



Good Shepherd Nong Khai
ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Cover photo:

Sr Pranee – Director of the Outreach Programme, with social workers Patcharaporn and Kanlika, accepted an award from Princess Sirivannavari, in recognition for the Programme’s work in the field of HIV/AIDS, on World Aids Day December 1st 2023 in Bangkok. It was an honour for the Outreach Staff and all of Good Shepherd, Nong Khai.

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มูลนิธิซิสเตอร์นงคาย

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Message from New Community Leader

In June 2023, I took up my appointment as Community Leader of the Good Shepherd Nong Khai Community. Sr Pranee had served in this role for the previous six years and remains the President of our Foundation.

On behalf of the Sisters, mission partners and those with whom we work, I thank her for her guidance and leadership during this period, negotiating the economic and social challenges brought about by Covid, both in the Nong Khai projects and programmes and in the wider world.

Not all changes were negative however and the community has witnessed the implementation of new initiatives, practices and directions. The Strategic Plan, launched in 2022 was evidence of this.

I am impressed by the professionalism of our mission partners – key personnel in the two major programmes – as well as their dedication to the mission and vision of the Good Shepherd congregation. It is a mission that embraces all in our target groups and which, is of course, closely linked to the Development Goals displayed here.

Having grown up in the province of Nong Khai, I understand the life of the people in this region, which is often described as the poorest part of Thailand. With improved infrastructure in recent years, it is barely recognizable as the 'Nong Khai of old', yet still, there are thousands of people who eke out a living as best they can and find it difficult to access the services and resources that are available.

We the Good Shepherd sisters and our mission partners have always been willing to step in and assist the target group where necessary but instead of encouraging dependency, we wish - as the current Strategic Plan outlines – to help people move to greater independence and self reliance. We will continue to work towards this over the coming year.

I would also like to thank you, our mission partners further afield, – all who accompany us in the implementation of our programmes through monetary assistance and moral support. We would not have been able to have achieved what you see in this report without your help. We look forward to continuing this partnership, throughout 2024.

Yanee Phuk

Sr Yanee Panurak
Community Leader – Good Shepherd Sisters
Nong Khai



Commitment to the Development Goals



From participant's dependency to greater self-reliance ...2022 -2027



Education



Improved health



Alternative livelihoods



Protection of children and vulnerable adults



Networking



Sr Pranee Sitti
Foundation
President/
Director
Village Outreach

PROJECT PERSONNEL

Village Outreach Programme



Patcharporn
Sitti
Social Worker
Programme
Co-ordinator



Kunnika
Chinwirutsirisul
Social Worker



Attaphon
Pansri
Community
Development



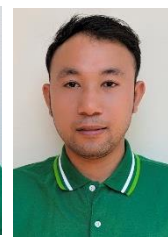
Khemchira
Suksuworachot
Registered
nurse



Perm Sak
Tipayasoot
Hospital liaison
Village home care



Waraporn
Khunyai
Assistant
nurse



Deth
Phetdala
Assistant
nurse



Tawarit
Panurak
Driver

Child and Youth Development Programme



Sr Jintana
Phimsan
Director



Areewan
Somgnan
Field worker



Waraporn
Khansara
Administrator



Wiriya
Buransan
Seminar
co-ordinator



Sittichai
Sootsukhon
Administrator

Sufficiency Learning Centre



Sr Sutisa Utalun
Director



Chamaitip Janthed
Administration



Panuwat Saipheth
Operations Manager

Support Personnel



Antonia
Symonds
Project Officer GSNK
Hands of Hope Project Manager



Kuthaya
Tangrakool
Accountant

Village Outreach Programme

Visitation – home care, milk and special needs

Hospital liaison – transportation, advocacy and follow up

Education - workshops, seminars, training – Garden of Friendship and community based

Networking GO & NGO+ private sector

Residential care – Garden of Friendship: Critical care unit, TB unit, Life Centre, family homes + volunteer house

Income generation/ employment

Rice, chickens, fruit, and vegetable production in Garden of Friendship + Farm Shop.

Hands of Hope

Employment through the marketing of hand made cards and paper decorations + raising fish for local sale

Child and Youth Development Programme

Visitation – assessment of situation/ counselling

Direct sponsorship – individual support from children K-University

Education workshops, seminars, training - community based.

Networking GO & NGO+ private sector

Savings groups – village savings groups/ death fund
+

Women's Sewing group in village

Sufficiency Learning Centre

On grounds of **Village Vocational Training Centre**

Operating self-sufficient farm model

Training to community groups

Facility use extended to GO, NGOs and community groups

VILLAGE OUTREACH PROGRAMME

Greatest achievement With the COVID-19 pandemic situation starting to subside, there has been a growing opportunity for intensive community-based work to strengthen knowledge about accessing rights as people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), as well as treatments available and, in the larger target group – prevention.

This work focuses on:

- ✓ Educating students in schools: This is a crucial life skill that can help young people make informed decisions about their sexual health.
- ✓ Training community volunteers: helping to increase awareness and understanding of HIV/AIDS in the community, and reduce discrimination.
- ✓ Working together to create a more positive and supportive environment for people living with HIV, and reduce the number of new infections.

Empowering an HIV-Positive Network, by:

- Providing emotional support including counseling, peer support groups, and other activities that can help PLWHA cope with the challenges of their condition.
- Encouraging income generation including provision of training and resources to help PLWHA start their own businesses or find employment.
- Promoting positive living including raising awareness and reducing stigma and discrimination.
- Ultimately, this leads to PLWHA living longer with healthier and more productive lives.

This targeted work with a Network of 330 members (11 groups) has three designated co-ordinators and nine volunteers, making home visits and delivering anti-retroviral drugs when necessary.



A group formed in the village of Si Wilai (Bueng Kan province) through the Network project, proudly standing with the charcoal stoves they are producing.

Co-ordination is crucial for the smooth and effective running of the programme's operations. Communication between team members is constant, with apps used to relay information from out in the field to one another and through regular meetings in the Garden of Friendship's office.

The four medical personnel, who cover hospital and home visits as well as day and night duties in the Care facility, hold their own weekly meetings, as do the

Quick stats

- **540** Adults with HIV/AIDS currently in programme (5 deaths)
- **8** Children infected with HIV – 1 new (1 death due to motorbike accident.)
- **45** General medical adult clients (home care) 8 new and 9 deaths
- **27** current children affected by HIV/AIDS – with PLWHA
- **86** Infants/ special needs children receiving milk formula/food/ hospital appointments - 7 new/16 exited programme (2 deaths)
- **718** adults and children, participated in community training workshops
- **528** PLWHA adults – health education
- **62** patients accommodated in the Care Facility, Life Centre and TB Unit.

the three staff targeting the community – social workers, community development officer and driver. The whole team comes together monthly with Sr Pranee, or more often if needs arise.



