



*"Keeping families together"*

## Child Protection and Family Support

170 cases worked since the beginning of 2016

342 child beneficiaries  
220 adult beneficiaries

49 children accepted onto the One Sky Education  
Scholarship Scheme (Scholarships cover transportation  
and lunch costs)

196 family assessments

180 children received some or all of their school uniform this year



## Child Protection and Family Support

### Child Protection and Family Support

- 7 Education cases
- 47 Health, disability and mental health cases
- 18 Abuse (physical, sexual, mental) cases
- 10 Risk of offending/behaviour problems cases
- 27 Difficult situation cases
- 11 Neglect and lack of proper care cases
- 9 Risk of abuse from those they live with cases
- 13 Child development (learning disability/trauma) cases
- 7 Rights advice cases
- 7 Family re integration cases
- 14 Other cases

### Types of Support Given

#### Protection

Justice system	14
Security	17
Rights education	19
Health rights	16

#### Welfare

Essentials for living	50
Food production	6
Support to find work	3
Medical bills	15

### Rehabilitation

Counselling, advice and advocacy	112
Change behaviour	20
Child development support	18
Family reconnection	11
Physiotherapy	1
Other	15

### Monthly Food Support in 2016

Children	124
Adults	70



## Education Scholarship Project

In December 2014 we worked with a survey team to carry out in depth interviews with all 605 children living in Sangkhlaburi's 17 children's homes at that time.

90% of the children told us they have at least one living parent. Most of the children told us they live in a home so they can go to school as their parents are too poor to pay for the costs, especially transportation and lunch costs, once children reach middle school.

We are determined that less children in this area should be separated from their families in order to go to school. This year we launched our Education Scholarship Scheme targeting children moving from primary to middle schools and from middle to high school. Times at which we see a big dropout rate due to rising costs for parents to cover.

This year 196 family assessments were



conducted following referrals from teachers, village leaders and members of the community. 49 children were accepted onto the scheme to receive a monthly scholarship. In addition 180 children received one time support with uniforms and school registration costs. Many of these children will need scholarships when they reach middle school. Scholarships range from as little as 200 Baht to 1000 Baht per month. This is much lower than the cost of keeping children in a children's home and children continue to benefit from the love and care of their families.

We also believe that they will grow into young adults with a much clearer sense of identity compared to their counterparts living in local homes operated by an eclectic range of people, mostly with little or no experience in child care, and often with deep personal philosophies transcending all aspects of the homes they operate.

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## Education Scholarship Project

Often these homes present themselves to the world as preventing trafficking or as champions of human rights. In reality none of the homes in Sangkhlaburi are operating legally in Thailand and awareness of the internationally accepted rights of children as set out in the United Nations Convention on the rights of the Child is minimal to none. Primary among those rights is the right to grow up with your family and One Sky's education scholarship scheme aims to enable more local children to be able to uphold this right.

One Sky has made a commitment of up to 3 years for children entering high school and of up to 6 years for those who have entered middle school this year. In the coming years there will be a new intake of children each year as long as One Sky has funds to enable this.



In 2017 One Sky is seeking additional funds to enable more children to join our scholarship scheme, please see the back page of this report if you are interested in supporting us with this project.



Painting left by Sretong (pictured below), one of One Sky's scholarship students.



### Community Development Project

This year we have been involved in 2 community development projects to build and maintain schools in isolated villages. In both cases the goal has been to work alongside community members ensuring that they have full ownership of the project. We have commitment from both areas that after 2 years

of successful operation the schools will be absorbed into the government education system. This fits our philosophy as a NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation) that we are here to meet unmet needs and to facilitate sustainable changes until the government is able to fulfill its responsibilities to

vulnerable children and One Sky can close down. We believe that the ultimate goal of all NGO's must be to become unnecessary. Ensuring that all children live within reach of a school helps to reduce the justification for taking children away from their parents to live in unregulated private children's homes.



## Eye Testing

Thanks to our 2 volunteer optometrists Seeta and Simon from the UK, we were able to offer eye screening to a school of 450 children. Seeta and Simon found the general eye health of the children to be very good compared to western children, perhaps because of less TV and computer games!

We bought glasses for 13 children identified as in urgent need of glasses and will re visit a further 17 children in 12 months as they were placed on the borderline list. We will follow up with our 13 children in a few months

to receive their feedback on the difference having their glasses has made for them at school.

To break the cycle of poverty we work hard to get all children into school at the right age and to support them to complete their education. We still have a mountain to climb but we are making progress. There is no testing for eye and ear problems in our local schools and we wanted to see how many children are suffering as a result.

Simon and Seeta were very moved by one teenage girl whose opening words to them

were “Please help me”. Her eye test confirmed that she had severe vision problems making her learning extremely difficult. She complained of continual headaches. Hopefully now she can enjoy her studies without pain and continue through to middle school. We wonder how many other children in such circumstances have dropped out of school.

We hope that Seeta and Simon will return again in the future so that we can offer this service in other schools.



## Medical Support

Raising a family on 2 or \$3 a day is a challenge. When someone gets sick and there is a large medical bill, families can plummet into debt with interest rates of up to 20% a month for local migrant families who rely on loan sharks as their only access to cash advances.

One Sky supports poor families with basic medical costs and also with funds for serious and complex treatments,

when possible, to avoid such high costs from breaking up families due to debt. We also support a group of children to attend the provincial hospital 3 hours away for specialist follow up for conditions including mental health, behavioural problems and ongoing treatment for physical problems such as club foot. For poor families with no ID paper access to this medical care would not be possible without One Sky's help.



