



## - The Millennium World Peace Foundation - Project Guide

January 31, 2006

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*‘Peace Within, Peace With Each Other, Peace With Nature’*



# The Millennium World Peace Foundation

The Millennium World Peace Foundation is a dynamic young organization based in Bangkok Thailand, which conducts social and development projects in Thailand and Cambodia.

The Millennium World Peace Foundation was registered as a not-for-profit foundation with the Royal Thai Government in May 2004. The MWPF has a board of prominent individuals and is governed by a complete set of byelaws and regulations. The foundation produces a monthly newsletter updating partners and the global public about its activities.

The Millennium World Peace Foundation's social projects have expanded rapidly in the past several months. Currently the Foundation is conducting 4 major projects:

- Tsunami Relief and Reconstruction
- Each One Teach One Education Support
- Carpets for Communities
- Youth Events

Please read on to find out more about each of these exciting initiatives.



## Tsunami Relief and Reconstruction

The massive tsunami that hit the countries on the rim of the Indian Ocean on December 26, 2004, was one of the greatest natural disasters of the modern era. The Millennium World Peace Foundation promptly turned its attention to the survivors and how the newly established foundation could assist them.

### **- Water Tanks -**

In the tsunami aftermath, the Millennium World Peace Foundation facilitated the donation of 25 water tanks to tsunami relief camps throughout Southern Thailand. By providing access to safe and clean drinking water, donors were able to make a solid and practical contribution to the post-tsunami aid effort.

### **- Volunteer – Serve Thailand and Yourself (V-STAY) -**

After the donation of the water tanks to relief camps, the V-STAY program was established to provide a coordinated and systematic approach to volunteering in the tsunami aftermath. The residential volunteer program provides an opportunity for young people around the world who wish to contribute to the tsunami recovery. V-STAY focuses on long-term volunteering to ensure that the maximum benefit reaches those people who need it most. The volunteers stay in the 'V-STAY house' where they receive assistance and monitoring. At this point, 15 dedicated young people have contributed to tsunami reconstruction through the V-STAY project, and 6 are currently on site.

Beneficiaries:

A strength of the V-STAY program is that it allows young people to contribute to tsunami relief in a variety of ways, matching their skills to the needs of the local people. Projects conducted by V-STAY volunteers include:

- A variety of construction projects, including several private homes and school facilities.
- Teaching English in local schools.
- Building a youth centre for the Taptawan Youth Group, and helping them launch a restaurant and batik studio.
- Childcare at a large relief camp.
- A traveling 'Puppet Caravan' for children in the six tsunami effected provinces.
- A local NGO, the 4Kali Foundation, is being assisted with administration and media relations.

## **- School Rebuilding -**

Through consultations attached to the V-STAY program, the Millennium World Peace Foundation began working to improve the facilities at Chao Tai Mai School in the badly-effected Phang Nga province of Thailand. The projects are being externally funded by International Training in Communication (ITC), an international public speaking society. The school of approximately 150 students serves a Morgen Sea Gypsy Community, who as an ethnic minority has received comparatively little official assistance.

Project components:

***Playground:*** A new six piece playground has been delivered and installed at the school.

***Computer Room:*** A computer room has been constructed soon at the school, and a donation of computers has been secured. Upgrading the school facilities is a very important task for the wellbeing of the local community because the school plans to expand from grade 6 to grade 9. This is to fight the very high drop out rate among students, with only 4 out of 10 local children continuing from primary to middle school, and an even smaller number finishing high school.

***Greenhouse:*** A new nursery and vegetable gardens built and funded by the Millennium World peace Foundation serves multiple purposes at the school. Children will learn to raise plants and will be able to take them home, but the greenhouse produce also compliments the meals provided to the children at the school.

## **- The Puppet Caravan -**

With support from ITC, the Millennium World Peace Foundation has also provided for the production of several sets of puppets for the traveling puppet show for rural school children, organized by the Duang Prateep Foundation. This not only benefits the children who enjoy the show, but provided much needed work for several women who had been unemployed since the tsunami.

