

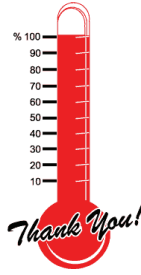
Checks payable to: VSO or VinhSon Orphanage

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

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

2006 Annual Fund Drive Exceeds Goal!

Because of your generosity, the 2006 annual Fund Drive has already been a tremendous success! As of November 26, we have reached 121% of our 2006 goal! But we are not finished; contributions continue to come in, making this our most successful year. The needs are many, but our VSO donors are meeting them everyday. So keep the contributions coming... Along with the Vinh Son children, **Thank you!** Food-medicine-clothing-shelter-



education ... for hundreds of orphans.. It truly takes a community to make all this happen. Most of VSO donations come from individuals, but we also have special relationships with groups who continually answer the call. Long-term support from the Auburn (CA) Host Lions Club and Nativity Church



of Cincinnati are greatly appreciated. This year, another "collective voice" was heard from the fine people at St. Cloud MN Motor Truck Sales, (read their story below). Each dollar given goes a long way in Vietnam.

November 2006

Volume 2, Issue 4

Board Officers

President:
Dave Chaix

Secretary:
Dennis Coyne

Treasurer:
Pat Keegan

Senior VP:
Pat McKee

1st VP:
Sr. Marie Dominique

2nd VP:
Mike Little

3rd VP:
Mike Gregersen

St. Cloud Truck Sales Donor Match—Huge Success

About one month into the Fund Drive, VSO was contacted by the St. Cloud Truck Sales in Minnesota offering us a unique opportunity to double our donations. They suggested, "... let us match donations, dollar for dollar, up to \$2,000 ..." That sounded like a great idea to us, so we immediately got the mes-

sage out on our web site and by email! The plan was to run this



offer from October 23 to December 15, 2006. But the St. Cloud challenge only needed 10 days to meet the goal. That was the fastest \$4,000 ever donated! Thanks St. Cloud Truck Sales for your generosity, we hope this is the beginning of a lasting relationship.

VSO Annual Meeting December 28, 2006 Richmond CA

The Annual Board Meeting will be conducted in Richmond, CA, December 28, 2006 at 10 a.m. PST and last about 2 hours. Lunch will follow. VSO donors are invited to attend this meeting, and should contact Dave Chaix (address in the masthead) for details. A meeting summary will be published in a subsequent newsletter.

Among other topics, the Board will assess current needs and make funding decisions. We anticipated that a portion of our treasury will be allocated and wired immediately to the orphanages. Other funds will be delivered in person by VSO members who will travel to Vietnam in February 2007. (See next story)



VinhSon Facts

- Population - more than 450 Montagnard children in two facilities
- Administered by the Sisters of the Miraculous Medal
- Location - Kontum, Vietnam in the Central Highlands
- About \$12 feeds, shelters, and educates one child for a month

VSO Members to Vietnam February 2007

A group of 13 VSO Board Members and donors will travel to Vietnam 13-27 February 2007. At least 3 days will be spent at the VSO orphanages in Kontum. Since many of the people going have not been to Vietnam previously, Dave Chaix has created a tour that will allow the new visitors to see Hanoi, Ha Long Bay, Hue, Danang, Hoi An, Pleiku, Kontum, Da Lat, Saigon, and other places of interest.



Our time in Kontum will give us the opportunity to assess future needs and current requests. In addition, we hope to initiate improvements that address computer/internet connections. It's also possible that we might meet with other non-profit groups (like Colour4Kids from Amsterdam) who have been assisting the Vinh Son children..

Would you like us to contact someone while we're there? Our schedule will be tight, but we'd like to help you if we can. Although our bags will be filled to the limit with gifts and medicines for the orphanages, we'll try to

accommodate any requests we get.

Absolutely no VSO funds support this trip ... each traveler pays 100% of their own costs.



VinhSon 1 & 2 Projects

Items accomplished for VinhSon 1 this past year are:

- Rebuilt their bakery
- Funds for basic needs and school expenses
- Bought desks, chairs, and books
- Bought sewing and border machines
- Bought PCs, printer, & chainsaw

New projects to be based upon available funding:

- Funds for basic needs and school expenses
- Mosquito netting to prevent malaria

- Blankets, mats, pillows for dorms
- Kitchen supplies
- Repair of tractor so vegetable farming can continue

Items accomplished for Vinh Son 2:

- Rebuilt bakery destroyed by fire
- Purchased Powdered milk for one year
- Bought sewing and border machines
- Bread Flour for one year
- Bought PCs, printer, desks and books for students

- Funds for basic needs and school expenses

New project to be based upon available funding:

- Funds for basic needs and school expenses
- Clothing for students
- Fees associated with schooling required by the government for 141 students



VSO to Receive Profits from Book

Christopher Upham published a story in the anthology, *Veterans of War, Veterans of Peace* edited by Maxine Hong Kingston. Most of the profits from the book will go to charity; Christopher nominated Vinh Son to be one of the four charities that will split the profits of the book. To learn more, visit

www.vowvop.org; the book is also available online at Amazon.-it's published by Koa Press.

Christopher also is working on a movie: War Within about five Vietnam Veterans return to Vietnam for the first time since the war. War Within explores the personal memories, historical events, and the long term ef-

fects of war. You can read about the film at cinesmith.net or email him at cupham2@earthlink.net to learn more. He served as medic with 299th Engineers who took over the Dak To base camp when the 1st Brigade 4th Division left the area to battle the Vietnamese at the Polei Kleng SF Camp January 1969.

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