



Child's Dream

A charity organisation supporting children in need

Unprivileged Children Have Dreams too...

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Funding Proposal for

Charities Aid Foundation, Australia

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

Project concerned:

Construction of three new school buildings including sanitation facilities for about 800 children in Bung Kaew in the impoverished district of Sukuma 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 construct three new school buildings including toilets and furniture for about 800 children living in Bung Kaew and seven neighbouring villages in the South of Laos. Our objective is to widen the access to education as well as to reduce illiteracy. The new school will allow many more children to have an education and therefore 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.

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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, stationery, 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
- Marc Faber Limited, Hong Kong, www.gloomboomdoom.com

Given our lean structure, we are confident of maintaining an administration expense ratio below 10% (currently 6%).

The Child's Dream Team



From left: Watt, Sallo, U, Daniel, Say Thong, Marc & Tai

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 schools and trained teachers. 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.

3. School in Bung Kaew

Bung Kaew is located in the Sukuma district, the poorest in Champasak province. Currently there are six buildings and unfortunately most of them are in terrible condition: Inclined walls, wooden beams that are destroyed by termites and do not give the impression to still support the roof, roof tiles dotted with wholes, dirt floors, lacking doors and windows everywhere. To mention that under this condition a safe learning environment can no longer be ensured for the approximately 700 children seems to be obsolete.

The school offers nursery to about 200, primary education to about 300 and secondary education to about 300 children from eight villages. On secondary level only grade 1-3 are provided since there is not enough space in the existing three-room building to offer also grades 4 and 5. An increase of 100 students could be reached with additional classrooms.

To get funding from the government for renovation or reconstruction of the school buildings is almost hopeless. Therefore, we decided to tackle this project although it is much larger than the other schools we support in Laos. We will build a 12-room primary school building (756m²), a three-room secondary school building (288m²), a three-room nursery (288m²), 6 toilets for each gender as well as both, water and electricity systems. The total estimated costs are about THB 3.2 mio. (USD 95,442). We expect the construction to be complete by the end of March 2008.

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 9%, Chinese 1%
Life expectancy	55.5 years
Literacy rate	66.4%
Population below poverty line	40%
GDP per capita	USD 1,900



No walls and a dirt floor



Provisional partitions

4. Detailed budget

Primary school measuring 756m ² (12 rooms)				In THB	In USD
Infrastructure	Construction materials	Cement	284,458		
		Roof tiles	240,783		
		Iron	238,522		
		Wood	226,620		
		Ceiling	64,800		
		Paint	37,746		
		Nails	28,080		
		Bricks	2,142		
		Finishing materials	Windows and doors	107,853	
	Total infrastructure			1,231,004	36,206
Transportation			19,080	561	
Furniture			234,000	6,882	
Labour costs			288,000	8,471	
Total Primary School			1,772,084	52,120	
Total cost per square meter			2,344	69	

Secondary school measuring 288 m ² (3 rooms)				In THB	In USD
Infrastructure	Construction materials	Cement	94,025		
		Iron	79,855		
		Wood	78,048		
		Roof tiles	72,972		
		Ceiling	20,880		
		Paint	12,546		
		Nails	9,540		
		Bricks	819		
		Finishing materials	Windows and doors	35,410	
	Total infrastructure			404,095	11,885
Transportation			6,048	178	
Furniture			78,840	2,319	
Labour costs			93,600	2,753	
Total Secondary School			582,583	17,135	
Total cost per square meter			2,022	59	

Nursery school measuring 288 m ² (3 rooms)				In THB	In USD
Infrastructure	Construction materials	Iron	85,064		
		Cement	81,972		
		Wood	75,708		
		Roof tiles	35,640		
		Ceiling	23,400		
		Paint	9,630		
		Nails	7,182		
		Bricks	4,032		
		Wire	1,080		
			Finishing materials	Windows and doors	45,630
Total infrastructure				369,338	10,863
Transportation				10,800	318
Furniture				41,220	1,212
Labour costs				72,000	2,118
Total Nursery School				493,358	14,511
Total cost per square meter				1,713	50

Overall Budget	In THB	In USD
Primary school	1,772,084	52,120
Secondary school	582,583	17,135
Nursery school	493,358	14,511
Water system	13,680	402
Electricity system	12,416	365
Toilets	102,967	3,028
Total costs	2,977,088	87,561
Administration overhead contribution 6%	178,625	5,254
Project related costs 3% (monitoring costs such as accommodation, fuel, visas, etc.)	89,313	2,627
Grand Total	3,245,026	95,442

1 USD = 34 THB (22 June 2007)

5. 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.
- ✓ The implementation of the construction of this school could be slowed down if the rainy season floods or damages the roads leading to the school. Furthermore, 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 in working 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 Bung Kaew 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.

6. 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

7. Implementation and ongoing management

In Laos we usually work together with the community leaders and the school committee. The construction 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. The villagers of Bung Kaew offered their labour. Furthermore, the community of Bung Kaew and the neighbouring villages will contribute stones and sand from the Mekong. For this particular project we estimate the value of the community's contribution at approx. THB 510,000 or USD 15,740.



Almost falling apart

We will purchase the rest of the material at a local construction shop. We will also arrange for the transportation to the site, which should not be a problem due to the school's proximity to a concrete road.

The implementation is scheduled to start in July and to be completed by the end of March 2008. Since the students need to continue their studies during the building phase, we have to construct the buildings step by step in order to ensure the children can still attend regular classes.



Wooden beams in very bad shape

We will frequently check on the progress and the quality of the construction. 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 together with the education department of the district will be responsible for the ongoing management including providing school books, stationery and paying teachers' salaries. Should the school committee or the education department neglect their duties, it will be reminded of their responsibilities by Child's Dream.



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 with the amount of USD 95,422 to provide a safe learning environment and to broaden the access to education for children in this remote Laotian village.

Chiang Mai, June 22nd, 2007

Child's Dream

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

Marc T. Jenni
Founder

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

Daniel M. Siegfried
Founder