



ANNUAL REPORT 2021





From our CEO

Thank you for supporting The Charis Project this year. Your generous and faithful support has made it possible for us to show up with consistency for the families and communities that we serve.

In 2021 we continued to face and deal with a lot of new challenges.

Through floods and Covid19 lockdowns we've been able to continue to support families and rejoice to see them gain strength and independence, even in the middle of such trying times.

We've also been able to provide support to thousands of families inside Burma who have been fleeing from the violence of the military coup that took place early in 2021.

Thanks to all of us working together, you have brought families through crisis who would not have otherwise survived. Thanks to you, we reach a loving and supportive hand to many more. Because of your partnership through this difficult time the whole Shade Tree team has grown in a spirit of resilience and confidence that together we can walk into and through difficulties and come out stronger on the other side.

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

Thank you for helping to holistically protect vulnerable children by strengthening and building up the whole family and community they grow up in.

You are the change we work for in this world, thank you.

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

Aaron Blue-Chairman

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.



Children at Risk

Children get hurt when their families are too weak and desperate to protect them.

The Charis Project works in the Mae Sot District of Tak province in Thailand, on the Myanmar border, a 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.



WE OPERATE THREE CORE PROGRAMS TO EMPOWER STRUGGLING FAMILIES:

- Family Rescue provides crisis support for families who are ready to give up their children to institutionalization or trafficking.
- Family Education provides training to families in core emotional, relational, and health competencies.
- Family Enterprise provides financial and micro-enterprise training and infrastructure.

We maintain ongoing engagement with client communities rather than doing time limited projects that come and go with no staying power of effect and relationship. Our core programs form an integrated intervention environment that engages client families and communities with a life course approach to the long-term equipping and empowerment of the next generation.

FAMILY RESCUE



Vital Nutrition For Htet Htet

We met Htet Htet when she was already 7 months pregnant. Her husband has an illness that causes him pain in his stomach. He has to get medicine from the clinic every two weeks. Sometimes he is unable to work because the pain is so severe.

They had two children already, an older son and a two year old daughter. COVID restrictions made work even harder for her husband to find and the family was struggling.

Our team advised them on accessing prenatal care, as well as how to obtain a birth certificate for their baby, which prevents her from becoming a stateless undocumented child. We brought them rice to supplement their food supplies, as well as seeds so they could grow their own vegetables.



Htet Htet gave birth to a strong healthy baby girl a month later. Her family now has green vegetables growing all around their house enough to eat, and sell. This baby will have the nutrition she needs to develop her mind and body and grow up strong.

We continued to support her family through the first 6 months after her baby was born so she could have time to breastfeed her baby and form a strong attachment.

Thank you for supporting families in crisis and mothers in danger of being malnourished. For this family and their new baby, your support has given them a better future!

FAMILY RESCUE IMPACT SUMMARY

56

families received ongoing
emergency support

446

home visits to families in
crisis

7,944

kg rice

13,800

eggs given to hungry families



Learning to Parent Well

Moe Moe is 23 years old. She has two boys. Her oldest is 3 and half years old and the youngest just turned 1. Moe Moe was a pretty typical Burmese parent. It is not common for parents here to have knowledge about things like attachment and bonding. "I used to talk with anger and impatient words to my kids. I even swore at them when they did not want to eat their food. When they asked me questions, I didn't answer. I didn't see the point. I even taught my kids to hit their father because he was always busy at work and came back home late sometimes. My children's relationship with their father was very distant. I was angry at him for being gone and leaving me alone with them and I passed that anger onto them."

Moe Moe attended our 6 week long Early Childhood Development class.

"After taking the class I knew that I should not do many of the things I was doing. I changed all my actions. I call my husband on video call every afternoon to talk with my kids to help build their attachment with him and strengthen their bond. Before that they didn't often see him because he was at work. My oldest son started to tell his father that he loves him and to come back home early....





...I told my husband to play with our children after coming back from work as well. Our family is stronger. We are more attached and loving. We feel more connected to each other. I believe that my sons will learn from us how to care for each other, and want to care for me and my husband when we are old, because we are building healthy attachments and bonding now while they are young.”

