

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

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June 2014 Newsletter - Volume 11 Issue 5

In This Issue – Loose Ends

- Vinh Son 6 has a new front yard and is ready for the monsoon season
- English classes can be fun and instructional
- Vinh Son welcomes new family members and Johnny sings again
- Pharmacy students are working hard to make the grade



A few more of the indelible images captured by Dave and Hank during their pilgrimage to Vinh Son

Vinh Son 6 is looking good!

FVSO has partnered with Richard Grame to make life better at VS-6. Construction is now complete, and below Richard gives us his assessment.

This is a worthy project as it will eliminate a lot of dirt and ultimately the kids will be cleaner and the erosion and flooding problems will be minimized....not to mention the kids will have better playing surface.

On most of my visits the front yard always came up because the drainage off the roof and the runoff from the land created a mess. The road in front was an issue up until last October, but it appears the government is going to repair it.

With this project I think we will have solved a lot of their needs. VS-6 is looking pretty good these days. FYI, they are building a really big pig pen; by the size of this pig pen they will have a pen 8 times the size of any of the other Vinh Son sites.



Before (below) Now (above)

English class, twins and Johnny Cash



Paul and Nancy St. Pierre have funded English classes for 10 nuns; below is a brief report from Marie Tran who also provided this wonderful photo.

I attended two of the English training classes for the sisters, which is currently funded by FVSO. The class is being taught by Mr. Rim and he is a very capable instructor. He often incorporates music into the lessons. The sisters (10 altogether) are enjoying the class. The sisters and teacher expressed their thanks for your support!

Newest Arrivals!

Recently, Vinh Son 1 has received a pair of female twins, whose mother had died. The twins are Y Minh Van and Y Minh Ha. It appears that the mother had underwent surgery, but most likely died of infection. Although they are survived by their father and 2 older siblings, the twins will find a new family at Vinh Son.



Without Vinh Son, where would these children go?



Johnny and Dee Ride Again!

The May 17th concert was another win-win for VVA Chapter 535 and FVSO. Each received \$6,000! **Thanks to everyone involved with this successful fundraiser!**

Pharmacy students have high hopes and a long road



This project is funded by Richard “Doc” Blanchfield & Lillian Ferretti.

The three students are Y Le (in orange), Y Vui (in middle), and Y Nhi (in white) Here's the update:

- ** All three are in the first year of pharmacy school
- ** All are from Vinh Son 1
- ** By Sept. 2014, they will do some practice work at the local hospital
- ** By the end of Sept. 2014, they will take a test and if they pass, this will allow them to continue the program for another 2 years

- ** All three said they really enjoy the program and appreciate the opportunity. They are making above average grades.
- ** If they want to practice and be able to work as a pharmacist, they must complete all 3 years.
- ** Each of the girls had big smiles on their faces when asked about the program.

Feedback from our friends at EMW

Thank you very much for your continued support allowing East Meets West Dental Program another opportunity to take care of Vinh Son Orphanages for their annual dental care.

The entire EMW Dental Team is very thankful to you all for your kind heart and generosity to maintain the dental care to children.

Minh Huong
Acting Director/National Dental Program Coordinator
East Meets West Dental Center



The “ride” to higher education

Update on Other Projects

- ** Bicycles for Vinh Son 5 (\$500)...**DONE**
- ** Replacement wiring for Vinh Son 6 (\$1,500)...**DONE**
- ** Laptop and projector for Vinh Son 4 (\$691)...**DONE**

The 157 kids at VS 4 will now enjoy recreational entertainment, but since many of the movies are in English, the films will also serve as educational tools.

Organizations supporting FVSO

- 189th Assault Helicopter Company
- Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 535, Nevada County, CA
- Counterparts
- 4th Infantry Division Association (NY & NJ Chapter)
- 14th Combat Engineer Btn. Assoc.
- MilSpec Tours



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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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