



Child's Dream

A charity organization supporting children in need

Unprivileged Children Have Dreams too...

Muandam Phrakot Road
Soi 1, House 1
T. Chang Phuak
Chiang Mai 50300
Thailand
Tel. +66 (0)53 214 718
Fax +66 (0)53 214 718
info@childsdream.org
www.childsdream.org

Funding Proposal for

Mrs. Iva and Mr. Hans Forster

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

Projects concerned:

Building, upgrading and extending four schools in different villages in rural areas of Laos for about 1500 children

Implemented and funded by:

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Executive Summary

Child's Dream is incorporated in Switzerland as a charitable society and in Thailand as a charitable foundation supporting underprivileged children in the Mekong Sub-Region. We would like to support the construction respectively the renovation of four schools in remote areas of Laos for about 1500 children. Our objective is to widen the access to education as many children do not have the opportunity to study. The new schools 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 of many children's lives.

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1. Who is Child's Dream

Child's Dream is a charitable society incorporated in Switzerland (ZGB, article 60ff) and has been tax-exempt by the tax authorities of Canton Zurich as well as by the federal tax authorities. It is also registered as a Thai Charitable Foundation.

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 labor and child trafficking) through improving living conditions and education 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 30 projects (see the red dots on the map) all over the Mekong Sub-Region ranging from educational infrastructures (nurseries, schools, vocational training centers 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 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 co-founders, Marc Jenni and Daniel Siegfried, had been working for UBS 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 can be found 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, Singapore, www.ubs.com
- Credit Suisse, Asia Pacific, www.creditsuisse.com
- Migros Genossenschafts-Bund, Zurich, www.migros.com
- Siam City Cement, Bangkok, www.siamcitycement.com
- Novartis, Basel, www.novartis.com
- Marc Faber Limited, Hong Kong, www.gloomboomdoom.com

Given our lean structure, we are confident of maintaining an administration expense ratio (currently 4.3%) at or below 10%.

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 it 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, only 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 most education took place in Buddhist wats, or 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. In addition, there is a lack of schools and trained teachers. They are paid irregularly which means that they must work for income elsewhere and often provide only a few hours of instruction a day. Furthermore, parents often 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. The four schools

Secondary School in Sa Ming

This project is a good example of our strategy to reach really remote communities, which otherwise nobody else would support. Not only is the Sa Ming village far away from everything, but also the road leading to it reminds of a challenging stage of the Camel Trophy. The community is in a distant corner of the Champasak province close to the Cambodian border. As for most parts of Laos, the educational budget of the government includes only teachers' salaries (approx. USD 20-30 per month) and a pack of chalk per semester. Therefore, the community is responsible for the school buildings whereas the parents have to buy the school books and the uniform. As a result, most schools in impoverished, remote areas are in really bad condition.



The children of the villages around Sa Ming can complete grade 1 to 4 in their villages and then have to continue with grade 5 in a village nearby. If they afterwards want to continue their studies in the secondary school they have to go to Pathumporn, the next town, which is for most of them about 30 km away. Therefore, the community of Sa Ming village decided to build a secondary school to offer the students a possibility to study close-by. Unfortunately, the budget was not sufficient to finish this ambitious project.

Child's Dream agreed to support the completion of the school building. The estimated costs are about USD 6,670. The project is expected to be realized until the end of 2006.



The unfinished school building



The community budget was insufficient



Meeting with the community leaders

Nursery School in Pathumporn

Compared to some other schools we have seen in Laos, this nursery school is well looked after. The teachers put a lot of effort and love into the maintenance and decoration of the nursery. One can feel that these teachers really like their professions and adore the children. With almost no resources, they are able to offer a nice learning environment in a very old, rundown school.



Pathumporn has the district's largest primary school with 450 students, who are taught by 14 teachers. The nursery school currently accommodates 80 children, who are looked after by 5 teachers. The school was built in 1970, and despite the nice decoration, the building is in very bad condition and urgently needs a renovation. Furthermore, the primary school's water system does not reach the nursery school and the teachers have to carry the water a couple of hundred meters.

We agreed to support the renovation of the old school buildings, the construction of a kitchen and toilets as well as the installation of a water system. We expect the project to be completed in December 2006 with estimated costs of USD 10,600.



The nursery school needs renovation



There is no kitchen, no toilet and no water



The decoration

Primary School in Savannakhet (Naseng)

By simply taking a ferry from Mukdahan (Eastern Thailand) to Savannakhet (Southern Laos) and crossing the Mekong, one can easily experience time travel first hand. Once arriving in Laos, time is set back about 20 years. People are moving slower. In general time seems less of important than in Thailand. There is still the feeling of collectivism and the social fabric in the communities is very strong.

The Naseng School is a government primary school for about 500 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 can either attend morning or afternoon classes.



In addition, the school was built about 70 years ago and the infrastructure is only very primitive. 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 them a new school (280m²) with 5 classrooms and toilets and to renovate the existing double-storey school building. We expect the project to be completed in November 2006. The estimated budget is approximately USD 40,000.



