



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



From our CEO



"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."

- Frederick Douglas

Thank you for partnering with us last year to equip parents with the wisdom and courage they need to protect their children and raise them to be the heroes they were born to be.

We are playing a long game here. Through our programs we are looking to not only provide immediate relief and transformation to families that are in crisis, but to build up a strong and powerful future generation who can address the challenges in their families and communities with courage and intelligence. Through meeting migrant families where they are at today and building them up, we aim to impact an entire generation.

That kind of future result takes patience, it takes commitment, it takes vision to invest in it and understand how small changes at critical periods of development can result in huge differences in the long run.

It is thoughtful people like you, who are intentional about supporting holistic, respectful, and responsive interventions that work in the real world, who make this kind of future possible.

With your support we continue to protect children by nurturing vulnerable families for whom there is no other support system.

In addition to our core programs, in the past year we have responded to crisis after crisis as the military action of the Burmese dictatorship has come to our doorstep, with thousands of families fleeing across the river into Thailand to take refuge from the bombing as the military dictatorship carries out attacks on civilians, targeting schools, churches, hospitals, and monasteries. You have helped us to provide emergency aid for thousands of displaced families.

Thank you for the great privilege of carrying out this work, of being your hands extended to those who desperately need it, to lift up the hands of parents who are struggling and help them to hold onto hope and build for their children a better future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aaron Blue".

Aaron Blue-Chairman

FAMILIES PROTECT CHILDREN. WE PROTECT FAMILIES.

Vision

A next generation of adults who are wise, compassionate, and brave, willing and able to pick up the broken pieces of this world and make something better.

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



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, Thailand, on the Thai/Burma border, which is a main center for economic migration from all over Burma.

Migrant families in this border region are subject to a host of extreme risk factors that contribute to the destruction of families and exploitation of their 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 hungry and desperate.
- **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



Daw Kyin Htay's Struggle

"I came to Thailand because of the Saffron revolution in Myanmar, in 2007." Daw Kyin Htay looks up, her eyes far away. "I didn't get to finish 4th grade. It was not ideal to keep living there. Even now, it is not ideal to live there."

When Kyin Htay's husband died, the role of main provider for herself and her daughter fell on her. Then she started having problems with her eye sight. She found out that she would need surgery to correct the problem. She was not able to work while recovering from eye surgery.

Kyin Htay invited her younger brother to move in with them to help out. But her brother has chronic lung problems as a result of having Tuberculosis in the past, and is unable to perform any type of hard manual labor for very long. He can only work half a day. On the days when his chest pain is very bad, he can't work at all.

Things became so desperate that **Kyin Htay's 12 year old daughter dropped out of school for a few months, working as a day laborer, picking vegetables on a farm, so her family could afford to eat.**



Family Rescue stepped in to help.

With food support, Kyin Htay's family's situation gradually improved. They were able to save money and her daughter could stop working and go back to school.

Kyin Htay participated in our pilot agriculture training program while her eyes were recovering. She successfully grew cucumbers, luffa, green beans, and morning glory, for her family to eat.

After 8 months, Kyin Htay's eyes fully healed, and she was able to return to work. Her daughter continues her education, and the family has come a long way.

FAMILY RESCUE IMPACT SUMMARY

21

families received ongoing
emergency support

305

home visits to families in
crisis

9,330

eggs given to hungry families

20,526

lbs of rice given to hungry families



FAMILY EDUCATION

BREAKING ABUSIVE CYCLES

The majority of the parents we encounter in refugee and migrant worker situations do not have the wisdom they need to raise their children to be healthy and resilient. Instead, they end up passing on the ignorance and abuse of their own upbringing to their children.

Our Family Education program equips parents with the knowledge and support they lack so that they can give their children the love and security they need to grow into healthy and well-adjusted adults. This breaks the cycles of violence and ignorance, enabling a whole generation of children to thrive in strong loving families.





"I have to grow my patience more."

Kyin Htay also joined our Family Education classes. "The classes improved how I treat my child," Kyin Htay says.

"I am easily angered. Before the lessons, I would beat my daughter when she was naughty. I beat her over and over again. After I received the lessons, I became more patient. I respond to her positively now. I only use words to correct her, and they are soft words, not harsh."

"My daughter is already growing up. I also have to grow my patience more."



FAMILY EDUCATION IMPACT SUMMARY

79

6 week modules taught in total.

- Healthy Pregnancy,
- Early Childhood Development,
- Positive Parenting,
- Community Health,
- Sexual Abuse Prevention.

434

class units taught

7069

family impacts

35,345

beneficiaries total



FAMILY ENTERPRISE

Learning to Save

Kyin Htay also received training on managing her family's money, and joined a Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA).

"My goal was to save enough money to buy a phone so that my daughter has a way to do the online classes for her school." (When she started saving the schools were still closed, and children who didn't have a way to go online to do their classes were missing out on school.)

Kyin Htay successfully saved enough to get her daughter a phone, and invested in chickens to raise for eggs and meat. She is still active in her savings group, and has bigger goals for small business investments with her savings at the end of this current savings cycle.