Village Outreach, as the name of the programme suggests, is a central component of the daily schedule. Home Care – for the elderly and disabled, providing encouragement and skills training to family members trying to keep them at home and cater for all their needs. Visiting staff provide bathing, sanitary products, haircuts, supervision of medications, exercise, repairs to dwellings and monitoring of hospital appointments.



Field worker, Perm Sak provides supervision of medication to Somporn, In the village of Sangiew, during a home care visit

Child Development – through :

- Milk Project regular provision of milk powder to infants 0-3 years, assessment of their development and monthly record updates made.
- Special needs children Visitation of children with chronic and debilitating illness or disability. Staff



provide support and advice to parents and guardians, monitoring the children's progress and making referrals to medical specialist. They also arrange for rehabilitation and find special educational institutions for some.

Outreach co-ordinator, Patcharaporn, delivers milk in the village of Nakho, to Chogun

- Workshops given to parents/guardians.

March: Small Group Training for 3 groups with a total of 36 participants.

Topic: 'Building Strong Families –Understanding Family Dynamics.' The emphasis was on promoting child development through positive communication and the creation of safe environments.

June: 30 guardians attended a workshop. Topic: 'Building Strong Families – Thai Families in Contemporary Society', which was held in Dong Nong Bon village.

- Nong Khai Hospital Special Learning Unit – referring children for psychological assessment and participation in development activities.

- Jasmine Camp – for the remaining HIV+ children. 'Knowing yourself/known others', in June.

Reading Project

Introduced last year, the project has expanded and is providing access to hundreds of children's picture books for young readers in three sites in the villages. Training in how to read to children and develop an interest for books, while at the same time, increasing family bonds, has been given to 89 adults, with 179 children now regularly borrowing books. Monthly activities are conducted in the two 'safe houses', set up in the villages of Dong Nong Bon and Meud Air. There are now 18 Family Support Volunteers trained to support parents in the wider community.

Community Training

Topic: "Sexual Health, HIV/AIDS, and Sexually Transmitted Diseases" In June, this workshop was given to two groups – 50 students in Huay Sai Ngoua School and 50 health volunteers in Sangkhom District, Bueng Kan.

Topic : "HIV/AIDS Knowledge Development Training to Promote Non-Discriminatory Behaviour in the Community."

Provided three times : 43 Students Huay Sai Ngoua School (February) 52 students Pha Taeng School (September) 52 Health volunteers in Pha Taeng Subdistrict Hospital in September.

In February, a campaign was launched to educate the community on HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, and the promotion of voluntary HIV testing. This was in collaboration with Bueng Kan Hospital and held at Bueng Kan School with 250 youths participating.



Sr Pranee and Outreach Community Development Officer, Attaphon, provide input to students at Bueng Kan school

In December for World AIDS Day, an awareness raising event highlighting HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases, was held in collaboration with Phon Charoen Hospital. The event was held at Phra Charoen School with 80 student participants.


Hospital Liaison The Outreach Programme works with 14 provincial and district hospitals across three provinces. Professional relationships have been fostered and hospital staff are willing to work in partnership with the Outreach Team.

Patients who cannot access treatment themselves from the villages and those from the Garden of Friendship, - are transported daily to appointments and for emergency care. Specialist treatments in the university hospital in Khon Kaen – two and a half hours away - are scheduled and when necessary, staff will attend also to advocate for the patients.

Follow up is important and next appointments are carefully monitored by field workers, with reminders sent out to patients who will be accessing services themselves – something that is encouraged.



Perm sak attends to Bunholm, after she was admitted to Nong Khai garden from the Garden. Visits to patients are regular, as hospitals require a caregiver to attend the one who is sick.



"The more that you
read, the more things
you will know, the
more that you learn,
the more places you
will go." - Dr Seuss

*Pam Pam in the Safe House in
Dong Nong Bon Village,
enjoying a book. Pam Pam had
formerly been in the Milk
Project as an infant and now
likes to come and read to
younger children.*

Networking

The Outreach Programme relies on its local connections with both government and non-government agencies, to ensure optimal benefits for the target group. To that end, in the last 12 months, cases have been co-ordinated in conjunction with the following providers:

- ✓ **Provincial Skill Development Office** - occupational promotion for vulnerable groups
- ✓ Co-ordinated with **Provincial Administrative Organization** – for children affected by AIDS, to receive Rajapracha Samasai scholarship.
- ✓ **Office of Social Development and Human Security** – social welfare benefits for vulnerable persons.
- ✓ **Phochai Sub-district Health Promoting Hospital** - provided cervical cancer screening for patients in the Garden of Friendship.
- ✓ **Office of Disease Prevention and Control Region 8**, in collaboration with civil society networks Nong Khai .
- ✓ **Nong Khai Homeless Protection Center** – co-ordinated the referral of homeless HIV-infected cases and provided support for occupational promotion funds for PLWHA
- ✓ **Nong Khai Provincial Cultural Office** - worked with Foundations as Ethical Organizations and provided training for personnel
- ✓ **Sarnelli House** Referrals to Garden of Friendship

GARDEN OF FRIENDSHIP

Providing residential care 24/7 to an average of 30 people at any one time, is a commitment that has been honoured since the Garden of Friendship first opened its doors, only then, there were just three patient beds available.

The nursing staff, assisted by additional workers to help with house keeping, cooking, laundry and patient needs, monitor the residents carefully – distributing medications, bathing, feeding, managing wound care, providing physiotherapy, counselling and involvement in meaningful daily pursuits.



Nurse Khem, feeds Ung through nasal tube after difficulty with swallowing. Ung recovered.

Working with the social workers, they prepare short and long term goals and when the time is right, prepare them for discharge. If this involves returning to family, home visits and discussion with family members is essential, to ensure a positive transition.



Social worker, Kanlika, travels with patient Consuela in the back of the pick-up, to register her for the disability card.

Resident numbers for 2023 NB: Current: Dec 23 Critical Care Unit

Admissions 10 M 9 F Transferred Life Centre 3 F
Transferred TB Unit 1 F Transferred out 2 M
Deaths (in hospital) 1 F

Current 5M 4F (1 boy stay with his mother)

Life Centre

Admissions 7 M 22 F Transferred out 4 M 11 F
Current 3 M 9 F (2 Teenagers went to school in Chiang Rai)

TB UNIT

Admissions 5M 3F Transferred out 1M 1F
Transferred Critical Care 1M
Deaths in Center 1M

Current 2M 2F

Sr Mary's Cottage SMC

Admissions 5M 1F Transferred out 2M
Transferred Family homes and units 1F

Current 3 M

Family homes and units 5 M 9 F 2 children

Transferred out 1M 2 F


Current 4 M 7 F 2 children

Total number at end of year: 39 in residence



Residents look forward to communal games

Along with daily activities organized by the staff for the patients and residents –art therapy, singing, games, exercise, health education and gardening, special events are celebrated throughout the year with whole community participation. Songkran (Thai New Year and water festival), Loi Krathong, World Aids Day and Christmas, the major times of celebration.



