

## October Newsletter 2019

Volume 16 Issue 10

### Contact & Donation Information

FVSO: P.O. Box 9322, Auburn, CA 95604-9322

Email: [FriendsofVSO@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofVSO@gmail.com)

Web: [www.FriendsofVSO.org](http://www.FriendsofVSO.org)

### In This Issue

- Challenge Status
- History of Vinh Son 2
- Student Letters
- VS-4 Water System

## Matching Fund Donation Challenge (Part 2)

Beginning in September, every dollar donated to FVSO will be  
**MATCHED up to \$25,995**

### Fundraising Status

Challenge 1 raised \$ 43,500  
Challenge 2 raised \$ 18,474 so far

- Challenge 2 with matching fund equals \$ \$ 36,948

**In the bank so far \$ 80,448**

### Matching Fund #2

September/October donations  
**\$ 18,474**

Remaining in the Matching Challenge  
**\$ 7,521**

The photo at right was taken at Vinh Son 2 in 2008, courtesy of Derek Smith. We don't know what caused the tears, but the little guy sure is cute!

Today, at VS-2, Sister Basile watches over nearly 200 children & 15 caregivers. She works in the shadow of Sr. Y Byung.

### History of Vinh Son 2 Orphanage

Vinh Son 2 orphanage was founded on 13 October 1965 in Dakto district, Kontum province near the Phoenix Airfield by **Sister Madelena Y Byung** of the Immaculate Medal Congregation in Kontum. She was one of the first Sisters who was sent for the Mission by Mother Superior of the Convent.



Sister Y Byung came to Tan Canh, Dak To district and there she found many Sedang orphans who had been abandoned during the Vietnam War. So Sister decided to organize a small orphanage in Dak To to save the lives of these Sedang orphans. She, and some other Sisters, gathered 35 of the poorest orphans into their small Orphanage to educate and look after them. She asked for help from the donors in Vietnam to support the poor orphans in the orphanage.

Unfortunately, the battles in the Dak To district were more and more terrible, and in April 1972, the Dak To district was occupied by soldiers, and she was forced to take all the orphans and move to another part of Kontum town. At that time, she ran the orphanage until the year 1975. On 17 March 1975, Kontum province was taken over and liberated, but the orphanage had to be dissolved. The orphans and Sisters returned to their native villages.

Because Sr Madelena loved the orphans very much, she would not abandon the poor orphans. She took them all to back to Kontum town to stay on her family's land that she asked her family to donate it to the orphans. Her family agreed with her proposal.

Over time, Sister continued to rebuild the orphanage until this day, with the name Vinh Son 2. In the first year of its foundation of Vinh Son 2 in 1975, there were 60 orphans and the Sisters had to work on the farm to get rice and food that look after the orphans and then thanks to the help of the benefactors in Vietnam and abroad to improve the poorest ethnicity minority orphans until now.



## Two Scholarship Students Express Their Appreciation

Hello teacher and all the ladies & gentlemen in FVSO.  
The first word I wish you good health, success in life.  
My name is Y Bach and I am fine now, and am very healthy.

I am writing this letter to say thank you and to report the situation of my study in the past two years. I started studying in 2017 and ended 2019. In the process of starting school, I also face many difficulties and difficulties in my study and family situation. I have to say that I am very lucky and grateful for the nuns who have taken me into my home at Vinh Son 3 from grade 8 until now, so that I can continue to study and realize my dreams.

In the process of learning more than two months, I was entrusted to the shelter Vinh Son 3, Sister Tis, who tried and tried despite the rain and sun, still tried to take care of us, so that we could study and achieve the wish his dream. I have done for my children the paperwork to get help from the association so that I can afford to study and buy my personal items such as toothpaste, brushes, shampoos, books, pens. I am very grateful to the FVSO Association for their hard work and support for the whole two years that I have received a monthly stipend for my child, which is very large.

**Uncle, I have finished the graduation exam and received the diploma on October 18<sup>th</sup>.**

What I want in the future, after I have my precious degree in hand, first of all, I will give back to medicine, and treat people who have difficulties like me. After that, I will find a stable job for myself to support in my life and help my family and everyone. The joy when I received my degree I cannot describe you is very happy and grateful for the Sisters and FVSO Association, helped me to get a degree today.

