

November Newsletter 2017 Volume 14 Issue 9

Contact & Donation Information

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Matching Fund Donation Challenge Update for October

Thanks to our generous donors, listed on the right, the 2017 Matching Fund Challenge generated **\$42,400**. Beginning in August, all ongoing donations would be matched up to that limit, ending in December or whenever the matching dollars were reached.

During the 3-month period (Aug-Sep-Oct), donations did reach **\$44,178**, and surpassed the Matching Fund limit. Therefore, the program has been maximized. Matched dollar-for-dollar, this year's fundraiser has been a huge success, generating nearly \$90,000.

But 2017 isn't over yet! With 2 months left, there is plenty of opportunity to close out the year with a charitable contribution. Next year will be full of challenges and increased costs. Vinh Son and Sao Mai depend on your continued support.

THANK YOU

Potential areas of focus for your consideration:

- Dental clinic; Legacy fund; Higher education
- Basic Needs are always the #1 priority**

Challenge Donors

Hanson McClain Financial Advisors
VVA Chapter 535
Dave and Claire Christensen
Fr. Thomas Relihan & Parishioners
Michael and Tina Burke
Jim and Jane Gardner
Marine Corps League 711
Jim and Susan Sheahan
Pat & Melinda Leary
Bart Ruud
Dave & Elaine Chaix
Jack & Cindy Selman
Tim & Colleen Sands
Clyde & Connie Lewandowski



Since 2013, the Matching Fund programs have been very successful. Loyal benefactors have contributed \$199,250 over the last 5 years, resulting in matching funds of \$398,500. Our thanks go out to these dedicated supporters, and you!

Making a difference in a young man's life

We are now providing scholarships for 7 boys that Sister Khiet from Sao Mai in Pleiku recommended. They are all attending a sociology program (that could also be called community service) at the college in Pleiku.

A new student, A Trai, just started his first year at college in Gai Lai Province. When a new student receives a scholarship from us, we send an extra \$100 usd for the first month that they can buy a bicycle or smart phone. He asked if he could use this money for a laptop and we agreed. Below is his heart filled thank you letter.

Pleiku, 12 October 2017

Dear Sir!

My name is: Ro Cham Trai, one of the three students who have just received the scholarship that you sent us. I am a freshman at Gia Lai Vocational College.

I am very lucky and happy to receive this noble scholarship. With me, this is not just a motivation for me try to learn, but also great spiritual comfort to help me overcome all the challenges in life.

In fact, each person is born in a circumstances that no one like anyone, there're people have the full everything to go school, but they are people don't have anything. For me, when receiving the money from you, it is time that I know more about fate, life miserable but extremely rich.

Although there are people in this difficult life, but besides those of unfortunate fate, there are always mercy people, like you. You do not know who we are, but you are deeply concerned about us and gave us this very meaningful gift.

I am very happy and thank you very much! This scholarship will help me study, help me trust in myself, into my future ahead. Receiving this money, you have given us additional \$100 to buy a smart phone or a bike. Because the school is far from home, I cannot ride a bicycle so I have to borrow motorcycles from the priest Franciscan to go to school. Now, I also have an old phone, though it's not as good as other phones, but I can still use it. If you agree, for \$100 I want to buy an old laptop for study. If you do not agree then I will buy a better phone that I am using, hoping you to answer me.

Finally, let me send my best wishes to you and your whole family. Wishing you more success in all the work that you do. I will always try to study hard, because the great heart that you have for me.

Gioan Rơ Cham Trai.

NOTE: If you would like to help with scholarships, please add the word "Education" on the memo line of your check.



The laptop may be a bit old, but for A Trai, it provides the connection to the modern world around him.

“We strive to maintain a strong, personal relationship with our supporters”

Donations are our Lifeblood

Besides monetary contributions, there are many ways to make a difference

Friends of Vinh Son can support the orphans only because of the donations we receive. Our donor family is comprised of about 1,100 dedicated people every year. We are most appreciative of the donations and the Board works hard to be good stewards of your funds. I think everybody knows we are a tax deductible 501(c)3 and that the Board pays 100% of all the administrative expenses including our trips to see the kids and monitor our programs.



Your donations are used to support daily nutrition needs, medical care and education. Through your generosity, we have been able to establish a Legacy Fund which gives us the ability to guarantee the Sisters an annual budget for this year and years following. You can imagine the impact that that has on the Sisters living in a 3rd world country knowing there is a portion of their annual support that is guaranteed.

We would like to be able to do so much more, especially 1) in growing our Legacy Fund so that we can continue our support well into the future and 2) in education, perhaps the best gift we can give the kids.

You can help in many ways. Your personal donations are cherished by all of us. There are other ways you can help as well.

