

September Newsletter 2018

Volume 15 Issue 9

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2018 Fundraiser: They're counting on us!



THANK-YOU!!

We're off to a great start!
August Donations totaled

\$10,549

When matched, the total became

\$21,098

Now's the time to make a difference

Matching Fund Donation Challenge (Part 1)

Beginning in August, every dollar donated to FVSO will be **MATCHED**
up to **\$21,500**



Sister Martha's report of the 1st Day of School

Starting the New School Year 2018-2019

After the children of the 6 Vinh Son Orphanages are saying goodbye to the summer vacation, they are also starting a new school year and participating in a very special first school day (September 5th) with their dear teachers and classmates.

Coming to the celebration consists of the president or the vice president of the ward Peoples Committee or of the commune Peoples Committee, the headmaster of the school, the teachers and staff. Besides, there are all the students of the classes and also their parents coming to the celebration.



For every new school year, most of the schools were extremely happy to welcome many newcomers of the kindergarten, of grade one of the primary schools, of grade 6 of the junior high school, of grade 10 of the senior high school, and other grades as well. All the children were so happy and excited when they were welcomed by songs and dances.



The beginning of a new school year is a time-honored tradition in Vietnam, a celebration of learning

First of all, the ceremony to welcome new students was occurred very solemnly. The students arranged in rows into the celebration and each student's hand held small red flags with yellow stars waving according to applauds of teachers, the older grades, the parents. When the classes of the new students were settled, it was time of salutation the national flag had been expressed. All the students stood as well as the teachers, the parents, and all people seriously. The eyes upward the banners which were flying away freedom in the wind and after one minute, the Vietnamese national anthem was sung by all honors and enthusiasms.

Next, the headmaster of schools read the letter of the President of the Vietnamese State which was given for all students in Vietnam. After that, the headmasters of the schools beat three rolls of drums to signal the new school year (2018-2019), and then, the teacher (and subheads of schools) announced a special meaning expression. They congratulated the students who had finished their last school year very well.

Goals were made and hoped that all the teachers and students of school will try their best in teaching and studying this new school year. All of the people were hoping that everything will be achieved the best results in this school year.

For the ethnic minority orphaned students of the 6 Vinh Son orphanages in Kontum Province, they always considered the celebration of their new school year as a Great Festival because they have: new good uniforms of school, enough school bags, school things, new text books and notebooks, school fees, medicine when they are sick, health treatments and daily food from FVSO's help. FVSO's supports us, along with help from Ms. Diny's Netherlands Association. All of the orphans always engrave in their minds their donors who have helped them to continue to go to school every day as their class mates do.



They always say to themselves, they will try their best to work hard and harder at school so that they can pay back their gratitude for their FVSO donors and all of them hope that they will have a good job for themselves, for their families, for their society in the future and their lives will be improved. **They wish all the happiness of their lives will come true.**



Just in time for the school year!

FVSO recently replaced 9 non-functioning computers for Vinh Son 3. The new computers will greatly enhance the student's educational opportunities. The cost was \$350 each or \$3,150 for the total package. "Once again, thanks to our donors for helping us." **The children will remember you in their prayers.**

Matching Fund Benefactors (part 1)

- Father Tom Relihan's Parish, Lone, CA
- Hanson McClain Financial Advisors, Sacramento, CA
- Arts and Kids, Auburn, CA
- VVA Chapter 535, Nevada County, CA
- Dave and Claire Christensen
- Jerry Sherburne
- Peggy Siminich
- Roger and Maria Cwiak

Enlisting new benefactors

We can help you connect with potential new supporters of the Vinh Son and Sao Mai orphanages.



- 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.



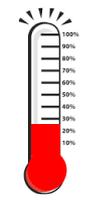
Legacy Fund Update

Target is \$2.0m in 10 years

Total contributions to date

\$533,289

% achieved = 26.7%



Legacy Contributors

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

Legacy Contributors

- VVA Chapter 535
- Jim McCauley
- Bart Ruud

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

amazonsmile

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

Words of Wisdom

So long as we love we serve;
So long as we are loved by others,
I would almost say that we are indispensable;
And no man is useless while he has a friend.

-- Robert Louis Stevenson

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(c)3. Donations are tax deductible.
- Orphanages run by Sisters of the Miraculous Medal & St Paul Chartres

Officers

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Secretary - Nga Wynne
Treasurer – Ken Tokutomi
Senior VP - Pat McKee
1st VP - Open
2nd VP - Michael Little

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Hank Gonzales
 Rich Lahey
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 Dave Chaix
 Colleen Sands
Social Media Advisor
 Sean Grame

Donation Information

Please make checks payable to FVSO or Friends of Vinh Son
 \$12 per month provides each child one nutritious meal every day.
 Donations are accepted year round