Rejoice Foundation Newsletter January 2014

Soirée consacrée à l'aide des enfants en Thaïlande

Lee Kingston, a long time supporter of Rejoice, organised a fund raising event at his favourite Thai restaurant in the South of France.



Lee and Wanthani

The evening of Friday 22nd November 2013 saw a fundraising dinner on behalf of Rejoice.

The venue was <u>Sawadee restau-</u> <u>rant</u> found in the village of St. Etienne de Fontbellon in the Ardeche in the south of France.

Restaurant owner and co fundraiser organiser Wanthani Wonggamrai, opened her doors to some 35 diners from several different nations (including Australia, the U.S.A., New Zealand, England, and of course France) all wishing to help Rejoice in its money raising efforts.

Wanthani; a Thai national having lived in France for 30 years, always returns to Thailand on her holidays with a suitcase full of children's toys and clothes for some of the poorer kids known to her, but this was the first time she had raised money on behalf of Rejoice.

Tickets purchased by the guests included aperitif, a 3 course Thai meal and excellent local Rose, Red and White wine which was kindly donated by local producers Benoit Salel and Elise Renaud.

Before the meal commenced a short talk introducing and explaining Rejoice's role was given by coorganiser Lee Kingston. Feedback from guests indicated that all were impressed by the work carried out by the charity, and all were especially happy to know the vast majority of their contribution would be going direct to the needy, and not spent on expensive marketing and high salaries.

A total of 885.00€ was raised, with a further sum of 60.00€ added to the amount by Stan and



Jo Tallett on the anniversary of their 70th wedding anniversary which fell on the 30thNovember. The couple are Lee's grandparents', but didn't attend the event as they live in the UK.

Also included in the $885.00 \in$ total was a $150 \in$, or 6000THB pledge by one of the guests to sponsor the education of a child for a year. On learning this, a second participant then made a commitment to fund the subsequent years of schooling for the child until they leave school

A very big THANK YOU to Wanthani, Lee and Raquel Granda for organising this wonderful event and everyone who helped make it a success. Your support is very much appreciated.

ขอบคุณมาก

Link to photo album

Background

Rejoice Charity provides medical, social and educational support to communities infected with and affected by HIV/Aids

Rejoice has no religious or political affiliation and does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, socio-economic status, sexual orientation or ability.

Based in the city of Chiang Mai, Rejoice makes weekly visits to communities as far afield as Mae Ai in the north to Chomthong in the south.

Objectives

Rejoice's Goal is to provide the much needed medical and social support system to the poor, sick and under-privileged living in Chiang Mai's villages and the surrounding hill areas. In particular, Rejoice addresses the diverse array of medical and social needs of HIV/AIDS affected people.

Rejoice's programmes cater to a variety of needs, there are HIV/ AIDS medical care, HIV/AIDS education and prevention programmes, free infant formulas, education sponsorships and one to one counselling. The distribution of infant formulas has been very effective. Apparently, babies born to infected mothers may not develop HIV/ AIDS if not breastfed.

Living with HIV

Supporting; children, families and communities in rural Chiang Mai Province

Providing; formula milk, palliative medicines, food provisions, school scholarships

Emotional support; counselling, community meetings focused on education and prevention of HIV and other STDs.

Progress Report

Every so often we write a Progress Report for our donors. Recently, we wrote an update with our main donor, <u>SDL</u> in mind.

The update is intended to give a more detailed view on number of people benefitting from Rejoice's work, sources of funding and use of funds. On page two of the report under 'Main Activities', there are links to photo albums showing in pictures the various aspect of Rejoice's work.

To access the report, please follow the link below.

<u>"Rejoice Foundation</u> <u>Update 2013"</u>



World Aids Day in Arunotai at the Myanmar border.

Russ Taufa visits Rejoice



Russ Taufa is an employee of <u>SDL Ltd</u>. Who is currently based in Vietnam.

SDL, the main sponsor of Rejoice, run a scheme whereby their employees are given time off work to volunteer with a charity of their choice. Russ Taufa is one such employee who recently spent one week volunteering with Rejoice.

Russ accompanied the mobile clinic to various locations including Chiang Dao, Chomtong, Sankampeang, Saraphi, Sapatong and specially arranged home-care

visits with HIV health care workers from both Chang Dao and Sankampeang Hospitals. Now safely back in Vietnam having successfully dodged the super-typhoon Haiyan, Russ emailed the following report of his volunteer week to SDL headquarters in Maidenhead, England.

