



## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT





# FAMILIES PROTECT CHILDREN. WE PROTECT FAMILIES.



## Vision

Every child in their own strong healthy family.

## Mission

Children get hurt when ignorance and despair oppress their families. We equip families with the wisdom and hope to build strong homes so that every child can grow up to be the hero they were born to be.

## 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.

## Families at Risk

Mae Sot District, where we work, is the main center for economic migration from all over Myanmar. But 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
- Child Abandonment
- Child Trafficking

**These conditions destroy the lives and futures of children.**







## From Our Thailand Team

I am so thankful to all of you who make this possible, who reach out to places you might have never seen, people you have never met, and pull them out of chaos and crisis, out of tragedy, out of death, and into life. Thank you so much for being the shoulders that lift our hands to bring the warmth and security that transforms lives here on the Thai/Myanmar border; to these households in crisis, the mothers, the children, the fathers. You are transforming lives. Thank you so much.

Aaron Blue - CEO

"Alone many families are not strong enough to face their difficulties. They need our help. But our strength is not enough without your strength also. Your support doesn't only reduce poverty, but truly promotes unity in communities and helps families become healthier and stronger."



Tin Nwe - COO Programs



"Before, I didn't like my job as a training coordinator. I only wanted to translate curriculum at the office. But later on, I saw how people's lives were transformed because of what they learned from our classes. I always tell my team now that what we do has more impact than just giving food or teaching. We are bringing tools for people to transform their lives. Thank you for giving me this opportunity."

Ching Sian Zam - Family Education Coordinator

"We can suggest that people should save or start a business to be financially secure, but without someone to help them they don't know how. We must show the way and clear the path so they can see, "walk this way". Your support turns ideas to actions."



Ching San - Family Enterprise Manager

# FAMILY RESCUE



## Stronger Together

Jaw Htay and Paw Eh were struggling as new parents. He was 17 and she 15 when they had their first baby. Though it wasn't planned, they eventually decided to become strong together. But it wasn't an easy path.

At first Jaw Htay didn't even spend time with his pregnant girlfriend. But the first sight of their baby turned his heart toward his child. "Once I saw my baby, I fell in love. This is my son. I realized I should take care of my baby and not spend my money on having fun with friends and drinking." They reunited.

Paw Eh's mother told her to give the baby formula and go back to work right away to help pay off debts. She would babysit. Paw Eh didn't know anything about the healthy benefits of breastmilk, so she followed her mother's advice. But soon her mother moved away. Paw Eh had to quit work to watch their son, who was often sick. Now the family was in crisis. Formula was too expensive, and they couldn't survive on Jaw Htay's low income alone.



“When we moved to this community, I met a family that The Charis Project was supporting. We told her about our difficulties, so she said she would tell the team about our situation.”

The team brought them formula and encouraged Paw Eh to bond with her son.

About 6 months later Paw Eh got pregnant again. They were worried, and considering abortion as a way out. The team assured them that we would continue walking alongside them through this pregnancy and for the first 6 months after their baby was born as well. This gave them the confidence to keep their baby girl.



“We changed their support to nutrition and taught Paw Eh how to breastfeed.

“With the support, we didn’t need to buy on credit from the store, and have to pay back with interest. We could pay our rent as soon as we got paid. We only ate from the Shade Tree food package that came every week. We paid off all our debts.”

Their baby girl was exclusively breastfed for the first 6 months, and continued nursing until she was 1 year old.



# FAMILY RESCUE IMPACT SUMMARY

**53**

families received ongoing  
emergency support

**1,259**

home visits to families in  
crisis

**7,560**

kg vegetables

**18,495**

eggs given to hungry pregnant  
women and children





# FAMILY EDUCATION

## Learning to Show Love

“I’ve been so busy making sure we have food to eat, I never took time to build a bond with my son. I didn’t know it was important. My children think I don’t care about them. They only see that I’m too busy to spend time with them.”

Five years ago her husband died, leaving her alone with two little girls and a one year old boy. For years she struggled to take care of them all, to feed her children, to make sure they had a roof over their head to keep them dry in the rain, and give shade in the heat.

For 5 years they have survived. Her son is now 6. He never listens to her. If she says, “Come here”, he runs away. If she tells him to give her something he throws it away. She had no idea what to do. Nothing she tried was working.







In 2019, The Charis Family Education Team came to her village for the first time. The first class they taught was on Early Childhood Education. As she listened to how important it is to have a trust bond between a parent and child, and how healthy attachment is the foundation for all other interactions and learning, she began to understand what was happening.

She went home determined to change things. She worked on building attachment with her son. She started taking him with her in the evening when she had to go out. She talks to him and asks him questions. She tells stories. She listens to his stories. She decided to lay down to sleep at the same time as him every night and lay close together.

“Now he feels that I love him,” she told us, just 5 weeks later. “Now there is love between us. I think we have an attachment now.”

Her son’s behavior has completely changed. Now he is eager to please his mama, to be close to her and spend time with her.

“Our whole house is more peaceful now.”

# FAMILY EDUCATION IMPACT SUMMARY

## 345

children learned  
safe and unsafe touch

## 94

parents learned  
Early Childhood Development

## 61

people learned how to have  
healthy pregnancy

## 10

training classes for Shade Tree and  
partner's staff professional development  
in the following subjects

- CPR & First Aid
- Basic Research Ethics
- Roles of social workers
- How to set the right training targets
- Teacher Training





# FAMILY ENTERPRISE

## Dreams to Reality

For 8 years Daw Aye Min had used an old-fashioned foot powered sewing machine that she bought for 2,000 Baht. “The old sewing machine takes a lot of energy to use,” she told our team. It’s heavy and works slowly.

