

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

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January 2015 Newsletter - Volume 12 Issue 1

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Message from Dave Chaix, FVSO President

It has been another good year for the children and Sisters at Vinh Son and Sao Mai Orphanages – thanks to you, our generous donors and the other organizations from around the USA and the world that partner with us. Without our wonderful partners, many of our yearly goals would not be met.

This certainly doesn't mean our work is finished. There is always so much more to do, but the supporters and travelers who visit the orphanages on a regular basis always observe steady progress.

As you can see in the numbers, we have a surplus this year, and while we decide what to do with the funds, we are working on a long term vision for an Endowment or Legacy Fund. There will be more about this in future newsletters.

Again, **THANK YOU** for your continued support of these wonderful children.

Dave

Basic Needs Distributions - 2014

Fiscal Year Budget: \$70,200

VS-1 \$16,800
VS-2 \$ 14,400
VS-3 \$ 4,300
VS-4 \$ 10,200
VS-5 \$ 6,800
VS-6 \$ 5,100
Mother Superior Funds \$6,400
Sao Mai \$6,000

Total Basic Needs \$ 70,000

On-Site Distributions

VS - 1 \$ 1,000
VS - 2 \$ 1,000
VS - 3 \$ 500
VS - 4 \$ 750
VS - 5 \$ 500
VS - 6 \$ 500
Sao Mai \$ 250
Sewing Class \$500
Novices Field Expenses \$200
Miscellaneous \$100

Total On-Site Spent \$5,300

Financial Overview

Another year of surpassing expectations: our donation target of **\$125,000** was exceeded by 26% with a total of **\$158,026**. Donations were received all year long, but our Fundraising period (Aug-Dec) was a huge success, contributing \$79,055 or 64% of the annual target. Everyone at FVSO is humbled by the generosity and trust of our supporters. We're ready for the challenges of 2015!

In 2014, Basic Needs expenditures were \$75,300, which was \$5,100 over budget. This overspending was the result of the on-site distribution of funds in April, which was anticipated. We also spent \$30,926 of the \$65,775 allocated for Special Projects (see page 2 for complete list).

The combined budget for the year was \$135,975 (Basic Needs plus adjusted Special Projects). Distributions totaled \$106,226, leaving a balance of \$29,749 for a 2015 carryover.

Our partnerships with other organizations have helped us remain well in the black and prepared for the future. We were also fortunate that no urgent situations came along such as storm damage, major illness, equipment breakdown and repair, etc. All Special Projects require Board approval.

Special Projects listed by quarter

As outlined in the Position Paper on funding distributions, a limit of \$55,600 in total project funds is allocated for a given year. The rationale is that we cannot spend indiscriminately because such spending would deplete reserves. Usage of the allocated funds is, in general, restricted to primary education, college tuition, water filter maintenance, major tractor repairs, equipment purchases, dental projects, major medical expenses, cell phone data fees, and similar projects. Funds designated as Project-Specific (donor directed) are added to the quarterly allocation, which resulted in an adjusted budget of \$65,775 for the year.

1st Quarter Projects

Pharmacy School (\$800) funded by Blanchfield & Ferretti

EMW Foundation (\$8,000) funded by Christensen, Lee, Relihan

A Ga Ney support (\$1,375) funded by 189th AHC

Total Project-Specific funds: (\$10,175)

Water System Maintenance (\$2,275)

Epilepsy Medicine Replacement Funds, Sao Mai (\$195)

Sao Mai Diapers (\$105)

Sao Mai Christmas Celebration (\$150)

VS-1 Diapers (\$750)

VSO Christmas Celebration (\$1,000)

Miscellaneous (\$180)

Q-1 Spent: \$14,830 (\$10,175 was targeted)

2nd Quarter Projects

VS - 1 Diapers (\$750)

VS - 4 Laptop computer, speakers, portable hard drive (\$691)

VS - 6 Patio project w/ Richard Grame (\$2,000)

Miscellaneous (\$180)

Sao Mai Diapers (\$105)

Sao Mai Epileptic Medicine (\$195)

On-Site Distributions in April 2014 Visit (\$3,700):

VS- 4 Motorbike Repairs (\$75)

VS- 5 Five new bicycles (\$500)

VS- 6 Electrical Circuit Repairs (\$500)

Cameras (5) for VS - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (\$625)

Discretionary Funds dispersed (\$2,000)

Q-2 Spent: \$7,621

A Christmas Story

Dear Mr. Dave,

We would like to let you know thank you to FVSO help and the Organization help, we had the big concert and the big party on December 2014 to welcome to Christmas Day at night at our Miraculous Medal Convent from 7pm to 9Pm. All the children from the six Vinh Son Orphanages, about 700 children, were there. Before the concert, there was a big party with boxes of rice, fruits, cake and candy. From 1:30pm to 5pm we organized the game for all the orphans of six orphanages with "Poussiere de Vie's" help.

3rd Quarter Projects

VS - 4 Boys Shower Repair (235)

VS - 4 Sewing Room (\$810)

VS - 4 Bicycle Repair Course (\$200)

VS - 6 Additional Electrical Repairs (\$1,000) funded by Steve Holley

VS - 6 Automotive Repair Course for two (\$1,200) funded by Steve Holley

Vietnamese Language Course for one (\$570)

Parasite Medications (\$850)

Sao Mai Diapers (\$105)

Sao Mai Epileptic Medicine (\$195)

VS-1 Diapers (750)

Miscellaneous (\$180)

Q-3 Spent: \$6,095

4th Quarter

Sao Mai Diapers (\$105)

Sao Mai Epileptic Medicine (\$195)

VS-1 Diapers (\$750)

Miscellaneous (\$180)

Christmas for the children Sao Mai (\$150)

Christmas for the children VSO (\$1,000)

Q-4 Spent: \$2,380

**Total Special Projects expenditures
\$30,926**



**Of all the projects sponsored by FVSO,
none are more appreciated than the
annual Christmas celebration**

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Sr Marie Y Kham**

Diapers to Dormitory



FVSO spends \$3,000 a year on diapers for the little ones at Vinh Son 1 and \$420 annually for the Sao Mai orphanage. Little things can sure make a huge difference in their lives. Happy endings!

“It would be great if FSVO can give some support on this – another combined effort. When I saw the 30 little kids sleeping in this dorm, complete with leaking roof and very little ventilation, I had to try to do something.”

This message from Derek Smith (ASK) alerted us to an opportunity at VS-4 to do something really impactful: build a new dormitory (cost \$11,840). Derek’s group will fund half, while two FVSO donors (Joanne Glah and Steve Holley) have committed \$4,240; the \$1,600 balance will be funded by the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 535, Nevada County, CA. This has been a collaborative effort for sure!

Work began on January 17, and the project should be completed in 3 to 4 weeks. Pictures will follow.



The Vinh Son 4 project will change their lives!

Long-term supporting organizations

- 189th Assault Helicopter Company
- Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 535, Nevada County, CA
- Counterparts
- 14th Combat Engineer Btn. Assoc.
- MilSpec Tours
- Fr. Luke Tran (VN-SHEP)
- Social Health Education Projects



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

- President** - Dave Chaix
- Secretary** - Dennis Coyne
- Treasurer** - Colleen Sands
- Senior VP** - Pat McKee
- 1st VP** - Sr. Marie Dominique
- 2nd VP** - Michael Little

Board

- Hank Gonzales
- Rich Lahey
- Clyde Lewandowski
- Bart Ruud
- Patrick Leary

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