

CARA

Children At Risk In Asia



CARA is a UK-based charity no. 1165824 that supports children in Asia by providing financial and in-kind support directly to local organisations in the field.

We are:

- Non-political
- Non-religious
- Strongly committed to the best interests of the child and the UNCRC.

Newsletter

Welcome to CARA's June newsletter. The last few months have been exciting for CARA as our partners work harder than ever in preparation for the new school year in Thailand. More details inside.

CARA trustees Colin and Jan look forward to welcoming many of our supporters at the annual CARA garden party on the 12th June. Didn't receive your invitation please contact us.

Inside this newsletter you'll hear all the latest news from the field, as well as news about fundraising activities over the past few months.

Thanks to your generosity, we raised a total of £12,857 in 2015, in this newsletter you will see how your generous donations are being put to good use. As ever, we thank all of our supporters for your continued commitment to making a difference for disadvantaged children!

It's time for School!



CARA supports the launch of a new educational support programme

CARA supports the launch of a new educational support programme in Sangkhlaburi, Thailand run by our partner One Sky. Migrant workers in Thailand often earn as little as \$3 per day and cannot afford to send their children to school. Many children are forced to work from an early age to support the family. With your help we can give these children a chance for an education and break the cycle of poverty they are locked into. As little as £10 per month for transport to school plus 25p per day for a meal in the school canteen can make all the difference. For secondary school, children must also have a set of uniforms costing £60, well beyond the reach of poor families. The key to the success of this programme is the close integration of One Sky into the local community allowing very targeted use of resources to those children and families most in need. CARA supports core funding of the One Sky team and also supports the cost of bursaries to the children.

Donations are valued!

CARA receives monthly donations from a number of supporters guaranteeing over £1600 per year. In the context of the educational support programme such long-term commitment from our supporters enables long term commitment to the education of disadvantaged children creating a real chance for life changing educational achievement.



Some companies match regular donations made by their employees.

Why not ask your employer if they would match any donations you make?



CARA 2015 Accounts

Accounts for the year to 31 December 2015 have now been signed off by our trustee accountant. Copies are attached to this newsletter and show that, thanks to your generosity, we raised £12,857, with 98% of this going to improve the lives of children.

All office and admin costs plus Public Liability Insurance are paid by the founding trustees of CARA. We closely monitor that donations to our partners are used as intended through Memoranda of Understanding signed by the directors of each partner. Each partner sends us regular 6 month reports. We will also be visiting our partners again in November and will report back in our Christmas 2016 newsletter.

You can give to CARA confident in the knowledge that all of your donation will benefit disadvantaged children.



News from our Partners:

One Sky Foundation



1.

In readiness for the new school year One Sky's family support team has provided 188 of the Children on their existing case list with some or all of their school uniform for the new school year. In addition to this, throughout April and May, One Sky staff carried out proactive outreach work in all local communities to identify children who require support to start or stay in school. The school year in Thailand commenced on May 16th, One Sky received 178 new referrals. To date 171 detailed family assessments have been completed; and, 90 children have been given support. 16 of these children will receive ongoing monthly scholarships to complete high school and 10 children will receive monthly scholarships to help them stay in middle school. One Sky aims to increase the number of these scholarships over the coming years so that more children from very poor families can continue beyond their primary education.

2.

Today, there are over 600 children in children's homes across Sangkhlaburi, many are being sent to these homes due to poverty, and are being separated from their families unnecessarily. One Sky, along with the government, is launching a pilot project to reduce the number of children in homes. Members of the National Coalition of NGO's will act as advisors. This project will introduce guidelines for the homes in order to assess the needs of the children, ensuring that all other support options have been exhausted before children are moved into institutional care. In the future when children are forced to leave their families the children's homes will be required to have individual care plans for each child including a plan to reintegrate the child with their parents or extended family whenever possible. Currently, many children remain in the local homes for many years losing touch with the family, culture and identity. If successful this pilot project could shape the future of alternative care of children in Thailand.

Border Health Initiative (BHI)

1. From March 31 to April 6 2016, BHI held two workshops on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention called Break the Silence. 80 participants attended who were youth community leaders or volunteers in their community. The workshop aimed to inform communities about primary health care and child sexual abuse prevention. Participants went on to share the knowledge they learned within their communities.



2. Medical Outreach has been continuing with BHI's mobile clinic that gives consultations; information about family planning; and information about alternative care. On average, the mobile clinic see's around 450 patients month. The mobile clinic also gives vaccinations to pregnant women who do not have easy access to a hospital.



3. BHI is also involved in health screening that started in December 2015 in local schools in Myanmar. They treated 18 children that were suffering from malnutrition, by feeding them, providing vitamins and giving advice to parents. After 4-5 months children were gaining weight and BHI informed parents about the importance of nutrition.

Notes from the Field: Successful Reintegration



For the past year, One Sky has been working with 3 siblings that were living in a children's home for 4 years and have now been successfully reintegrated at home. Their mother and father faced difficult times and could not afford to send them to school. When a Pilipino missionary came to visit them promising 3 meals a day and education in Thai school the parents made the difficult choice to let their children go. The missionary has since been charged with physical abuse and One Sky has been working to bring all the children back to their families.

Today, the children are attending a Thai school near their home. Both parents are working. Mum earns £2 per day for 8 hours of sewing in a factory. Life remains very tough for this family, but with just a little help they are staying together. One Sky helps this family with the school registration process, school uniforms and a delivery of rice each month. On average local children's homes in our area spend £60 to £100 per month on each child in their care. In reality this family just needed a little help to stay together. When organisations truly work in the best interest of children they can make the best use of the resources they have to make a difference for as many children as possible.

This family also features in One Sky's new video: <https://vimeo.com/169640013>