

Volunteer Report

Thomas Reich - Office Volunteer - January to May 2018

After completing my bachelor's degree in International Emergency and Disaster Relief and an internship in fundraising, I looked for a way to get to know the workflows within a non-governmental organization and to deepen my expertise in fundraising.

Through my studies I already knew that education is a key factor in sustainable development. Child's Dream has linked its education programs with health promotion measures and the teaching of values such as peace and justice. This paired with a very high efficiency and a tireless and passionate team of Child's Dream.

As a volunteer in Chiang Mai, I mainly created Proposals, Fact Sheets and Final Reports, which enabled me to deepen my expertise in fundraising. In addition, I worked on the yearbook, on the website searching for new crowdfunding platforms, and did many other general administration tasks. I was very satisfied with my tasks, was able to put into practice existing knowledge, learned a lot of new things and was challenged.

When I contacted Child's Dream, the exchange was straightforward and very sympathetic and I immediately felt that I was in good hands. The project variety of Child's Dream is incredible! If there is a way to make a difference, there's nothing that can stop this organization! The working atmosphere is great and as usual in Thailand - always with a smile! In the beginning, I was a bit overwhelmed by the databases and the unfamiliar city and village names, but this got much easier than expected. I have been incredibly supported by the entire team. Special thanks go to my supervisor, Gene. He knew how to motivate people and was always listening even in private matters.

To see how all the work is done and which people benefit from the projects, you get the chance to visit some projects in the field. These are usually associated with a visa application and take place outside of Thailand. I went to two school openings and a school career fair in Cambodia. At school openings you will get warmly welcomed with music, dancing and a sumptuous meal. As you can imagine these were very moving and unforgettable moments. Everywhere you look there are smiling and grateful faces. At the two-day school fair, Cambodian companies and universities introduced themselves to the students and created an exchange. Certainly some positive future decisions were made on these two days! In addition, I attended the Thai Children's Day at a Thai elementary school near Doi Inthanon. There, we held workshops to teach children how to better manage their environment.

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have worked for such a great organization and with such a great team, and above all, for being able to do my part for a better life for so many children. The experience from my studies has shown that there are not many organizations like Child's Dream that have such a positive impact on the lives of so many people, and use their donations extremely efficiently. Last but not least, Chiang Mai is certainly one of the most beautiful cities in Southeast Asia. Chiang Mai offers a lot of culture, exchange and leisure activities. I really hope to stay in touch with this organization, its great people and the city!

Thank you for the opportunity to help and an incredibly enriching time,

Thomas Reich

