

April Newsletter 2018 Volume 15 Issue 4

Contact & Donation Information

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The "Voices of Vinh Son" series continues with a thank-you letter, below, written by A Tuan, a young man from Vinh Son 4, who is pursuing his educational dreams with help from FVSO. As a reminder, FVSO currently supports 19 college students. Each one receives a tuition grant of \$1,000 per year paid in monthly installments. Each of these inspirational student letters have been translated by our Secretary, Nga Wynne.

Dear members of FVSO,

Quy Nhon, Vietnam, December 7, 2017

Today I have some time to write the letter and confide my feelings to you. First, please let me ask you about your health. How are you? How is your work? I am good and still learning well. I wish you well. In each of us, as we are born and raised in this world, everyone wants to be filled with the love of the family and the people around them. And each one has its own circumstances, so as me.

My grand father brought me to the orphanage when I was about eight years old and in the second grade, a child who needed care and love of the family, but as a child I was not lucky like other kids and I began to get acquainted and live at Vinh Son 4 under the loving care of the Sisters. I thought to myself that if you do not have an advisor to teach, love, and support from the sisters, I will not be the same today. Although I live in an orphanage, I feel much happier, I get to go school, have food, have a place to sleep, and have fun time with the other kids...everything is great.

Time goes by and in 2014, I began to leave Vinh Son 4 to another province to study in high school. Around that time, I felt like a chick flying out from under a mother's wing. Now, I do not often see my friends at Vinh Son, because I am can visit Vinh Son once every three months and my life starts to change. You know that I live in boarding with about 40 others. When I stepped in here to study in high school, I felt self-pity and very sorry for myself. In the new school year, my friends had clothes, thick coats, and new books, their parents brought them from home.

Looking back on myself, I felt abandoned, not dared to meet friends, wished to have a new outfit to wear to school, but looking back at the sisters I can see that they also have to worry for the other younger children too. I walked to school because I do not have a bicycle, some days I got luck when someone could give me a ride to school otherwise I walked. Sometimes I was late, no more left over food then I had to be starved or I ate shrimp ramen noodle in the kitchen.

Life went on, and I was in the last year of high school, my senior year. The year in which I began to think and decide the path of my future. Thinking back on my life, I did not have the Sisters and you to support me, I will not be the same today, so I decided to study as much as I could to pass the college entry exam, to learn, and not to disappoint the Sisters and you.

This past summer July 1st, 2017, I was filled with joy when I was accepted by two universities. I cannot believe it, I succeeded half way in life, and I started college to study psychology that I always dreamed of. But with the joy also comes anxiety, and I worry. Before I enrolled in school, I was thinking and worried, because the cost is much more than I could afford and I wanted to give up. The Sisters advised me continue to go college. When you approved my scholarship you encouraged me, and you helped me to continue this college journey.

Here, we have to meet many difficulties: a place to live, meals, electricity bills, and water bills. But God has given me the grace of Friends of Vinh Son always with you to help and improve my condition in life.

Tears fall as I write this letter. I am touched because I am so very happy. It is the love of all who contribute to FVSO that gives me the motivation to continue to pursue my dream. I think, because you came into my life, my future will be better and a lot more successful. I will try to learn very well so I can help the orphans and young people in difficult circumstances like mine.

Thank you very much. I love you.

A Tuan



A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR ARTS & KIDS



2 Big Fundraisers Back-to-Back Entertainment

← FVSO is a co-beneficiary of
“Life in the Fast Lane”

→ VVA Chapter 535 is a long-
time contributor to FVSO

Both have our kids at heart



**Friday, April 27, 2018 at
7:30PM
Thunder Valley Casino Resort
Lincoln, California
TICKETS: \$40 & \$50**



**Saturday, April 28, 2018 at
8:00PM
Center for the Arts
Grass Valley, California
TICKETS: \$30 & \$40**

For more information...Check out the FVSO web site at
<http://www.Friendsofvso.org>

Both of these concerts help support worthy causes with proceeds going to

- FVSO, partnering with “Arts & Kids (Songs of the Eagles),” receiving 1/3rd of event profits
- Vietnam Veterans from Nevada County Chapter 535 (Tribute Show), to support Vet programs

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