



# Child's Dream Association

A charity organisation supporting children in need

Unprivileged Children Have Dreams too...

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## Funding Proposal

## 1 mei Comité - VARA

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

### Project concerned:

Construction of a boarding house, bathrooms and toilets for about 80 Burmese children of different ethnic minorities, mainly Pa-O. The boarding house will be part of a larger school complex within the village of Phang Kham. This village is located on Thai soil close to the Burmese border in the mountainous area of the Mae Hong Son province in Northern Thailand.

### 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 of a boarding house, bathrooms and toilets for about 80 children in Phang Kham village. The current living quarters are no longer safe for the children who reside there and even present a health risk.

The new infrastructure will allow these children to better concentrate on their education and therefore create better opportunities for themselves and their community in the future. Education is the most important factor for sustainable development and a peaceful coexistence in a community.

The children will sleep in this house, do their homework there and with their fellow students will create a family away from home. By supporting this construction, we aim to improve the living conditions of the children involved.

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

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# Child's Dream Association

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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 labour and child trafficking) through improving living conditions and education standards, through helping children to take pride in them selves and through restoring their dignity and instilling healthy values towards life and society.

Since its establishment in October 2003, Child's Dream implemented over 50 projects (see the red dots on the map) all over the Mekong Sub-Region 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 3'400 refugee children. In order to complete the education cycle, we offer scholarships to talented, but financially underprivileged students. A recently launched Children Medical Fund provides for emergency operations for children with serious health problems.

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 co-founders, Marc Jenni and Daniel Siegfried, had been working for UBS in Asia for many years until they realized that money not only did not 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](http://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](http://www.eda.admin.ch/bangkok)
- ✓ UBS AG, Asia Pacific, [www.ubs.com](http://www.ubs.com)
- ✓ Credit Suisse, Asia Pacific, [www.creditsuisse.com](http://www.creditsuisse.com)
- ✓ Schroders Asset Management, [www.schroders.com](http://www.schroders.com)
- ✓ Siam City Cement, Bangkok, [www.siamcitycement.com](http://www.siamcitycement.com)
- ✓ Charities Aid Foundation (CAF Australia), [www.cafaustalia.org.au](http://www.cafaustalia.org.au)
- ✓ Marc Faber Limited, Hong Kong, [www.gloomboomdoom.com](http://www.gloomboomdoom.com)
- ✓ The Royal Dutch Embassy, Bangkok, Thailand, [www.netherlandsembassy.in.th](http://www.netherlandsembassy.in.th)

Given our lean structure, we are proud of maintaining an administration expense ratio below 10% (currently 5.3% as of April 2008).

## Child's Dream Team



From left: Doi, Gau, Lee, Daniel, Pok (sitting), Anne, Manuela, U (sitting), Rung, Arm, Tuu, Tai (sitting), Sai Thong, Marc (sitting) and Sallo

## Child's Dream Project Map



## 2. Our expertise at the Thai – Burma border

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Since 2004 we have built and renovated many schools and other infrastructure under challenging circumstances. Most schools are located in remote areas with limited or no road access. With our down-to-earth approach we could successfully establish trustworthy relationships with the community leaders and involve villagers in school construction. The more carefully we listen, learn and understand the needs of the community the greater the chances of a successful project outcome.

Our project management team responsible for projects at the Thai-Burma border is constantly on the lookout for communities that lack the infrastructure to ensure a safe and hygienic learning environment for their children.



## 3. Situational Analysis

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To say that Burma has had its share of political problems is an understatement. First there was the movement for independence from the British, which resulted in the hasty decision to form the country of Burma. Then ethnic wars started along the periphery by various ethnic groups, which in turn justified the military rule as a way to maintain peace and order. From this situation grew gross economic mismanagement out of the 'Burmese way to socialism'. What we arrive at today is one of the world's least developed countries ruled ruthlessly by a military that seems to be far removed from the realities of daily life. The way they are handling the current situation after the cyclone Nargis is a sinister case in point. Corruption is rampant and hampers even the simplest of actions. People are forced into labour to build roads, ethnic minorities are forcibly relocated to make way for often whimsical state sponsored projects, and people are abducted by the military - many of which are children. Life shouldn't be so difficult for a country so rich in resources. Since independence Burma, later renamed Myanmar by the military, has steadily gone downhill and its unnecessarily impoverished population have become more destitute. Consequently, many have fled to neighbouring countries, notably Thailand, where hundreds of thousands have been registered as refugees by the United Nations, and where still 1,5 to 2 million more come to work illegally in deplorable conditions where they may or may not be paid. Others still remain as Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) inside Burma, where they live in semi permanent villages, always ready to flee from assaults by government army troops (SPDC or State Peace Development Council).