Family Enterprise teaches migrant families basic money management and trains communities to establish VSLAs, giving them the ability to save for the future, send their children to school, invest in small businesses, and ultimately have the ability to lift their families out of poverty.



A Change in Thinking



But it does more than that. It changes their thinking. Through training and coaching families share with us that they now think about money differently. They think about the need to balance their income and expenses, to plan ahead and save when they have extra, to use money as a tool to make their lives better in the future.

Participation in savings groups is a highly effective way to help a family shift from survival mode into hopeful expectation that their lives can change and that they have the ability to improve their family's future.

FAMILY ENTERPRISE IMPACT SUMMARY

607

families received Household Financial
Management Training

450

families received Basic Business Cycle
Training

458

families participated in savings groups
and received active coaching by our
team

2,290

people directly impacted by savings
group participation



HIGHER GROUND SOCCER



Mountain Football League - Drug Prevention Through Sports

The Higher Ground Soccer program is a community led initiative in the mountain hill-tribe communities where we first began working in Thailand to protect children and families. It confronts the biggest threat to families in these villages, which is drug use. When there is organized soccer play, adults and youth stop using drugs, preferring to play.

By the close of 2022:

- We hired two official coaches in the village where we piloted the Higher Ground Program and built a soccer field,
- Gained approval from leaders in 4 additional villages to implement Higher Ground there as well.
 - These communities have each selected 2 coaches to begin daily coaching in 2023.

40

after school
coaching hours
each month

48

children and
youth received
coaching and
mentoring

BURMA RELIEF



Families Flee for Safety

As 2022 began, the violence in Burma came to our doorstep. Just across the river from Mae Sot, the Burmese military began an onslaught on Karen state, just across the river from where we are in Thailand. Since taking over the country on February 1, 2021, arresting members of the democratically elected government and sending the rest into hiding, the junta has violently quelled all opposition and protest. The people of Burma have been resisting ever since, and paying a heavy price.

Thousands of people have been fleeing across the river into Thailand, and sheltering just on the Burma side where they can reach aid, as bombs fall on their villages. The Burmese military have been deliberately targeting hospitals, schools, churches, monasteries, and civilians.

We have been providing emergency supplies for these displaced families, on both sides of the river, as we have resources.

BURMA CRISIS RESPONSE SUMMARY

920

heavy duty tarps to shelter
displaced families

13

water filters. Enough to supply

2,600

people with clean drinking water

2,000

kg of rice and other food supplies
delivered to families driven from
their homes



SPECIAL PROJECTS



30

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

STEPPING STONES PHYSIOTHERAPY

Funded by:
All You Need is Love, UK.

17

at risk teenagers
participated in music
training and practices at
the Khlong Toei
Community Center in
Bangkok, and put on a
Christmas Concert.



KHLONG TOEI SLUM PROJECT

PARTNERS



CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



STEPPING STONES



TRADE-OFF

THANK YOU from our Thailand Team!



2022 Financials

Total Income: \$271,093

Expenses:

Programs: \$232,474

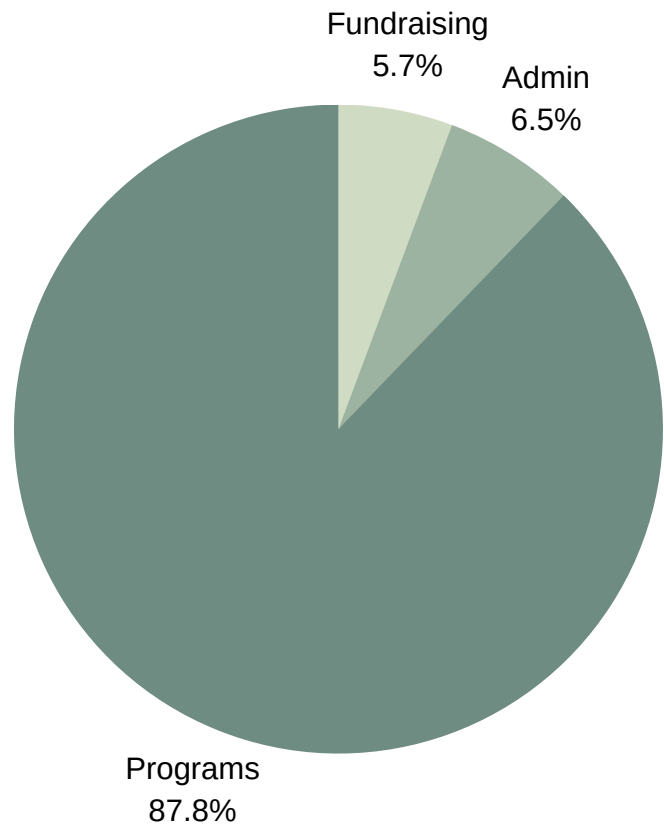
Admin: \$17,262

Fundraising: \$15,070

Total Expense: \$268,804

Net Revenue: \$6,287

Total Net Assets: \$44,836



All amounts stated are in US dollars. Net Assets as of December 31, 2022 consist of cash on hand.

thecharisproject.org

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