

THE CHARIS PROJECT

2018 Annual Report



"The Charis Project gave me knowledge that I never had an opportunity to gain before.

Thank you very much."

**MA PHYO:
MOTHER OF 4**

FAMILIES PROTECT CHILDREN. WE PROTECT FAMILIES.

Vision

Every child in their own strong healthy family.

Mission

Help children live in strong healthy families through holistic mutually supportive community, education, and intervention initiatives.

Values

- Family is the best place for a child to grow up.
- Holistic problem solving.
- Collaboration, learning, and improvement
- Indigenous leadership.
- Respect for all persons
- Relational empowerment:
Shine a light, rather than curse the darkness.





Ma Phyo's Story

Ma Phyo came to Mae Sot looking for work to escape financial difficulty in Myanmar. At first she got a good job at a factory, which is where she met her husband. But just as she became pregnant with their first child the factory shut down leaving their family without a stable source of income.

Over the next several years the family found themselves in a spiraling crisis situation. While they continued to work as jobs were available, their situation was rarely stable and expenses continued to increase as they had more children.

Families at Risk

Mae Sot District, where we work, is the main center for economic migration from all over Myanmar. But, Myanmar migrant families in the border region are subject to a host of extreme risk factors that contribute to the destruction of families and exploitation of the children.

For children these risk factors result in:

- Neglect
- Abuse
- Family Breakdown
- “Orphaning”
- Child Trafficking

These conditions destroy the lives and futures of children.

FAMILY RESCUE



Weekly Support

A friend connected our Family Rescue Team with Ma Phyo. "The team contacted me, asked about our situation, and began to visit and give us nutrition support every week. Eventually, I attended their family education classes on Fridays."

"The family support teams have visited and brought us food for 2 years now. It has made a big difference. Every day now we have had enough food for the whole family – children, me and my husband.

Not only does it make our stomach full, but their visits bring happiness to me and people around me. Sometimes when I find other families in difficult situations, I share our food with them and encourage them, just as I have been encouraged."

FAMILY RESCUE IMPACT SUMMARY

47

families received ongoing
emergency support

1,334

home visits to families in
crisis

9,808

kg vegetables

14,712

eggs given to hungry
pregnant women and children



FAMILY EDUCATION

Strengthen

The first class Ma Phyo attended was our Family and Positive Parenting class. “It was very helpful. I was transformed in a lot of ways. I changed how I treat my husband and 4 children. I learned different ways to teach my children when they do not obey, without beating them for punishment. I told my husband about the class and what I have learned from it. He said he wanted to join, but he usually came back from work late so he never got a chance to go.

Since taking the class I’ve had less fights with my husband. Before, when my husband couldn’t find a job I would speak to him very harshly. Now, I show him I am on his side trying to understand and encourage him. I have a warmer, stronger family where everyone grows closer to one another.”



FAMILY EDUCATION IMPACT SUMMARY

12

separate classes taught, totaling 32 weeks of instruction

178

Total students

SUBJECTS

- Good Touch, Bad Touch
- Healthy Pregnancy and Childbirth
- Early Childhood Development
- Baking
- Sewing
- Basic Computer Use & Typing
- CPR & First Aid
- Professional Development - Teacher Training



FAMILY ENTERPRISE

Building Strength

Ma Phyo liked the class about family relationships a lot. But when she joined the savings class she liked it even more. "Now I have 4,000 baht in savings from my job. I joined a Village Savings and Loan Association group."

"This is the first time that I've been successful at saving money. The members in my savings group always remind one another to save. When I first joined I chewed betel nut. At least 10-20 baht worth/day. The teacher explained that if I chewed less betel nut I could save that money. She showed me how much I could save in just 10 months. That night I was thinking about how much I could save and I decided to stop chewing betel nut completely so I could save that money. I also buy my children sugar snacks less often."

Ma Phyo is now very close to her goal of saving enough money to start her own fruit stand as a side business.



VSLA

Daw Tin Win is one of more than 250 savings group members representing about 1,300 mothers, fathers, and children who have radically transformed their lives this year through participating in The Charis Project Village Savings And Loan program. She has saved her money together with her community. Members can borrow from the pooled resources and pay fees into the group that are divided among the members. This is possible because of the equipment, training, and ongoing coaching of the Charis Family Enterprise team.



