



Child's Dream

A charity organisation supporting children in need

Unprivileged Children Have Dreams too...

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Funding Proposal for

Mr. Vinod Nair

Child's Dream would like to support the following project as outlined below:

Project concerned:

Renovation of the two storey primary school building for about 350 children in Naseng in the South of Laos

Implemented and funded by:

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Executive Summary

Child's Dream is incorporated as a charitable association in Switzerland and as a charitable foundation in Thailand. Its mandate is to support underprivileged children in the Mekong Sub-Region. We would like to renovate a two storey primary school building for about 350 children living in Naseng in the South of Laos, where we have already replaced the old school building by a new one. Our objective is to widen the access to education as well as to reduce illiteracy. The new and the renovated school buildings will allow these children to attend classes regularly and therefore have better chances to lead a successful life and to contribute to the prosperity of the community. Education is one of the most important factors for sustainable development and a peaceful coexistence in a community.

We hope that you will find this project interesting and that you help us making an enormous positive impact on many children's lives.

Table of Content

Page

1.	Who is Child's Dream	2
2.	Situational analysis	3
3.	Primary school in Naseng	3
4.	Detailed budget	4
5.	Objectives	4
6.	Risk analysis	5
7.	Implementation and ongoing management	5
8.	Final reporting	5
9.	Funding request	5

Child's Dream

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1. Who is Child's Dream

Child's Dream is a charitable association incorporated in Switzerland (ZGB, article 60ff) and has been tax-exempt by the tax authorities of the Canton of Zurich as well as by the Federal tax authorities. We are also a charitable foundation, registered with the Royal Thai government.

Our mission is to support underprivileged children in the Mekong Sub-Region (Thailand, Burma, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam). This area is at the core of many humanitarian crises such as human trafficking, exploitation of children and the spread of HIV/AIDS.

From our office in Chiang Mai we selectively provide support to 'grass-roots' projects, which are in dire need of help and care for children. We want to prevent exploitation of children (child prostitution, child soldiering, child labour and child trafficking) through improving living conditions and educational standards, through helping children to take pride in themselves and through restoring their dignity and instilling healthy values towards life and society.

Since its establishment in October 2003, Child's Dream implemented over 40 projects (see the red dots on the map) all over the Mekong Sub-Region. Projects are ranging from educational infrastructures (nurseries, schools, vocational training centres and colleges), orphanages and water & electricity systems to a children in-patient hospital ward. We are also providing stationery to countless schools as well as clothes and uniforms to over 3400 refugee children. In order to complete the education cycle, we offer scholarships to talented, but financially underprivileged university students.

In order to ensure an optimal use of the funds, Child's Dream provides infrastructure (schools, shelters, water systems, etc.), as well as personal items to meet health and educational needs (clothes, stationary, etc.) directly to the projects concerned.

The two founders, Marc Jenni and Daniel Siegfried, had been working for UBS Bank in Asia for many years until they realized that money not only didn't make them happy, but that it also distorted their sense of reality. More information about the founders is available at www.childsdream.org/en/aboutfounders.asp.

About 70% of all charitable funds raised originate from private individuals mostly residing in Switzerland, Hong Kong and Singapore. We are also proud to be supported by the following corporations and institutions (full list of our corporate sponsors is available at <http://www.childsdream.org/en/ourSponsors.asp>):

- Embassy of Switzerland, Bangkok, Thailand, www.eda.admin.ch/bangkok_emb/e/home.html
- UBS AG, www.ubs.com
- Credit Suisse, Asia/Pacific, www.credit-suisse.com
- Migros Genossenschafts-Bund, Zurich, www.migros.ch
- Siam City Cement, Bangkok, www.siamcitycement.com
- Charities Aid Foundation (CAF Australia), www.cafaustralia.org
- Marc Faber Limited, Hong Kong, www.gloomboomdoom.com

Given our lean structure, we are confident of maintaining an administration expense ratio below 10% (currently around 6.5%).

The Child's Dream Team



From left: Say Thong, Sallo, Anne, U, Tai, Daniel, Manuela, Marc & Lee

The Child's Dream Project Map



2. Situational analysis

After six centuries of monarchy, the Communists took control of the government in 1975 and instituted a strict socialist regime closely aligned to Vietnam. Since the revolution, isolation and economic deprivation have hindered the Communist state. Today, Laos is one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world, although a gradual return to private enterprise and the liberalization of foreign investment laws began in 1986. Laos also became a member of ASEAN in July 1997.

Laos' infrastructure is very elementary: It has no railroads, a rudimentary road system, and limited telecommunications. Electricity is available in only a few urban areas. Rural areas, however, have no electricity or potable water, and none of the basic facilities of developed societies. Little of the land is arable, and only 5% is used for the subsistence agriculture that provides 80% of total employment. Although the government attempts to eradicate the trade, Laos is one of the biggest producers of opium, and many farmers have no other source of income.

Historically, most ethnic groups had no written language, since education usually took place in Buddhist temples, where monks taught male students orally. Although literacy is on the rise, the lack of available reading material means that literacy is often short-lived. There is a lack of school infrastructure all over the country. In addition, parents frequently require their children to work on their family's farm rather than attend school regularly.

