



ANNUAL REPORT 2020





From our CEO

Thank you to all of you who made this year possible. Those who support The Charis Project have been such a blessing to us, and, more importantly, to the families and communities that we serve.

2020 was a painful year for so many, in new and difficult ways. However, thanks to the wonderful community that is the Charis team, supporters, and partners we have had the privilege of impacting more lives than in any previous year. Thanks to this community, The Charis Project has actually grown through this painful and difficult time. Thanks to the working together of so many, there are families who have made it through crisis who would not have otherwise. There is increased capacity to reach a loving and supportive hand to many more. There is a spirit of resilience and confidence that together we can walk into and through difficulties and come out stronger on the other side.

Together, we can look forward to the days that come and not be terrified, but rather take hope, and possibly even laugh. Not because they will be easy, but because of the confidence we have that we can ultimately overcome, together.

Thank you for all of the different parts you have played in making this possible.

Thank you for working together in hope and trust.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aaron Blue". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Aaron Blue - CEO

FAMILIES PROTECT CHILDREN. WE PROTECT FAMILIES.

Vision

Every child in their own strong healthy family.

Mission

Equip families with the wisdom and courage they need to protect their children and raise them to be the heroes 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
- “Orphaning”
- Child Trafficking

These conditions destroy the lives and futures of children.



FAMILY RESCUE



Strengthen The Strong

When Mah Phye's oldest daughter, Ni Ni Win, was born with cerebral palsy her mother-in-law told her she should just end the baby's life. Mah Phye refused to kill her child. This became a point of bitter contention between her and her husband over the next several years, and he eventually left her because of it.

Alone, with 3 children, now aged 13, 9, and 6, she left Myanmar and came to Mae Sot, Thailand to live with her older sister. Care for Ni Ni Win, her oldest, takes up most of her time so it's hard for her to get a job. She earns a little bit of money through babysitting jobs, but she has a lot of debt from borrowing to survive.

In September of 2020, we started helping her family. Over the course of 2 months, our help made it so that she was able to save enough money to buy her daughter a thin mattress and a new blanket, something she didn't have before.



Through our Family Education and Family Enterprise programs Ma Phyeue also learned about raising strong healthy children and managing money for her family.

A few months later, Ma Phyeue was not only able to pay all her debts, but she was also determined to send her children to school. Ni Ni Win is now also receiving physiotherapy from our Stepping Stones project every week.



FAMILY RESCUE IMPACT SUMMARY

240

parents and children
received ongoing
emergency support

937

home visits to families in
crisis

6,280

kg vegetables

28,110

eggs given to hungry pregnant
women and children



FAMILY EDUCATION

A Father's Mind Changed

Htun Htun Aye, 35, used to be a typical Burmese style father. “I thought my children had to be afraid of me, or they would never listen to me or respect me. I love my children, but I kept it inside. I never let my love show to them, ever.” His 4 children were scared of him. They would obey, but they didn’t want to be close to him.

That changed after he started attending our Early Childhood Development (ECD) class. His wife went the first week, and after coming back from the class she told him, “We should go to this class together.”

Htun Htun Aye joined her and stayed for the rest of the 6 week class.

“My mind started changing.” He said. “Now I’m trying to understand my children. Now I talk to them.”

In the past Htun Htun Aye never praised his children or thanked them for doing things when he asked them to.





But then he learned in the class about how important it is to notice the good things his children do, and praise them. Not just to punish them when they do something bad. (The homework assignment for one of the weeks of the ECD class is to pay attention so you can catch your children doing something well, and praise them for it.)

“Now I show love to my children. I give them hugs and kisses. Before I thought I had to be the boss of the house and never show affection. Now I feel like I’m more connected to my children. I show them in my actions that I love them. I feel like we are all more happy than before. My children used to be scared of me. Now our relationship is warmer, they want to be close to me when I am home.”

Htun Htun Aye didn’t actually live in the section where we taught the first ECD class. He came to join it from a nearby community. When we started teaching a class in his community he was the one who told all of his neighbors and friends that they should attend. He and his wife became our Family Education coordinators in their community.

FAMILY EDUCATION IMPACT SUMMARY

1,463

families equipped with the knowledge they need to raise healthy and strong children

72

Early Childhood Development and Positive Parenting classes that teach parents how to create a safe learning environment for their children

21

pregnancy classes taught that contribute to healthy pregnancy and birth outcomes

67

children and youth learned to protect themselves from sexual abuse



FAMILY ENTERPRISE

Success Through Crisis

“When I was a child, my family struggled just to survive.” Ma Myint Myat Thu says. Her parents could not afford her education. She only attended school until second grade and then quit school to work with her family in different places. The lack of job opportunities in Myanmar made them move to Thailand in 2007. “It is easier to make a living here. ”

“After that I worked both in factories and in fields as a laborer. I made just enough money to feed my family. I never had extra money to save for the future.”

“I decided to try and run my own business selling vegetables. I saw that at the fresh market, vegetables are the best-selling items. Four years ago I invested 2000baht (\$65USD) into starting a vegetable selling business. I have run this business since then. I buy vegetables from farms and sell them at the market. If it's a good day I make about 400baht(\$12-\$13USD) profit/day. It depends on the number of customers. Some days are very challenging. If I have no customers, all the vegetables are spoiled and I lose my investment.”



