

# Breaking Poverty Cycles for Remote Thai Children

in Issan borderland

A Part of Early Childhood  
Care and Development in  
Esaan Region (ECCD)



มูลนิธิกัลยาณมิตรเพื่อพัฒนาเด็กและเยาวชน  
The Fellowship Foundation for Child and Youth Development



# Why Upper Northeastern?

The northeastern region has the lowest per capita income in the country, resulting in high levels of economic inequality.



## Rural Lifestyle in Upper Northeastern

**Agricultural Foundation:** Although there is a declining trend over time, agriculture remains a key economic base in the area. However, it frequently faces multiple challenges such as drought, land lacking sufficient fertility, and lower productivity compared to other regions of the country.

### Challenges and Issues Facing People of Upper Northeastern Thailand:

- **Youth Migration:** The migration of labor has caused structural changes in families and communities in rural areas.
- **Educational Gap:** Upper northeastern areas still experience significant inequality in educational quality and access to higher levels of education compared to other regions.
- **Poverty Issues:** A large portion of the population still lives at the poverty line and carries high levels of debt.



# Message from the Founder / Chairman

## Kru Ne, or Mr. Nermi Wichiankreua

Originally from Nong Khai, Ban Tha Sa-at, Cheka Sub-district (currently in Bueng Kan Province)



"Kru Ne was born at Ban Tha Sa-at, Cheka Sub-district, Nong Khai Province, about 50–60 years ago when life was very hard — no electricity, living the Isan rural lifestyle, plus there were conflicts in the area... But during childhood, I never thought it was difficult, because it was fun — going out to graze cattle in the fields with friends, herding cattle and water buffaloes, fetching water from the ponds in the rice fields to drink, setting fish traps, catching frogs and crickets, etc. .... I still can't believe that if my parents had not moved away from their hometown to seek a livelihood elsewhere, Kru Ne would never have been able to study beyond secondary school and would not have had the life opportunities I have today."

"But developing children today is far more challenging than in earlier times. The challenge now is the poverty of parents and guardians in raising their children, as well as character-building education for children, according to the rural community model of Isan. The problems and obstacles that affect children's quality of life still exist in their old form..."

"The Fellowship Foundation, though a small organization, with experience and expertise in child and family development, voluntarily steps in to help develop Thai children — within the limits of available resources — from fundraising from Thai and foreign individuals with good hearts, embassies, non-governmental organizations, and many regions that want to see Thai children in rural upper northeastern Isan receive better care and quality of life. Over the past 10 years, we hope to receive your kindness to develop and expand our operations for families, children, and youth in many more target areas of the Foundation going forward."



## Program #1 Early Childhood Care and Development in Esaan Region (ECCD)

Child development through training of guardians at Early Childhood Development Centers (ECDCs) to emphasize holistic development of children aged 0–6 years — physically, mentally, socially, morally, and in terms of brain development according to EF (Executive Function) principles.



**Start of Operations:** 10 years ago, since B.E. 2558 (2015), through training on early childhood development knowledge for ECDC teachers and parents/guardians in rural communities — more than 6,500 persons.

**Target Operating Areas:** Rural villages in the upper northeastern Isan region across 4 provinces — Nong Khai, Udon Thani, Loei, and Bueng Kan — with selection of collaboration with small primary schools lacking opportunities (approximately 40 students/school).

Working in collaboration with local government organizations (SAOs) across 4 provinces, totaling more than 400 SAOs, at the sub-district/municipality/provincial level.

### Target Group(s):

Parents/guardians of early childhood children

specifically parents/guardians, with the majority group being grandparents who take on the role of raising, caring for, and teaching their own grandchildren in daily early childhood life.

### 2026 Goal:

4 provinces

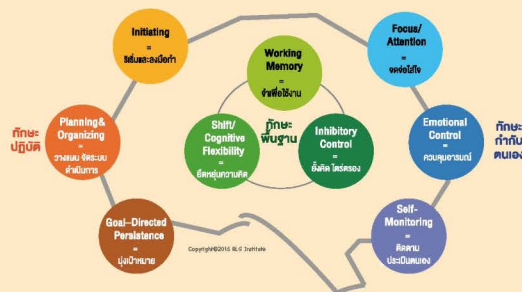
Total: 400-700 persons/year



## Program #2

### Family Bonding Camp (Age 6-12)

Partnering with local schools to host psychological workshops that strengthen family relationships, directly improving children's social skills, EQ, and mental wellness. These Family camps provide a sacred space for parents and children to heal emotional distances and build lasting security through play.



#### Executive Functions (EF)

ทักษะสมองเพื่อจัดการชีวิตให้สำเร็จ

#### Target Group(s):

Parents/guardians of children between age 6-12

Rural villages in four northeastern provinces – Nong Khai, Udon Thani, Loei, and Bueng Kan – are being selected for collaboration with small, underprivileged primary schools (approximately 40 students per school).

#### 2026 Goal:

4 provinces

Total: 400-700 persons/year





# Systematic Assistance and Building Sustainable Networks...

**1. "Develop Stakeholders"** by providing knowledge and child-rearing methods, good brain development — EF (Executive Function) — and good habit formation:

- Parents and guardians
- Teachers at Early Childhood Development Centers (ECDCs)
- Personnel involved in early childhood and primary education development

**2. "Develop Children and Youth"** holistically in collaboration with families, schools, and relevant government networks such as the Sub-district Administrative Organization (SAO) and units of the Ministry of Human Security and Social Development (MHSD), among others.

## Our Ultimate Goal

Early childhood children in rural villages of upper northeastern Isan receive proper care and good character development, within an environment of age-appropriate growth and development of the prefrontal brain. Early childhood children receive holistic organizational development in all aspects — physical, mental, social, emotional, and cognitive — so that this important developmental window gives them a strong sense of Self that will serve as a reliable foundation to lead their lives toward healthy development in primary and secondary school.

Children who develop well in early childhood become good primary and secondary school students, serving as a social guarantee that they will grow up to be good youth and adult members of the community.

