

October Newsletter 2018

Volume 15 Issue 10

Contact & Donation Information

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Make a Difference: They're Counting on us!

Double Your Donation



THANK-YOU!!

The Challenge Part 1 goal (\$21,500) has been surpassed! Good News: a second group of benefactors (see list on page four) has come forward and created Challenge Part 2 (\$16,500).

Please help us maximize the 2018 Matching Fund Challenge

Now's the time to donate

Matching Fund Donation Challenge (Part 2)

Beginning in October, every dollar donated to FVSO will be **MATCHED** up to **\$16,500**

“Just What is a Moon Cake??”



The Mid-Fall Moon Festival, September 24, 2018

Tet Trung Thu, as it is known in Vietnam, or the Mid-Fall Moon Festival as we refer to it in America, is a wonderful, ancient festival that revolves around children.

This Festival is one of the two most popular festivals in Vietnam, and has been important to families in Vietnam for many years.

Tet Trung Thu is very much like a combination of our Halloween and Thanksgiving. Children parade on the streets, while singing and carrying colorful lanterns of different sizes. Some of the popular shapes include fishes, stars, butterflies and a lantern that spins when a candle is inserted, representing the earth circling the sun. Dances are also traditional, and include the dragon dance and the flower dance.

It is customary to give boxes of moon cakes, which are traditionally very rich in taste. The cakes are filled with lotus seeds, ground beans and orange peels and have a bright yoke in the center to represent the moon.

Today, the Mid-Fall Moon Festival, as well as encouraging affection for children, promotes education, poetry, dance and arts and crafts. Showing our love for our children and teaching of Vietnam's love for their children is a wonderful reason to celebrate!



2018
Moon Festival

A Special Holiday that lives on

Nga Wynne (FVSO Secretary) shares her Festival memories

I remember when I was young, my brothers, sisters, cousins and I made our own lanterns. We used bamboo to make the frames. We used our allowances that we saved up for a year to buy color cellophane papers to make our lanterns. We walked around the neighborhood all evening with tons of kids held the lanterns in hands. Every Halloween here, it reminds me our Trung Thu festival in Vietnam.



Sister Martha's Moon Festival story

All the ethnic minority orphans feel very happy when taking part in this Mid-Fall Festival because it makes them excited and help them remember about their children, since they have come to stay at Vinh Son Orphanages. Mid-Fall Festival is also an opportunity for the orphans to show their attitude to the Sisters and all the benefactors, especially to the donors of FVSO who have saved their lives and improved their lives every day. During this opportunity, the orphans can get together and share everything in their first days of the new school year.



Y Luin (at right) was able to purchase much needed school supplies since her FVSO scholarship included an extra \$100 for the first month. Below is Y Luin's letter of gratitude and a brief description of school life. We wish her good luck!

Letter from one of our newest scholarship recipients

Dear FVSO, my name is Y Luin. I am 18 years old, a freshman at K23 of Kon Tum Community College, and currently I am studying English Education and am living in Vinh Son-1. This year I was very lucky to have you and FVSO to help, I am very happy.

At the beginning, I would like to thank FVSO. In the past month, I have received the full amount of money sent by FVSO is \$175; That money I bought a phone and a school bag, the sum of which is 3,769,000 VND. I saved the remaining money to use for other things at school such as class funds, photocopying materials. Up to now, I have been in school for over a month already. On the first day when I first set foot in the new school, I was very nervous, anxious, but also happy because I was introduced to many new teachers. In the subclass there are 20 students, mostly ethnic minority children; I was appointed to be the second leader in class, so I had to take more responsibilities than my classmates. I was very nervous, but then I tried to overcome and learned a lot from that.

This September, in Vietnam, I celebrated many holidays, especially the Mid-Autumn Festival. It was a children's festival in Asia and the celebration of our Saints of Vinh Son. On that day, the Sisters organized for us to play. I will send the pictures that were taken that day for you and our benefactors to see. I was with other friends at Vinh Son-1, and participated in some acts/plays for the Sisters to see. They were very happy.

At the end of the letter, I wish you and FVSO and the benefactors with good health a great abundance of God's grace. May the Lord and Mary always support and accompany you so that you are able to continue to help us. I will try to study well so that I can find a stable job and be able to help others who have a more difficult life.

Matching Fund Benefactors (part 2)

- Bart Ruud
- Patrick & Melinda Leary
- Dave & Elaine Chaix
- Mike & Sharon Bauerly
- Ann & Mark Thelen
- Judith Anshin
- Steve Holley
- Clyde & Connie Lewandowski
- Colleen & Tim Sands

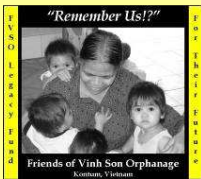


Enlisting new benefactors

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.

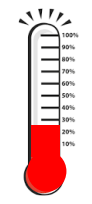


Legacy Fund Update

Target is \$2.0m in 10 years

Total contributions to date
\$534,189

% 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

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.

Helen Keller

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

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

Board of Directors

Hank Gonzales
 Rich Lahey
 Clyde Lewandowski
 Bart Ruud
 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