## **- Thaptawan Youth Group -**

The village of Thaptawan was one of the worst effected by the tsunami in Southern Thailand, and land grabs by influential individuals prevented much support from getting to the survivors. However, the recently established Thaptawan Youth Group has received comprehensive support from the Millennium World Peace Foundation: Our volunteers helped build a new youth center and we secured funds to establish a restaurant and batik studio there, from the Employees of Smith and Nephew Tsunami Relief Fund. This restaurant and studio is community run, and provides and income and a location for the local high school students to complete their studies.



### **Tsunami Relief Images from Southern Thailand, Clockwise from Top-left.**

- #1. V-STAY volunteers from Malaysia, India, the USA, Poland and Holland with Project Manager Jarunee Jarusruangchai. This beach was the tsunami 'ground zero'.
- #2. A local man fills a bottle from a water - tank donated through the Millennium World Peace Foundation. In total 25 water tanks were donated to various tsunami relief camps.
- #3. A house re-built with the assistance of Foundation volunteers.
- #4. Children enjoy a new 6 piece playground facilitated by the MWPF at Chao Tai Mai Community School. The playground is one of 4 Foundation projects at the school.
- #5. A young boy plays with puppets at the Bang Nam Keng tsunami relief camp. His mother is one of two women commissioned to produce the puppets by the Foundation, which are then toured to schools in the 6 tsunami affected provinces.
- #6. Members of the Taptawan Youth Group paint batik pictures of the tsunami disaster. In the background, Foundation volunteers build a new Batik studio, so the main area can be converted to a restaurant. After this, the Foundation helped establish a restaurant at the Youth Center and the purchase of batik supplies. The restaurant is led by Nok, a 19 year old girl who was previously a chef at a local resort and was left unemployed by the tsunami.



## Each One Teach One Education Program

*He who opens a school door, closes a prison.*

*-Victor Hugo*

Each One Teach One provides educational support to young people who cannot afford to continue their study, or are having difficulty doing so. The Foundation takes a holistic approach to this task, providing scholarships and also directing financial and material aid to disadvantaged schools.

The first and current phase of the project involves the 'adoption' of Wat Wang Jik Community School in Pichit Province, Northern Thailand. Many successful fundraising campaigns have been launched on behalf of the school, the details of which are below.

Each One Teach One has *already provided*:

- 20 scholarships to gifted students
- 6 months of food supplies for all 380 children.
- 125 new Desks and Chairs through the 'donate-a-desk' campaign
- Toys and sports equipment through a 'buddy-bear drive'
- A large, modern playground sponsored an art auction
- A commitment from the Rotary Club of Thailand to provide US\$6,250 to renovate toilets, basins and provide water tanks to the school, under the 'Aqua Project'.

Other priority support projects include:

- A library renovation and the provision of books
- A secure student dining area
- Building works, including an audio/visual room and classroom expansion.

A volunteer team of meditation instructors will also visit the school on February 23. They will conduct a class for all 380 children at the school about 'growth from within'.

### **- Expansion -**

The Each One Teach One educational support project will be expanded to include one-to-one sponsorship opportunities targeted at International School children. The philosophy of this project element is the motto 'Each One Reach One'. In this case, one student who has received excellent educational opportunities is given the opportunity to extend that support to someone less fortunate. As a first step to establishing this program, an exposure visit will take place in late February when 12 teacher and staff from Wat Wang Jik Community School are hosted at the exclusive New international School of Thailand (NIST) in Bangkok.



**EOTO at Wat Wang Jik Community School, Clockwise from Top-left.**

- #1. Children play at the newly installed 'Maddy's Playground', named after the lady who generously donated works of art that were auctioned off to raise the funds.
- #2. A young school girl sings during a performance staged during the visit of Foundation staff.
- #3. The brand new chairs and desks are stacked outside the school, waiting to be taken inside.
- #4. Foundation management, youth staff, teachers and newly scholarshiped children pose amongst the first major shipment of foodstuffs to Wat Wang Jik Community School.
- #5. Local children help unload the truck carrying new desks and food.

## Carpets for Communities

The Carpets for Communities (CfC) project is an innovative income-generation program established in Banteay Meanchey Province, Cambodia. It targets vocational assistance and social support to families who have children missing school for economic reasons, particularly those who are begging or working on the Thailand border and are therefore at risk of human trafficking and other dangers. A local partner, the Cambodian Hope Organization, facilitates the project operation within the area and provides official sanction to Foundation activities in Cambodia.

