To Date
\$ 13,614

% Achieved
9.1 %

Balance Needed
\$ 136,386



Fundraiser Update

In July, we started our annual fund raising effort. We're facing some pretty strong headwinds with inflation, both here and in Vietnam. To address the higher cost of goods, in June we increased the Basic Needs allowance by 10% for each Vinh Son orphanage. The Nuns are masters at stretching the dollar; they fight inflation every day.

Tug-o-War, Vinh Son Style

We don't know the winner, but it's easy to see both sides are giving their best effort. These matches are favorites at Vinh Son. As you will learn, the Sisters and caregivers do a fantastic job of keeping the children occupied during the Summer, when schools are not in session. The Sisters also permitted short visits between the VS children and their family members who live in villages. The children learn valuable lessons during these reunions, the experience becoming part of their "life's luggage."



Martha's Summer Vacation Report

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the children had difficulties in their studies at school. Moreover, the children could not attend the Masses in the parish church nor study catechism on Sundays as usual. But luckily, the situation of Coronavirus is better now and the social isolation has been canceled so the children can continue to go to church. They can also study catechism in the classes of the parishes near their orphanages. They still study in the courses of Skills and supplementary courses of some school subjects and they could participate in the programs of entertainment which are suitable to them.

The Sisters created a good environment for them to enjoy fully their summer vacation. They organized some good programs of sports, music, games and supplying them with more good meals so that they could be joyous and happy on their school summer vacation at their own orphanage. For them, each summer vacation is very special and a memorial of their childhood. Especially now, it is more meaningful for them since the Covid 19 pandemic is calmer, allowing most of the normal and safe activities of their lives.

Furthermore, catechism courses were organized for those receiving First Holy Communion, and Confirmation studies were prepared so that the children could receive the necessary Sacraments for their religious life.

During this summer vacation, all the parish priests in the Kontum diocese organized some free classes in English, math, and Vietnamese literature to help the Vinh Son orphans to regain their school-lost knowledge because of the Covid 19 pandemic. Thanks to this year's vacation, the children of the six VS orphanages had a good occasion to exchange, meet each other and learn together with their friends and classmates.



FROM religious studies for older children
FROM organized meals under a new roof

TO works of art by future Picasso's
TO Mass in the old Wooden Church



Enterprising News from Sao Mai



**FOR
SALE**

Proudly holding up a jar of the SAO MAI GINGER TEA

So, the summer days are slowly coming to an end. The summer in the Central Highlands, especially, in Gia Lai Province, is not as hot as other regions, but instead there are months of rain, rarely seeing the sun. The weather may seem gloomy, but it couldn't stop Sao Mai's desire for happiness.

Maybe it was fate, or rather God's work, but on this occasion, we were given a large amount of ginger from a benefactor. We wondered, "What to do with it?" since it's a spice, and not a food. With the wisdom and support of our elders, a "test" was performed, say it was experimental, because the process was completely new to us. We started working and eventually released our very first product.....

INTRODUCING

Sao Mai Ginger Tea.

Bursting with joy and happiness, it wasn't one's own achievement, but it was the whole family's. Everyone contributed their part to the production stages: from paring, washing...until the product was finished. Although the production tools were rudimentary and manual, it was our pleasure to work and strive together. Not only do we have more income, we also bring people good health and joy through the many uses of Ginger Tea. Through this work, the children learned the value of labor, had the opportunity to give and contribute to their small ability. Watch them work hard to peel the ginger root, until they carefully stick the labels on the products. Emotions are hard to describe. For them, this was a meaningful summer, an opportunity for them to spark their own dreams and ambitions.



Product Facts

- A 300g plastic bottle retails for 45,000vnd (about \$2.00usd).
- The ginger came from the St. Paul convent, which operates a very large farm.
- The tea powder was made from dried ginger juice and sugar.
- Empty bottles were purchased from the local market.
- Sao Mai Ginger Tea is for sale at the new Catholic shop or at the orphanage.

The Goal of 2022 Capital Projects

- Improve living conditions
- Develop sustainable farming operations
- Improve site security

Vinh Son Project Summary

<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Status</u>
VS-1	rubber trees, repair girl's dorm, improve ceiling	Completed
VS-2	drying area, roof, class-room, gutter, panel door	Completed
VS-3	repair fence wall, gate	TBD
VS-4	chicken farm, fencing	TBD
VS-5	new house	Completed
VS-6	repair house, gate	TBD

Words of Wisdom

It's not just about being able to write a check. It's being able to touch somebody's life.



GuideStar is a philanthropic research database designed to fill in the knowledge gaps you need to find the best charities to which to donate in the area you most care about.

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Comments are welcome!

Legacy Fund Update

The goal is **\$2million** by **March 2027**

Legacy Fund Balance

\$900,414



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 Vinh Son Montagnard Orphanage to make your choice.

Orphanage Facts

About 700 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.