

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

A difficult Year

The coronavirus pandemic has made life difficult for everyone but as always in these circumstances it is the poorest who suffer the most. One Sky, our partner operating along the Thai/Myanmar border at Sangkhlaburi north west of Bangkok has seen a 50% increase in demand for all their services. For example 20 more families are dependent on food drops bringing the total number of children needing additional food to 170.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters CARA has continued to contribute to supporting disadvantaged families in these difficult times with our focus on enabling 185 children to continue their education.

You can donate for FREE while Christmas shopping online

Use this link when shopping online with John Lewis, M&S and many others:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Or you can use Amazon Smile using the link below

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1165824-0>

CARA 2020 Christmas appeal



Showing children how to wear face masks

Regular supporters make a massive difference

Our fund raising activities have been curtailed by lockdown. Monthly bank transfers are more valuable than ever. CARA bank details:

Bank: HSBC

Account: 22075849

Sort code: 40-08-39

Add 25% by using GiftAid

Download GiftAid form [here](#) and email to

Colin.lillicrap@btinternet.com

A big increase in children supported by CARA

The Thai school year runs from May to March. At the end of March 2020 One Sky was providing monthly bursaries to 144 students. The start of the current school year was delayed until July due to the coronavirus at which point One Sky committed to providing bursaries for 185 students. This presents a massive challenge to CARA and other organisations supporting this campaign. CARA successfully applied to three UK trusts who between them donated £9,500. The Pan Asian Women's Association support education regularly but we will also need your support throughout the coming year.

The Good News

The benefits of the education support programme are now becoming apparent with many more children continuing their high school education to the extent that the number of children at the Sangkhlaburi high school has now passed the 1500 threshold for additional funding from the government. Each year we are seeing children from poor families graduate from high school with many going on to university or other training. One Sky took 25 students to the New Life Centre in Chiang Mai for interviews. Eleven of them were awarded university scholarships, five of them are students your donations have supported. When qualified they will be capable of making a big difference in their local communities consistent with CARA's policy of making sustainable change through education.



Where your donations went in 2019/20

- 50 children received school uniforms
- 144 children received between £10 and £20 per month for the 10 month school year to pay for transport and school lunches
- 36 high school children supported with one off costs
- Funds for staff salaries
- Medical and food support for the poorest families

Thank you!

The year ahead 2020/21

Due to the extra demand on its services One Sky will enter 2021 with very low funds. CARA will need to raise further funds to continue supporting all the children on the programme. If they are forced to drop out of school to support their families they will not return to school, blighting their prospects for the rest of their lives.

One Sky takes a key role in Alternative Care Thailand (ACT) www.alternativecarethailand.com



Alternative Care Thailand (ACT) is a group of eleven like-minded NGOs and consultants committed to seeing all children in Thailand growing up in safe and nurturing families. ACT is a subgroup of the Convention on the Rights of the Child Coalition Thailand (CRCCT) which was formed in 2015.

Currently there are many hundreds of unregulated children's homes in Thailand. They take children from poor families on the promise they will give them a better education in the children's home but there is no oversight of what happens to these children once they are isolated from their families. CARA is committed to One Sky's objective to reform the care system in Thailand to keep families together whenever possible by providing the support they need. One Sky has been influential in bringing together the coalition of NGOs and consultants and has taken an active part in developing a three year plan that will catalyse the reform process.

One Sky has been funded by UNICEF to interview a 1000 children living in institutional care to understand why they are there in such great numbers. This evidence is expected to lead to a pilot gatekeeping project whereby children's homes will not be able to take in children without permission. This will ensure all efforts are made to keep a child with their own family, leaving a children's home as the last resort. An important part of this strategy must be to enable poor families to have their children educated in the free government schools thus avoiding the need to put them in a home.

Your donations to CARA over the past several years have made it possible for One Sky to demonstrate that it is possible to support families to care for their own children. This model is now at the centre of the system change for the whole of Thailand. Your investment is making a sustainable impact on the lives of children all over Thailand.

CARA news

A difficult year

Sadly at the start of this year a close friend and CARA trustee Chris Anslow died suddenly. Chris was our IT expert and he will be sorely missed. Our two other trustees Karen Hargreaves and James Herring felt that due to pressure of work they could not devote time to CARA and resigned. We would like to thank them for developing our website.

In March we visited Thailand but had to cut short our visit due to the coronavirus pandemic which prevented us from visiting One Sky. We have been kept fully informed about the situation in Sangkhlaburi by our son Andrew who is adviser to One Sky and the main fund raiser. There have been no cases of the virus in Sangkhlaburi but the economic impact has been severe due to the collapse of the tourist industry. One Sky has seen a 50% increase in demand for all its services and has needed to extent its monthly food drops to more families who have been left with no income.

Fund raising

We could not run our usual garden party but did organise a street party for our immediate neighbours which raised nearly £600. In May, George Scholes who is 9 year old climbed the equivalent of Everest on his stairs at home and raised £1,595. CARA successfully applied to three UK trusts, Souter Charitable Trust, The Gilchrist Educational Trust and the Paget Trust who between them donated £9,500. Our regular supporters continued to donate throughout the year. As a result of the generosity of all our supporters we were able to send £18,000 to One Sky during this year which in the circumstances is an incredible achievement - **a big thank you to all.**

Can you help?

CARA and One Sky will start 2021 without any reserve funds and a projected budget shortfall for the year. Do you have contacts or links to organisations and businesses who might be willing to support our cause? You might like to refer them to our web sites www.carauk.org and www.oneskyfoundation.org. Or you can refer them to me at colin.lillicrap@btinternet.com or telephone 01442 873439.

Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for a Covid free 2021

Stay safe

Colin and Jan

CARA Trustees