



# Child's Dream

A charity organisation supporting children in need

[www.childsdream.org](http://www.childsdream.org)



## Our objectives

We aim to prevent child exploitation (child prostitution, child labor, child soldiering and trafficking) and migration through

- improving living & health conditions and education standards;
- raising the awareness of child trafficking among families and communities;
- helping children to take pride in themselves and strengthen their self-esteem;
- cultivating a better attitude towards life and society and
- encouraging the children to love and respect their own customs and culture.

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Looking on the bright side...

It is difficult to stay optimistic during these times of uncertainty, but I believe that every moment has its bright side, and many wonderful opportunities are hidden beneath fear and anxiety. In fact, it is often during times like these that these opportunities are revealed, as we are forced to reflect on our existing state of affairs.

But what does this uncertainty mean for Child's Dream, as commitments to our beneficiaries have to be fulfilled, and staff salaries need to be paid? It is not surprising that the global economic crisis did not stop at our doorstep, given the fact that Child's Dream is close to the bottom of the financial 'food chain' and our source of funding is deeply rooted in the financial industry.

Our first priority is to ensure the continuation of our projects and programmes, as they address the basic needs of society's most vulnerable (the real bottom of the 'food chain'). Secondly we want not only to offer job security, but also to use the potential excess capacity of our staff to further improve their knowledge and skills, whilst fostering team spirit and loyalty. We also continue making gains in efficiency and effectiveness by streamlining our processes and decentralising decision making. These, for Child's Dream, are the "silver linings" of the financial cloud, and we feel comfortable that we will weather the storm.

However, for me personally, the most positive impact of current economic uncertainties is the opportunity to strengthen our relationship with our supporters as their contributions are reaching us now, although smaller in amounts, with greater consciousness for our cause. This allows us to build more bridges between our donors and our beneficiaries, thus increasing the awareness and understanding of each other. In so doing, we can look at the bright side together and reveal more wonderful opportunities. *By Daniel Siegfried*

## Organisational News

As mentioned above, the current economic crisis has necessitated even more careful management of our resources. Given the tighter financial situation, hiring new employees has not been high on our agenda since the last newsletter. However, we are very happy to have been able to strengthen our team in Siem



Reap, Cambodia, with the addition of **Savath Pov**, a very experienced staff member in the function of 'Country Programme Manager'. Welcome Savath!

We were once again able to rely on volunteers giving us a helping hand. A big thank you to **Angie Ng**, who was able to complete the annual reporting of our various legal entities in record time. **Max Odefey** was a great help to all of us, completing many special tasks and getting the website of our partner organisation **diversethics Foundation** live.

**Ursula Bisig**, the acting cashier/secretary of our Swiss Association, supported Manuela greatly during this year's selection process for our university scholarship programme. Another big thank you goes again to **Bryan Clapper** for building a 'Rolls-Royce' scholarship database. **Kate Mellor**, a new long-term volunteer joined our team very recently for a period of 12 months. Welcome on board, Kate!

## More tax domiciles for our donors

Thanks to our partnership agreement with 'Transnational Giving Europe' (TGE), residents of more European countries will very soon be able to donate tax-efficiently. Residents of the United Kingdom, France, Italy and Germany will soon enjoy this privilege. We will update our website as soon as the donation details are available and we kindly ask donors and potential donors in the above mentioned countries to check our website under 'Donate' for further information.



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### Recent activities

#### Tarn Thong Nursery School, Thailand



Baan Tarn Thong lies in the Chiang Rai province of Northern Thailand. The village was established as a formal village in 2003 and consists of 216 households and almost 1,500 people. The villagers are from the

Hmong hill tribe and 90% are farmers. There are 70 - 80 children in the village between the ages of two and four years old, some of whom are not registered as Thai nationals.

The village does have a school, but there are no facilities to provide nursery care and education for very young children. This means that the children of Baan Tarn Thong do not have the same early educational opportunities as children in the cities. Because of this they may not be able to perform as well as they otherwise might have or will not be able to catch up later on with students who did have access to nursery education.

As the number of children in the village is likely to increase in the future through migration of Hmong people from other villages and from Laos, the demand for nursery care and education facilities is increasingly pressing. By giving the youngest children of Baan Tarn Thong the opportunity to commence their education and thus improve their development opportunities in the Baan Tarn Thong nursery, we will allow them to reach their potential in future schooling, and consequently to lead a successful life.