Hello, FVSO benefactors. How are you?  
My name is Y Yenb and I am in Nursing class at the College of Medicine. I am currently living in Vinh Son 3 Kon Jø Dreh village, Đăk Bla commune, Kon Tum City.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am very healthy and happy. I do not know what to say, other than thanks to the benefactors who have always loved, helped, dedicated to me and gave your valuable time to come to me, I enjoy you a lot. I would like to write this letter to you all about my daily life in the last 3 months.

For the past 3 months, I am very happy, I have experienced a lot of things in reality, I feel that I have done things that I could never have done before. With perseverance and effort, even though a small task seems to be very simple, when I find it difficult, I try and do it. During the school time, I thought a lot, if I didn't go to school, what would life be like? A question that has been raised in my mind up until now and I have met in reality in my own life many times. I have encountered and tried to give up my dream because I could not do it, I was frustrated, I was not sure or confident about myself, I miss my mom, but fortunately there was someone who is always with you like a mother and that is the Sisters. The Sisters always find good things to talk to us, teach us to learn to live a simple life, to love, to be kind and to take care of everyone, to receive the grace.

I have not given up the path of my small dream and I try to study and work, when I have free time I usually read more books to improve my knowledge, when I have more time I will divide my work to do more things, more to help the sisters and the children, teach them to read, study by themselves and manage the students. I find the job very meaningful, and when I go to school I meet my friends and have make new friends, play together



Y Bach

and show each other how to work hard together. I feel very happy, I am enthusiastically taught by the teacher but sometimes because I am too tired to work, I forget to study and my teacher must punished me. Once in the evening, I memorized the lesson without sleep so that I always gave me a motivation to try hard and be persistent.

I am very fortunate to have met the benefactors from a distant country. I thank God for giving the benefactors to me and the students a great joy.

Y Yenb's letter continued



Y Yenb

## Continuing Efforts at VS-4

President Patrick Leary has been in communication with Sister Goretti and with Viet Dreams regarding the water collection system installed at VS-4 in February or March 2019 (see April newsletter for more details). The original water collection system developed at that time has worked well in terms of collection of water, but the water is murky and algae growth is a bit of a problem. You may recall that travelers with Dave Chaix in early 2019, with substantial augmentation by Dave and Elaine Chaix, funded the original installation of the water collection system.

Now, with Viet Dream's oversight, a plan has evolved that will filter the water and store it in a manner less conducive to the development of algae. The estimated cost is **\$6,600**. The improvements will not produce potable water but the filtered water will suffice for showering, laundry and for the toilets.



The improved water collection system will be a 2-phase project

**amazon**smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

## We can help you enlist new benefactors

- Board Members are available to speak at military reunions or to local civilian groups.
- Distribute copies of the monthly FVSO newsletter to your friends and interested groups. Forward the on-line versions and website information via e-mail.
- A Power Point presentation, detailing the FVSO story, is available for your use.
- Tell your personal story. Why are you a member of this team? What would you tell a potential supporter about FVSO? Your history might prompt others to reach out to the children of FVSO.



## Legacy Fund Update

The goals are:

\$1.0m by Dec 2020

\$2.0m by Dec 2025

**Total Contributions**

**\$610,247**

## Words of Wisdom

"Help the helpless. Help the poor. Help the needy. Help the orphan. Be the joy for they that suffer in latent. They might not have money to repay you. They might not be able to offer an equal returns of service, but, the inner peace which they may get in their spirit for a moment shall be an awesome lifetime blessings to your body and spirit." — Ernest Yeboah

### Orphanage Facts

About 830 Montagnard children live in 7 orphanage facilities in the Kontum/Pleiku areas of Vietnam.

\$12 per month provides each child one nutritious meal every day.

Orphanages are run by the Sisters of Miraculous Medal and St. Paul Chartres.

### Officers & Board Members

Pat Leary  
Nga Wynne  
Ken Tokutomi  
Gene Mapa  
Bart Ruud  
Clyde Lewandowski  
Michael Little  
Pat McKee  
Dave Chaix  
Hank Gonzales  
Sean Grame

President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Asst. Treasurer  
Senior VP  
1<sup>st</sup> VP  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
3<sup>rd</sup> VP  
Board Member  
Board Member  
Media Expert

### Donation Information

Checks should be payable to FVSO or Friends of Vinh Son.

FVSO is a humanitarian, non-profit organization approved by IRS code 501©(3). Donations are tax deductible.

Donations are accepted year round and are also available on-line.