

Proposal to build a multi-purpose building for hill tribe students

Project coordinated by Borderless Friendship Foundation (BFF)

www.borderlessfriendshipfoundation.org



Multi-purpose building to be constructed at Ban Teen Tat, Moo 4, Tambon Pa-Nhai, Ampur Prao, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Background to the target group:

Students residing in this shelter in Prao are from various hill tribes such as Lahu Na (Black Lahu), Lahu Balah, Karen, Akha. These people live in small clusters in remote area in the mountains of northern Thailand. There is no electricity, no schools, and basic healthcare for the hill tribe villages. The nearest district is located 4-5 hours away from the villages in the Lowlands, Prao, where they can find medical and educational services. In the rainy season, the villages cannot be reached by car. Children can only walk to reach their villages. In the past, hill tribe people did not give a priority to proper education. This has resulted in a disadvantaged life for the students' parents because they are unable to communicate with Thai people (Thai language is not the native language of hill tribe people). The parents experienced unfair employment in the Lowlands, for example, they received only minimum pay or, in some cases, no payment at all. As a result, most parents realize the importance of education and enthusiastically support their children's need for a basic education.

In 1996, parents in many hill tribe villages started to seek the way to send their children to a school. They asked one of the families in the village to move to Prao district in order to take care of all other children from the hill tribe villages that wanted to go to a school. The other parents promised to support this caring family by giving them 200 Baht per month plus extra food such as pumpkins, bamboo shoots, and any vegetables to feed their children.

However, due to the increasing demand for education the numbers of children grew. This created a large problem. The lack of shelters became a concern. Many children had to stay in temples, stayed with other families in the Lowlands, or build their own temporary cottages by the road. These temporary shelters have no electricity so the children, fortunate enough to access books, cannot read books after dark. (Many children, however, do not have books to read because they cannot afford the books. The school can only lend the book during daytime and only within the school grounds.)

Because of the insufficient numbers of coordinated shelters for the children, it is difficult to put a proper system in place to manage the children across a vast area. This problem causes an annoyance among people who live in the neighbour area in the Lowlands. The children are forced to move outside the residential area, leaving behind their temporary cottages. Children are placed at risk by sleeping in unsafe places without supervision, basic shelters or food.

An existing shelter in Ban Teen Tat, Moo 4, Tambon Pa-Nhai, Ampur Prao, Chiang Mai is one of the shelters built with the support of the Borderless Friendship Foundation and the parents of the students. This shelter now accommodates 38 children. A volunteer family takes care of the children.

Although there is basic accommodation, including beds and mosquito nets for the children, other buildings are insufficient for the needs. The big problem here is the shared space – it is used as a reading room, kitchen, dining area, and the bedroom of the carers/voluntary family. These areas are all crammed in a 3.5x6 meter space. The condition of this bamboo cottage is very poor. It has a leaking corrugated metal roof because the tin is fifth-hand (used many times by others)! It also has a non-cemented, dirt floor which makes it impossible to keep clean. It is a tragic picture to look at especially in the rainy season.



Old kitchen – carers cook meals for 30 children here



Children eat outside because there is no dining room

We need your help:

The Borderless Friendship Foundation is currently gathering resources from various sponsors, agencies and businesses to build a multi-purpose building with an area of 8x12 meter. The building will have segregated areas with a kitchen, a dining room/reading area plus an accommodation space for the carer/volunteer family and a small number of visiting volunteers, etc.

Objectives:

1. To build a strong safe structure with a clean, well equipped kitchen and dining area and an area for the children to read, eat and meet
2. To support the valuable work of the carer/volunteer family to care for the children
3. To create a space for training the people in need, especially the hill tribe people
4. To allocate a small area, within the structure, for other volunteers willing to help the hill tribe people

Urgent needs:

1. A multi-purpose building with a kitchen, reading area, and a meeting place for children and parents
2. Kitchenware
3. Bedroom needs for the carer family and visiting people (such as families of the children or visiting volunteers)

Project coordinators:

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The project coordinators will plan and work with the:

1. Shelter committee
2. Students' parents (who will assist with the building)
3. Local providers of goods

Timeline:

This building is required urgently and, therefore, the timeline is for immediate action.

It is anticipated that the building project will commence in mid October 2010 whilst the children are on a short vacation from school. The building will take approximately 15 days because there will be many parents and other supporters assisting the project coordinators.

Budget:**1. A multi-purpose building:** 8 x 12 meter space

- a. Floor: concrete thickness 10cm, including 1) *Sand* 5 trailers costing 1,300 Baht each = 6,500 Baht; 2) *Rock* 5 trailers costing 2,000 Baht each = 10,000 Baht; 3) *Cement* 70 bags costing 100 each = 7,000 Baht; 4) *Wire mesh* for floor covering 3,000 Baht
→ **Total cost 26,500 Baht**
- b. Roof: materials such as sheet metals, tiles
→ **Total cost 40,000 Baht**
- c. Site preparation: labour for levelling site and surveyor costs
250 Baht per day x15 days
→ **Total cost 3,250 Baht**
- d. Building structure: materials such as cement pillars, bricks, sand for mortaring and rendering, windows, doors, wiring of electricity
→ **Total cost 76,500 Baht**
- e. Furniture: to buy wood for building tables and chairs for seating 40-50 people
→ **Total cost 20,000 Baht**

2. Kitchenware:

A large stove, 2 rice cookers, 50 plates, 50 spoons, 2 large pots, 1 large wok, 2 spatulas, 2 ladles, 50 glasses
→ **Total cost 12,000 Baht**

3. Bedroom needs:

6 beds, 6 mattresses, 6 pillows, 6 blankets, 6 mosquito nets

→ **Total cost 21,500 Baht**

4. Costs for the project coordination:

Fuel, maintenance of vehicles, phone, office, administration, etc

→ **Total cost 19,500 Baht**

Total budget 219,250 Baht

(approx A\$ 8,200 or US\$ 8,000)

For conversions to other currencies: <http://www.google.com/finance/converter>

Bank details:

Your donations are **highly valued** – please make donations via PayPal to pramote01@hotmail.com or directly to the BFF account via bank transfer:

Siam Commercial Bank PCL., Tha Phae Branch, Account number **501-406293-9**, Account holder name “**Borderless Friendship Foundation**” (SWIFT code: SICOTHBK)