One of Child's Dream's main goals is the children's integration, in order to increase their chances of employment in Thailand without losing their cultural identity. The children in Baan Tarn Thong originate from the Hmong hill tribe, and may not have Thai language as their mother tongue. In order to communicate and function in Thai society, they have to learn Thai. In addition they are taught Chinese and English to improve their employability, later in life. However, they are always encouraged to be proud of their own culture and to keep their traditions alive.

In consultation with the villagers of Baan Tarn Thong, Child's Dream has agreed to build a nursery, including a kitchen, canteen and toilets. With this nursery we provide a considerable upgrade in the nursery education and care facilities, hygiene and comfort standards for the children of Baan Tarn Thong. The villagers have agreed to contribute about THB 30,000 (USD 850.--) to the budget, as well as providing land preparation and unskilled labor support. The construction work is scheduled from mid-March to the end of June 2009. The budgeted costs are at about 623,150 Baht (approx. USD 17,350)

#### Na Sam Liang Primary School, Laos

The village of Baan Na Sam Liang is located at about 12 km from the town of Sukuma, in Champasak Province in Southern Laos. Baan Na Sam Liang was established around 1948 after villagers moved there from Baan Sam Liang Kao,



about 3 km away, following a disease epidemic. The villagers belong to the 'Suay' ethnic minority group.

The community built a school in 1978, but a storm destroyed the wooden structure in 1994. The school was quickly rebuilt, but needed frequent renovations in recent years. Unfortunately, recently termites have infested the wood to the point that the building is totally unsafe. To secure safe classrooms for the students, a new building is required.

The school offers education to 160 students, 80 girls and 80 boys. Four teachers, two female and two male, instruct the children.

Child's Dream will build a new school with six classrooms, totaling 340 square meters. We will also build a toilet block with two toilets (the old school had none). Furthermore, Child's Dream will provide new school furniture for all rooms. The community will prepare the land, and provide free labor and supply construction wood. All other material will be bought from a shop in nearby Sukuma. This shop will take care of transportation of materials to the village.

The construction work is scheduled to take place from April to December 2009. The budgeted costs for construction and the furniture are at about 1,018,721 Baht (approx. USD 29,970).



This school will be built in memory of Andrew Woinarski. His family and friends raised all the funds to make it happen. Thank you!

#### Prasarth Bei School, Cambodia

During the Khmer Rouge regime, classes in the village of Prasarth Bei were held under big trees and beneath some village houses. In 1990 a temporary wooden structure was built to serve as the school. This structure, though in very bad condition, is still in use. Due to the small size of the existing building, classes are taught in two daily shifts – morning classes for grades one, three and five, and afternoon classes for grades two and four. Around 230 students (110 girls, 120 boys) attend school. The number of



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students increases year by year, compounding the need for new infrastructure in the village. Four teachers are permanently employed at the school.



Prasath Bei is a government school, supervised by the local school committee. Teaching material and teachers salaries are covered by the government, and UNICEF provided the toilets and water system.

In consultation with the village committee, Child's Dream has proposed to construct a school building with five class rooms with a total surface of approx. 360m<sup>2</sup>. We will also provide new school furniture for all rooms, a flag pole and a school gate. The same construction company that we cooperated with to build Snor Village school and Pong Ro Chas school will be engaged and paid in four installments. The school committee is responsible for the land preparation, providing some free labor and monitoring the operation. Construction is scheduled to take place from March to August 2009. The budgeted cost, including furniture, is 232,774,000 Riel (approx. USD 56,770).



### Basic Health Intervention for Children (BHIC), Burma

This programme is managed by our partner organisation, the *diversethics Foundation*.

The Burmese military regime continues to severely restrict humanitarian aid from reaching ethnic minorities in the border regions known as 'black zones'. Children in these areas have borne the brunt of human rights violations such as forced displacement, forced labor and the destruction of local food sources. This has led to child mortality rates that are as high as some countries in Sub Saharan Africa. In the black zones of eastern Burma more than 20% of children will die before their fifth birthday from preventable diseases (mainly: malaria, diarrhea, pneumonia and malnutrition). In northern and western Burma where access to adequate health care facilities is extremely limited, the situation is thought to be even worse.

On a global level, much progress has been made to reduce neonatal, infant and child mortality using basic, inexpensive interventions proven to reduce the major causes of death and disease in pregnant women, infants and young children. In Burma the major challenge is how to adapt and deliver these interventions

in the unstable border regions of the country where public and private health systems are often nonfunctional, destroyed or inaccessible.