Tell your friends and relatives about the work we do. We have a new social media presence including a new WEB page, FACEBOOK, and channels on YouTube and Vimeo. That will help you tell our story. We try to deliver messages, pictures and videos that are both meaningful and emotional..

We also have a Power Point presentation that we'll gladly share with you. It can be shown to organizations to which you may belong, like the VFW, American Legion, VVA, Rotary, church groups and others. You could also distribute our newsletters to your organizations. If you need a large quantity let us know and we can get them printed for you.

For larger groups, especially military unit reunions, we would be glad to come and make a presentation in person. Give us some lead time and 30-45 minutes of time on your agenda and we will come to you if at all possible.

Several of our current donors are taking advantage of employer matching programs. This is a wonderful way to increase your donations if you have access to such a benefit program.

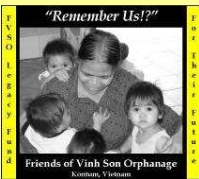
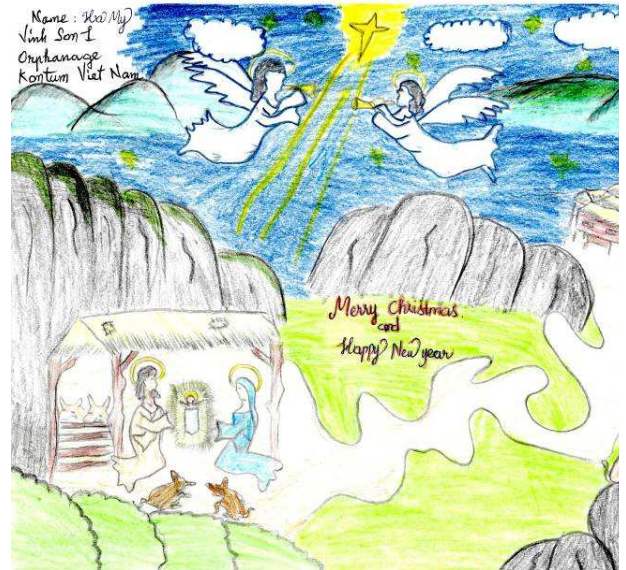
Finally, we have an Amazon Smile account. Amazon donates a portion of your purchase price to FVSO. Even a luddite like me shops Amazon now. Check it out at www.smile.amazon.com.

The key to our continued success is getting the word out about what we do. You can help us do that! Expanding our reach would be a wonderful boost.



Christmas is coming!

This year, as in years past, FVSO will work with other charities in the Kontum/Pleiku areas to bring Christmas to our 850 kids. The Sisters are working hard to prepare a day of games, a special meal, and the traditional pageant. Our kids will celebrate the wonders of the Christmas Season because of you!



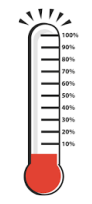
Legacy Fund Update

Target is \$2.0m in 10 years

Total contributions to date

\$407,216

% achieved = 20.4%



Legacy Contributors

- Jim & Jane Gardner
- Henry Huddleston
- Glen Smith
- William Higbee
- Corps Detachment 711

Legacy Contributors

- VVA Chapter 535

Long-term supporting organizations

- 189th & 155th Assault Helicopter Companies
- 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion (A and D Companies)
- VN Veterans of America, Chapter 535, Nevada Cnty, CA
- Marine Corps League Detachment 711, Salinas, CA
- Counterparts Association
- 14th Combat Engineer Btn. Association
- MilSpec Tours (800-953-5812)
- Fr. Luke Tran (VN-SHEP) Social Health Education Projects
- Fr. Relihan, Sacred Heart Church, Lone, CA
- Rotary Club of San Juan Capistrano, CA

amazon smile

Support FVSO by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com

Words Of Wisdom

You give but a little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of your heart that you truly give.

-- Kahlil Gibran

Vinh Son & Sao Mai Orphanage Facts

- About 830 Montagnard children live in seven orphanage facilities in the Kontum/Pleiku area, Vietnam
- FVSO is a humanitarian, Non-Profit organization approved by IRS Code 501©3. Donations are tax deductible.
- Run by Sisters of the Miraculous Medal & St Paul Chartres

Officers

President – Pat Leary
Secretary - Nga Wynne
Treasurer – Ken Tokutomi
Senior VP - Pat McKee
1st VP - Sr. Marie Dominique
2nd VP - Michael Little

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Hank Gonzales
 Rich Lahey
 Clyde Lewandowski
 Bart Ruud
 Dave Chaix
 Colleen Sands
Social Media Advisor
 Sean Game

Donation Information

Please make checks payable to FVSO or Friends of Vinh Son

Donations are gratefully accepted year round

\$12 feeds, shelters and educates one child for one month