

Checks payable to: VSO or VinhSon Orphanage

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

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David M. Berdy M.D. - Returns from Vinh Son

Dr. David M. Berdy, President of Sylvan Lakes Family Physicians, Sylvania, OH (near Toledo) returned August 11 from his trip to Chittagong, Bangladesh and the Vinh Son Orphanages in VN.

"26 days, 11 flights, 22 cars, 8 motor cycles, 9 baby taxis, 6 rickshaws, 1 (12hour) bus journey, 7 hotels, 2 guesthouses, 1 dayroom, 296 orphans, 552 patients, 10 cities, 7 villages, 13 time zones, and 2 continents later, I am home... Jet-lag is the best!" Dr. Berdy. His report will be forthcoming and will be summarized in our next newsletter. Thank You barely describes our gratitude to Dr. Berdy. These pictures were taken at Vinh Son.



Corrective Eye Surgery for Vinh Son Boys

As you may recall, 12 of us went to Vietnam last February. While at Vinh Son 1, Pat Keegan, our Treasurer, noticed a little boy; his name is A Ly. What Pat saw touched and moved him - A Ly, only 5 years old, had esotropia (severe cross-eyed vision). When Pat got home from VN and was viewing his pictures, he realized he had taken many pictures of A Ly. The boy had obviously gotten to him, and Pat immediately decided to find a way to help.

Pat contacted Sister Marie Dominique (a prime mover of the VSO organization) and Sister Juliana, (the on-site head of the orphanages) to get their opinions. They both confirmed the need and agreed to help Pat help A Ly. At our annual

Board meeting, the project was voted upon and approved unanimously.

Meanwhile, Sr. Juliana identified

Pictures right show the two boys after surgery and Pat giving flowers to Dr. Nguyen Thi Diem Uyen

a second orphan boy, A Dem, who suffered from the same condition. Now we had two little boys who needed surgery .. It was time to act. Pat sent Sister a list of doctors in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) who might be willing to help. Armed with a prayer and a lot of hope, off they went to HCMC.

Miracles do happen. Sr. Juliana took the boys to a hospital called Dien Bien Phu, where a wonderful doctor , (cont. pg. 2)



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VinhSon Facts

- Population - more than 500 Montagnard children in four 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

Corrective Eye Surgery (Cont.)

Nguyen Thi Diem Uyen, made the decision to operate immediately. What's more, she did this for free! What would have cost VSO about \$3,000 for the surgery ended up costing no more than \$350 (food, lodging, and transportation). The boys are doing great!

Recently, Pat was in Vietnam on business, and took the opportunity to personally thank Dr. Nguyen for her generosity. A humble woman, she was very surprised, but appreciative, of the visit and the beautiful flowers Pat handed her on behalf of VSO.

Although Pat was our project lead, the real credit for this successful venture goes to the tireless efforts and resourcefulness of the caregivers at Vinh Son. Along with the good doctor and your contributions, we all made a difference.

The Donor Challenge From St. Cloud Truck Sales & Clyde Lewandowski Raised \$6,792 - Thank You!

The response to the St. Cloud Truck Sales Challenge was absolutely outstanding! Our friends from St. Cloud, Minnesota, along with benefactor Clyde Lewandowski, raised a total of **\$6,792** for VSO. While summertime might be a difficult time period to reach everyone due to vacations, the response to the "matching donations" was great. Definitely worth a repeat!

One quick story about the challenge: As Dennis Coyne, our Secretary, was preparing to send out the last Newsletter, his grand-daughter, Helen Reinko-

ker (age 8) offered to help him with stuffing envelopes. Of course, she was reading as she was stuffing. Before they were done, Helen went to her room and returned with \$12 from her Piggy Bank. She read the VSO Facts and saw that \$12 cares for one child for a month. She also read about the challenge. She asked: "Grandpa, does this mean that my \$12 counts for \$24?" Holding back some emotion, he said yes and gave her a big hug. Thanks Helen from all of the VSO children.

(Clyde at VSO & St. Cloud Truck Sales below)

We remind all our supporters to check our web site for the latest news and information.

Click or go

<http://www.FriendsofVSO.org>

to visit our site.

(Helen Reinkoher - below)