This old school building will be replaced



The double-storey primary school



The leaking roof

Primary School in Khon Kaen

People looking for Shangri-La can officially stop now. They anyway have been looking completely at the wrong place. Shangri-La is not in some secret hidden valley in Tibet, but lies on the bank of the Mekong in Southern Laos. It can only be reached by long tail boats through a maze of little, ever-changing islands in the Mekong. Once reaching the shore, dozens of children playing in the shallow waters welcome the very few visitors. After climbing up the bank, which is used to grow vegetables, one can experience the genuine Laotian hospitality at a laid-back village called Khon Kaen.

About 100 families are living in Khon Kaen, each of them with at least two children. Since the school's capacity is just too small to accept all the children, only one child per family can go to school. In addition, the school building is in very bad condition. The corrugated iron of the roof is rusty and dotted with holes. There are no walls to protect the students from the rain, wind and cold. During the rainy season or in the winter, it's often not possible to study because it's too muddy or too cold.

Child's Dream decided to build a new school building (320m²) including 6 class rooms from grade 1 to 5, toilets as well as a nursery. All the material will be bought in Pakse and has to be transported by boat to Khon Kaen. As for all of our projects, we ask the community to contribute. In Khon Kaen, the villagers agreed to bring the sand and stones from the Mekong to the construction site. We expect the project to be completed in December 2006. The budget is roughly USD 33,800.



Khon Kaen on the bank of the Mekong



The existing school building will be replaced



The very basic infrastructure

4. Detailed budget

School in Sa Ming			In USD
Infrastructure	Construction Materials	Bricks	372.12
		Cement	1,417.62
		Iron	224.74
		Stones	295.34
		Sand	393.78
		Others	192.86
	Finishing materials	Cabinets	354.40
	Labour costs	Workers	1,478.41
	Interior equipment	Tables and chairs	1,860.62
Total infrastructure			6,589.89
Transportation			1,000.00
Grand Total			7,589.89

School in Pathumporn			In USD
Renovation			
Infrastructure	Construction Materials		1,672.60
	Finishing materials		1,452.08
	Labour costs		793.47
Total renovation			3,918.15
Kitchen			
Infrastructure	Construction Materials		1,637.06
	Finishing material		309.32
	Interior equipment		29.51
	Labour costs		630.44
Total kitchen			2,606.33
Toilet			
Infrastructure	Construction Materials		762.92
	Finishing material		188.83
	Interior equipment		322.40
	Labour costs		1,141.61
Total toilet			2,415.76
Grand total			8,940.24

School in Savannakhet (Naseng)			In USD	
Renovation				
Infrastructure	Construction Materials	Wood	295.34	
		Roof tiles and materials	1,772.02	
		Cement	75.67	
		Paint	787.56	
		Finishing materials	Ceiling tiles	1,476.68
		New doors	767.88	
		New windows	78.76	
	Labour costs	Workers	2,953.37	
	Total infrastructure			8,207.28

School in Savannakhet (Naseng) cont.				
New school				
Infrastructure	Construction Materials	Wood	6,084.81	
		Bricks	1,203.86	
		Cement	4,847.47	
		Iron	4,232.13	
		Stones	902.39	
		Sand	642.56	
		Paint	417.55	
		Roof tiles and material	1,137.29	
		Others	341.89	
		Finishing materials	Ceiling tiles	1,077.13
	Doors		1,453.46	
	Windows		428.19	
	Labour costs	Floor tiles	957.45	
		Workers	6,914.89	
	Total infrastructure			30,641.07
	Grand total			38,848.35

School in Khon Kaen				
Infrastructure	Construction Materials	Wood	8,547.68	
		Bricks	1,111.91	
		Cement	2,995.66	
		Iron	5,662.37	
		Paint and brushes	506.29	
		Roof tiles and materials	1,700.36	
		Others	626.89	
		Finishing materials	Ceiling tiles	657.44
	Labour costs		Workers	5,548.18
			Architect	593.76
	Total infrastructure			27,950.54
	Transportation			3,493.15
	Grand total			31,443.69

Grand total of all three schools	87,822.17
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5. Objectives

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

- ✓ improving living conditions and education 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 these particular projects 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
- ✓ increase hygiene standards in the schools

6. Implementation and ongoing management

We work together with the community leaders and the school committee. Depending on the complexity of the infrastructure, we ask either the community to provide the laborers or a construction company. We purchase the construction material at a local construction shop and arrange for the transportation to the site. We also ask the communities to supply some local natural material (sand, stones). Child's Dream signed contracts with the laborers while the committees of the villages will be responsible to supervise the construction. We will regularly check on the progress and the quality of the construction.

The school committees will be responsible for the ongoing management. However, Child's Dream will continue to visit the schools after they are completed in order to check whether the schools need extension or upgrading and whether they are still used for educational purposes.

7. Final reporting

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

8 Funding request

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

Chiang Mai, October 9th, 2006

Child's Dream

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

Marc T. Jenni
Vice-President and Co-Founder

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

Daniel M. Siegfried
President and Co-Founder