FAMILY ENTERPRISE IMPACT SUMMARY

16

new savings groups started in 2018

185

families impacted

248,550

baht saved by all members combined.

41,168

baht total savings group profit





Independence

Ma Phyo's family no longer receives nutrition support from The Charis Project. They are now stronger physically, emotionally, mentally, and financially and ready to step forward to a better future together as a family.

To those of you who have helped her family through your support of The Charis Project she would like to say, "I always pray for you. And I want to say THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I'm very happy because of your help. Every night I pray, I pray for you, for the people who have helped my family... I hope you will help other families to be well. I want other families to be like me. Compared to the past, now I feel healthy and strong. My family has become a close, warm and strong family."

REUNITING FAMILIES



Family is the Solution

This year we permanently closed the doors to Baan Saeng Sawaang(BSS), our children's home. All of the children were sent back home to be with their families.

Many children in the mountain area where the home was established have difficult home situation due to the rampant drug abuse in the region. Often the only responsible care giver available in the family is an elderly grandparent. Those caregivers now receive support from our BSS team.

Our team is actively engaging with the community to find solutions to the drug abuse problem, which they have identified as the biggest threat to the health and safety of families.

18

children reunited with
their families

480

kg of rice delivered to
children in families

96

support visits to families
in remote mountain areas

SPECIAL PROJECTS

EMERGENCY FLOOD RELIEF

14,300

households were given
emergency food supplies

18,100

bottles of clean drinking water
distributed to flood victims.

5

states in
Myanmar

1

district in
Thailand



KHLONG TOEI SLUM PROJECT

180

junior high students receive music
instruction at the local school

15-20

7-17 year old children access free drop
in music lessons

15-20

teenagers attend Dream Club, a future
planning a goal setting group.



2018 Financials

Total Income: \$133,104

Expenses:

Programs: \$124,809

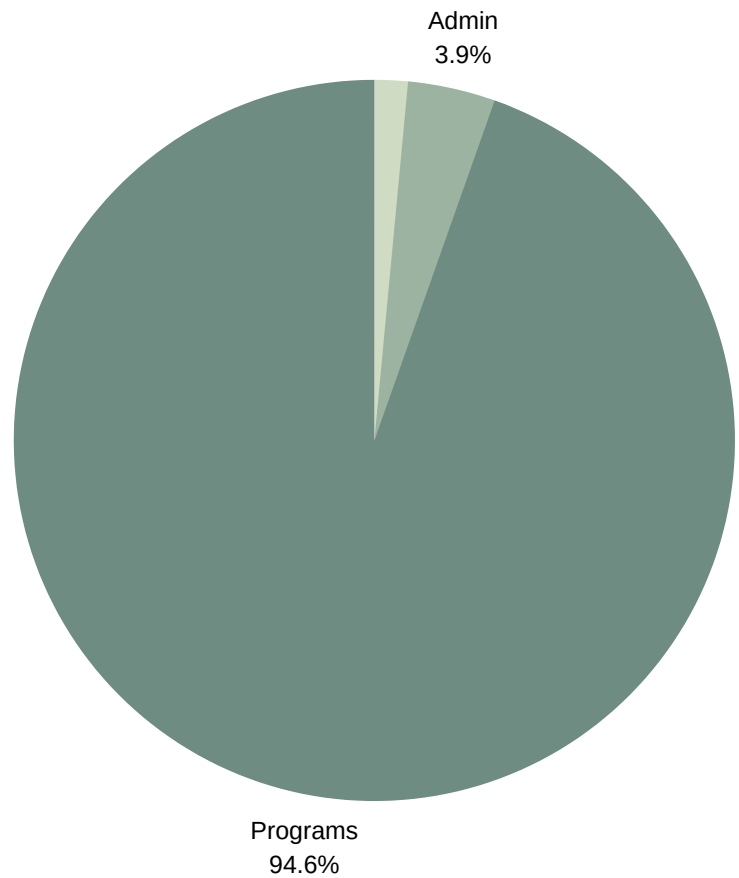
Admin: \$5,176

Fundraising: \$1,969

Total Expense: \$131,954

Excess for 2018: \$ 1,150

Total Net Assets: \$9,910



All amounts stated are in US dollars. Net Assets as of December 31, 2018 consist of cash on hand.

thecharisproject.org

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