

August Newsletter 2020 Volume 17 Issue 8

Contact & Donation Information

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2020 Donation Target

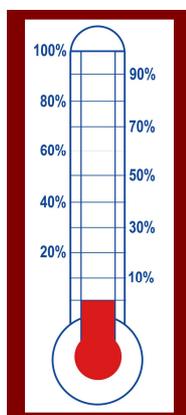
\$150,000

Donations To Date (8/4)

\$1,446

Needed To Reach Target

\$148,554



FOR THE KIDS

Announcing the Annual FVSO Fund Drive

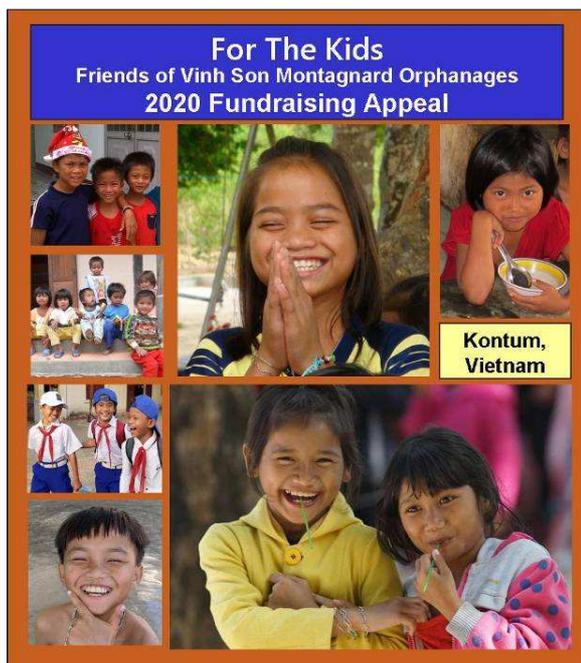
August traditionally kicks off our annual fund drive, which continues through December. During this 5 month period, we collect about 60% of our annual donations. That total then becomes our budget for the following year. This allows us to guarantee the Sisters a specific income for the entire year. If there's excess, we're able to help with capital improvements and special projects, like we've done to a great extent this year. Because of your generosity, we have never been faced with a budget reduction, and hopefully we won't have to cross that bridge.

This year, the target for our annual Fund Drive is \$150,000.

Our annual 2020 budget is about \$250,000. Sounds like a lot of money, and it is. However, supporting 850 kids, 365 days a year isn't cheap. It works out to about \$0.80 per day per child. The Nuns have done a fantastic job at stretching every dollar. Much of FVSO success over the years has been born squarely on their shoulders.

Our newsletters, have highlighted the many projects funded by your donations: from daily nutrition to bakeries to farmland to dental hygiene. The list is long and impressive. Your donations are the foundation for the Nun's success. Although we have made huge strides in the last 15 years, there is still much to do to insure these kids have a future. We'll track our progress via the monthly newsletter and through the web site so you can see how "For The Kids" is progressing.

Please consider helping us to get over the top in 2020.



At left is the new logo for our Fund Drive
Above are three of the recipients of your generosity

Why donate to FVSO?

(Prepared by VSO and FVSO)

VSO: Vinh Son Montagnard Orphanage (the 6 Vinh Son locations combined)

FVSO: Friends of Vinh Son Orphanage (the non-profit organization supporting VSO)

Since 2005, when FVSO began helping the ethnic minority orphans of the six VSO in Kontum province, there have been many generous donors and benefactors in the USA who understood and sympathized with the poorest tribal orphans' difficulties. Especially sad is their lack of family love, together with their unfortunate fate. The donors and benefactors have sacrificed their money and time to make life better for these orphans.

FVSO supports VSO through quarterly payments for basic needs (food and medicine) as well as funds for special projects as they arise (see below for what your donations make possible).

