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## **We must be a bit too generous in order to be generous enough.**

**“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”**

**Aesop**

**“This is my simple religion. There is no need for temples; no need for complicated philosophy. Our own brain, our own heart is our temple; the philosophy is kindness.”**

**Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama**

**“Kindness is in our power, even when fondness is not.”**

**Dr. Samuel Johnson**

**“All values in this world are more or less questionable, but the most important thing in life is human kindness.”**

**Yevgeny Yevtushenko**

**“Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust, and hostility to evaporate.”**

**Albert Schweitzer**

My readers and I support directly or indirectly (by subscribing to this report) Child's Dream, which is a charity based in Chiang Mai. Two former Swiss private bankers founded this charity ten years ago and I am very impressed by what they have achieved in terms of channeling funds with low overheads to children and students in need (I am enclosing Child's Dream latest newsletter). A subscriber to this report is installing Child's Dream entire software on a voluntary basis and has

been working with them for two years. Since he is a good friend and since he also sees into all the operations of this charity, I asked him what he thought of Child's Dream. He was extremely impressed and spoke very highly of the organization. Another friend of mine – he is the scion of one of Hong Kong's wealthiest Chinese families – who gives a lot of money to charities (though he is very careful with money) recently sent me an email saying, "You should be thanked for introducing Child's Dream to us. They have raised the bar for all NGOs to follow." Finally, many people who visited Child's Dream facilities in the field and with whom I subsequently met, all spoke highly of Child's Dream's work. I therefore, feel reasonably comfortable and confident supporting Child's Dream and to recommend this charitable institution. I am bringing this up because another reader, Laura, sent me an article (see below) saying that charities make her "nervous." Laura further writes that, "When I take money and walk the streets in a poor country I find it very rewarding or go into a school. I go into a home which is a hut and leave money for milk for the children, books, toys, or send in a doctor to help correct a disability - this is meaningful to me." Now, I fully agree with Laura. Charities, church missions, all sorts of NGOs also make me "nervous," and the direct help to people in need is probably the best way to go about being charitable and kind. But it has its limitations. Most importantly many children require *recurring* support either educational or medical. So a one-time donation to a child in a poor family will simply not do the trick. One could try and overcome this problem by sending money regularly to these families, but who will guarantee that the money is well spent? Evil mothers or fathers could use the donations for drinking, gambling, etc. and not for their children's need. Moreover, whereas Laura may have the time to walk around and provide direct assistance to the needy, some other people simply cannot give away millions or billions of dollars by walking around and visiting huts. They need to set up their own charitable organizations (i.e. the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) or they need to use a variety of established charities to share their good fortunes. Both will require as much time and expertise as running an operational business or a fund management company. If the donor establishes his own charitable organization he will be confronted with all kinds of issues that will require his attention daily, whereas if he allocates his funds to existing charities he will need to spend time on the selection of the charities, to which he intends to give money.