'To me, a
home is
where you
feel, loved,
safe and
cherished.'

- Malala Yousafzai

Khun Yai Nim Nuan, aged 80, came to the Garden of Friendship 18 months ago. Previously, she had been sick and begging on the streets with no family contact... she now has a place to call 'home'.

In 2023, visitors came from Spain, Belgium, Norway, France, Germany, the USA, Australia, Singapore, Myanmar, Laos and throughout Thailand, all of whom the community was pleased to welcome.



Group visiting from Singapore

Agricultural Activities in Garden of Friendship

Utilizing the land in the Garden of Friendship, has always been a priority since the opening in 2008. For two years, covered gardens with automated watering systems, have meant a year round supply of organic vegetables for use both in the Garden's kitchen and for sale.

In January, four additional covered plots were erected, and raised beds were introduced.

Vegetable production increased 11% since the previous year, with 1,722 kgs of vegetables harvested. The ever popular 11 lettuce varieties, accounted for 81% of production with the other 19% consisting of: Asparagus, Bok choy, pumpkins, long beans, cabbage, gourds, kale, eggplant and cucumbers – grown under cover and outside in small beds.



Dow, who works in the gardens and sells the produce at outside venues during the week, proudly holding newly harvested produce.

For the first year, rice could not be cultivated in the Garden's fields due to severe flooding. The method chosen was to scatter the rice seed but with high water levels, this was not possible. Rice has therefore had to be purchased for the daily meals of residents using donations and also welcoming the gift of rice from local groups and individuals.

Egg production on the other hand, was at an all time high, with 87,593 eggs collected. Eggs are graded daily and used in the kitchen, distributed to those visited in the villages and also sold. There are currently four venues at which the produce is sold during the week.

In June, 300 new chickens were welcomed into a newly renovated area, where crickets are also being raised to provide additional protein.



Chicken caretakers, Thong Mee and Charoen



Garden worker, Chukiat and Tong Mee, grade the eggs



A new initiative – the **Farm Shop** – was opened in April, close to the covered gardens and facing the road. Here, produce from the garden-eggs, vegetables and fruit, can be sold to local people, along with goods produced by the income generating groups in the PLWHA Network project. The producers from Hands of Hope may also sell their agricultural products here – fruit and dried fish.



The Outreach Staff were pro-active throughout the year when it came to increasing their professional skills, in order to serve the target groups better.

Workshops attended by relevant staff, included:

- ❖ “Counseling for home visits for people living with HIV/AIDS” (Human Development Foundation with the Rotary Club of Bangkok)
- ❖ Child Protection and Safeguarding (Good Shepherd Thailand)
- ❖ “Promotion of child development in specific groups with slow learning disabilities” (Development stimulation center Nong Khai Hospital)
- ❖ Art Therapy for Self-Healing (Good Shepherd Sister Nongkhai Foundation)
- ❖ Music Therapy Training for Vulnerable People Care (Catholic Committee on HIV/AIDs)

On-line sessions:

- ❖ Behavior modification strategies for weight loss and prevention of NCDs (Faculty of Nursing Thammasat University)
- ❖ “Elimination of violence against children in Thailand” (Department of Children and Youth Affairs)
- ❖ Breastfeeding (Thailand Breastfeeding Foundation)
- ❖ Service standards of social work professionals” (Council of Social Work Professions)
- ❖ “Update Nursing Management in Cardiac Surgery” (Chiang Mai Hospital)
- ❖ "Professional identity in social work in the midst of present and future challenges.” (Council of Social Work Professions)

Zoom participation:

- ❖ What is the new TB/HIV clinical Management (HIV Practitioner Community)
- ❖ Treatment - Viral Hepatitis (Dept. of Disease Control)
- ❖ Progress: Network and Management of Wound and Ostomy Care 2023 (Chiang Mai Hospital)
- ❖ Care for Care givers at home (The Catholic Health Care Provider Association of Thailand)
- ❖ Dementia Care (King Chulalongkorn Hospital)
- ❖ Training on Developing the Potential of Local Virtue Promoters (Nong Khai Provincial Cultural Office)
- ❖ Monkeypox (Division of AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases)

Award Ceremony Bangkok

As shown on cover, the Outreach Programme was recognized on International AIDS Day, for their work in their services provided to PLWHA and the education provided to the community towards the elimination of HIV/AIDS.

Here, Sr Pranee accepts the award from Princess Sirivannanavari.



Staff with Sr Pranee in the Garden of Friendship, proudly in receipt of the award. Back row from left : Bird (Community Development), Daet (Assistant nurse), Antonia (Project Officer), Sr Chamadee (on work experience from Good Shepherd Sri Lanka), Perm Sak (hospital liaison) Front from left: Kate (Social Worker), Phon (Assistant nurse), Khem (Registered nurse), Sr Pranee (Director), Gai (Social Worker), Pia (Field worker/driver)

Plans for 2024

In December 2022, the 51st UNAIDS meeting was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Part of a statement by UNAIDS Country Director for Thailand, Patchara Benjarattanaporn, read: *“Thailand provides excellent HIV services. Unfortunately, too many young people do not get the prevention information, services and support they need.”*

As seen in this report, the Outreach Team has worked to address this during the past twelve months and will continue to do so in the coming year, through collaboration with Hospital Staff in HIV Clinics to create positive social impact. This will be achieved through:

- Promoting knowledge about HIV/AIDS and voluntary blood testing targeting schools and communities;
- Home visits - assessing the problems of patients in each area and providing them necessary support;
- Reduce stigma in the community by raising awareness about HIV/AIDS and promoting understanding and acceptance of PLWHA;

Optimal results – reduction in the number of new HIV infections in Nong Khai and Bueng Kan provinces through the above means and by providing access to HIV prevention and treatment services.

To all who have assisted us with grants, donations, equipment, goods, services, friendship and encouragement, both nationally and internationally, we **thank you** and look forward to working with you in 2024.



Rak – resident Garden of Friendship

" Nine-tenths of education
is encouragement."

- Anatole France



Sr Jintana , Waraporn
and Areewan, visit
Doungporn and her
grandfather in Sakrai
Village.

CHILD & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.” – Aristotle

Greatest achievement The Child and Youth Development Programme (CYD), aspires to this philosophy of Aristotle, through its holistic approach to providing its services to the target group.

The primary aim is ensuring the children in the programme are able to access an academic education by attending school and it is in this area that individual sponsorship is of such importance, along with visitation, contact with schools and higher learning institutions and monitoring the student's progress.

However, developing the whole child, feeding the heart and not just the mind, leads to a number of various activities, events and experiences, initiated by the CYD Team, throughout the year.

