

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

What has been achieved

CARA was registered with the Charities Commission on 1 March 2016. Our partner in Thailand, One Sky Foundation, co-founded by our son Andrew, celebrated their 10th anniversary in 2023. As we Start a new year, we would like to reflect on what has been achieved with your support. CARA's education support programme has been a great success (see report below), and we must also recognise the amazing achievements of One Sky over the past ten years.

If you would like to support our cause you can donate using this link
www.carauk.org/donate

Regular Donations are very valuable.

If you would like to make regular donations, you can set up a direct debit made payable to CARA's bank account at HSBC. Contact us for the account details.



The One Sky team at the Sangkhlaburi office

CARA's education support programme achieves its objective

CARA's objective has been to improve the life of children from poor families through education. In Thailand the children of poor migrant families are often forced to drop out of school to work to support their families. When we set up the programme in 2016 many children dropped out of school when they completed primary school. Their parents could not afford the modest cost of transport to school and school lunches. After seven years we are seeing more and more children completing their education and graduating from high school. Many are going on to become teachers, nurses or other higher education. Crucially they have learnt to speak, read and write Thai which transforms their job opportunities.

In the current school year 270 children are receiving support to continue their education. One Sky has set up a partnership with the Daruna Scholarship Fund. In 2023, 31 disadvantaged students received scholarships to attend university. Some of these students were supported by your donations. Your generosity has transformed their lives and given them opportunities not available to their parents.

Your continued donations are making a real difference to these children's lives and opportunities.



One Sky's achievements after ten years

Thailand was one of the first countries to sign up to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). However, progress on implementing the Convention has been slow. It is estimated there are 230,000 children in unregulated children's homes or other institutions. One Sky has now joined a group of like-minded NGOs forming the Convention on the Rights of the Child Coalition Thailand (CRCCT). The group has set up a project known as Alternative Care Thailand (ACT) to regulate and reform childcare in Thailand. Crucially One Sky has set up the first Child Protection Committee in Sangkhlaburi. In October 2023 the committee together with government officials visited all 18 children's homes in Sangkhlaburi and documented the children living there. Only three were classified as safe with the others needing improvement.

The scene is now set to introduce a gatekeeping system to ensure no home can take in further children without assessment and approval from the committee. The objective of the ACT project is to introduce gatekeeping to every children's home in Thailand.

With more children staying with their families, the support CARA provides to enable children to attend the free government schools will become even more important.

**For more information
download One Sky's
[annual report.](#)**

Buddy learning

One Sky has set up a Buddy learning project to help young primary school children to learn the Thai language. They come from families whose first language is not Thai. Their teachers reported to One Sky how they are struggling to learn. One Sky recruited year 12 students in the children's villages to teach three children Thai twice a week for 16 weeks. The teachers have reported a huge improvement in the children's ability to speak and understand the Thai language. The year 12 students are paid around £40 per child which they can save towards their further education.

Would you like to sponsor some of these young children?



The year ahead

Education support in 2023/24

In the current school year 270 children have received support to continue their education at the free government schools, a record high. With the introduction of the gatekeeping system to regulate children's homes, more children will be able to remain with their families. It costs far less to enable a child to stay with the family than keep them in a home. These homes receive millions of pounds from donor organisations. We need to find a way of diverting some of this money to keep families together which is much better for the children. Where children cannot stay with their family, One Sky arranges fostering or kinship care.

One Sky funding shortfall for 2024

On the threshold of success in regulating children's homes, One Sky is facing a funding crisis in 2024. Major donors who have been supporting One Sky have a policy of reducing support over a number of years. The projected shortfall is around \$100,000.

Thailand as a relatively wealthy country is not seen by charities as a developing country needing support. Yet, we know from first hand experience there is extreme poverty among the large migrant and ethnic minority population.

We need your help to identify new donors. You may have social or business contacts who would be prepared to give children from poor families in Thailand access to an education and better opportunities in life.

Contact Colin Lillicrap

Colin.lillicrap@btinternet.com

Tel: 01442 873439



One Sky presentation to foster parents



Keeping school uniforms clean



Some of the children your donations support