### **- Project Accomplishment -**

Currently, there are 16 participant families who are generating an income for the family by making carpets. Together, they have more than 44 school age children, all of whom are enrolled and attending regularly. Of these, 36 *were not going to school* before their family joined the project. The project spans 4 villages, and has cooperative arrangements with 7 local schools.

### **- How CfC Works -**

Social workers locate the neediest families through social outreach, base-line surveys and referrals from other NGOs. If participants agree to enter the project, they sign an agreement promising to send their children to school. The Millennium World Peace Foundation provides carpet-tufting materials, training and monitoring to project participants, and then guarantees a sales channel for the finished products. Local school principals provide weekly attendance details to ensure that families are meeting their obligations and children are receiving an education.

### **- Funding Sources -**

- Carpets for Communities received over \$4,000 from UN\$ESCO Australia, completing the funding needs *on the ground* in Cambodia for one year.
- The Carpets for Communities project has received over \$10,000 from TEARfund Australia to hire local Cambodian staff, purchase motorbikes and meet project operation costs. This allowed for a rapid expansion of the project, under the direction of Andrea Messmer, the Carpets for Communities Project Manager.
- A large Thai carpet manufacturer and exporter has placed an order for 40 square meters of carpets per month, which will rise to 80 square meters per month in 2006. This order provides excellent income security and direction for the project.



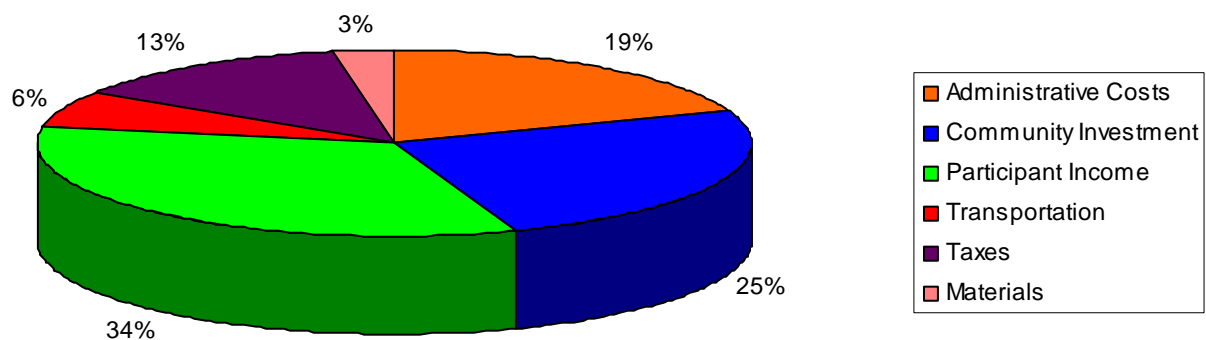
- The Carpets for Communities project has also recently received \$US850 from the Lorraine and Mary Robinson Education Fund (LOMEF).

### - A Success Story -

Through the Carpets for Communities project, the Millennium World Peace Foundation has been able to help some of the most vulnerable people in Cambodia. The French NGO AFESIP, which assists trafficked and abused women, recently contacted Carpets for Communities to assist a 16 year old ex-prostitute to earn a living after she was rescued from a brothel in Thailand. The girl, named Mom, is now very happy making carpets while her four younger siblings, who were collecting scrap metal, are now happy at school.

### - Revenue Distribution Model -

The Carpets for Communities project has adopted a sustainable revenue distribution model. When firmly established, revenues from carpet sales will provide incomes for the needy families, meet all project administration and operation costs, and leave a surplus for community investment.



### - Product Samples -

Carpets for Communities has experimented with many carpet styles. The cotton rug is made exclusively from recycled, donated clothing, while the silk - wool combination is now being produced in large quantities.



Silk



Silk-Wool



Cotton

## - The Project Location -



Poi Pet is located on the Thailand border, which acts as a lure to desperate families from all over Cambodia. Over 60% of Poi Pet's inhabitants are economic migrants who have settled here in hope of making a living from cross-border trade or through work in Thailand. The reality, though, is that economic opportunities for people with low levels of education, no skills, and no capital are limited. As a result, many adults are day laborers and struggle to provide for themselves and their families day-to-day.