Hi Michelle,

Two weeks ago, I took advantage of SDL's 5 day volunteering initiative to work with Rejoice Charity, an SDL-sponsored cause in Chiang Mai, Thailand providing a range of support to communities infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS. I found Rejoice through SDL, and it was a clear fit being both geographically close to me in Vietnam and supporting a cause that's near and dear to my heart. I followed up with Alan Wheeler (one of Rejoice Foundation's

trustees based in Chiang Mai) to see what opportunity there was for me to help, and he graciously worked with me to organize a trip that ultimately opened my eyes, mind, and heart. As promised, I wanted to provide the SDL Foundation with a synopsis of my experience.

My first day, we went to the office and I met the rest of the team: Gee, Wi, and Arm. Alan often references '3 men and a truck' because the small team travels far and wide across the province every week to visit clinics and homes, seeing hundreds of patients each week. Gee has been with Rejoice since the beginning (about 15 years) and it shows in the relationships he and the team have built with each patient. Throughout the week, I accompanied the mobile clinic to Chiang Dao, Chom Tong, Sankampeang, Saraphi, San Pa Tong as well as specially arranged home-care visits with HIV healthcare workers from both Chiang Dao and Sankampeang Hospitals. We also visited a daycare center to deliver supplies to young children, spent time at a sewing factory set up to provide work for infected women, and dropped off formula for mothers with HIV/AIDS in order to prevent them passing the virus to their newborns through breastfeeding.

For me, the experience was truly life changing. On one hand, I was able to see a side of the province and country that no tourist would experience – driving to remote villages and sitting with locals in their homes, being able to ask them questions (albeit through the team's kind translation) as well as share my story with them. However, the most

It's clear the patients require the check in, medical support, and supplies the outreach team provides, but I think just as crucial is the emotional support....

> impactful part was being able to use my time to give back in a meaningful way to those in need. It's clear the patients require the check in, medical support, and supplies the outreach team provides, but I think just as crucial is the emotional support – knowing they can count on an experienced team who cares being there for them on a consistent basis. At every clinic and home we visited, the patients faces lit up when they saw the truck and the guys coming to spend time with them. Knowing the Rejoice team does this week on week, year on year, my efforts were really just a small drop in the bucket compared to the work they do. I have so much respect and admiration for Alan, Gee, Wi, and Arm, and I'm so grateful to them for facilitating this experience for me.

I was also able to spend some time with Nigel Haunch, Chair of Rejoice Foundation UK, as he had planned a short visit to Rejoice at the same time. Together with Alan, I learned more about the history of Rejoice as well as their plans for the future. The highlight for me was that a few years back when Rejoice was faced with closing its doors, the team was fortunately able to continue their work based on funding provided by the SDL Foundation.



http://www.sdl.com/

SDL is an important part of what Rejoice is able to do, and it's thanks to the hard work and dedication of individuals such as Winston Wong in our Bangkok office and our Foundation trustees in the UK. Knowing the support our organization provides and being able to experience that good work first hand, I can honestly say I've never been prouder to work for SDL.

> In closing, I would like to thank the SDL Foundation and Rejoice Charity for making this opportunity possible, as well

as Marleen, John, Beth, Liz, and Judie for working with me on approval and flexibility/coverage with workload. I've attached a few photos with a link to the full album here: <u>https://www.dropbox.com/sh/</u> ogd6kdgosnlieov/NBRkPXWhj_. Moving forward, I know I will continue to do work with Rejoice, and I am encouraged and motivated to know that SDL will remain an integral part of the charity's future as well.

Best regards, Russ

www.rejoicecharity.com

contact@rejoicecharity.com

Friends of Rejoice Singapore (FRS) visit Rejoice during the Loy Krathong Festival.



In mid-November Chiang Mai was very busy with locals and tourists for the Loy Krathong Festival. Amongst the visitors were 5 friends from Singapore, Wight Wong, Mr Chia, Trina and son, and Janice. They brought with them warm clothing which Rejoice will distribute to the Home Care patients in Chiang Dao and Sankampeang district hospitals. Whilst in Chiang Mai, they also bought warm clothing and snacks for the children at the See-un Muang Day care centres.

Routinely, the children also receive the regular provisions of eggs, fruit, rice etc. funded each

month by Carol Foo also from Singapore.

