



Working for Child's Dream

October 2017 – January 2018

Volunteering at the Chiang Mai office

Hearing of Child's Dream

I got to know Marc and Daniel on one of their visits at Swiss School in Singapore while I was working there as a primary school teacher. During an interview conducted by my students I learned a lot about their vision and work. Impressed by their drive and enthusiasm I decided to volunteer with them when the opportunity came up.

Getting There

After my travel plans fell through I decided to come to Thailand quite on short notice. So between the job interview and my flight to Chiang Mai there was only little time to arrange for everything and getting my visa. With more time on my hands it would not have been very complicated but my visa process was rather challenging. To no fault to Child's Dream I have to add, I received excellent support from their side.

The Team

The office in Chiang Mai is a cool place to work at. The people are funny, friendly and competent: a great bunch. The work atmosphere is quite relaxed and a naughty joke or

two is thrown around once in a while but everyone is working very hard. The noise level varies from extremely quiet when everybody is away on their trips to very lively. In December when everyone from the Siem Reap and Yangon offices came to work at the Chiang Mai office too and it was a little bit like a mad house. An enjoyable madhouse since I got to know the lovely people from Myanmar and Cambodia.

The Work

As a volunteer special task there were so many different tasks coming my way. At the beginning I was hopelessly overwhelmed probably like every volunteer before me. But once I got the hang of the programs and the database it got much better. These are some examples: editing and creating fact sheets, writing reports and proposals for donors, researching and updating internet platforms, editing small details on the webpage, editing the annual financial reports, creating spread sheets for calculations and a lot more. I learned an immense amount about charity work in general and Child's Dream and the countries we work in in particular. Thanks!

School Opening in Cambodia

One of the highlights of my time with Child's Dream was the opportunity to join Marc and the Cambodian team for a school opening in Oddar Meanchey Province. I had read reports and used previously taken photos from that school for one of my tasks but actually going there and meeting the children and the community was a whole other experience.

The warmth, hospitality and gratitude we were met with was heartwarming. I enjoyed all of it, from the bumpy and dusty ride, the children's curious and excited faces, the beautiful dancer's performance, the handshakes with all the officials, the awarding of the medals, the ribbon cutting, to the beer drinking and insect eating afterwards. The most precious moment though was when we handed the children their gifts: a backpack with some simple classroom supplies. The real joy those gifts brought to them was so infectious and gratifying.

It is the reason why we do all of the work in the office and the field, to bring joy and possibly a better chance at success for those kids and their communities. If I ever have the chance to join again: Sign me up!