Volunteering One of the most rewarding initiatives has been the commitment the students and their parents are making to volunteering their time, to clean - both in the town and the villages – community gardening and to assist with the preparation for special events – be they organized by the CYD team or for activities in the school.

More will be spoken about the Little Hero project, later in this report, as this too has developed a sense of giving and greater participation in life.



Volunteering in the garden project next to CYD office

Educational support

The selection of children and youth for direct sponsorship support, is decided on individual circumstances - the family situation in regard to regular income, whether parents are in situ or children are being raised by grandparents, the home environment, number of siblings and school attendance records.

Home visitation prior to registration therefore, is vital for gaining this information and observing family interaction. When a sponsor is found, bio-data of the child is shared and support begins. A file is kept on every child entering the programme and is regularly updated.

Quick stats

- **343** Students provided support for their education **216F/127M** from **95** schools in **106** villages
- **244** in Kindergarten to High school
- **50** Students in vocational training
- **19** students in pre-bachelor courses
- **30** Students attending university
- **8** graduated with Vocational Certificate
- **7** 4F 3M graduated with Bachelor Degrees
- **660** students received training
- **350** members of village savings groups
- **1,095** members of village funeral fund



CYD staff visit a family with 6 children in the village of Yoongthong.

Visitation continues after a child enters the programme, with staff visiting villages on a Saturday, when families are mostly at home. A different area is designated each week for the visits. Additionally, school visits are arranged with every school visited once a month.

Made aware of the schedule, teachers will gather students from the programme together and make a room available for CYD staff to meet with them. Often this is followed by an activity involving the group of students.



Sr Jintana and CYD staff carry out an anti-violence activity with children in Prawnea village school.



Mintra

Oravee

Chanon

Great rejoicing is to be had each year, when students graduate – especially when they have been part of the programme since early childhood.

The three students above along with four others, received their Bachelor Degrees, while eight others completed their Vocational Certificates.

Child Protection All projects are committed to a current Good Shepherd Congregational priority – the protection and safeguarding of children. Much time and resources have been used on training those in the CYD Programme, through education in schools and in the wider community.

A workshop on 'Child Protection – Case management and basic counselling skills' was provided by CYD Staff for 60 teachers from 30 schools in Nong Khai. This was commissioned and financed by the Nong Khai Administration Provincial Office and was held in the Greenville Hotel over two days and one night.

CYD staff identify teachers in their role, as people close to the children and able perhaps to first recognize the signs of abuse, if trained to do so.

Therefore, teachers were given the skills to fact find by asking the right questions. They were able to practice basic counselling methods and understood the procedure for following up cases with the authorities.



The group on completion of training

Little Hero Activity

This activity was introduced in 2022 to help form leaders within the CYD Programme and their schools. 50 students have been trained from 24 schools. They met four times during 2023 with CYD staff for follow-up training – especially in relation to Child Protection and Safeguarding.

Their main role is to be observers in their classroom and when problems are witnessed or they are alerted to any signs of abuse, that they contact a teacher to step in. They also volunteer to assist teachers with special activities and events in their school and positive feedback has been received from teachers about their efforts.



Group of 'Little heroes and heroes'

Youth Training Seminars and workshops were provided to 660 students throughout the year:


- 'Life skills' held at Saeng Thong Hotel for 40 youth from Sarnelli House
- 'Life plan for living together in society', at Napu Hotel for 40 youth - also from Sarnelli House.
- 'Morality in the daily life of students' - St Joseph's School in Sakon Nakhon with 250 students attending.
- 'Youth wellness' in the Sufficiency Learning Centre for 80 youth from CYD and Welcome Home.
- 'Anti Human Trafficking' – at the Nong Khai Provincial Administrative Office, for 250 students.



Opening of Gratitude Hall – re-purposing of Regina Centre Building for seminars, next to CYD Office

Networking with government and non-government groups in the areas of education and development, is most important for the well being of those in the target groups. Contact has included referrals, follow-up of cases and a sharing of information. In the past twelve months, this has included government departments in Nong Khai : the Provincial Cultural Office, Provincial Social Development and Human Security Office and the Provincial Administrative Organization as well as Tha Rae Sub-district Administrative Department in Sakon Nakhon Province and the Phan District Office in Chiang Rai Province.

Information booths have been set up at events in three schools as well as Welcome House Nong Khai and two Catholic churches.

A photograph of three students in school uniforms cleaning an outdoor area. On the left, a girl in a pink shirt and blue pants holds a broom. In the center, a girl in a blue uniform and a white face mask is putting a green container into a large black plastic bag. On the right, a boy in a pink and blue shirt is sweeping the ground with a broom. The ground is covered with dry leaves. The background is filled with lush green trees and bushes.

'As you grow older, you will discover you have two hands - one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.'

- Audrey Hepburn

Students volunteer to clean the grounds in the Good Shepherd convent Nong Khai town.

Visits from Sponsors Visits from sponsors are always looked forward to – by the children and the staff. This past year, as well as individual sponsors, groups included were Marys Friends Norway and Sri Lanka, as well as Enfant de Mekong.

The number of sponsored children fell this year, with one group sponsorship finishing, children exiting the programme (relocation with families) and a delay in finding new sponsors for waiting children, with their names already submitted for consideration.



Some of the Marys Friends Norway group, with their students

The **Village committee** has continued to assist the CYD staff in the running of the programme. Ten members from seven villages – look after 11 villages in the Sakrai District.

The committee accompanies staff on home and school visits, manages the Savings Groups (350 members) and Funeral Fund (1,095 members) and assists with the organisation of special activities and events.



Committee members meet with sisters and CYD staff

Village 'Watchdog' Centres Three years ago, as part of a Gender Based Violence project, the CYD staff, began to train communities to be vigilant about occurrences of GBV in their villages. At the same time, they taught about Child protection and Safeguarding and the first five 'Watchdog' Centres were established. This year, a further five centres were set up in the homes of village leaders bringing the total to 15, with the number of people trained totalling 150. (56 trained in 2023). The centres cover 9 districts.

Drugs has become an ever increasing problem in the communities and community safeguarding has never been needed so much.

Seven cases of domestic violence/abuse were referred on to the proper authorities this year by those who have been trained. Smaller disputes have been resolved within the community and not needing the intervention of police or the courts.

Staff training The Staff of CYD, have participated in professional training on four occasions:

- 'Art Therapy' with Professor Sopaonopas with 15 participants (staff from across the projects).
- Anti-Human Trafficking with Srs Sutisa and Apinya – 13 participants from across the projects.
- An English course with Sr Chamudi from Sri Lanka
- Project Monitoring and Evaluation led by the Good Shepherd Mission Development Team (Thailand) for 25 participants - Good Shepherd sites across Thailand.