Global Health Access Programme (GHAP) has been working on the various borders of Burma since 1998. They are a non-profit organisation working to improve the well-being of communities in crisis by providing health services, health training, capacity building and resource enhancement.

In 2008 *diversethics Foundation* agreed to fund GHAP to implement the 'Basic Health Interventions for Children' Project. This project will work with indigenous organisations in eastern, northern and western Burma (from their respective borders in Thailand, China and India). GHAP will provide health training and support to local healthcare providers to implement simple, cost-effective and life saving interventions. The interventions have been selected from an evidence base and adapted to take into account security constraints, logistical feasibility and the capacity of the local organisations in each target area.

The interventions will include:

1. A vitamin A and de-worming programme in eastern Burma
2. A village health worker training programme in eastern Burma
3. A pilot targeted feeding programme in eastern Burma
4. A pilot immunisation programme in eastern Burma
5. A maternal and neonatal health programme in eastern, western and northern Burma

An estimated 200,000 villagers from 1,000 villages (including 100,000 children under the age of 20 and 40,000 children under the age of 5) will benefit from this project. The programme's cost in the first year (2008) was approx. USD 200,000 and the budget for 2009 is roughly USD 120'000. *diversethics Foundation* is about to start the second year of support.

### Natoe Agricultural College, Thailand



The Natoe Agriculture School is a branch of the Chiang Rai Agriculture and Technology College. It was established in 2007 under the protection of the Thai Royal crown princess to provide adequate education

opportunities for under-privileged children along the border between Shan State and Thailand. This college aims to support students who are hindered in their education by poverty and



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restricted freedom of movement, especially students who are living in remote areas and wish to continue their education after finishing primary education in their villages. Most of these students are Akha, Shan or Lisu and many do not hold a Thai ID Card. Ten teachers provide vocational education according to the Thai vocational college curriculum with focus on sustainable agriculture. A key target of the school is to build up a solid network along the border area that will guarantee sustainable community development in the long term.

Child's Dream agreed to support the construction of two boarding houses for boys and one for girls and to renovate one school building. About 35 students will stay in the boarding houses.

The implementation took place from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008 to mid February 2009 and the total cost was approx. USD 24,000.



### Project Updates

#### Phang Kham Boarding House, Thailand

We are thrilled to have been able to open the Phang Kham Boarding House on March 23, 2009 in the presence of Mr. Imhoof, Swiss Ambassador to Thailand, our guest of honor.

#### Pong Ro Chas Primary School, Cambodia

On 27th February 2008, the school was formally handed over to the community during a big celebration. Our Swiss auditor was the guest of honor.

#### KSEAG Stationery Programme, Burma

This programme entered its second year of support. A total of 807 schools in Karen State received essential stationery. 2,601 teachers and 53,520 students are direct beneficiaries. The 2009 budget of KSEAG is roughly USD 120'000.

#### CDC School – New Campus, Thailand

Our biggest project so far is soon to be completed and more than 1'000 students will have a new education facility. The opening ceremony is scheduled to take place end of May 2009.

### Alternative ways of helping us

Along with our continued need for financial support, whether big or small, we have identified one particular form of assistance interested parties could provide to strengthen the capacity of our staff members, thereby increasing our potential to make an even bigger difference in the future. As a result of the economic slowdown and a decrease in donations, we are realistically expecting to start fewer projects and programmes during the coming months. We plan to use the resulting excess staff capacity to further improve their knowledge and skills, while fostering team spirit and loyalty. A lot of knowledge is available in-house already and we are in the process of putting together an extensive training schedule covering the coming 24 months. Capacity which is not available in-house will be sourced externally, triggering costs. In order to absorb the cost of our capacity building initiative, we want to bring this idea closer to all of you. You might be interested in supporting us for exactly this cause either financially or by helping us to conduct certain one-off training sessions, for example in information technology or project management. Please contact us if acting as a facilitator would be of interest to you.

### Thank you very much!

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all our dear friends who constantly help keeping our administration ratio low by giving us their airlines miles, letting us stay for free during our fundraising trips, letting us drive their cars and spoiling us with great food. Many thanks!

From our entire team and from the bottom of our hearts, thank you very much for your commitment towards our cause. All the work we do would not be possible without your support.

### Your Child's Dream Team