any of us are just coming back from our summer holidays, fully refreshed and energetic, ready to tackle the challenges of life once again. Challenges always look easier to overcome when one is feeling good and strong, so we thought this is a good time to bring up a more difficult topic in this issue of our newsletter. What makes this also difficult to talk about are our readers differing belief systems and the various countries they live in. Additionally, we aim to talk about a very personal matter. By now you might guess that this introduction touches the difficult topic of the time when we are near the end of our lives. It’s only human to worry about the time when we are not here anymore. What will happen to my loved ones, to what I have built up and to my possessions? We all approach this topic very differently. In the Asian world, we tend to look away as it is somewhat taboo, whereas Western people are more receptive to discussing these difficult issues. There is no right and wrong and there is definitely no one fit for all, but what is true for the majority of us is that we want to make sure we do what seems right to us when the end of the road approaches. Some of you have taken care of everything already; some don’t have to bother much since you want the assets to remain within the close family. Others have already decided how to distribute everything, thereby also benefiting some favorite charities. It is never too early to start thinking, but start thinking we all should.

Over the last eleven years we have observed a growing number of people, young and old, who have started to discover the joy of giving. Some give regularly and some give spontaneously. The group of donors who start to work with charities with the clear goal to learn about the best and most suitable way for them to donate is steadily growing. We have long passed the time when one just wrote a cheque and mailed it to a charity or where we just relied on the law to make sure everything is dealt with automatically and in accordance to valid regulations.

Today, donors are much more engaged, willing to learn and eager to find out what part of the philanthropic world is most appealing to them. One can choose not only children related causes but also educational programmes, issues surrounding the elderly or health in general. Some might even decide for animal charities or the arts. We have seen a growing number of donors increasingly investing time with charities to find out where their hearts lie. These donors not only experience the joy of giving while they can participate and actively decide where they believe support is most needed, but also develop a stronger sense of peace of mind that parts of their inheritance will go to the cause and the charity they feel most strongly about. If you wish to involve us into your estate planning, please let us help you during this journey and let us be part of it. We are more than happy to bring you our small, but special world a bit closer and to help you answer some of the more difficult questions in life.

Marc T. Jenni
Co-Founder

“My Dream” – We invite children below the age of 12 to express their own dreams through art in a drawing competition. The participation deadline is 24 October 2014. Click here for more information and our entry form.
**Welcome and Goodbye**

Since our last newsletter, Chanutr Chitpinit has left our Basic Education team to rejoin her family to help out there. Panupong Kwun tong (Arm) and Klo Say Wah are both leaving Child’s Dream at the end of August, Arm to set up his own bakery business and Klo Say Wah will return to Yangon to support her parents. Marloes van der Werf-Hensels, our office volunteer, moved to Penang in Malaysia at the end of June with her family – many thanks, Marloes, Arm, Klo and Chanutr, for all your great help! As you will see later in this newsletter, Tha Wah, has moved from our Chiang Mai office to our Yangon/Myanmar office, where he is dearly needed. Chaveewan Kwansuk moved from our Administration Team to our Basic Education Team on 1 July to take on a new, exciting role there. Elice He, from Sweden, joined our Administration Team as a new volunteer in June 2014. Christin Reinhardt-Riedinger joined us on 1 July 2014 and will gradually take over Ursula’s role in Controlling and Donor Management in the coming six months. Welcome, Christin and Elice!

We are very happy to announce four new Child’s Dream Ambassadors today. Susanna Rüegger Köchli (Singapore) who was a board member of our Swiss legal entity, Child’s Dream Association, for many years is now a Child’s Dream Ambassador. Many thanks to Susanna for her dedication in the past as a board member. We are very happy to be able to count on her also going forward in her role as an Ambassador. Additionally we have, as new Ambassadors, Rachel Ryser (Singapore) who has helped us behind the scenes for many years as well, Keith Quiring (USA), our ex volunteer, and - last but not least - Angelin Au Yong (Singapore), our former Communications and Management Support staff. A warm welcome to all our new Ambassadors!

**Special Feature**

**Yem Khlok**

I am originally from Siem Reap, the province which is renown about the world heritage “Angkor Wat Temples”. I was born after end of “genocide regime” in 1979. Many people might know about killing field in Cambodia. Once I thought that I was lucky but I was not, the civil war still continued until I was 19-year. It was unbelievable, from day to day I saw only the soldiers with the gun came across the villages and asking for food such as chicken, dog and vegetable… etc. and fighting could happen anytime between the remaining Khmer Rouge soldiers and the government soldiers. It was such nightmare.