Art therapy

Women's sewing project Although not run by CYD, a project to help women in the villages supplement their income by coming together to make mats for local sale, is monitored by the staff. They visit the group of 15 women and report on their progress to the project's sponsor. Orders have increased rapidly over the year and the women have expanded production to include mops and nets for raising crickets.



Women's sewing group with their wares, during a visit from project sponsor, Khun Lori, from the USA.

Plans for 2024

- Increase number of scholarships for children.
- Campaign highlighting domestic violence, scheduled for January 14th, with a half Marathon. 1,000 participants are expected.
- Skills training – English classes and computer on weekends. (Awaiting approval of proposal.)
- Extending 'Little Hero' project - 'Friend Helping Friend' -training of 60 new students - 2 representatives from 30 schools.
- Seminar for 60 new teachers from different schools on 'Child protection and basic counselling skills.'
- Planning towards another Marathon event before the end of the year.

Thank you to all our grantors, sponsors and visitors for your generosity during the year and to all in the local community, for working with us to ensure the protection of children as they fulfil their right to a childhood and an education.

SUFFICIENCY LEARNING CENTRE

Greatest achievement

Now that groups have begun coming back to the centre – ‘post’ Covid – for seminars, workshops and special events, the staff and workers have developed a keen sense of their roles. They are able to carry responsibility for the management of groups accommodated - both with government affiliations and from NGOs - and for the daily work in agriculture, from which, as any farmer would know, there is no break.

Users of the facilities

There was a 20% increase in the numbers of people using the facilities of the Sufficiency Learning Centre (SLC) from 2022 to this year, with a total of 1,535 people staying in overnight accommodation and/or using the seminar halls during the day.

The **Probation Office, Nong Khai**, brought seven groups of 50 youth for extended stays. Good Shepherd is all about giving second chances and so to see these young men being given an opportunity to turn their lives around, was positive indeed.

While the programme was arranged by the probation Officers themselves, there were slots for Sr Sutisa - a licensed social worker and a psycho-social counselor at Nong Khai Provincial Court - to address the participants



and involve them in activities.

The programme for the young offenders is spread over five days at a time, with the emphasis being on ‘Self knowledge’. The teachers lead them in exercises that explore human weakness and the consequences of drug and alcohol abuse.

Every third Wednesday of the month, a group of 15-20 young men, who have completed the workshop, volunteer at the SLC for manual tasks to help around the farm.

For those who wish to improve their lives, learn skills – particularly in agriculture – they can be referred to the Mobility Development Unit, which offers such training.

'For the poorest of the poor, livestock can, in some situations, be the first step along the pathway out of poverty.'



Buffaloes enjoying the pond in the SLC compound

Other groups using the SLC venue for their own seminars and workshops, included:

- ✓ The Thai Health Promotion Foundation
- ✓ Northeastern Province Working Group
- ✓ Nong Khai Provincial court
- ✓ Baan Pak Jai Nong Khai
- ✓ Christian group – Laos
- ✓ Local business group for staff development
- ✓ Christian group – Potaak District
- ✓ Daughters of Charity Sisters - came for training on child protection and safeguarding.



Ban Pak Jai – children's seminar



Sisters and staff from the Daughters of Charity

Community outreach

As well as 'in house' training, Sr Sutisa extended the opportunity to reach out to others through responding to invitations from organisations, schools and community groups in Nong Khai.

- A workshop on 'Respect for self – Respect for others', was given to three groups, totalling 650 students and teachers in St Paul de Chartres School, levels Primary 6 to 3rd level secondary school. The children broke into small groups for activities that explored the topic.



Small group activity

➤ Interfaith dialogue

A Buddhist nun, who had visited the SLC, became inspired by what she saw. This began a dialogue with others in the community and a visit by SLC staff to her temple.



- Working committees with government departments. The work of the SLC cannot operate in isolation from the bodies that govern the lives of the target groups using the centre for training. Thus, meetings are joined to strengthen the working partnerships with such groups.



Working party meeting with Nong Khai Police

- Community Rice Mill The mill was opened in January in Sa Krai District, Nong Khai. It has been used intermittently throughout the year, with the group currently registering it as a group enterprise under the name "The Sisters' Mill for the Community". It will be finalised in 2024.

Visitors from Norway, Belgium, the USA and local dignitaries – including Nong Khai's Governor – visited the SLC during the year. Visitors are welcomed, as is their willingness to partner in the work being carried out.



Visitors from Mary's Friends Norway

Self generated income The SLC, as well as providing training facilities and accommodation, is a model farm. Income from facility use and agriculture, accounted for 64% of the total income received by the centre in 2023, and of that, 83% is generated from accommodation and food services.

The income generated from agricultural activities was 10%, with the following break up:

- Mushroom cultivation – 82%
- Chickens – 5.3%
- Vegetables – 2.8%
- Tamarin – 5.1%
- Manure – 3.8%
- Recycled materials – 1%



SLC workers, Khunawut, Nok and Mek, with the morning's harvested mushrooms

Livestock and poultry

This year, saw a reduction in the number of animal varieties being raised in the SLC, with more efforts made to welcome users of the facilities. The numbers of cows and buffalo did increase however.

- ✓ 9 cows and 4 bull calves and 1 bull
- ✓ 5 female buffalo and 1 male

The sheep were returned to Don Bosco School and reduced numbers of ducks and chickens were raised.

The Nong Khai Livestock Department visits to vaccinate and check the blood of a bull calf providing their services for free.



Plans for 2024

Following the lean years of Covid, when gatherings were forbidden, now is the time to attract more users to the SLC. However, to do so, improvements need to be made to the facilities - ie. new, less power consuming air conditioners to cut back on expenditure - and for the grounds - providing more options for those conducting workshops, ie. outside sports areas making stays more appealing – especially for young groups. Kitchen repairs are also needed and a new coat of paint in places.

It is therefore the plan to improve the look of the centre and grounds so as to advertise more broadly in the community.



"Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising up every time we fail."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Group of 50 young men attend a live in camp run by the Probation Office in Nong Khai One group of seven, that used the facilities this year.



HANDS OF HOPE

*Encouraged to live
Empowered to create*

Greatest achievement Hands of Hope is the last remaining craft producing project of Good Shepherd Nong Khai!

Since 1983, craft production had been one of the main project areas, teaching skills, providing employment and a means for women primarily but also men, to help themselves and their families. The sale of craft also linked us with other Good Shepherd sites throughout the world, where sisters in the more developed countries, were committed to economic justice. They, their staff and volunteers would import craft from Good Shepherd projects around the world and sell to customers.

Here in Nong Khai, as projects increased to serve a great need, up to 450 people at any one time, worked in the sewing, weaving and pottery centres.

Fair Trade shops, NGOs, churches and indeed, dozens of individuals would purchase the craft.

