

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES FOR BAN KIUKACHAM AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

While living in Tokyo from 2001 until 2004, I became very interested in the socio-economic development of Laos and its children. I traveled to Laos in that time, with the intent to offer assistance to a village with their education system. I met with the chief and officials of Ban Kiukacham, who offered me insight into further steps I might take towards making a significantly noticeable difference in the lives of the children, as well as the village and the thirteen surrounding villages. Since then, I have devoted myself fully towards creating an organization called CHI-KI CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION; I have developed a target plan with the help of a knowledgeable and supportive team of influential Lao authorities. I have held events to generate funds through the CHI-KI CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION. The funds generated are used primarily for the development of education programs and the betterment of children's lives.

WHAT IS THE CHI-KI-CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION?

The CHI-KI CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION is a not-for-profit organization, based in Toronto, Canada, that focuses on fulfilling the needs and dreams of children by funding social programs such as:

- **YOUTH EDUCATION**
- **SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS FOR TOP GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**
- **SCHOOL RENOVATION PROGRAMS**
- **CREATING A LIBRARY SYSTEM**
- **UNIFORMS**
- **INCENTIVE PACKAGES FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND GOVERNMENTS.**

After moving to Toronto in 2004, I started this foundation to authorize and accredit the work I began in Tokyo in 2002. Funds generated through the CHI-KI CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION help children gain opportunities in life so that they may accomplish their dreams and give back to their community, hence improving the quality of life for all.

WHAT IS THE TARGET PLAN FOR THE CHILDREN?

Ban Kiukacham and the surrounding 13 villages house 1,240 families that includes 7,772 people in all fourteen villages. Within this diverse community, lie the Lao Lum, Lao Aka, and Lao Mung tribes. Furthermore, the economic status fluctuates within each tribe and village. Past upheavals and political disputes have created tension among the different ethnic tribes and initiated a call for equality within the community.

Our target plan is to support and assist the many ethnic groups equally and impartially, giving each child equal rights and opportunities for higher education. Presently, Ban Kiukacham has 21 children in kindergarten, 233 children in elementary school and 498 students in the only high school that enrolls the 13 surrounding villages. In **PHASE 1** of the project, The Foundation offers five scholarships towards higher education for the top graduates of the high school. With an education, the potential of a better life is greater, and so, in being granted the opportunity to study, we would like to see the graduates return to their village and help their community prosper with the knowledge they acquire.

In **PHASE 1** (2005/2006) of the Project, the following will be observed as goals we need to achieve:

- 1. FUND THE TUITION OF EACH CHILD GOING TO THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL**
- 2. PROVIDE THE SCHOOL WITH A RENOVATION FUND**
- 3. OFFER YEARLY TUITION FOR 5 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS TO LUANG PRABANG. 2 STUDENTS FOR TEACHER TRAINING; 2 STUDENTS FOR NURSING; & 1 FOR TECHNICAL TRAINING.**
- 4. FUND INITIATIVE PROGRAM REWARDS, INCLUDING 1ST, 2ND, AND 3RD PRICE FOR BEST STUDENT IN EACH GRADE. TOP 5 TEACHERS RECEIVE BICYCLES AND SCHOOL BAGS FOR OUTSTANDING WORK THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.**
- 5. PROVIDE ALL THE TEACHERS WITH NEW UNIFORMS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR, INCLUDING TAILORING.**
- 6. INTRODUCE A SPORTS FUND, INCLUDING RATTAN BALLS, VOLLEYBALLS, SOCCER BALLS, SKIPPING ROPES, & NETS.**
- 7. STRATEGIZE AN INITIATIVE PROGRAM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS AFFAIRS OFFICE IN LUANG PRABANG, COMPRISED OF COMPUTERS AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT.**

In **PHASE 2** of the project, we are planning to extend the relief to:

- **REBUILDING THE EXISTING KINDERGARTEN**
- **SENDING SPECIAL-NEEDS CHILDREN TO THE REHABILITATION SCHOOL IN VIENTIANE**
- **OFFERING TEACHERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENHANCE THEIR TEACHING SKILLS**
- **INTRODUCING CLASS FIELD TRIPS TO EXPAND AND ENCOURAGE LEARNING**
- **EXTENDING ASSISTANCE AND FURTHER IMPROVING THE WELFARE OF ALL 14 VILLAGES.**

THE COMMUNITY

1. **MRS. SYLVIA CHARCZUK: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHI-KI CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION**
2. **MR. OUNKHAM: TECHNICAL STAFF, PROVINCIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**
3. **MR. KINDAMON: PLANNING AND STATISTICS, SIENG NGEUM DISTRICT**
4. **MR. PASEUHT (JOY): PERSONAL ASSISTANT**
5. **MR. BOONKHONGTHAVONG: DEPUTY CHIEF, KIUKACHAM VILLAGE**
6. **MR. LONGHER: CHIEF OF EDUCATION, KIUKACHAM SUB-DISTRICT**
7. **MR. SALY: CHIEF OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, KIUKACHAM VILLAGE**
8. **MR. NOREUYANG: PROVINCIAL LAO-FRONT**
9. **MRS. BOONMY: CHIEF OF SECONDARY-HIGH SCHOOL, KIUKACHAM SUB- DISTRICT**
10. **MR. SAYTUAYANG: CHIEF OF KIUKACHAM VILLAGE**
11. **MR. THONGDY: 1ST DEPUTY CHIEF OF KIUKACHAM VILLAGE**
12. **DR. THONGVANH SAMOUNTREE: PERSONAL ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**
13. ***MR. KHANTAN SOMPHANVITAY: EXTERNAL RELATION AFFAIRS OFFICE**
14. ***MR. BOUNHEUANG DOUNGPRACHANH: GOVERNOR OF LUANG PRABANG PROVINCE**
15. ***MR. KHANTAN SOMPHANVITAY: EXTERNAL RELATION AFFAIRS OFFICE**
16. ***MR. ONCHANH SOUNVANNALITH: HEAD OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

*Did not attend the 26/03/2005 meeting in Ban Kiukacham but support the project and attended other meetings.

The aforementioned participants support and oversee the target proposal for 2005/2006. With their ongoing efforts and full support, we will be able to reach our goals for a bright and promising future for the children of Laos.

Before the 2005 school year begins, I will send enough money to Mr. Somboun, The Financial Department of Education, to finance the tuition of the children, help with school renovations and supply the teachers with new uniforms. I have the bank account number and bank name, allowing me to do a direct wire transfer from **THE CHI-KI CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION** bank to their bank.

GENERATING FUNDS THROUGH DONATIONS & EVENTS

Over the last three years, I have raised awareness and donations for the benefit of the children of Laos through art and poetry readings in Tokyo, Japan. Using my paintings and poetry, alongside painters, writers and supporters who encourage the project, I raise funds through auctions. Having these kinds of events promotes an awareness of my project and generates donations from guests, friends, and interested parties. Presently, in Toronto, I will hold events this summer to finance **PHASE 1** of the project, with everyone's help and support.