Lucky I was, I could suffer over the situation and finished high school level and then joined the teacher training college for two years to become the science teacher of Mathematics and Physics. I would say that I had no choice to go further study, no doubt it was because of there was no university in the province except in the capital city and anyway there was no funding. To be a teacher is not big challenge enough for me, how can I go further in the larger context of helping to improve the education? This makes me looking for the new challenges. Finally, I met Child’s Dream, in this stage I feel that this is something I am looking for. It is exactly I can use my skill, use my potential to reach the need of children in large area of Cambodia, especially the children in the remote area, we build hope for the underprivileged children, make me so happy and long smiling when I see the children are able to go to school with big hope to see the new generation can make a better change for their life, community and the country in the future. Big thanks to Child’s Dream for allowing me to be on board, helping to improve the many underprivileged children’s lives in the sub-Mekong region.

Yem Khlok
In-Country Director Cambodia

**Project News**

**Health**

**Malaria Control Programme – a good example of venture philanthropy**

Child’s Dream often engages with smaller initiatives in their early stage of development or in their pilot phase. Once we can see the impact of the initiative, we then help our partners to scale their work and to build up their capacity in order to reach more beneficiaries. Seven years ago we started to support a small pilot of the Malaria Control Programme covering just 4,000 villagers across the border in Kayin State in Myanmar. Over the years we gradually supported the Karen Department of Health and Welfare (KDHW) to expand their geographical coverage to allow more villagers to benefit from the programme’s malaria prevention and treatment activities. At the same time we collaborated with Community Partners International (CPI) to provide technical health support and capacity building to KDHW. Last year the programme...
I was asked to write about ‘Tha Wah’, who is moving from our Chiang Mai office to work in our new Myanmar office in Yangon. I don’t know where to start the article, but I will try my best so please follow me.

Saw Htoo Wah joined the organisation in mid-March of 2010 as an Assistant Field Coordinator (Water Systems and Playgrounds). He’s originally from Karen State, Myanmar, and finished his education as an engineer in a refugee camp on the Thai-Myanmar border. He has actively supervised the construction of more than 45 playgrounds and 35 water systems in Thailand, Laos and Cambodia for the school building projects we support. He’s a very dedicated person: reliable, independent, flexible and hard working. He takes responsibility for all his tasks as well as looking for ways to improve our work. He has long had a dream to return to his homeland to help his people.

Since Myanmar is opening and NGOs too now have the opportunity to work in the country, Child’s Dream now has an office in Yangon to implement projects in Myanmar. This is a good chance for Tha Wah to follow his dream. He will be responsible for conducting needs assessments, proposing solutions to problems and implementing Basic Education activities in Myanmar. We hope this will be an opportunity for him to start a new adventure with new challenges, new experiences and new obstacles to overcome.

Dear Tha Wah, thank you so much for sharing wonderful memories with us and we will miss you so much in Chiang Mai. We wish you all a very best for the future.

This is not good bye, so see you again soon in Yangon!

Cheers,
Tai

Basic Education

Computer Laboratory Initiative

We are excited to introduce our new Computer Laboratory Initiative, which is starting up this year in Laos. Nowadays, computers play an important role in our everyday lives, even in a developing nation like Laos. Computer skills are vital, not only in a work environment, but also outside of work, for people to communicate and search for information. Unfortunately, the computer classes that are offered today by the Laos government are only available in schools which are located in the larger provincial cities and the capital. In order to give students in deprived areas a chance to gain computer knowledge and skills, Child’s Dream Foundation has launched the Computer Laboratory Initiative.

We are currently implementing a computer classroom in five participating schools. Each fully furnished classroom will have a standard size of 84m² and contain 31 computers and a projector. In addition, the school staff will be trained in computer knowledge, skills and maintenance. The budget for one computer laboratory is approximately USD 50,000 and includes our implementation and overhead costs. As with all our initiatives, we will closely monitor the implementation. We have signed a property agreement stating that, if a school does not have a proper maintenance system or is using the computers incorrectly, Child’s Dream has the right to reallocate the computers.

With this project, students have the opportunity to take courses in practical computing to supplement their knowledge and skills, which can enhance their future employability.

Higher Education

TKMI: Civic Empowerment through Multicultural Youth

Myanmar has made dramatic changes in the past two years, after the end of the military dictatorship. And although investments and assistance from the outside world grow, education in the rural areas remains insufficient and religious conflicts still exist. With our previous support of the Theik Khar Myanmar Institute (TKMI) we are convinced to support Myanmar in its striving for a better future.
If your mood is down, we strongly recommend you watch our four minute “Child’s Dream Happy Video”. Thank you for your wonderful inspiration, Pharrell Williams!