

January Newsletter 2019 Volume 16 Issue 1

Contact & Donation Information

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Sometimes, an image needs no commentary or explanation. This is one of those times. However, you should know the happiness reflected here was in reaction to the fanciful Christmas celebration that we described in the December newsletter. Captured by Sister Martha's loving camera, this one little girl silently poses for all the children around her as if to say: "I'm so happy I could dance!" She eventually takes the stage...see if you can find her on page 3

President's Year-End Message 2018

2018 was a great year for FVSO, the 850 children, the Sisters and the caregivers in Kontum and Pleiku. We are most thankful for your trust and support. At the end of December, we held our semi-annual Board meeting. As always, the major topic was our budget, the sources and application of funds. We have a heavy responsibility to be good stewards of your funds and I am most thankful for the wisdom and guidance of our Board.

In order to provide the nuns stability, we have guaranteed them an annual budget for the next 12 months. The only way we can do that is to set aside a reserve fund from our donations. Because of your generosity, we were able to increase our funding for the children by 28% in 2018. We are confident that we can maintain that level through 2019.

In addition to our committed budget for Basic Needs, we are able to fund additional capital projects. Elsewhere in this newsletter, we have detailed the amazing things you have enabled us to do in 2018. Donations, over and above our committed budget, are used for these special projects. As we begin a new year, we don't really have an idea what they will be (Dave Chaix's on-site assessment report will help). While they are seldom emergencies (although we are prepared for that) these requests are usually urgent. Your generosity has enabled us to respond on a timely basis.

2018 was a benchmark year for FVSO. Since we started in 2005 (14 years ago), we have officially raised just over \$2 million. Wow !! THANK YOU! Your generosity has helped many thousands of children with shelter, food, education and medical care. Although they still live in a 3rd world country, they are better prepared to enter their community and make contributions. We look at "our children" with pride and know the foundation we give them "lifts all boats" when they leave the orphanage.

Our 2019 Budget looks like this:

\$14,000	Admin fees: paid by the Board (no donor funds)
\$158,000	Basic Needs: Shelter, Food, Medicine, and Primary Education
\$24,000	Higher Education: College, Jr College, Trade Schools
\$40,000	Contingent Funds: for special projects
\$236,000	Total Budget

We now have close to \$500,000 in our **Legacy Fund**. Over time, this account will continue to grow and will be available to support our "Legacy". A special Thank-you goes out to everyone who has contributed to this Fund, guaranteeing support for the children well into the future.

On behalf of the entire FVSO Board, we are thankful for your ongoing trust and support.

Patrick R Leary
President, FVSO

Their Gratitude Runs Deep

I would like to express my feelings to say deeply Thank You to all my dearest friends at FVSO who support the children in the orphanages. By the power of this good deed, may all of you be happy, healthy, and successful in the New Year.

The first thing I want to say is: "for a long time until now, FVSO has sent us funds every quarter of the year; this has greatly improved the lives of the orphans in many ways."

- They have daily food every day for three meals a day and they are not hungry or in malnutrition.
- The babies and the little kids have milk to drink every day and they have good diapers too. There are not any babies who died or were very sick during the past time. They grow quickly and go off to kindergarten.
- The older children can go to school every day and they hope to have good jobs in the future.
- The hygiene and health care of the six Vinh Son orphanages has gotten better and better. Before, there were so many children who got scabies, but not now.
- FVSO has supported the students for their study at universities and most of them are eager to work well at school.

All the Sisters and caregivers of the six Vinh Son orphanages feel very happy for the good results they see because of the FVSO yearly funds. Together, with all the ethnic minority orphans, they always show their deep gratitude to all the donors and members of FVSO for their help and support. God Bless all the benefactors for their love and their charity and we hope that FVSO continues to support the orphans in the future.

