

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2006-2007

How time flies, it seems that only last week we were printing our last annual report.

I remember when I was traveling in India about 10 years ago I made a visit to a school in a village not far from Delhi, on the classroom wall hung a portrait of Gandhi along with the school mission statement. **Education is the greatest gift you can give.** How true this is for the future of the street children of Thailand.

With your sponsorship and support we have now expanded our schooling and scholarship program to include over 60 students. Our aim for 2007-2008 is to expand this project further.

2006-2007 has seen our ongoing support for the Ko-Pai Slum Project including the supply of food and milk for the children.

A hard standing for washing and eating at the Street Kids' Shelter is now being constructed and a heavy-duty washing machine and drying racks have also been purchased.

The Christmas / New Year parties for the children and students were also greatly appreciated, these being held for

360 Children at the Hauy Pong Home including gifts for each child.

100 Children from the Street Kids' Shelter and the slums.

Also we arranged a party for all of our school and scholarship students with gifts.

Finally a HUGE thank you it is only with your support and donations that the Charity has been able to achieve this.

With grateful thanks

Jim Tourle

Chairman/Charity Trustee

Treasurer's Report

Once again this year the charity trustees have personally covered all of the administration costs associated with the charity including travel expenses to Thailand. This has resulted in **100%** of all money donated has been used for the benefit of the children that we are helping.

We have continued to expand our education program for the children from the slums and the streets which is administered for us by the Mercy Project in Pattaya and for many of the kids this has proved to be an important stabilising part of their lives. With so much ongoing development including road building in Pattaya many of the slums where these children live have been bulldozed and they have been forced to move on often losing the few friendships that they have formed. With an education sponsorship they have been assured of not only retaining the friends they have at school but that they also have the support of the Mercy Project volunteers who ensure that the kids have sufficient food and milk.

I have been fortunate enough to make a number of visits to Thailand during the Financial Year April 2006 – March 2007. During these visits I have met all of the students we are sponsoring and was able to visit the homes in the slums of some of the children to see at first-hand just how important our support is. Individual sponsorship has also increased and some of the children's sponsors have visited them in Pattaya and in some cases have also visited their homes. Often these visits are difficult for both the children and their sponsors not only because of the language barrier but because of the impact that visiting the slums have on the sponsors. We are grateful to the Mercy Project for arranging these visits and providing a guide/translator to make the visits a success.

We have continued to support the activities for the children at the Hauy Pong Children's Home, which is part of the Department For Suppression of Human Trafficking and Child Welfare. Apart from the New Year Party that was covered in our February report we have committed ourselves to helping furnish the new dormitory when it is complete and we are looking at a computer for the use of those children who attend school outside of the home but are required to submit their homework in a computerised format.

Some of our supporters have taken to using the Pay-Pal option to make donations and the advantage of this for the donor is that they can make a donation in any amount at a time of their choosing simply by using their Credit or Debit card without incurring the banking charge for an International Payment. This is an ideal solution for anyone outside of the UK who wishes to support the charity.

We have also, thanks to our website www.pattayastreetkids.org , established contacts with a number of international companies who have offered support including the Hard Rock Hotel in Pattaya who turned up at the Street Kids' Shelter in Pattaya with a few hundred sheets and blankets. Those surplus to requirements at the kids' shelter were distributed to the children in the slums and those living on the streets.

It is difficult to express in words just how important your support of these children is and just how much it means to the child knowing that there is someone in the world that not only knows they exist but is willing to help them to a better future. Without support these children will inevitably turn – or be forced into - either crime or prostitution to find money for food and Pattaya has ample easy opportunities for either.

Our website is updated regularly with the latest news, information and photos on this project but if at anytime you wish to ask about any of the work we are involved with please do not hesitate to make contact with us and we will be happy to help.

On behalf of all of the kids that we are helping I thank you for your support over the past year and hope that we can count on your continuing support for the future.

Don Ford
Treasurer / Trustee