Since taking the class Moe Moe says she has also learned to answer patiently when her children ask her questions, teach them the words for things, and pay attention to what her children are feeling and help them to talk about their emotions. She started to teach her kids about things when they go to market or see something new, and takes the time to explain things until they understand them.

Moe Moe gained new tools to help her children grow into strong and healthy adults, and she immediately put them into practice. For parents here, knowledge is power. The Family Education program equips parents to make their homes the safe and loving place where their children grow to be the heroes they were born to be.

FAMILY EDUCATION IMPACT SUMMARY

1,766

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

53

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

34

pregnancy classes taught that contribute to healthy pregnancy and birth outcomes

40+

trainers from 8 community based organizations given training in how to teach Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in migrant communities.



FAMILY ENTERPRISE

Turning Trash in Treasure

Ma Kyue Kyue Moe wanted to start her own small business, but she and her husband Aung Myo Thu didn't have much money to invest in it. They needed to do something with a small up-front investment and low cost. They decided to try recycling, because it's good for the environment, and easy to start.

In a town like Mae Sot, there are many people try to make a living however they can. They ride bicycles or push carts through town searching through trash cans to find recyclables to sell. Kyue Kyue couldn't walk all over town looking for bottles. She has 2 children to take care of and it's a lot of work to find the free bottles. She decided instead to be a bottle depot.

With the bit of money she had, she paid people for bottles and other recyclables they brought to her, and then her husband took them to a recycling center where they sold them for a small profit. But often Kyue Kyue didn't have enough cash on hand to invest in buying bottles from the bottle collectors. She had to borrow, just to keep her small business going.



Then the Family Enterprise team came to her community and explained how a savings group works. Many people in Kyue Kyue's community decided to save together. "Now, if I don't have enough money for my business, I can use the savings group as a business line of credit. The rates are much better and it's easier for me to pay it back."



They started their first savings cycle in May, before the COVID19 lockdowns again became very severe. Many groups had to put their savings on hold, or shared out early, because they needed the money to survive. But not Kyue Kyue's group! "We have a goal to finish this savings cycle no matter what! We agreed together that we would finish the cycle, without any excuses. This is not because we have a lot of money to save, but because we know that it is important. If we can complete this cycle we will be much better off than we were when we started to save. Soon, we will reach our goal!" With her savings share out Ma Kyue Kyue plans to invest more in her business and to make it even bigger!



Ma Kyue Kyue was a hard working small business owner before she had access to a VSLA or secure savings structures, but she was barely making it, because she couldn't borrow at a fair rate to grow her business, and she had no safe way to hold on to her money. Now she has both, and even though times are tough, she isn't quitting.

Your support for Family Enterprise and savings groups literally helps to alleviate poverty and move these families' quality of life up several steps. When you strengthen a family, their children's future gets brighter.

FAMILY ENTERPRISE IMPACT SUMMARY

547

families received Household Financial
Management Training

361

families received Basic Business Cycle
Training

3,600

people benefited from 36 active savings
groups coached by our team

\$30,322

in investment loans taken out and repaid by
savings group members

\$67,030

saved and profits earned by savings group
members



HIGHER GROUND SOCCER



Drug Abuse Prevention for Children and Youth

Drug use is the single greatest threat to family security and children's safety in the hill tribe villages where we started our first project in Thailand. Here the drug use rate is as high as 70%. But community leaders observed that when there is organized soccer play, everyone stops doing drugs. They would rather play, so we built a soccer field and launched a pilot program.

Covid19 restrictions prevented us from organizing coaching and tournament play this year. However, the children in the village kept coming to the field to play. The older guys started teaching and coaching the younger kids when they came to the field. The community and mentoring we hoped to build started to grow organically, and village leadership reported that **kids were just not going in search of drugs anymore. They would rather play football.**

49

children and youth consistently played the soccer field this year.

BURMA RELIEF



On February 1, 2021, the military in Myanmar, known as Burma by most, staged a coup against the democratically elected government. This has caused widespread instability in the country and mass internal displacement as many flee for their lives after being targeted for speaking out against the military leaders and their actions.