Sister Martha, Vinh Son, Kontum



Scholarship Status 2018

\$23,555 spent on scholarships last year

- 3 students graduated from college.
- On December 31, we had 18 students in college.
- Of the 18 college students, 1 is studying in Saigon, 1 in Qui Nhon, 8 in Pleiku, and 8 in Kontum.
- College students are majoring in Psychology, Nursing, Teaching, Information Technology, Community Service, Travel & Tourism, & Mechanics.
- There were also 10 high school students in the Don Bosco Tech School. We support 5 of them & the others receive no charge tuition and lodging from the Don Bosco schools.
- Six students hope to graduate in September 2019 and 4 more in December.
- Three students are supported by individual contributors and the others by our general education fund.

Managed by Clyde Lewandowski, 1st VP

Dave Chaix returns to Vietnam, Again!!

We always enjoy Dave's assessment reports and the pictures of smiling kids. Safe Travels for Dave and his traveling companions!!

Jan 31, Kontum

A full day begins in the morning when we visit the old Wooden Church, Vinh Son 1 & 2 Orphanages. Sewing class & the Convent in the afternoon, followed by a stop at a local Montagnard village to observe their daily lives.

Feb 1, Kontum

Today we will visit the Novices and the remaining Vinh Son orphanages (3-4-5 and 6).

Feb 2, Kontum – Pleiku

Lastly, we will visit Sao Mai Orphanage and the Pleiku central market.

There's always a lot going on at Vinh Son, whether it's higher education opportunities, physical on-site visits, or holiday celebrations, FVSO Board members remain committed to making sure every donation is spent wisely and within our budgetary process.



Financial Activity, 2nd Half of 2018

- On June 13, \$1,450 was sent to our partners, Children of Vinh Son, for our 50% share of a kitchen/cafeteria re-roofing project at VS-1.
- On June 15, \$650 was transferred to Sao Mai for the purchase of a motorbike.
- On June 29, a transfer of \$1,800 was made to VS-1 for tractor/trailer repairs. This expenditure was a partnership project with Derek Smith/ASK. FVSO paid \$1,800 and ASK paid \$1,470.
- In June, we sent \$14,500 for the Dental Clinic at Vinh Son. 50% was paid by our partners, Children of Vinh Son. In 2018, we also sent \$700 to Sao Mai for their Dental Program.
- On July 27, \$3,150 was sent to VS-3 for replacement of computers.
- On August 9, \$5,000 was sent to Sister Khiet at Sao Mai and for a chapel to be built by the family of Sister Khiet. The project was sponsored by family of Sister Khiet.
- 4th Quarter funds of \$1,950 were sent to Sao Mai for Basic Needs and Epilepsy meds on Sept. 24. Included was \$150 for a Christmas 2018 stipend.
- 4th Quarter funds of \$22,150 were sent to Vinh Son for Basic Needs on September 10. This included \$1,000 for a Christmas stipend and \$220 for parasite medication.
- Funds of \$2,300 for a VS-1 Banana Farm were sent to Kontum on December 14.

Managed by Bart Ruud, Senior VP

Sister Alice Y Doang, beloved caregiver at Vinh Son 5 for over 25 years, died on Christmas day. She was 65.



The children knew her love and will forever remember her caring guidance. Sister Alice leaves a legacy of changing lives for the better.



Enlisting new benefactors

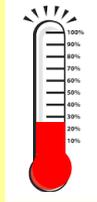
We can help you connect with potential new supporters of the Vinh Son and Sao Mai orphanages.



- 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
\$509,822
% achieved = 25.5%



Legacy Contributors

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

Legacy Contributors

- VVA Chapter 535
- Jim McCauley
- Bart Ruud

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR

"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day."

— Edith Lovejoy Pierce

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 & Board Members

President	Pat Leary
Secretary	Nga Wynne
Treasurer	Ken Tokutomi
Senior VP	Bart Ruud
1st VP	Clyde Lewandowski
2nd VP	Michael Little
3 rd VP	Pat McKee
Board	Dave Chaix
Board	Hank Gonzales
Media	Sean Grame

The Kids



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