Child's Dream is broadening the access to basic education by building, upgrading and extending schools for remote communities in rural areas. While giving more children the opportunity to study, we intend to reduce the rate of illiteracy among children and provide them with better chances to lead a successful life.

Map, Facts & Figures of Laos



Government	Communist State
Capital	Vientiane
Population	6.37 million
Area	236 000 km ²
Ethnic groups	Lao Loum 68%, Lao Theung 22%, Lao Soung incl. Hmong & Yao 9%, Chinese 1%
Life expectancy	55.5 years
Literacy rate	66.4%
Population below poverty line	40%
GDP per capita	USD 1,900

3. Primary school in Naseng

The Naseng School is a government primary school for about 350 children in the Savannakhet province. The number of students has been steadily growing and the school's infrastructure could no longer accommodate all students at once. As a result, children could either attend morning or afternoon classes.

In addition, the school was built about 70 years ago and the infrastructure is only very basic. Even the newer double-storey building is in very bad condition. The roof is leaking everywhere and many doors and windows are either missing or cannot be closed or opened anymore. Although the school receives a small amount from the government, it's not enough to do any renovation.

Child's Dream decided to build a new school with 5 classrooms and toilets and to renovate the existing double-storey school building. In order to ensure that the children could continue their studies we first replaced the old building. As a further step we will renovate the newer double storey building.

The total estimated cost for the renovation is about THB 612,662 (USD 18,019). We expect the renovation to be completed by the end of October 2007.



4. Detailed budget

			In THB
Infrastructure	Construction materials	Wood	133,160
		Paint	51,985
		Roof tiles	50,412
		Ceiling	45,000
		Bricks	14,000
		Cement	13,812
		Iron	10,640
		PVC pipes	9,667
		Nails	6,300
		Stones	3,800
	Sand	1,800	
	Finishing materials	Other smaller materials	5,000
		Windows and doors	34,982
Gutter		14,700	
Total infrastructure			395,258
Furniture			65,000
Labour costs			101,818
Total Project costs			562,076
Administration overhead contribution 6%			33,724
Project related costs 3% (monitoring costs such as accommodation, fuel, visas, etc.)			16'862
Grand Total			612'662

Given a USD/THB exchange rate of 34.00, the total budget is **USD 18,019.--**

5. Objectives

Our overall objective is to prevent exploitation (child prostitution, child labour and child trafficking) and migration of children by

- ✓ improving living conditions and educational standards;
- ✓ helping children to take pride in themselves, restoring their dignity and strengthening their self-esteem;
- ✓ raising awareness among families and communities about child trafficking;
- ✓ instilling healthy values towards life and society and
- ✓ encouraging the children to love and respect their own customs and culture

With this particular project we aim to achieve the following:

- ✓ broaden the access to education;
- ✓ reduce illiteracy among the children and therefore offer better chances to lead a successful life and
- ✓ increase hygiene standards in the school

6. Risk analysis

Even though we consider this project as a low risk project, operating in a rural area of Laos is not without risk:

- ✓ While we did not face any problems yet collaborating with the Laotian government, bureaucracy, corruption and a lack of governance, transparency and the country's overall stability might prevent an efficient implementation.
- ✓ Heavy rainfalls might cause an interruption of the work in order to ensure the workers' safety and the quality of the building.
- ✓ Although we have a lot of experience with budgets for school buildings, a certain risk remains that we have to cover additional costs, which we didn't consider when calculating the budget. As an example, the Laotian government plans to increase the production of cement and might prohibit the import of cement from Thailand, which is cheaper and of higher quality.
- ✓ Given the fact that Naseng School is a government school, the risk that the school might not be used for educational purposes is very low.
- ✓ Although the Thai Baht is a rather stable currency, exchange rate fluctuations might occur.

7. Implementation and ongoing management

In Laos we usually work together with the community leaders and the school committee. The renovation will be implemented by a local contractor. As for all our projects, we encourage the community to participate in the construction. It gives the villagers a sense of pride and ownership, which means that they will look after the buildings better and know how to maintain them.

We already ordered the materials needed for the first phase of the construction. In the future the villagers can, according to the budget, order the materials themselves at a local construction shop and send us the receipts. We also arranged for the transportation to the site. Since we have been working together with this shop for the reconstruction of the new building they offered us free transportation for the renovation materials.

The implementation has already started beginning of August and is scheduled to be completed by the end of October 2007. After completion Child's Dream will regularly visit the project in order to check whether the school needs extension or upgrading and whether it is still used for educational purposes. The school committee will be responsible for the ongoing management.

8. Final reporting

As with all our projects, Child's Dream will submit a detailed final report about the project summarizing all costs.

9. Funding request

We kindly ask you to support us in our quest to provide education to the children in this remote Laotian village.

Chiang Mai, August 9th, 2007

Child's Dream

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenni".

Marc T. Jenni
Founder

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Siegfried".

Daniel M. Siegfried
Founder