

## September Newsletter 2019 Volume 16 Issue 9

### Contact & Donation Information

FVSO: P.O. Box 9322, Auburn, CA 95604-9322

Email: [FriendsofVSO@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofVSO@gmail.com)

Web: [www.FriendsofVSO.org](http://www.FriendsofVSO.org)

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## Matching Fund Donation Challenge (Part 2)

Beginning in September, every dollar donated to FVSO will be  
**MATCHED up to \$25,995**

**Congratulations and Thank-you** to everyone who made the annual Fundraiser such a huge success! Challenge Fund #1 was matched dollar-for-dollar, and resulted in total donations of \$43,500. If we match Challenge #2, the combined result will be nearly \$100,000 collected for Vinh Son & Sao Mai orphanages.

## Matching Fund #2 Progress

September donations so far

**\$3,096**

Dollars remaining in the Matching Challenge

**\$22,899**



## Back to School Sister Martha's Report

***Each year, FVSO joins hands with the kids and their teachers to celebrate the beginning of another school year. We wish them all the best!!***

After the three month summer vacation, now the children of the six Vinh Son orphanages are preparing to start their new school year 2019-2020 with their efforts to work well in order to become good children at their school.

This new school year, there are many children who will go to upper grades: 1st graders at primary school for the first time, while the 6<sup>th</sup> graders will graduate from primary school and go to their junior high school, and the 9<sup>th</sup> graders will attend senior high school. These students will start their school year in new environments with their beginning of study in their new schools. They have to approach the difference of their new schools and to get acquainted with their new classmates and their teachers. There are many of them feel out of their element and they are nervous about the new study programme before them.

On September 5th, it is the first day of the new school year of all the State schools in Viet Nam. All the children of Vinh Son orphanages are eager to start their new school year so they get up early in the morning. From the evening before, they manage to prepare their new uniforms including their new caps, new red scarf's and new textbooks and notebooks, enough school things for the second day of their new school year. They feel difficult to sleep at the night before because they are anxious after the first day of their new school year which is going to occur tomorrow. After their private sanitary at home, they get dressed well and they go to attend the Mass in the Wooden Church. After all that, they eat breakfast. Finally, they are ready to start their new school year.

The children feel very happy and eager to go to school on time on this day. The children of the primary school go to school by minibus. The children of junior highs school walk to school and the students of the senior high school and of the colleges go to school by bike. On the first day of the new school year, all the streets in Kontum city are very crowded with the students in their new uniforms which look very lovely and especially the school girls of the senior high school in their new white traditional Vietnamese ao dais which are beautiful. They feel eager and joyful to start their new school year.

At the gates of their schools, before their eyes they are the beautiful signs of the names of their schools like Tran Hung Dao Junior High School or Vo Thi Sau Primary School or Truong Chinh Senior High School. Most of the schools are decorated very well on this day with the banners to welcome the students, the teachers and the parents of students and the representatives of the local ward or commune committee, who are always invited to attend this ceremony. Coming through the gates of the school, the students are surprised to see the clusters of colorful balloons that are hung around the schoolyard. In order to prepare for the ceremony of the new school year, all the students and the teacher staff gather in the schoolyard. Everyone is excited.

At 7.30 AM, the ceremony starts with the national anthem in the feast of saluting the flag, and then it is the song of youth and young pioneers which is sung with great feeling. After that, the headmaster steps up the platform to read the opening speech. At the same time, as the drums sound, the balloons are let loose flying into the sky. With all eyes on the balloons, they take the children's dreams and hopes for a successful new school year for both students and teachers. After that, there are some musical performances that help make the ceremony more joyful. At 9.30 AM, the ceremony is done. Soon it will be time for the studying.



## The Vinh Son van was repaired just in time for duty on day-one of the new school year



Sister Myriam Y Ai



### Staff Realignments

**“Our Convent has voted Sister Myriam Y Ai as our new Mother Superior.”** Sister studied 4 years in the Philippines and is 41 years old. Additionally, there is also new leadership at VS-2 (Sr Teresa Y Klanh), VS-3 (Sr Philip Y Lok) and VS-4 (Sr Goretti Y Phep). Congratulations to everyone and good luck in their new assignments!

### Plea from Sister Y Nhun at Vinh Son 6

During the past time, it rained a lot so the kitchen of VS-6 was degenerated and its tin roofs are rusty and rotten, leaking, dilapidated during the rainy season. In the dry season, it is very hot because the tin roof is so low. Consequently, because of the safety of all the kids, we have decided to dismantle the tin roofs and we want to repair it to have a good kitchen for cooking better. Now the kids have to cook their meals outside the kitchen at the verandas or in their playground and they have to tidy well all things after cooking every day. Moreover, we also want to fix the firewood stove as we have suggested and presented it to FVSO and to Mr Clyde and Mrs. Nga during their visit to VS-6 last April this year.

Dear FVSO, because of lacking finance, we do not have funds to repair the kitchen and the firewood stove for the children of VS-6. So today, we would like to send to you this open letter and we hope you can help us to have a good condition to repair the old rotten kitchen.

**The \$3,780 cost was swiftly approved by the Board and funds were made available. As you can see by this photo, the conditions are terrible. We look forward to seeing the new kitchen!**



## Matching Challenge Parts 1 and 2

Benefactors have donated \$47,745

**amazon**smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Fr. Thomas Relihan's Parish,  
Ione, CA  
Patrick & Melinda Leary  
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Jack & Cynthia Selman  
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CA

Jim McCauley

VVA Chapter 535,  
Nevada County, CA

Dave & Claire  
Christensen

Steve Holley

Gene Mapa

Judith Anshin

### 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.

**Part 2 = \$25,995**

**Part 1 = \$21,750**



### Legacy Fund Update

The goals are:

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

**Total Contributions**  
**\$602,509**

### Words of Wisdom

*"We, who have so much, need to reach out to the orphans of this world and show them the care, hope, and love they deserve."*

— Kim De Blecourt

### 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.

### Officers & Board Members

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Media Expert

### 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.