Phang Kham lies in the Mae Hong Son province in Northern Thailand and is one of five villages in the Phang Ma Pha district. Of those villages three are inside Burma. There are 460 children below the age of 16, more than half of them live in the Burmese villages. To those children, living on the Burmese side of the border, no education is available but for the Thai government school in Phang Kham. All children are either from Burmese migrant or internally displaced families. Without education the future of these children looks grim. Exploitation in every sense is more the rule than the exception.

By giving these children the opportunity to study at the Phang Kham School, we offer them access to regular education and provide them with better chances to lead a self-determined life.

One of Child's Dream's main goals is the children's integration into Thai society to improve their job chances without losing their culture. The children in Phang Ma Pha district originate from different ethnicities, mainly Pa-O, and therefore do not speak the same language. In order to communicate they have to learn Thai. In addition they get basic English language training to increase their job opportunities. However, they are always encouraged to be proud of their own culture and to perpetuate its singularities.

Part of the curriculum at the Phang Kham School consists of computer trainings, drug education trainings, HIV/AIDS education, courses on sexual violence and income generation- and agriculture training.

Usually we do not support Thai government schools in order not to take away responsibility from the government. However, in Phang Kham, only 1% of the children have a Thai ID and the budget provided by the government is insufficient to provide a safe learning environment for all the students. Thus we decided to cooperate with the school to support their efforts to integrate these children from different ethnicities and from across the border with Burma. The main responsibility for the school buildings and their maintenance still lies with the government.

#### 4. Boarding House in Phang Kham village

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In order to also offer students from the surrounding villages the opportunity to study, the school arranged for a boarding house. This boarding house was originally meant to host 60 children. Currently 115 students are living there, thus the place is overcrowded and poses serious health threats to the boarders. A new and primarily larger boarding house as well as bathrooms and toilets are desperately needed.



These toilets need to be replaced



Boarders having lunch



The school building

Child's Dream agreed to build a new boarding house, including the sanitary facilities, for 80 children. With this new complex we not only allow more children to stay close to the school, but also provide a considerable upgrade in safety, hygiene and comfort standards. The new boarding house will be the home away from home for the children where they will sleep, do their homework and in general enjoy a stimulating/inspiring learning environment. The teachers and the education committee of Phang Kham village have agreed to take responsibility for the security at the boarding house. There are plans to upgrade and renovate the existing boarding house after completion of the new one.

#### Construction

- ✓ The boarding house will have four rooms, two for girls, two for boys
- ✓ The budget includes the furniture such as beds and mattresses
- ✓ The shower house consists of 12 toilets and two big bathrooms and is located directly behind the boarding house. The budget includes the infrastructure



The current boarding house

## 5. Budget

Below you will find the detailed budget for this project:

Description	Price in Thai Baht	Price in Euro
Foundation	499,405	9,988
Roof construction	131,140	2,623
Roofing	78,025	1,560
Finishing material	61,810	1,236
Wall	20,160	403
Doors and windows	106,080	2,122
Paint	15,000	300
Electric installation	8,060	161
Sanitation	36,155	723
Furniture	182,000	3,640
Transportation and labour	565,000	11,300
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,702,835</b>	<b>34.056</b>

## 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 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 this particular project, we aim to achieve the following:

- ✓ to accommodate more students and widen the access to education;
- ✓ to provide a safe and humane living and learning environment;
- ✓ minimise the absenteeism rates and reduce illiteracy among the children

## 7. Implementation and ongoing management

The construction will be implemented by a local contractor from Chiang Mai under the supervision of Child's Dream and the school committee. The levelling of the ground was finished by the beginning of May. The construction of the boarding house will start end of June 2008. We will purchase the construction material at a local construction shop and arrange directly for the transportation to the site.

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As for all our projects, we encourage the local community to participate in the construction. It gives them a sense of pride and ownership, which means that they will take good care of the buildings and learn how to maintain them. We will regularly check on the progress as well as the quality of the construction and aim to complete the project by the end of October 2008. Child's Dream will also visit the project after completion in order to check the utilisation and maintenance of the infrastructure. The school itself will be responsible for the maintenance work. For this project we have also agreed to fund food and essential supplies for the boarders as well as teaching materials for the school until a specific donor for this can be found.



The levelling of the ground is finished

## 8. Final reporting

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

## 9. Funding request

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We kindly ask you to support us in our quest to provide safe living conditions and education to the children in the Phang Kham boarding house.

Chiang Mai, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2008

**Child's Dream Association**

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

Marc T. Jenni  
Founder

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

Daniel M. Siegfried  
Founder