- ❖ Sustenance: rice, daily food, protein, medicines, milk and diapers
- ❖ Education: school fees, textbooks and notebooks, health insurance, school uniforms and bicycles
- ❖ Scholarships: for students who continue their studies at the universities and colleges
- ❖ Dental check-ups: we partner with Children of Vinh Son to provide annual dental care
- ❖ Repair and construction: of classrooms, toilets and bathrooms, water drainage, multi-purpose hall, security fences, and dorms
- ❖ Christmas celebration: all 6 sites come together at VS-1, presents and food
- ❖ Clean water: drilling wells and supporting water filter systems
- ❖ Self-sufficiency: raising pigs and chickens, buying farm lands, fertilizer and vegetables

Without FVSO's help and their generous donors, certainly the Vinh Son orphanages could not exist and survive. Thanks to their support, many orphans over the years have been successful:

1 doctor, 1 young priest, 27 Catholic nuns and 3 Catholic monks, 19 medics, nurses and pharmacists, 1 drawing artist, 8 skilled in music work, 6 interpreters, 4 waiters and waitresses, 5 workers at AA company, 3 automobile mechanics, 3 skilled working in Techno-Info work, 1 athlete of gyms, 2 interior house decorators, 10 french bread bakers, 3 secretaries, 1 accountant, 7 electricians, 3 make-up artists, and 30 teachers. In addition, there are many former orphans who come back to VSO to be volunteers. They want to show their gratitude to VSO. Representing the biggest Montagnard orphanage community in Vietnam, with about 830 orphans (includes Sao Mai orphanage), **we thank the donors and benefactors of FVSO.**

We hope you will continue to support us.

Education: June 2020 Summary

Currently, we provide scholarships for 30 college, university and Technical High School students (some are pictured here). Below is a performance summary of the program:

- 46 total students received support from 2015 through present day
- 13 active students receive scholarship money every month
- 21 students who have graduated
- 2 students who completed course work but didn't pass the tests
- 6 students left school before graduating for various reasons
- 4 students who were dropped by us because they did not communicate (three of these were Technical High School students)



We budgeted \$24,000 for education in 2020. The budget will allow us to provide new scholarships for between 10 and 14 students this fall. Before determining the exact number of new students, we will need to understand how many of the present students will continue next year. This can best be done in September. The Scholarship fund shows a remaining balance of \$34,376.

Sao Mai Orphanage Update

As a reminder, Sao Mai orphanage is home to about 45 orphans who live in a modern facility in Pleiku City, an hour's drive south of Kontum. It's run by the Sisters of St. Paul Chartres. Although it is not affiliated with Vinh Son, FVSO makes quarterly funds available for Basic Needs.

On July 11th, Ms. Thien coordinated the Sao Mai trip to the dentist for the children's annual check-up. She writes: "There were 20 kids and nuns to see the dentist this July. Their teeth were ok, only Think who wears a red T-shirt had to sit in the dental chair. He had to see the dentist more times. He is disabled, so it was very difficult to get him the treatment. We took him to the clinic many times to get him used to the situation. This time, he smiled, got into the chair, and let the dentist do his work."

Top left is the group of happy Sao Mai dental patients.

Bottom left is the boy named Think, receiving treatment.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ORAL EXAM





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.

Dear Marion Little, (wife of Board Member, Mike Little)

This is your quarterly AmazonSmile donation notification. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support a charity of your choice every time you shop, at no cost to you. Your charity, **Friends of Vinh Son Montagnard Orphanage & Mission, Vietnam**, recently received a quarterly donation of \$115.08 thanks to customers shopping at smile.amazon.com.

To date, AmazonSmile has donated a total of:

\$1,297.09 to Friends of Vinh Son Montagnard Orphanage & Mission, Vietnam

Give AmazonSmile a try...IT WORKS!!
Just ask Marion



Legacy Fund Update

The goals are:

\$1.0m by Dec 2020
\$2.0m by Dec 2025

Total Contributions
\$729,867

There is nothing more beautiful than someone who goes out of their way to make life beautiful for others.



We Thank You!!

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.