



Child's Dream

A charity organization supporting children in need

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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Christmas - Newsletter

December 2006

Seriously, there is almost nothing here in Chiang Mai that would remind you of the approaching Christmas season. But then again, just ALMOST nothing. The ingenious marketing strategies of local retailers combined with the fad of young trendsetters to copy certain Western traditions are leaving their marks of not only Christmas, but also Halloween and Valentines Day. Now the shopping centers are even more chilled. Your Starbucks coffee turns into ice-coffee by the time you find a table and the only person who does not get frostbite is Santa, who is stuffed with pillows and sits comfortably in his little gingerbread house.

Christmas in Thailand has a pure commercial purpose, but its ideology of caring and sharing is lived here every day. The social fabric is strong. Family values are cherished and are part of every day's life. The wellbeing of others is often more important than one's own. We have been meeting not only local people who selflessly devote their lives to help others, but also very generous wealthy individuals who share our passion to bring a change to children in need. What started off with a small circle of friends, colleagues and family members has meanwhile grown into a vast network of sympathetic like-minded people that allows us to manage Child's Dream effectively.



It is time to say thank-you to all of you, who believe in us and our idea and actively support us in our quest. In addition, we are very grateful to our staff and volunteers for their tireless efforts, their

indisputable motivation as well as their strong team spirit. Together, we developed Child's Dream into a reputable and efficient organization, which is able to effectively create a lasting positive impact on many lives. *By Daniel Siegfried*

Organizational News

The downside of having volunteers is that they normally have to leave too soon. Michael, Letizia and Lee will finish their assignments with Child's Dream in December. All of them helped us greatly in developing Child's Dream with their specific skills. Thank you very much!

Due to the growth of Child's Dream and its increased visibility, we decided to slightly restructure the board of our Swiss association to face future challenges. Simultaneously, we applied for listing in the Commercial Registry of the Canton of Zurich (Handelsregister), which we gratefully obtained on November 14th, 2006.

Since our donor base is expanding, we have received many requests for tax-efficient solutions for donations. We are pleased to inform our sponsors in the U.S. and Australia that contributions to Child's Dream can now be tax-efficient.

Children Medical Fund

As Itzhak Stern, a Jewish accountant in Oscar Schindler's factory, once said: 'Whoever saves one life, saves the world entire'.

Ever since we started with our work, we have been confronted with countless requests to support children, who urgently need treatment in order to save their lives. In most cases, a life-saving operation is required, which the child's family cannot afford. Given these experiences, we decided to set up a 'Children Medical Fund' to financially support children with special medical needs. The fund offers them access to the necessary treatment.

Thailand's healthcare system allows only Thai citizens to visit hospitals and get treatment at almost no cost. Migrant workers and their children cannot



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benefit from it. Therefore, we are currently working together with the Burma Children Medical Fund (BCMF), which in turn co-operates with the Mae Tao Clinic in Mae Sot. They organize treatment and surgery for Burmese migrant and refugee children, who have medical needs that cannot be provided by the Mae Tao Clinic or the local government hospital. Normally, these patients have to be referred to hospitals in Chiang Mai.



Chit Ko Oo suffers from a debilitating heart

It is impossible for these migrant families, who often live on less than one dollar a day, to pay for the medical expenses as well as the costs for transportation and lodging. In most cases the patients are toddlers and have to be accompanied by either a family member or a volunteer from Burma Children Medical Fund, which results in further costs.



Ma Phu Phu suffers from facial disfigurement

With this project, we are convinced to be able to save many lives that would otherwise be lost. The average cost for treatment per patient is approximately USD 2,500. In 2007 we hope to give to about 20 patients a second chance. We will consider expanding this project to other areas of the Mekong Sub-Region at a later stage.

Scholarship Program

With our scholarship program, we enable some of the smartest teenagers to continue their studies at accredited universities. In 2006, out of 60 short-listed students, only nine were accepted. There were two reasons for that: Our budget was limited and we first wanted to gain experience with this new program.



One of our female scholars studying at Assumption University in Bangkok

We have been accompanying these nine scholars over the last couple of months and after seeing their progress, we decided to further expand this program to allow more young adults to complete their education with a bachelor's or master's degree. The need for scholarships is endless, but

our resources are unfortunately limited! We strongly believe that highly educated youths will be future leaders, will promote tolerance and diversity and will contribute to a peaceful life in the communities.

The costs for tuition, food, accommodation, insurance and administration are approximately USD 6,600 per scholar per year. However, their personal gain and the potential impact on their communities are priceless!

Huay Nam Pu Secondary School

Some days ago a group of dedicated students from the University of Ramkhamhang in Bangkok walked into our office. They established a 'Community Development Voluntary Program' in order to gain experience outside the campus and to put their knowledge into practice. With great enthusiasm they informed us about their plans of building a new secondary school in a Karen village called Huay Nam Pu.

The village is located in a remote mountainous area approximately 120 km from Chiang Mai. The 'low-land' students' stamina to endure car sickness was tested during six hours. Luckily, some female students were present too, who helped the boys to not lose their face and



The land was already prepared by the villagers

breakfast. Watt, our assistant project manager, joined the trip to the village to assess the situation. The current school building was very run down as it had been built 25 years ago. Due to the nationwide extension of educational opportunities, the village must also provide higher educational levels. However, the funding from the government was insufficient to build additional facilities.

Since we appreciated the effort of these youths and were convinced of the need for a new facility, we covered the budget of approx. USD 1,400 for bricks and roof tiles for the 4-room building. Some construction work such as land preparation had been carried out by the villagers, whereas the building has been completed by about 30 students from Ramkhamhang University.

Project Round-up

ChildsArt Group – Take a few tons of sand, a couple of thousand bricks, meters of bamboo, countless shovels, hoes and add 50 motivated UBS employees from Singapore in order to build two stairs, a volleyball field as well as a workshop for ChildsArt. These bankers decided to spend their teambuilding weekend in an unconventional way for once and offered ChildsArt their manpower.



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It was unbelievable to see everybody shoveling, hacking, carting buckets of sand and arranging bricks, all the while being in a good mood. In only one day all the above mentioned tasks were successfully completed! Great team spirit made it possible. Again, thank you very much for your enthusiasm and commitment!

Primary School in Snor Village –

We were stunned to meet our newest school carefully decorated and to see two huge tents and a majestic stage erected on the school grounds. We certainly did not expect such a high profile opening ceremony. However, it meant a lot for the villagers of Snor and the participation of the Vice-Governor of Siem Reap Province made them even prouder. Prior to our school construction, nobody knew about Snor and not even the District Chief had visited the village. It was a wonderful celebration with lots of speeches, traditional dancing and exchanging of presents.



Child's Dream received a letter of appreciation from the Cambodian government

Thank you

On behalf of thousands of children, we want to extend our gratitude to you from the bottom of our hearts. It is not just the financial support we value, but also the moral encouragement and the trust you put in us.



'Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.'

With this quote from Mother Teresa, we wish you and your family all the best, a wonderful festive season, Happy New Year and many joyful moments for 2007.

Your Child's Dream Team