Also we must mention, Connie and her mum Helen, also in Singapore, who send boxes of baby clothes, school supplies and acces-

sories, which are collected from their friends, to Rejoice. We will distribute these during our home care visits in conjunction with the HIV health care workers at Sankampeang, Chiang Dao and more recently, Mae AI hospital.

Now, safely back in Singapore, Wight wrote an account of the trip and emailed it to other members of FRS, together with photo videos from their trip.

Here is a link to the account and videos.

World Aids Day 2013...

World Aids Day falls on Ist. December each year. This year, schools, army, police, community workers etc. in Chiang Dao district held their Aids Day Jamboree at Chiang Dao High School. As last year in Arunotai, the turn out was wonderful; there were marching bands, competitions, speeches, ice cream, food etc. The stalls around the perimeter were provided by various groups including injecting drug users, men who have sex with men, hospital health care workers, religious groups etc. Most of the children wore their school uniforms but many turned out in their traditional tribal costumes which made it a colourful spectacle. Here is a link to a photo album of photos taken during the event.



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	ะกามรัญญัญ

South Carlos

The certificate (left) and a letter (not shown) are from a director of Chiang Dao Hospital thanking Rejoice for assisting with the organization of the World Aids day Jamboree which, was hosted by Chiang Dao Hospital and local schools.

Rejoice and the HIV Health Care workers manned an information stall and provided food and prizes for the children's competitions.

Every year for World Aids day the Thai Press publish articles concerning the current state of HIV/Aids in the country.

Here is a link to a few of these articles.

Thailand's English Press opinions.

- as for the

World Aids Day 2013 Press Articles

Below are a few articles from the English language press concerning the state of HIV/Aids in Thailand.



continues to not accept those living with HIV Kai, 20, and 18-year-old Rew (not their real names) each have their own dream. Kai wants to be a soldier and actor, while Rew wants to be a photographer and a dancer.The Nation

HIV sufferers bear a terrible stigma



Thai society still cannot accept the fact that those with the Aids virus are not a danger to them

For HIV/Aids suffers, advancements in the drugs that treat them and prolong their lives have come in leaps and bounds....<u>Bangkok Post</u> HIV: one more burden for the migrants here



Life for a migrant worker living with HIV in Thailand isn't easy. They have to set aside Bt1,070 a month to buy anti -retroviral drugs, while facing Problems from advantage-takers and abusive employers.

Policy changes needed to fight HIV



Region lacks schemes to prevent the spread of disease, conference told LEGAL REFORM - including the revision and removal of some laws and policies affecting people living with ... The Nation

Time for Thailand to 'stand on its own two feet' in HIV/ Aids fight



Previously lauded as a successful country in combating the Aids epidemic, Thailand's attempt to fight HIV/Aids is facing a big challenge as funding support from international agencies continues to drop...<u>The Nation</u> Aids conference puts Thailand back under the spotlight

Almost 30 years have passed since the first cases of HIV were reported in Thailand in 1984. Before that time it was considered a mysterious new virus, infecting thousands of people in Africa and Western...

As we now know, this was not the case. Since the early 1990s, around 800,000 Thais have died of Aids-related illnesses. In 2012, an estimated 450,000 people were living with HIV in Thailand.Bangkok Post

A few years ago the well known British actor, presenter and entertainer, Stephen Fry, made two documentaries for the BBC. These can be now seen on YouTube entitled <u>"Stephen Fry - HIV and Me"</u>

The documentaries, still remain very relevant in Northern Thailand, where the problems outlined in the UK are exacerbated by language, culture and problems of corruption and exploitation. Where stigma and the lack of education are turning a medical crisis into a social crisis.

Educational Sponsorship Programme...



HIV and Poverty

Poverty and HIV are common partners, particularly in the rural communities. It is not uncommon to see children being cared for by elderly grandparents or relatives. Many are orphaned, many have one surviving parent usually infected with HIV. Desertion by the father is often a factor. The upshot is abject poverty.

School Expenses

Education while being a basic right for children in many parts of the world, is a rare privilege for the poor rural children in Chiang Mai Province. While the government provides free tuition, families have to buy school uniforms;- regular uniform, gym and sports uniform, scout or guides uniform.

Over and above uniforms and clothing, school bags, books, writing materials etc. have to be bought - without these the children cannot attend school; moreover travel and meal expenses have also to be found.

Educational Sponsorships

Rejoice currently directly assist 313 HIV+ patients and their families regularly on a weekly basis. The children of these patients and HIV/Aids orphans are eligible for educational scholarships. Currently 61 children have scholarships through Rejoice.