This poverty forces many children in Poi Pet Commune to forego school to work at home or on the Thai border. A survey commissioned by the Millennium World Peace Foundation showed that children begging for money from tourists at the border earned an average of 62.5 Baht per day, sometimes much more. This exceeds the 50 Baht per day their parents could earn performing unskilled work, such as working in rice fields, washing dishes or gutting fish in the Thai market.

This situation not only denies children their right to an education, limiting their future income opportunities; it also makes them particularly vulnerable to human trafficking. In fact, 50-60 trafficker agents operate trafficking networks in Poi Pet Commune alone<sup>1</sup>, and the area is considered to be one Indo-China's trafficking hotspots, where criminal groups exert considerable influence on local residents and authorities. We are fighting this problem at the roots, by linking special assistance to the families of the children at the border, so they can be safe and receive an education.



**Images from Poi Pet. Clockwise from top-left.**

- #1. Many children are forced to gut fish at the border market for US\$1 per day, missing out on an education.
- #2. A long-time CfC participant, Samon Ren, displays a prototype recycled cotton on burlap carpet.
- #3. A flood didn't stop CfC Production and Outreach Coordinator Sokdet Mom from reaching the home of this participant family.
- #4. These four children have returned to school since their mother joined the CfC program in August. With Sokdet.

<sup>1</sup> Goods & Girls: Trade Across Borders, J. Vijh, 2005

## Youth Events

### - United Nations Youth Forum: “Young Voice for Change” - Bangkok, Thailand. September 12, 2005.

Youth staff from the Millennium World Peace Foundation recently collaborated with the United Nations Information Service (UNIS) in the hosting of a youth forum. Entitled ‘Young Voices for Change’, the forum focused on how proposed UN reforms can benefit all people of the world and lead to the reaching of the Millennium Development Goals. Taking place at the Bangkok Headquarters of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific (UNESCAP), the forum brought together approximately 250 senior high school and university students, young international leaders and NGO representatives.



**Left:** Images from the forum.  
**Below:** The certificate received from the United Nations, in thanks for MWPF’s assistance.



### The World Youth Quest for Peace



The World Youth Quest for Peace encourages young people to celebrate our beautiful planet while spreading the message of peace. Coordinated from Bangkok, the Quest challenges youth worldwide to perform treks, paddles, climbs, swims, sails and runs, all in the name of peace. Some recent quests include roving eye examinations in rural Armenia and a world record-beating lake-swim in Taipei.

#### Images of the World Youth Quest for Peace

**Top Left:** Ugandan war orphans celebrate their ascent to the top of Mt Margarita, the country’s highest mountain. Their journey was one of the earliest and most notable World Youth Quests for Peace.

**Left:** The Quest Torch, which accompanies adventurous young people as they discover the joys of the planet in the name of peace.



## Asia-Pacific Regional Summit, Bangkok, Thailand. February 24–29, 2004

As Asia-Pacific Secretariat for the World Youth Peace Summit, the staff of the Millennium World Peace Foundation convened the WYPS Asia-Pacific Regional Summit. The event brought together hundreds of young people from Asia and the Pacific to discuss pressing regional issues. Here is their shared vision: “We, the youth of the Asia and Pacific regions, believe that world peace can be achieved through the sustained development of respect, equality, natural resources, basic needs, education, governance, global cooperation and communication.”

As a direct outcome of the Asia Pacific Summit, youth delegates from India and Pakistan launched an exciting joint peace initiative, the Indo Pak Youth Forum for Peace. The three stage forum will bring youth of the troubled neighbours closer together to focus on common interests and challenges.

**Below:** Collected images from the World Youth Peace Summit Asia-Pacific Regional Summit.



## Conclusion

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We believe that we are achieving excellent results. This can be seen in the houses being lived in by tsunami victims that our young V-STAY volunteers built, in the classrooms of Cambodia where many children have returned to education thanks to the Carpets for Communities project, and in northern Thailand where hundreds of children are eating better and learning more easily each day thanks to the Each One Teach One educational support project.

With solid projects and results, your support of the Millennium World Peace Foundation is guaranteed to make a difference to people who need your help.