



HAND TO HAND FOUNDATION

Hand to Hand is a growing ministry in Pattaya, Thailand that began in January 2010 with just 6 children. Today the ministry is a registered foundation (Chor Bor 11) focused on helping children in poor families and communities.

HUMAN RIGHTS HOUSING PROJECT

The foundation was contacted by the Moody Endowment Fund in the USA regarding a grant of \$200 000 US. Upon a successful application the money was granted and the foundation purchased 1 rai (1600 square meters) of land in the Pattaya area.

The building of the first 8 units which will be used to accommodate poor families and elderly people consists of a large studio room and a private bathroom and kitchen.

The plan is to continue to develop the site in 4 more phases as the finances become available. Phase 2 will be the construction of a large community center that will provide a specialized pre school for autistic and children with challenging behavior issues. The upstairs will be a job training program where the poor will be taught to sew and eventually become self-sufficient through finding employment. At this point they will exit our program to make way for other needy families.

Phases 3, 4 and 5 will be the construction of more housing units. In addition to this we plan to build a playground on site as well as infrastructure such as driveways and gardens where vegetables will be grown.

The houses will be completed by the end of August 2018 and after purchasing essential furnishings the rooms will be available to 8 poor families and elderly people. These houses are at no cost to the residents and remain the property of Hand to Hand Foundation. The residents will be expected to pay at least 10% of their earning towards water, electricity, food and upkeep. The goal is to help younger families find suitable employment and after they have achieved financial stability make the room available to more underprivileged people.



Pre School

Monday – Friday from 7:30am until 4:30pm Hand to Hand opens its doors for 35 preschool children from the local slums. Typically these children are from low income families where the parent(s) are garbage recyclers, construction workers and manual laborers. If the pre school did not exist the children aged 2yrs- 7yrs old would be left alone in the slum all day or be taken to dangerous work environments. We provide a safe place for children to learn and play as well as providing free food, clothing, medical care and education. We ensure that by the time they have reached school age that all of their documentation to be enrolled in a local school is complete including birth certificates and house registration.



Scholarships

We currently have 92 children for whom we have raised scholarships to allow them to attend school. Schooling is free however students need to purchase uniforms, books and pay for travel expenses. Names and grades are embroidered on school uniforms making it impossible to buy second hand items.

Apart from the financial needs, these students need to have house registration papers and birth certificates. The Hand to Hand Foundation works with the social welfare department and other agencies to ensure all of this documentation is in place.



Crossing

We run free activities for older children on Saturday mornings 10am -12pm. When the children arrive there is free time to play before listening to a story and then having the opportunity to make a craft that they can take home. We teach English through songs and games too! Before the children go home, we ensure that they have a good meal. For some this is the best meal that they get all week.



Prisons

We visit two local prisons three times per week giving food and water to all the inmates. Many of these people, including children, are illegal immigrants from neighboring countries and we provide milk, towels, pampers and toys to the children. Once a year we clean and paint the prisons.



Family Support

We currently provide food and support to 66 families who are struggling financially and we assist them by giving a weekly package that includes rice, cooking oil, fish sauce, soap, noodles and tinned fish. The families are given advice on how to budget their money so that they can support themselves more effectively. In the future we would like to offer job training for unskilled and unemployed parents. Occasionally we discover families who are selling their children for sex in order to secure money for drugs. In these situations we work with the local police and social welfare officers to rescue the children.



Hospital Visitation

We visit the local hospital to help with children and families who are unable to afford the basic items such as pampers, milk formula and toiletries. There are some premature babies that require a special milk formula, which is very expensive and to save on costs these children are often underfed and thus their developmental progress is slow. We also visit every bed in the children's ward offering colouring pencils, colouring books and teddy bears to the sick children. For some children who receive no visitors for long periods, we are the only regular friendly face that they see!



Cooperation with Governmental agencies

We work with the social welfare department in the Pattaya City Hall by doing projects together such as polio vaccinations and providing food and care for families in the slum. Last year we completed a project with the city hall to develop an internet safety campaign for all the government schools.

Last year we trained representatives from each of the local schools about child protection. In March 2014 we worked with school officials and government workers to write a child protection policy for the city of Pattaya, which is now implemented through government schools and advocacy centers.

Margie from Hand to Hand is the chair person for the ICPN (International Child Protection Network) for Thailand. She has also been a part of some working groups to assist with the writing of policies for the ASEAN community.