All, in one way or another, are affected by the virus and their extended families are finding it extremely difficult to make ends meet. They have become much poorer and many are finding it difficult to come to terms with the additional hardship and responsibility of living with HIV. Many extended families cannot cope with the increased costs of caring for an addition child (or children) and have no option but to put the child into an orphanage.

Others, with the help of sponsorship can afford to send the child to school which often frees-up sufficient funds to allow the family to stay together. Ostensibly, the sponsorship is in the form of an 'educational scholarship' but in reality it is much more, it will;

- allow the child to grow-up in his/her community with their extended family
- allow the child to learn to speak the language and follow the religion of their community
- make it easier for the family to accept financial help the money is received on behalf of the child
- prevent the child becoming institutionalised in an orphanage
- be a significant factor in deciding whether the child continues his/her education to high school, college or university.

If you would like to sponsor a child please let us know by sending an email at the time you make your donation. We can either select a child for you from our ranking of most needy **OR** you can specify which child based on gender, age etc. and we will select a child accordingly.

Please become a Sponsor

Rejoice encourages donors to support a child to go to school for one year. We do this by proving a sum of money to go towards the cost of sending a child to school. The actual amount required varies considerably and depends on level of education – primary, secondary or college. The costs increase with the level, but in all cases will exceed 5,000 baht per year.

We must emphasise that this is not the primary activity of Rejoice but it is a wonderful way to support the needy and poor families.

Since the needs and expenses grow as the child grows older we have introduced a two tier system of sponsorship based on age and/or level of education, thus;

- Children (students) at high school, college or university we ask 7.000 baht (about \$230 US Dollars)
- Younger children we continue to ask 5,000 baht (about \$165 US Dollars). Also, we now include pre-school children and babies



Email: contact@rejoicecharity.com

allow the child to attend school

... Educational Sponsorship Programme

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Database of Children Sponsored

The screen-snip is a part of the Microsoft excel (XLS) master file which shows all the Rejoice children— from infants to college students. The headings are self explanatory although of note is the child's age which is automatically calculated on a daily basis from the date of birth. Also a column showing HIV status of child/mum/ dad. We currently have over 90 children on the database, with 61 already sponsored, and we are keen to add more.

Correspondence

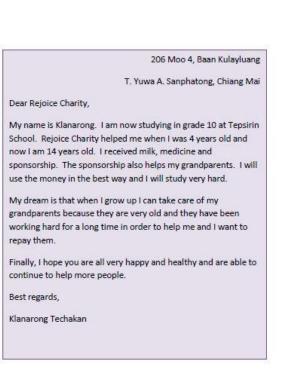
Once sponsored, the child (or guardian) will write a "thank you" note which Rejoice will translate and email to the sponsor. Similarly, if the sponsor wishes to write to the child or (send photos) this can be done by an email to Rejoice which we can translate and pass on to the child. The collage on the right shows some of the past correspondence between child and sponsor.

This has proved to be very successful and can be a great motivator for the families.



Selection of correspondence between child and sponsor

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Student's 'thank you' note with translation.

Please Support Rejoice....

By direct bank transfer;

Donations can be made either direct to the local (Thai baht) account in Chiang Mai, Thailand or, alternatively to the account in London, UK. Account details are shown in the tables below.

Thailand Account

Account (Thai baht):	Rejoice Charity	
Bank name:	Bangkok Bank PLC	
Bank Address:	Thapae Road	
	T. Chang Klan	
	A. Muang	
	Chiang Mai 50100	
	Thailand	
Account No.	251-4-767678	
Swift Code:	ВККВТНВК	

London Account

Account:	Rejoice Foundation UK
Bank Name:	HSBC Ltd
Branch:	Canary Wharf
Bank Address:	London EI4
Account No:	41466879
Sort Code:	40-02-44
Swift Code:	MIDLGB22
IBAN:	GB89MIDL40024441466879

By Credit Card via PayPal

If you want to make a donation via PayPal, go to Rejoice website and click on the "Donate Today" button in the top right corner.

Create a Standing Order

If you would like to make a regular contribution /donation, of whatever size, please print out and complete this standing order form with your bank details and amount pledged, then return it to Rejoice Foundation UK (not your bank) at the address below;

Nigel Haunch, Chair, Rejoice Foundation UK, 119 Dundee Wharf, Three Colt Street, London E14 8AY

Gift Aid

If you are a UK taxpayer, Rejoice can reclaim tax on your donation from the Inland Revenue at no extra cost or inconvenience to you. This currently makes your donation (at basic rate) worth an extra 25p for each £1 given.

