



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

P.O. Box 9322 Auburn, California 95604-9322 - Email: info@FriendsofVSO.org -Web: www.FriendsofVSO.org

August 2016 Newsletter - Volume 13 Issue 7

August kicks off our annual fundraising Challenge. Again, this year, we are fortunate to have a number of sponsors who have donated matching funds of \$20,000. If we match this fund, we will have raised a total of \$40,000. Currently we have received \$66,834 in year-to-date donations. Maximizing the Challenge would give us a total for the year of \$106,834. Our annual budget of \$125,000 is still the target going forward, and even with a successful Challenge, that leaves us \$18,166 short of our goal. We need to work hard to get the word out about what we do.

Matching Donation Program

Beginning in August, every dollar donated to FVSO will be MATCHED up to \$20,000!



What do we do with your donations? Our mission statement calls for us to help provide basic needs and medicine. Basic needs insures the children get at least one healthy meal per day. Medicine covers funds for preventive medicine, dental work, and clean water systems.

**Why Do We Do This?
Her T-shirt says it all**

We want to thank these benefactors for providing "The \$20K Challenge"

**Hanson McClain Financial Advisors
Bob and Carolyn Lee
VVA Chapter 535 Nevada County CA
Dave and Claire Christensen
Jerry Sherburne
Father Thomas Relihan
Michael and Tina Burke**

Please share the FVSO story where you can. Every dollar counts and goes directly to support the kids.





We also have funds that are specifically donated to cover higher education expenses. Periodically, throughout the year, we also receive special requests from the sisters for unique projects. This year, we bought a new computer for Sister Josie so that she could e-mail us and help co-ordinate projects. Of course, Christmas is a special time so we also send extra funds, along with other charities, to support the Christmas party.



For the last 13 years, we have been a steady reliable source of support for the sisters and the children. It has given them the confidence to grow where they see fit. Every time I visit, I am impressed by their ingenuity and entrepreneurial spirit. They have bakeries, livestock, and farming operations that were only a dream not even 5 years ago. To be sure these operations are small and need to grow to become significant, but what a marvelous start. **You, our donors, have been the backbone of their growth.**

The children and the sisters are most grateful for your donations. Please share the FVSO story where you can and please consider us in your donation plans. Every dollar counts and goes directly to support the kids.

Thank You!

Pat Learv. FVSO President

The Veteran magazine ships out on
September 20th



Friends of Vinh Son Orphanages (FVSO)

Over 800 children (predominately Montagnards) live in 7 Vinh Son and Sao Mai orphanages, located in the Central Highlands of Vietnam (Kontum/Pleiku). Because they depend heavily on outside assistance for their everyday existence, FVSO conducts an annual fundraising appeal (Aug-Dec). Donations are also solicited and accepted year round from our loyal benefactors.

Please
help us
care for
these
kids



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 support of the children.

For more information or to make a donation:
FVSO P.O. Box 9322-A, Auburn, Ca 95604-9322
Web: www.FriendsofVSO.org
Email: info@FriendsofVSO.org

FVSO has placed ads in the VVA Veteran magazine since 2010. Our ¼ page ad, pictured here, will be inserted in the Sep/Oct edition. That will be followed up by a ½ page ad in the Nov/Dec magazine. These insertions have been very successful in generating new supporters.

Vietnam Veterans of America is the only congressionally chartered national veterans' service organization dedicated to serving veterans of the Vietnam War and their families. Its members served in the American military during the two decades of the Vietnam era, 1961-1975.

The **VVA Veteran** is an important source for literature, history, politics, and advocacy regarding the Vietnam generation. Because of that, its subscription base has grown beyond the VVA membership to include many researchers, libraries, schools, other institutions, and all members of Congress. There are, in fact, few places that offer so many voices from that era—voices both famous and unknown.

The **VVA Veteran** is delivered to 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.

Final Numbers on the Dental Program

The total number of Vinh Son children and caregivers seen and treated was 737. As you can see, even the little ones waited patiently for their turn! Open wide!!





Y Ly Nuong (tallest one) and Y Le

Education Update

Congratulations are in order for two VS-1 girls who just passed their high school exams with the highest grades, Y Ly Nuong and Y Le. In fact, they have already been accepted by a university in HCMC, and are there now to complete the paperwork necessary for beginning classes at the end of the month.

Both girls will study at the Ho Chi Minh University of Industry, with a focus on the textile sector. They would like to become tailors in the future, so they could design clothing styles for the children in Vinh Son, as well as others.

There's more good news on the higher education front. Reported by Sister Josie, the number of college students, who are from Vinh Son, will increase in the new school year. Sister will provide more details and continue to update us throughout the year.

Everyone at VS-1 is proud of Ly and Le, and hope you keep them in your prayers as they begin their freshman year in the big city.

Long-term supporting organizations

- 189th Assault Helicopter Company
- Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 535, Nevada County, CA
- Counterparts Association
- 14th Combat Engineer Btn. Association
- MilSpec Tours (800-953-5812)
- Fr. Luke Tran (VN-SHEP) Social Health Education Projects
- Fr. Relihan, Sacred Heart Church, Lone, CA
- Rotary Club of San Juan Capistrano, CA

Words to live by

Where we cannot convince, let us be willing to persuade, for small deeds done are better than great deeds planned.

We know that we cannot do everything, but help us to do something.

— Sister Marie Dominique

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

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Treasurer - Colleen Sands
Senior VP - Pat McKee
1st VP - Sr. Marie Dominique
2nd VP - Michael Little

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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