Good Shepherd eventually closed their operations in the US and in Australia and Europe – with only one small outlet remaining today in the congregation's Mother House in France. Numbers of women needing employment producing crafts, also lessened, with young women – for whom the projects were first established – moving into higher education, or pursuing work in other fields. One by one, the centres here were closed or repurposed.



Hands of Hope show room- Friendship Centre

Hands of Hope also saw a decline in numbers over the last few years with people finding other employment, once their health status had improved, or, with their children now educated and moved away from home, to settle for a simpler way of life. Covid was the final 'nail in the coffin', reducing the number even further.

However, those that do remain are committed to the project and each other. A smaller production group has meant a greater sharing of talents, with orders filled through a team effort. It has meant a greater openness too, to possibilities and to learning new skills formerly

undertaken by others in the group. Every order has been met and it meant there was sufficient work for employment five days a week throughout the year – not the reality of the past three years.

Orders this year, accounted for 83% of overall income compared to 58% in 2022, when donations were relied on to meet expenses. However, optimistically providing five days work after the duress of the Covid years, did consume savings.

Cheaper shipping options never returned 'post' Covid – which increased customers' expenditure and for some, is a deterrent.



Some of the production team

Visitors 2023 saw visitors welcomed from Singapore, Germany, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Burma, Australia, Laos and the USA, along with 'locals' from Bangkok, Pattaya and Phuket.

Sometimes, those who come to visit are customers, while others have offered project support or friendship. Direct project support was offered twice this year – once to renovate the old bathroom block with a donation from Thai Smiles Belgium and the second time, to purchase two pond aerators for the fish raising project through the Msgr Charlebois Trust.

In 2022, 900 large fish were lost over a 24 hour period due to poor oxygenation following heavy rainfall. The solar powered aerators work which were installed in May, have solved the problem, with no more mass fish deaths. The water quality is greatly improved.





Samorn



Pik

"When you
create
something, you
leave a part of
yourself in it"
- Unknown



Gay



Pit

Fish This year, saw four new intakes of fingerlings (600 a time) and 578 kgs of fresh fish were sold.

Feeding fish for optimal size for selling fresh, takes approximately 5 months, so incurs a hefty feed bill. It was decided to begin sun drying the fish, which can be caught at a smaller size. This idea unfortunately, came at the start of the raining season, so had to be shelved until full daily sun could be relied on. Later in the year, orders of craft meant a sparsity of time. The plan therefore, is to increase the intake of fingerlings in 2024 and dry fish regularly.

As well as not having to raise the fish as long, dried fish have a long shelf life and can be transported to market more easily.



Processing the fish for drying



Left: Got basting fish drying in the sun. Above: The finished product

Vegetables A small additional income has been gained from growing vegetables and fruit – mostly bought by the group with one regular customer outside, who purchases papaya – prolific this year. This has helped offset the cost of fish feed.



Gay 1



Pit

New designs Five new card designs were produced for Christmas which were received well by customers.



Displaying the new Christmas cards.

18th birthday In February, the project 'came of age' turning 18. A small celebration was held before beginning the 19th year of production. 2024 will mark the completion of 20 years and it is hoped sufficient orders will ensure the milestone is reached.



The Annual Ploenchit Fair, organized by the British Charities group in Bangkok, marked the approaching end to the year. Pik, Gay 1 and Antonia attended, combining it with a sale at the Holy Sacrament Church. The effort towards this one weekend, is immense and logistics make it not viable to attend more sales in Bangkok . It is therefore preferred to cultivate relationships with customers who place their orders through the project's wholesale website, allowing the Hands of Hope team to put their time into production rather than attending sales venues.

Unfortunately cheaper shipping options never returned 'post' Covid – which increases customers' expenditure. Despite this, we express gratitude for all who continue to send orders.



Gay, Santa Bill, Antonia and Pik in front of the Hands of Hope stall at the Ploenchit Fair

' Success- it's in your hands.'

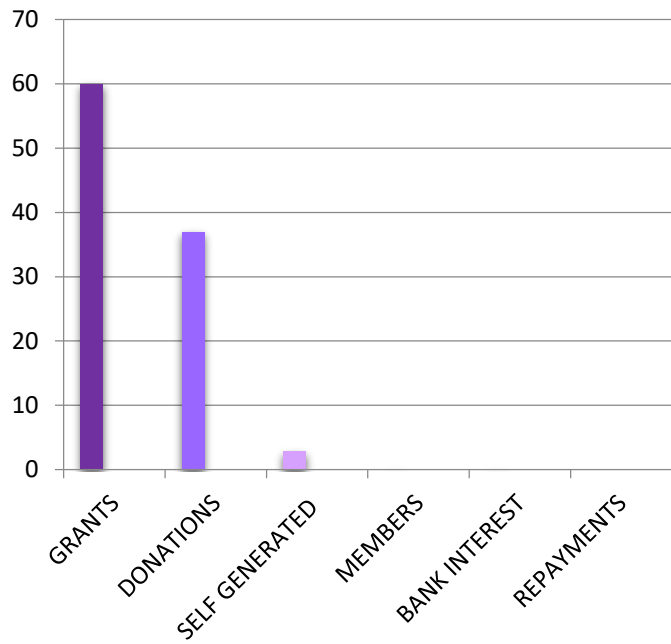


Gay 2, holding the catch of the day

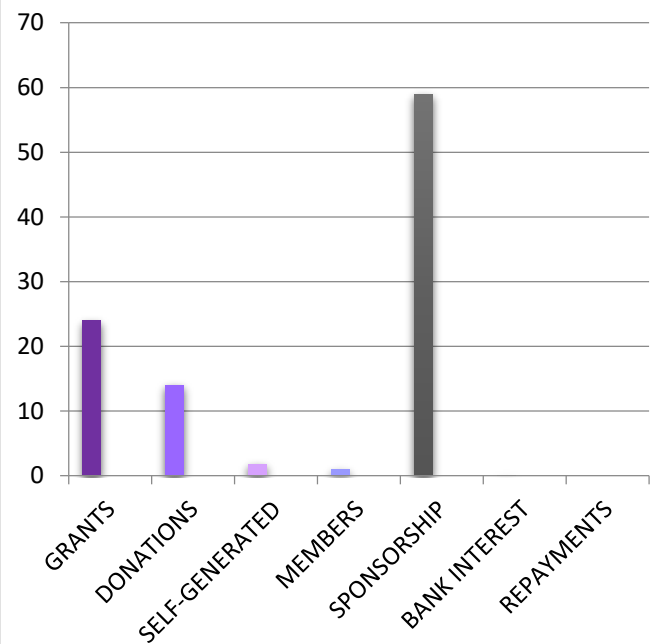
The following pages provide an overview of income sources across the project areas and a collective view of expenditure.