Now I am a member of the FARM savings group (Village Savings and Loan Association). I did not save before the team came and showed us how. But I did do pretty well at financial management. Now, from my business, I save a small amount. With my savings at the end of the savings cycle, I bought a small amount of gold. I can easily sell it for cash if an emergency comes.

The fee to sell at the market is 2,500baht(\$77USD) / month. Even with that expense I still make enough for my family, and extra to keep. I send my seven-year-old son to school and support my whole family with this business. I sometimes support events in the community with some cash. Although I have run my own business for some time, the Basic Business Training helped me to have a more comprehensive understanding of how it works, and tools to run it better. It taught me how to run my own business, to handle challenges so that the business keeps going, and also how to use our money more wisely in general.”

“If this current business is successful, my dream is to go back to my own country and run and expand this business in Myanmar.”



FAMILY ENTERPRISE IMPACT SUMMARY

651

families received Household Financial
Management Training

271

families received Basic Business Cycle
Training

2,305

people benefited from 26 savings groups

\$23,750

in loans borrowed, invested, and repaid by
savings groups members

\$40,719

savings and profit for savings group members



SOAP N' HOPE



When Thailand shut its borders, and businesses, in response to the pandemic in March of 2020, our Thailand team quickly initiated the Soap N' Hope project to respond to the immediate needs of migrant communities, who had little access to accurate information, and were locked down without employment. Charis staff trained 16 volunteers in disease mitigation and communication procedures. The volunteers distributed soap and gave a 10 minute training in hand washing and disease prevention measures to each household in the Myanmar migrant communities of Mae Sot district, 112 communities in total. The team maintained 2m distance at all times and demonstrated proper distancing measures.

In collaboration with community leaders, our partners, and local government offices, we distributed two weeks worth of supplemental rations to households identified as being in a significant crisis by the community leaders in each village. We also gave water filters to communities without clean drinking water, as well as face masks, and vegetable seeds for Thai and Burmese families to plant at home to ensure food security for future months as the crisis unfolded.

COVID-19 CRISIS RESPONSE SUMMARY

5,128

families received handwashing & infection prevention training at their house

3,000

packages of seeds distributed to families

7,000+

households received 2-week ration food support and face masks

1,500+

people received water filters and access to clean drinking water



DRUG USE PREVENTION



Higher Ground Soccer Program Launched

Drug use is the single greatest threat to family security and children's safety in the hill tribe villages where our first project, Baan Saang Sawan(BSS) is located. In these villages the drug use rate is as high as 70%. Without hope, without prospects, trapped in poverty, people in these villages turn to substance abuse to escape their situation, including children.

But community leaders observed that when there is organized soccer play, everyone stops doing drugs. They would rather play, but they didn't have a playing field.

At the end of 2020 we built a soccer field and launched the beginning of what we hope will be year round organized soccer play with coaches and mentors to help these vulnerable young people have a healthy and safe alternative to drug use.

70

children and youth
joined the first league

6

villages cooperating
in the soccer league

SPECIAL PROJECTS



39

disabled children/month
receive in-home visits
from a physiotherapist

STEPPING STONES PHYSIOTHERAPY



20

Migrant community
leaders trained to give
first aid care to the sick
and injured

BASIC FIRST AID TRAINING

SPECIAL PROJECTS



25

Men gained skills in electrical wiring through vocational training.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING



25

teenagers attended music, arts, and English classes

KHLONG TOEI SLUM PROJECT

THANK YOU



FOR PARTNERING WITH US!



2020 Financials

Total Income: \$205,820

Expenses:

Programs: \$176,826

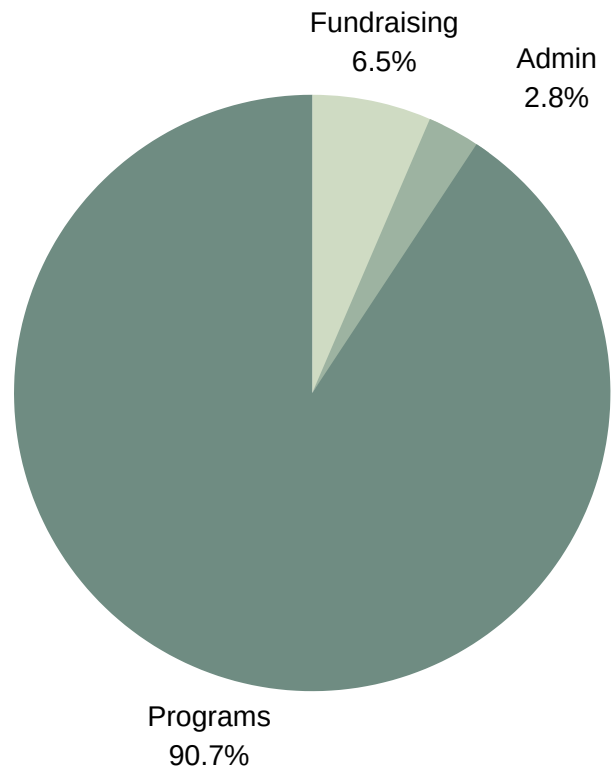
Admin: \$5,527

Fundraising: \$12,585

Total Expense: \$194,938

Net Assets 2019: \$11,268

Total Net Assets: \$22,150



All amounts stated are in USD. Net Assets as of December 31, 2019 consist of cash on hand.

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