If you pay tax at the higher rate, you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment return.

For us to benefit in this way when you donate, you can download and print this <u>PDF form</u>, sign it and send to the address below OR, alternatively, you could email your home address to contact@rejoicecharity.com and we will post the Gift Aid form to you to sign and return to;

Nigel Haunch, Chair, Rejoice Foundation UK, 119 Dundee Wharf, Three Colt Street, London E14 8AY

Send a Cheque

If the banks are still accepting cheques and you wish to make a one-off or intermittent donation to Rejoice, please make your cheques payable to 'Rejoice Foundation UK' and send them to;

Nigel Haunch, Chair, Rejoice Foundation UK, 119 Dundee Wharf, Three Colt Street, London E14 8AY

Notes for Donors

Please let us know about your donation by sending a short email to; <u>contact@rejoicecharity.com</u>. So that we may contact you and thank you directly.

If you would like part of your donation to go towards sponsoring a childs education (5,000 baht) please let us know whether we should select a child on your behalf or you would prefer to select a child yourself, in which case we will send the Excel file 'Children Seeking Sponsorship' to help you decide.

Thank you all for your generous support.

Please visit our website; <u>www.rejoicecharity.com</u> and let your friends and relatives hear about us by forwarding this newsletter or better still printing it and use it as a discussion topic.

Your help and constructive criticism will be gratefully received so please send all your comments to;

Rejoice Foundation UK Trustees

The international fundraising arm of Rejoice based in the UK was started by Nigel Haunch who, after living and working in Asia for some years, returned to London to run his own media consultancy business. Having learned about the work of Rejoice on the internet, Nigel made a visit and was moved by the scale of the HIV/AIDS crisis in northern Thailand. At the same time, he was impressed by the extraordinary achievements of Rejoice in helping those infected and affected by the epidemic, particularly in outlying rural communities.

The Trustees of Rejoice Foundation UK are as follows;

Chairperson Nigel Haunch

Vice Chair Dr Darrall Higson-a Consultant in Pharmaceutical Medicine and formerly a medical director of GlaxoSmithKline

RFUK honorary Secretary Prof Philip Evans, Director of Research for the University of Westminster,

Dr Martin Huddart is a General Practitioner in East London and also a tutor at the UK's Royal Free and University College Medical Schools

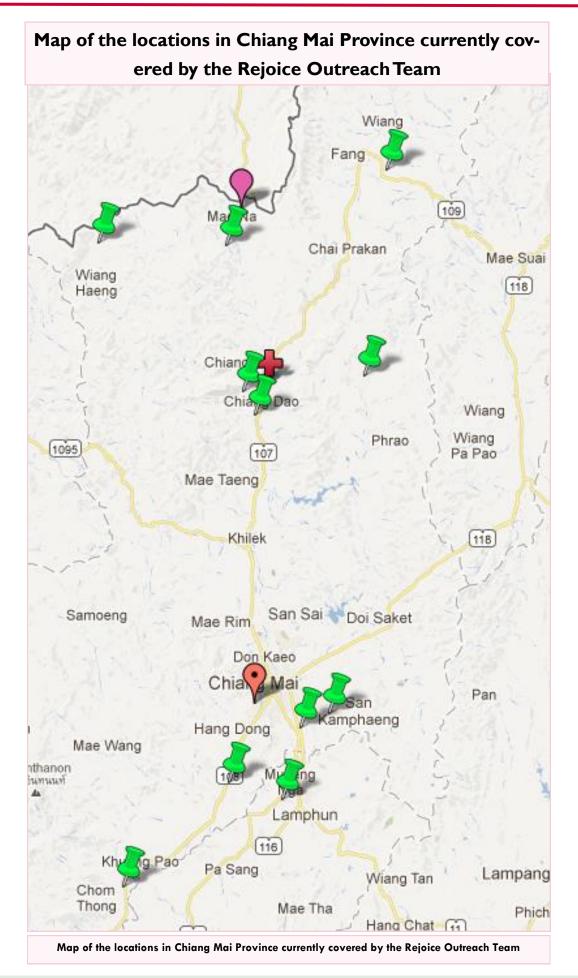
Alan Wheeler, a retired petroleum petrophysical engineer who now lives in Chiang Mai



<u>Alan Wheeler</u>

January 2014





Link to more detailed map of Chiang Mai Province