In 2017, she met our team and gathered her community to learn about Village Savings and Loans Association (VLSA) and Basic Business Cycle training where her dreams of growing her business were planted.

She dreamed of getting sewing machines that work better and faster, to turn her house into a small factory, and make a business that can provide a living for her disabled son. But, she didn’t know how she could make it happen without first saving a lot of money.

Then her savings group coach announced that trusted saving members could apply for Rent-to-Own with us after they finish a cycle. Hearing that motivated Daw Aye Min to turn her dreams into reality.





On March 1, 2019, Daw Aye Min received her 2 “new” used sewing machines purchased from a sewing factory - a motor sewing machine and an overlock stitching machine.

Being able to get the investment capital and the machines has brought a huge change to her business. With the old machine, making 100 pairs of toddler shorts took her 4 days. With the new machines, she can make the same amount in only 1 day.

Her friends take her clothing to sell at community markets and they share the profit. Sometimes people come to her for custom made clothing. She is planning to set up a shop in a market as well.

She can make 2,000 baht more per month than she used to make.

As a family, they haven't stopped dreaming. They have a plan to start other businesses, alongside sewing ,for increased financial security.



# FAMILY ENTERPRISE IMPACT SUMMARY

## 23

savings groups operated in 2019

## 292

member families

## \$23,121

total cash under savings  
group management

## \$27,493

in loans to members

## \$21,310

paid out to members including profit



# DRUG USE PREVENTION



## Establishing a Football League

In the mountain community where we once had a children's home, our family support staff and local leaders have identified drug abuse as the biggest threat to the health and safety of families. They noticed that young people stop doing drugs when there is an annual football tournament to practice for. They decided to create a year round football league that would continue to give youth and children something to do besides drugs.

In 2019, together with community leaders, we have begun to create a year round mountain football league to fight against drug use and established a leadership team for the project. We have donated 30 new and used footballs to BSS so the children can borrow them to practice at their schools or in their villages. We have also been buying land where we can build a community football field.

# 5

villages committed to  
work together

# 30

footballs given to  
communities

# 144

support visits to families  
in remote mountain areas



# SPECIAL PROJECTS



## KHLONG TOEI SLUM PROJECTS



**185**

7-17 year old children  
received free music lessons.

**35**

teenagers attended Dream  
Club, a future planning and  
goal setting group.

**30**

children and youth went to  
English Summer Camp  
taught by native English  
speakers.



## 2019 Financials

**Total Income: \$158,971**

### Expenses:

Programs: \$149,511

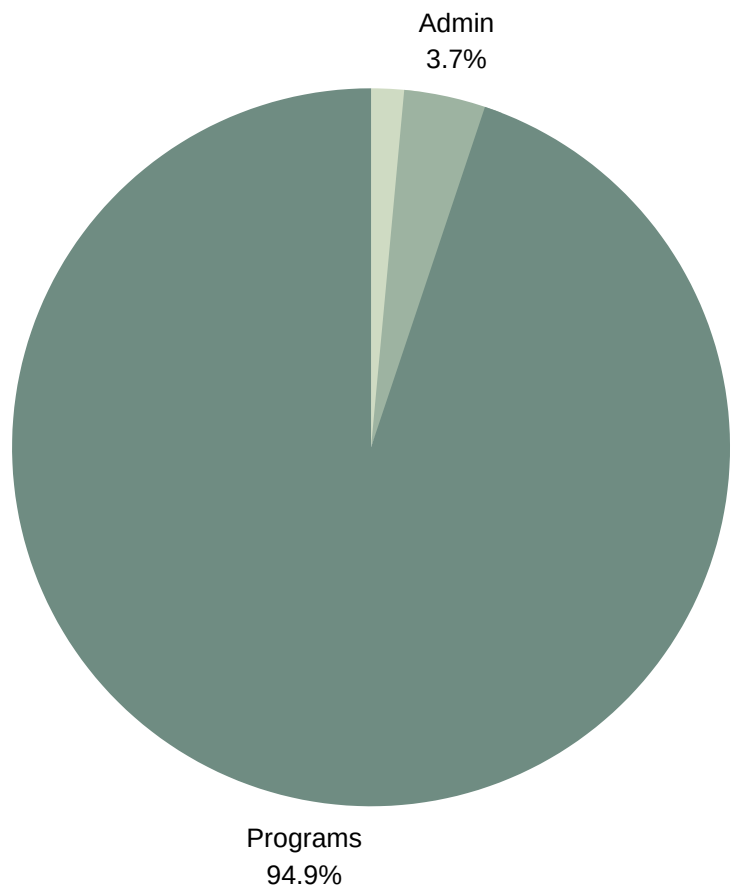
Admin: \$5778

Fundraising: \$2324

**Total Expense: \$157,613**

**Excess for 2018: \$9910**

**Total Net Assets: \$11,268**



All amounts stated are in USD. Net Assets as of December 31, 2018 consists of cash on hand.

**thecharisproject.org**  
**shadetreeethailand.org**

### The Charis Project

**306-N West El Norte Pkwy.  
#314  
Escondido, CA 92026  
USA**

### Shade Tree Foundation

**31/25 Soi Ruamreang  
Amphoe Mae Sot, Tak,  
63110  
Thailand**

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