

November Newsletter 2019

Volume 16 Issue 11

Contact & Donation Information

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Matching Fund Donation Challenges #1 and #2

Began in August, with every dollar donated to FVSO being **MATCHED**
up to **\$47,745** (21,750 + 25,995)

Matching Fund Summary

Challenge #1 \$21,750 (MATCHED)

Challenge #2 \$25,995 (MATCHED)

TOTAL: Matched Donations

\$95,490

Matching Challenge #2 (25,995)

September/October donations

\$27,239

The 2019 program was a huge success!
Donations are accepted thru year- end

THANK YOU!!



The Doctor of Vinh Son

Submitted by Martha Y Phanh

Life didn't start out easy for a little Bahnar girl named Y Loai. Born in 1982 in a village in the Kontum area, Y Loai was the only daughter in a family that witnessed many hardships. They experienced poverty close up. Her father died at a young age because he was too poor to purchase medicines and could not seek out medical treatment. After her father's death, the family situation became even more difficult when Y Loai's mother came down with tuberculosis. What was to happen to this little "orphan?"

Some might say that God had a special plan for Y Loai, because a helpful hand was soon placed in hers when a Nun, named Sister Imelda, learned of her situation, and placed her in the Vinh Son-2 orphanage.



She was only three years old. In the safety of the orphanage, Y Loai thrived and eventually followed her dream...to become a doctor.

Throughout her childhood, Y Loai was a good student, hardworking and diligent in prayer. With encouragement from the Sisters who cared for her, she began taking the path of becoming a doctor. She knew it would be difficult, but a dream is a dream and Y Loai was determined to make it happen. So, after graduating from senior high school, she enrolled in the Thai Nguyen University of Medicine. Because she did so well in high school, Y Loai was given a scholarship to attend the University. Doing well in school was not always easy, however, since Vietnamese was not her first language. Bahnar was spoken at Vinh Son since all the children came from minority families. Despite this added challenge, Y Loai achieved the title of "excellent student." Nothing would get in the way of her dream.

In 2011, after seven long years of study, Y Loai graduated, and became **Doctor Y Loai**. She returned to Vinh Son, and administered to the children who needed her help. Then, after one year of working there, she applied for a position at the Kontum General Hospital. She was eventually accepted and began working in the pediatric department, but she wasn't finished yet. Wanting to expand her medical knowledge, Y Loai applied for a two-year master's degree program in Saigon. Then, having earned her master's degree there, she came back to work again in pediatric department of Kontum General Hospital.

Despite a heavy workload, Y Loai found time to marry a Bahnar gentleman named A Ruot, and together, they have one child. Their marriage ceremony was conducted at the old Wooden Church at Vinh Son-1, and attended by many orphans and caregivers. For awhile, the family lived at Vinh Son-2, where Y Loai had so many fond memories. Her husband works for the committee of a commune in Kontum City.

As the only Vinh Son alumni to become medical doctor, Y Loai has become an inspiration to others, especially the children she cares for. She fully appreciates the education and nurturing she received from the Sisters in her past. In large part, she lives her dream because of them. The deep feeling of gratitude is the moving force for Y Loai in helping her poor ethnic minority patients.

In her own words: "Since childhood, I desired to become a doctor to serve the poor in remote areas." Y Loai also recalls the Biblical teaching that Sister Jane taught, "whatever you did for one of these, the least of my brothers, you did it for God."

Vinh Son-1 Alumnus finds a new home after 20 years living at the orphanage. Her name....Y Nhun



(Left) 2006, Y Nhun is proudly showing off her “space” at Vinh Son
(Center) The new house, under construction, begins to take shape
(Right) The family is all smiles...with husband A Han and son A Hop

When dreams come true

Y Nhun settled into Vinh Son when she was about 6 months old, and 20 years later, she walked out of the orphanage for the last time. Although she had graduated from high school, Nhun did not pursue higher education opportunities; instead, she became a wife and mother. However, the challenges were many.

Y Nhun received a very special gift when she was 3 years old, the love and support of an American family. On Easter morning in 2000, they basically adopted each other. Despite the wide physical separation, they maintained a close and personal relationship throughout the years. During a 2018 visit, Nhun’s American benefactors realized that their “daughter” and family were having a very difficult time. Lack of decent housing was the main issue. Flash forward a year or so, building a house became a reality.

Work began in October 2019, and the house should be completed by Christmas. Y Nhun will have a place of her own for the first time. She is thankful for her years at Vinh Son, but is ready to begin her new life. As fortune would have it, Y Nhun has taken a job at Vinh Son-1...she’s in charge of the chickens!

Project Updates

Vinh Son-2 from Sr Theresa: I would like to renew the system of the electric wire which is old and its plastic cover is scaled off so it is not safe for all the children in the rainy and dry seasons because it can make a fire in the rooms, because of the short-circuit. It is very dangerous for the children because of electric shock.

We decided to install the new system of electric wire. We enclose the quotes of electric materials to renew the system, and pictures. We hope you will consider and accept our requirement.

The \$675 project cost has been accepted by the FVS Board, and the funds will be sent asap.

Vinh Son-6 kitchen update: The new kitchen is operational. “The children are happy to have a new kitchen and good area to cook.” It was well worth the \$3,780 cost.





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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
\$602,509



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.

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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.