For full financial reporting, refer to our Annual Audit 2022

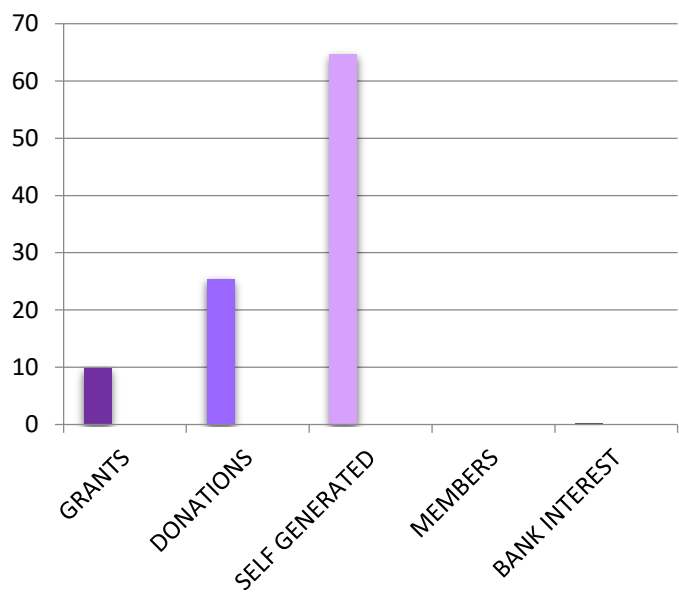
VILLAGE OUTREACH PROGRAMME



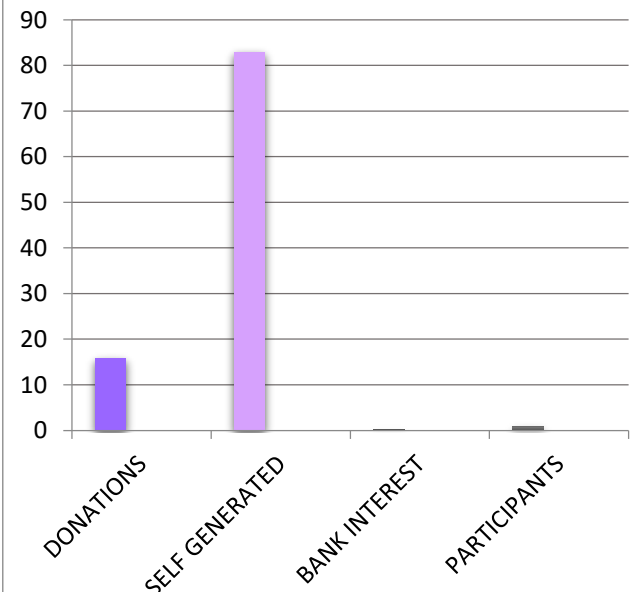
CHILD AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



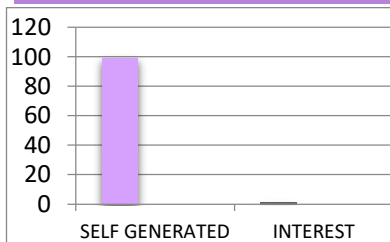
SUFFICIENCY LEARNING CENTRE



HANDS OF HOPE



VILLAGE VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

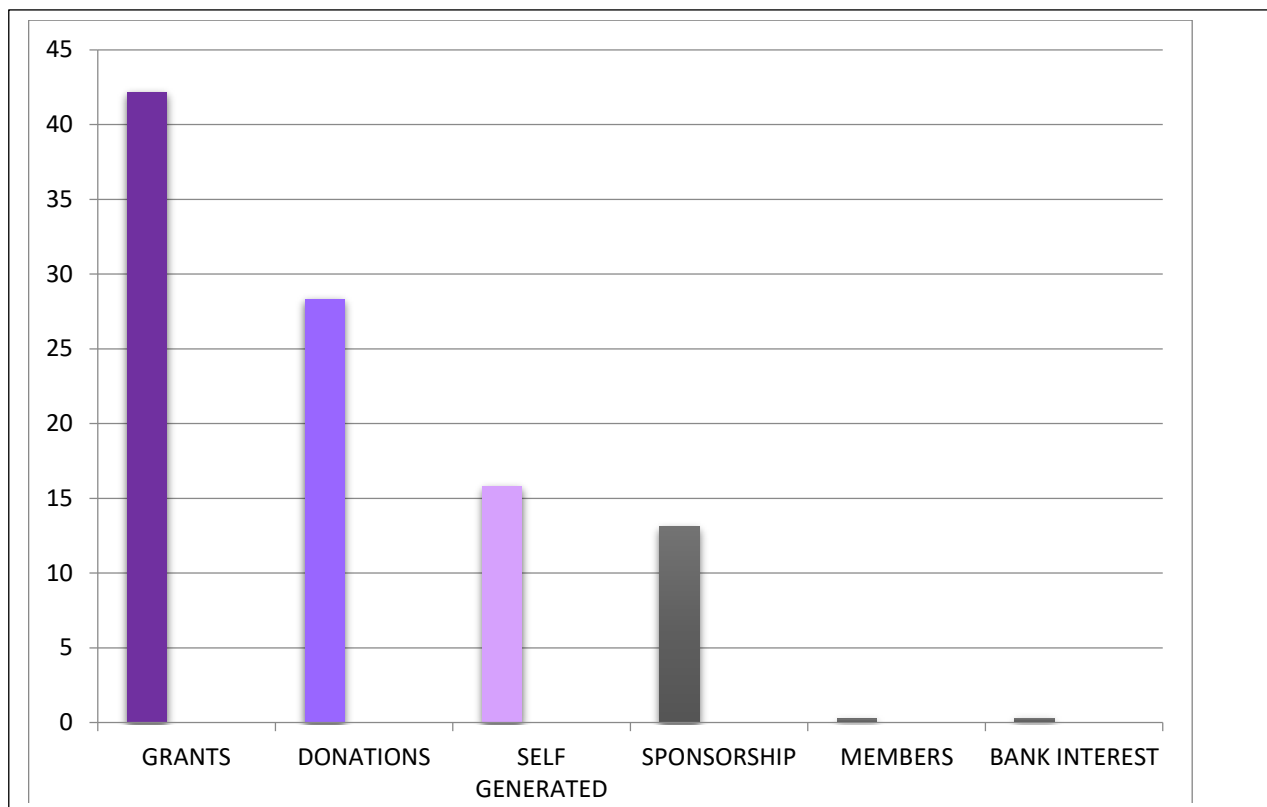


15.8 %

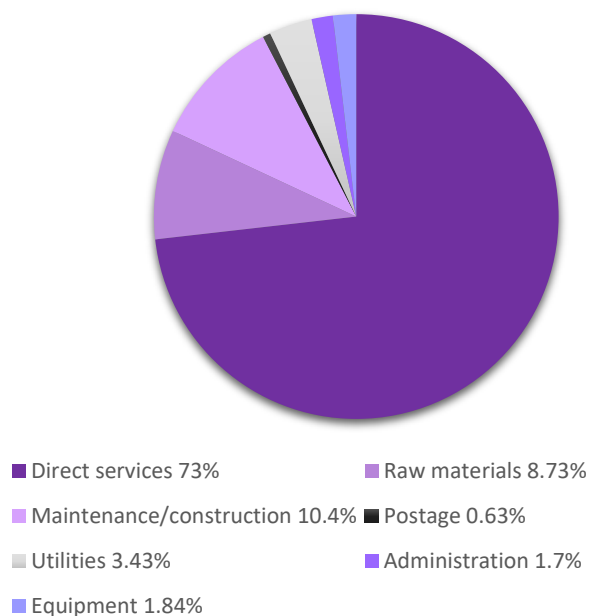
**self - generated income
across the projects**

