



A Humanitarian Non-profit Approved by IRS Code 501(c) 3 & California Section 23701D

P.O. Box 9322 Auburn, California 95604-9322 - Email: info@FriendsofVSO.org - Web: www.FriendsofVSO.org

Please join us in welcoming the Dak Rowa community into our Vinh Son family



They need our help



Sister Alice Y Doang (left)
Sister Ludovica Y Truk (right)

Originally founded in 1975 by Sisters of the Miraculous Medal, the Dak Rowa community really began receiving children in 1994. Since then, Sister Y Truk has been the guiding force, working tirelessly to make sure that the 32 children under her care are provided for physically, educationally and spiritually. Located in a rural area outside of Kontum, Dak Rowa has not benefited from tourist visits, and must rely completely upon themselves (13 boys & 19 girls, ages 7 to late teens) for basic survival.

Not long ago, Friends of the Central Highlands (FOCH) "discovered" Dak Rowa and immediately allocated funds to improve life there. They call it the "Jackfruit" orphanage since a number of jackfruit trees grow nearby. During our February visit to Vinh Son, FVSO also identified the dire situation at Dak Rowa and made plans to "adopt" what we now refer to as Vinh Son 5. Our Board has voted in agreement and help is already on the way.

July 2009

Volume 6, Issue 1

Board Officers

President
Dave Chaix

Secretary
Dennis Coyne

Treasurer
Alan Brooks

Senior VP
Pat McKee

1st VP
Sr. Marie Dominique

2nd VP
Mike Little

3rd VP
Mike Gregersen

Board Members

Hank Gonzales

Rich Lahey

Clyde Lewandowski

Bart Ruud

Mary Waterfield

Pat Keegan

Vinh Son Facts

- Population – more than 500 Montagnard children in five facilities
- Administered by the Sisters of the Miraculous Medal
- Location - Kontum, Vietnam
- About \$12 feeds, shelters, and educates one child for one month

Vinh Son 5, aka Jackfruit



FOCH has been very active in helping "Jackfruit" with basic needs, a new kitchen roof, beds, bath house and showers. Along with new clothes, dental visits have also been scheduled. For its part, FVSO has recently sent funds for: 1) school fees for the 2009-2010 school year, 2) rice, breakfast noodles and protein supplement, and 3) parasite medication.

The 32 children, 2 Sisters and 5 caregivers are counting on us. We won't let them down.



A modern water tank meets an improvised platform, one of the many improvements FVSO plans to make at Vinh Son 5.

Semi-Annual Board Meeting (June 10, 2009)

With 11 of the 13 Board members present, either in person or on the speaker phone, the meeting lasted for about two and a half hours and covered a wide range of topics. After a brief, but thorough, summary of conditions at each of the Vinh Son locations, a project status report and discussion followed (refer to the chart below). Of particular interest, the topic of Education was an area where we spent considerable time. Before FVSO can provide tutors for the children, we must first develop methods for tracking achievement and progress. We also need a better understanding of how language skills are taught (both speaking and writing). Lastly, we raised the possibility of creating a scholarship program for students who have the talent to further their education. More to come on this. Other topics included finance, the web site, fundraising, succession planning, maintenance programs, and Dak Rowa (now referred to as Vinh Son 5).

Total Disbursements as of 7/14/09	1Q2009	2Q2009	3Q2009	TOTALS
Ongoing				
Basic Needs VS 1 - 2 - 3 - 4	\$3,200			3,200
Food VS 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	\$9,672	\$10,420	\$1,550	21,642
Medical VS 1 - 2 - 3 - 4	\$500	\$535		1,035
Dental Plieku Dentist FoCH - All 5 sites	\$1,250			1,250
Field and Fuel VS 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 + Convent	\$1,000			1,000
Parasite Medicine - All 5 sites			\$540	540
Education VS 2 - 3 - 4 - 5			\$5,805	5,805
Large Sewing Class	\$400			400
Projects				
Computer Expense VS 1	\$100			100
Sewing Classes VS 1	\$100			100
School Room Doors VS 1	\$200			200
Vaulted House VS 1	\$1,765			1,765
Floor for Girls Dormitory VS 1	\$1,002			1,002
Pipe + Trenching to Divert Laundry Water VS 1	\$650			650
Roof Repair VS 1		\$300		300
Computer Expense VS 2	\$100			100
Chickens, Feed and Coop VS 3	\$300			300
Fix Motorbile VS 3	\$150			150
Well Pump VS 3		\$165		165
Tractor Shelter/Garage VS 3		\$120		120
Piggery, Pigs, & Pig feed VS 3		\$1,685		1,685
Trailer Tires VS 4	\$150			150
Fix Cement Stairs VS 4	\$30			30
Chalkboard and Tables VS 4	\$70			70
Water Filter System VS 4	\$300			300
Bicycle Repair VS 4	\$200			200
Chickens and Feed VS 4	\$200			200
Kitchen/Dining Rm Uten. & Furn. VS4		\$210		210
Boy's Dormitory VS 4		\$2,500		2,500
Bedding, Beds and Nets VS 4			\$290	290
Total Disbursements	21,339	15,935	8,185	45,459

Your Donations At Work

At left is a summary of the 2009 year-to-date disbursements, a total of \$45,459. While nearly 77% of the funds address ongoing basic needs, special projects account for \$10,587. As you can see, FVSO solves for a very wide variety of specific needs...from mosquito nets to school room doors to chickens. Each one of these projects requires approval from our Board. We also receive photographs and receipts from Vinh Son upon completion of the project.

The Q-3 expenditure for education covers the 2009-2010 school year for VS2-3-4-5 (FOCH provides for VS1).

Total donations during the period amount to \$31,810. With the annual fundraiser coming in September, all of us at FVSO are greatly appreciative of the support you give the children day-in and day-out.

Thank You!

Donations are gratefully accepted year round; checks payable to FVSO or Vinh Son Orphanage

100% of FVSO administrative costs are paid by the Board Members and Officers

Please feel free to share this newsletter with friends & associates