

December 2019

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

CARA is changing the lives of children who face hunger, are unable to get the medical care they need and are denied education. We are all volunteers and all the money we raise goes to help children at risk. Please consider a donation this Christmas, for many of the children we support just a little help can be life changing.

This year we need your support more than ever. The poor exchange rate means we have to raise even more money to continue to support children at risk in 2020.

Click [HERE](#) to support our 2019 Christmas appeal

There has been a lot of negativity around some of the big charities in recent years. Please be assured that any money you give to CARA will reach children at risk. We work directly with local organisations where just a little can do so much.

Remember you can donate for FREE when shopping online with Amazon, John Lewis, M&S and others

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

CARA 2019 Christmas appeal



More Children in School thanks to CARA



A great achievement

We are now half way through the fourth year of working with One Sky to support disadvantaged children to stay in education. We are delighted at the way these bright young students are taking advantage of the opportunity your donations have given them.

15 student completed high school last year with 10 going on to university and 5 taking up jobs. We are also seeing a big increase in supported children in grades to 7 to 9 to the extent that the number of students attending Sangkhlaburi High School has now exceeded the critical 1500 that qualifies this remote rural high school for considerably more government funding.

Without your support many of these children would not be able to attend secondary school as their families are too poor to meet the modest costs of £100 to £200 per year for transport and school meals.

Where your donations went in 2019

- During the current school year your donations are helping to support 191 children to continue their education through monthly support for transport and school lunches with some student also receiving help with school uniforms and obligatory insurance.
- One Sky has supported over 170 undernourished children and made it possible for life saving medical treatment for several children.

Thank you!

Future plans

CARA is committed to covering vital salary costs to make One Sky's work possible and will continue to provide funds for medical and food support to relieve suffering of children from the poorest families.

CARA supports local organisations who operate at the heart of their own communities. Just a little goes a long way. With your help we can make a difference for some of the most marginalised and disadvantaged children in SE Asia.

Short film

Earlier this year our partner One Sky made a short film about their scholarship scheme and how it helps keep families together.

Watch Chan and E's stories here:

[Keeping Families Together by supporting Education](#)



The Border Health Initiative (BHI)

BHI reaches very isolated villages in Eastern Myanmar. These basic villages have no electricity and are often cut off in the rainy season. The BHI team provide a vital backpack medical service and do what they can to support the basic schools in the villages.

CARA's partnership with BHI is simple. CARA provides a modest grant twice a year with the goal that BHI use the money for the relief of children's suffering.

On the ground this means making sure children have enough to eat and are provided with basic medical treatment.

Eastern Myanmar is made up of areas controlled by several ethnic armies. Squeezed against the Thai border these armies hold a fragile peace with the Myanmar army. The result is some of the most isolated communities in the modern world. This is where BHI takes your money and uses it to help children at risk.



What is a Child Rights approach?

2019 marks the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Around the world countries are taking stock of their progress in achieving the rights for children that the CRC sets out.

The CRC recognises families as the central building block of society and clearly identifies every child's right to grow up in a loving family.

CARA only works with partners who are committed to the CRC and that work to avoid unnecessary separation of children from their families.



Our long-term objective

CARA's long term objective is to support One Sky in the development of effective Family support services that can be replicated across Thailand. By supporting families, we can avoid children being put into children's homes unnecessarily by parents who are too poor to send them to school. There are many hundreds of unregulated children's homes throughout Thailand who persuade poor parents that their children will receive a better education by living in the home. There is no monitoring or oversight of these unlicensed institutions and often the quality of care is poor while vulnerable children are exposed to the risk of abuse and trafficking. The saddest part is that it is much cheaper to support families to take care of their own children than it is to take them into a children's home.

Currently One Sky is being backed by UNICEF Thailand and the Thai Government to conduct a major research project including interviews with over 900 children living in institutions. The results should lead to the implementation of controls that will stop children in Thailand being separated from their families unnecessarily. By supporting One Sky we are supporting sustainable changes to improve children's lives.

In 2019 One Sky launched a new website called "Alternative Care Thailand" in both Thai and English. The aim is that the site will become the go to place for information about children's rights and a catalyst for policy change in Thailand that will bring child care practices in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children.

For those interested to learn more the site can be found at:

www.alternativecarethailand.com