PROJECTS' COMBINED INCOME

Total income: 24 804 412.67 THB



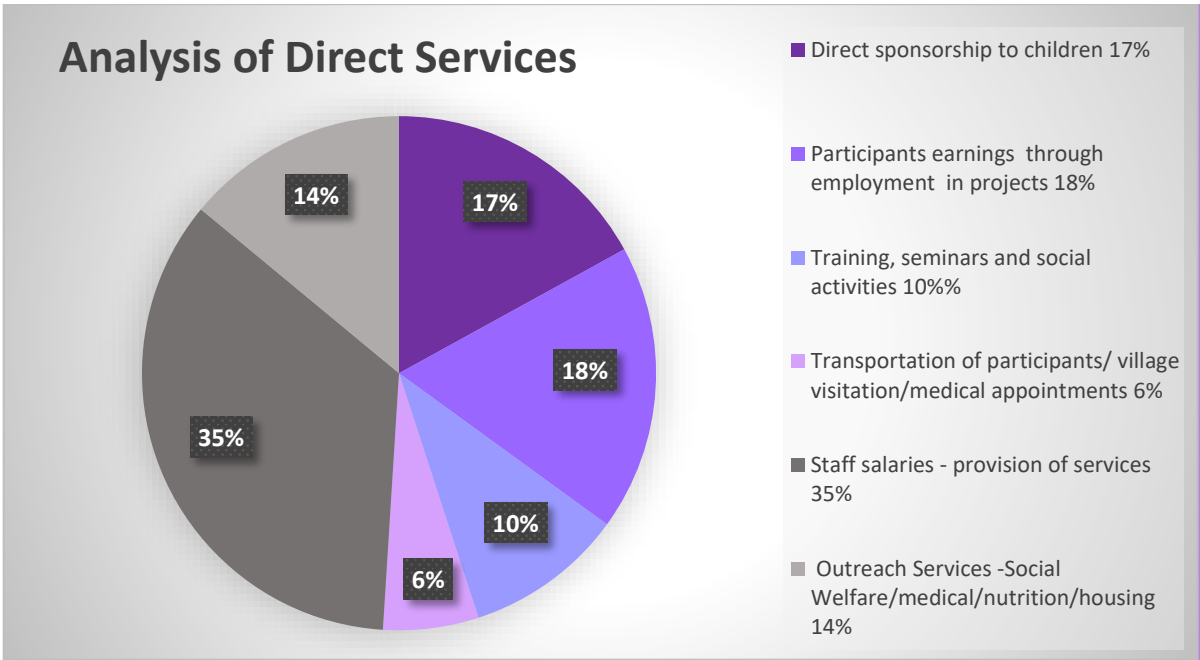
Combined project expenditure



Total expenditure : 23 343 590.71 THB

Notes on Expenditure

Direct services account for 66.43 % of the expense budget.
An additional 21.6% of the budget is used in the execution of the projects ie. Raw materials, postage of produced items, equipment and maintenance.
10.3% for Administration (incl. audit), utilities + other.



*With gratitude to all who
have partnered with us
in 2023*



GOOD SHEPHERD SISTERS NONG KHAI FOUNDATION

From participant's dependency to greater self-reliance ...2022 -2027

IMPACT

Impoverished women, children and vulnerable adults, families and communities, affected by illness, domestic violence, disability, homelessness and unemployment, will be empowered to access their rights, help themselves and live with dignity.

OUTCOMES

1.



EMPOWERED CHILDREN & YOUTH, PURSUING STUDIES TO HIGHER LEVELS

From elementary school to University, children are assisted to access age appropriate education, while at the same time, engaging in training to empower and protect them.

2.



IMPROVED HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Through visitation, provision of services, networking and capacity building, the mental and physical well-being of 600 adults and children will improve.

3.



ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS PROVIDING FINANCIAL SECURITY

Training for income-generating activities among socially disadvantaged groups as well as earning income on site for programme sustainability.

4.



SAFETY AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN & ERADICATION OF GBV/ HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Prioritising child protection and safeguarding, the eradication of gender based violence and trafficking and all forms of discrimination, among all adults in our programmes.

5.



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & STRENGTHENED WORK PRACTICES

Improved communication, strong networking and active partnership with donors, while strengthening internal work practices to enhance the provision of services.

KEY OUTPUTS – PER YEAR

- 400-500 students assisted to pursue their education.
- 700 children and youth receive training on life skills/online media/preventing human trafficking/family violence/ values of life/ethics/ and the environment, while creating a 50 strong leadership group.
- 400 families reduce family financial burdens through participation in Savings Groups
- 600 adults and children benefit from home visits by project staff for evaluation, referral, home care, and education of caregivers
- Regular nutrition promotion visits for 40 children annually (birth to 3 years) and 20 children with chronic illness/ disability, to monitor development
- Care and rehabilitation, of 70 patients per year, who are convalescent in Garden of Friendship
- Development of 120 strong PLWHA local network
- Provide training facilities and services in the Sufficiency Learning Centre, for 700 – 1,000 users per year, from government agencies, the private sector and civil society.
- Generate organizational income from agricultural activities - animal husbandry, mushroom cultivation, organic vegetable production - on site in Sufficiency Learning Centre, Garden of Friendship and Friendship Centre
- 370 people provided opportunities to develop methods for sustainable organic agriculture, animal husbandry, food security and additional income-generating activities as well as budget management
- 50 leaders/year, trained on domestic violence, relevant laws and good reporting protocol, in order to build a surveillance center in their community.
- 30 people trained to become family support volunteers to promote positive family relationships and child protection.
- 1,000 participants in community event, enhancing awareness and strengthening community-level surveillance to prevent violence against children and women.
- Strengthening and developing staff potential and organisation's best practices through knowledge input, data base development and skills development.
- Increased collaboration with local network partners and both domestic and international donors.

CENTRAL TO FACILITATING CHANGE, ARE OUR CORE VALUES

Human dignity

Partnership & collaboration

Trust & respect

Transparency & accountability

Justice

Effectiveness