Since then we have been directing humanitarian aid for the suffering people in Burma through trusted, well positioned, partners on the Burma side of the border as we received funds designated for this purpose.

The most urgent needs that we were equipped to meet were for clean drinking water in the IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) camps, food, and for temporary shelter.

We provided water filters and accompanying equipment to IDPs on the Burma side of the border, as well as 14 tons of rice, and tarps to shelter fleeing families from the rain and sun.

BURMA CRISIS RESPONSE SUMMARY

2,150

heavy duty tarps to shelter
displaced families in Burma

70

water filters. Enough to supply

14,000

people with clean drinking water

12,700

kg of rice delivered to displaced
families inside Burma.



COVID19 RELIEF



Covid19 hit Mae Sot especially hard in 2021. Case numbers were so high that field hospitals were overwhelmed and all public transport in and out of the district was shut down.

Migrant families found their places of employment and communities also shut down, in an effort to avoid spreading the virus even further. Without work families quickly began to run out of food and the situation looked desperate.

We orchestrated relief measures to bring bags of rice to the most desperate families. Working in cooperation with village leaders in each location, we asked them to identify the families most at risk and then take point on distributing supplies to them once our team dropped them off. In this way we were able to provide for the community needs while limiting contact and the possibility of spreading sickness.

COVID19 RELIEF RESPONSE SUMMARY

235

families received food relief
during Covid19 lockdowns

3,525

kg of rice delivered to
hungry migrant worker
families in Mae Sot district



FLOOD RELIEF



200

kg of rice given to
flooded out families

Heavy rains caused many areas to flood this year. Villagers had to flee their homes in the middle of the night as sudden flood waters reached the floors of their raised houses. Most lost everything.

We brought them rice, cooking supplies, blankets, donated clothing, bedding and mosquito nets.



SPECIAL PROJECTS



35

disabled children receive in-home visits from a physiotherapist each month.

STEPPING STONES PHYSIOTHERAPY

Funded by:
All You Need is Love, UK.



38

teenagers attended music, arts, and English classes

KHLONG TOEI SLUM PROJECT

PARTNERS



TRADE-OFF 🧐👁️



STEPPING STONES



THANK YOU from our Thailand Team!



2021 Financials

Total Income: \$254,196

Expenses:

Programs: \$194,874

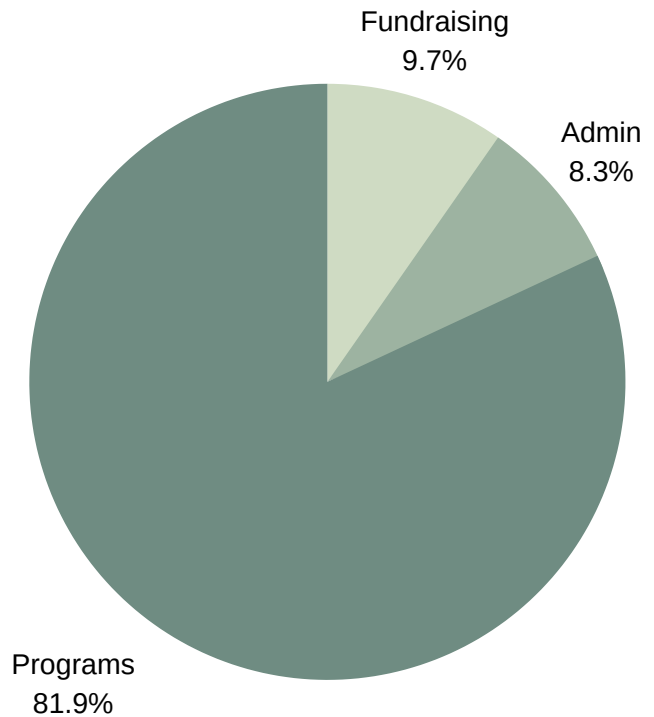
Admin: \$19,845

Fundraising: \$23,078

Total Expense: \$237,797

Net Revenue: \$16,399

Total Net Assets: \$38,549



All amounts stated are in US dollars. Net Assets as of December 31, 2021 consist of cash on hand.

The Charis Project

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

thecharisproject.org

Shade Tree Foundation

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

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by The Charis Project USA.