

Checks payable to: VSO or VinhSon Orphanage

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

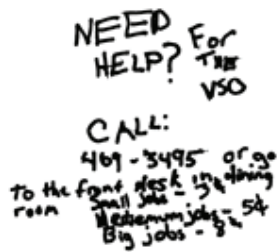
Do you remember Lindsay and Lauren Anikis? by Dennis Coyne

Well, these two sisters (ages 8 and 10) are at it again - finding new, creative ways to help the children at Vinh Son. Not long ago, their mother, Karen, sent an email to Pat Keegan, our Treasurer, stating:

"Lauren and Lindsay had set up an office in our dining room and were hoping to do office work in order to raise money for the VSO. My husband also told me they were going through the empty lockers up at his school yesterday looking for change to add to their giveaway money for the orphanage!"

"Need Help? For the VSO, Call or go to the front desk in the dining room - small jobs 3 cents,

medium jobs - 5 cents, Big jobs - 8 cents."



Once again, we thank Lindsay and Lauren for their wonderful generosity and kindness to the children.



Left Lindsay 8, Right Lauren 10 with puppy Susie



Child receiving dental care from VSO Donations

The Making of a Legacy by Bart Ruud, Project Director, FVSO

A few months ago, FVSO President Dave Chaix asked if I might consider assuming responsibility for managing the various projects our Board of Directors works with over the course of a year. As a new Board member I don't believe that at the time I had even had the privilege to consider a project, let alone vote on a project related to the care of Vinh Son children. The cliché, "Ignorance is bliss" is not altogether a truism, but I told Dave I would be willing to help in that capacity providing he would offer some guidance. He did, I got my feet wet, and in so doing I have developed a better understanding of how our Board operates and what may be the expectations of our many bene-

factors.

Having made two visits to the orphanages in Kontum, I had seen first-hand the results of projects approved in the past. With that background and with pictorial evidence of conditions at VS-4, together with the knowledge of urgent needs at that site, I knew it was only a matter of time before I would be asked to prepare project sheets for dispersal to the Board that would detail the first of several needs, ranked in order of priority.

The Children survive ... because of your generosity.

The children and caregivers in Kontum survive because they have tenacity. In addition, because of your generosity with ongoing financial gifts, matching grants and interest earned on deposited funds, we were in a position to seek consideration of two projects, namely construction of a kitchen and construction of a tool shed/garage which could house the tractor jointly purchased a year ago, with Col-our4Kids of The Netherlands for VS-4. An outdoor kitchen of the most rustic nature surely was not conducive to appropriate sanitation. Leaving farm tools and the tractor exposed to the

September 2008

Volume 4, Issue 3

Board Officers

President:
Dave Chaix

Secretary:
Dennis Coyne

Treasurer:
Pat Keegan

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

VinhSon Facts

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

The Making of a Legacy (continued)

elements and to potential thievery was not in anyone's interest, and certainly not in the interest of those who assist with the financial support of VSO.

Our benefactors can take pride in what their contributions lead to when projects are posted for consideration. Our donors are many, but let me share words about three recent contributions that are not completely unique. In the interest of privacy I'll mention no names, but a very substantial donation was received that was essentially an honorarium established by friends of a gentleman who turned the page and retired after a long career. A multitude of friends donated to a retirement gift fund, knowing exactly where the fund was to be directed: FVSO. Honored by this thoughtfulness, the retiree matched the gift fund, and that combined sum proved sufficient to construct an enclosed kitchen 30 square meters in size, with funds to spare that will be applied toward the construction of the tool shed. The gift of the gentleman's friends will stand as a legacy for

years to come.

A second gift came from new donors who sent their gift in memory of friends lost in the Vietnam War. This memorial gift, in memory of the fallen, is another legacy gift that will make an every day difference in the lives of the children of Vinh Son. These two gifts are gifts of grace with very spiritual ties that will hopefully be remembered by the benefactors all of their days.

Similarly, I can share word that FVSO has received a number of donations over past months that have been sent as memorial gifts in memory of loved ones who've made their transition to eternal life.

All of these gifts of grace are demonstrative of a range of benefactors who understand the children of Vinh Son are victims of circumstance. To simply say thank you is humbling, but it comes from my heart. You, our donors, are extraordinary people who understand the meaning of love. It is your gifts

which mean projects, as described above. Each of you has served a cause greater than your self interest. The children are blessed because you care.



VS 4 Kitchen to be rebuilt by your donations



VS 4 Tractor that needs a shed

President's Message and 2008 Outlook - Dave Chaix

As the year continues, we are making progress in covering our 2008 program. This has not been an easy task during these tough economic times, but thanks to you, our wonderful benefactors, the lives of the children at the Vinh Son Orphanages in Kontum, VN continue to improve.

We have partnered with Friends of the Central Highlands to send funds to purchase meat, fish and vegetables (or have them purchased and delivered) to all four facilities for the next 4 months, thus adding protein to their diets. We will evaluate this program in October and if it is effective and funds are available, it may be extended. This is a new program this year and a follow up to suggestions made by Dr. Berdy during his visit in 2007. Also, following Dr. Berdy's,

advice, we have funded de-worming for all the children as they enter school in September.

Funds have been sent for VS 4 to build a kitchen and garage/tool shed and we hope to be able to update you soon on that progress. The kitchen is a very high priority as the only facility there now is a small tarp covered area with a dirt floor.

Our work continues with Friends of the Central Highlands and East Meets West to bring a dental van to Kontum in October to treat all the children, while continuing to fund monthly visits to a local dentist for those most in need.

In October we will send our next scheduled payment to fund flour for bread and rice to feed the children for the next 4 month period. These are main staples in their daily diet and must be purchased at given intervals to avoid spoil-

age.

Much is being accomplished thanks to you and your warm and generous hearts. We hope our periodic messages help you realize what an amazing difference you are making in the lives of these wonderful children.

Stay tuned our Annual Fund Drive kicks off next week!