69 children and 17 adults were involved in Family Camps. The First camp was for 1 day and there were 8 families and involved 40 people altogether. Families:

- Took part in fun activities to strengthen family ties
- Learnt the importance of taking care of children
- Had activities to understand different roles in the family
- Learnt about the impact on children of parents separating, having a single mum and parents fighting
- Thought about and shared 'Family in my Dreams'

- Took part in 'How to Reach the Dream Family' using the house rules activity to create the house rules together for their house
- Followed up after the camp on how it is going using the new rules
- Gave positive feedback!

The second series of camps involved a single family each focusing on very specific challenges such as non-violent communication and non-physical punishment for children. 7 families and 36 people altogether were involved with 3 overnight camps and 4 single day camps.



This 2 day camp was for children aged 8 to 15 who are living with their families in the community but facing considerable challenges. Some are not in the school system or not regularly attending school, and have behaviour problems. 13 teenagers took part and it gave them some opportunities these children wouldn't otherwise get. We were lucky to have the support of the Electric Department who gave a 50% discount on accommodation, supplied

snacks and provided a tour of the hydro electric dam. Some of the children who attended don't have electricity in their house so found the trip particularly interesting. Unlike our scholarship students our investment in these children is not with an academic focus but aims to provide them with the positive childhood experiences that so many of us take for granted, yet are absent from the lives of these children.



### Scholarship Students: Youth Activities

Teenagers from the Scholarship Scheme have been able to join four separate events in Bangkok and Chiang Mai as part of One Sky's membership of the national Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The students have been able to learn about children's rights and online safety and have participated in workshops and presentations building up their skills in team working and public speaking.

One of the Sangkhlaburi students has been nominated to reach the final

round of selection for the Thailand CRC international child representative.

Our aim is not only to support these children to finish High School but also to provide them with inspiring opportunities to broaden their horizons and to explore and imagine their own potential as young people. On trips such as these we also take the opportunity to visit famous landmarks and museums or to have new experiences such as going to the cinema.



### The World Starts with Me Workshops

Over 12 sessions, the team skillfully uses a proven set of workshops to work with kindergarten-aged children helping them to learn the names of private body parts in a safe environment.

One of the major barriers preventing young children in SE Asia from telling anyone they have been sexually abused is the huge embarrassment both they, and their parents, have when saying the names of the private body parts.

The later sessions help children to understand when they feel unsafe and confused by someone touching them. Children identify the adults they trust and who they can run to and ask for help when they have these feelings.

This year 203 children completed the 12 sessions in 4 schools.



Thailand has the second highest teenage pregnancy rate in the world and our province, Kanchanaburi, has the highest rate in Thailand.

Abortion is illegal in Thailand.

We work in partnership with the nurses at the local hospital to run sex

education sessions for local teenagers.

76 children aged 11 to 18 attended two events: 42 children from Baan Mai village and another 34 children, 17 of whom were identified by One Sky as particularly in need of this knowledge.



Implementing the Child Protection Law in Sangkhlaburi has been very challenging over recent years and we have experienced some terrible victim blaming by local police and a total failure to arrest perpetrators of horrific violence against children. 2017 will be the year for change. UNICEF and the Bangkok based Centre for the Protection of Child Rights have been running a pilot project to build local child protection

committees as described in the 2003 child protection act. For 2 years they have worked in 40 sub districts (Thailand has more than 7200 sub districts). This year the second intake of 40 sub districts will join. In recognition of One Sky's efforts and motivation, Sangkhlaburi has been added as the 81<sup>st</sup> sub district. 2 meetings have already taken place with the local government and they have accepted their duty under the law. Next

will be the formation of the committee with carefully selected members who have or are willing to learn the skills needed. One Sky director Wat will be the only qualified and licensed member of the committee when it forms.

This is a huge step forward and is very much in line with our goal of supporting government to fulfill their duty to uphold children's rights.



The Center for the Protection of  
Children's Rights Foundation



Our role in the Thailand Convention on the Rights of the Child Coalition (TCRCC) has been to gather evidence of the extent and overreliance on illegal private children's homes in Thailand.

Earlier this year we reported on the success of our 15 online volunteers who identified 219 illegal children's homes in Thailand through their web presence. Since that time our report has been used extensively to lobby government.

As Thailand races forward in terms of infrastructure there has been a dip in the development of social policy. Political stalemate and the withdrawal of major international organisations to focus efforts in poorer neighbouring countries have created a long pause in

the progression of policies to cater for the poorest and most vulnerable people in Thailand. In the care of vulnerable children, especially alternative care, Thailand has fallen a long way behind neighbouring countries. Although those countries are recognised as poorer countries, the massive investment from international agencies has maintained their movement towards human rights implementation, especially for children.

One Sky plays a key role in gathering the evidence of the extent of the illegal children's home problem in Thailand so that the issue can be pushed onto the agenda of government and major international aid agencies.

## International Conference, Geneva

With financial support from World Childhood Foundation, Wat and Andy were able to attend a 3 day international alternative care conference in Geneva in October. The conference was called Building on the Momentum and was a chance for more than 400 people to come together from all over the world to share ideas and examples of good practice in the implementation of the United Nations Alternative Care Guidelines.

Although quite a mouthful this is all about the rights of children around the world and how both developed and developing nations are faring in the steps towards all children in the world being given their rights. Alternative care is when children are no longer able to live with their biological parents.

Worldwide far too many children are being separated from their parents because of the lack of support services for families and over reliance on often illegal private children's homes.

The conference was a huge boost to our knowledge and confidence in this area of our work. Being in a room with 400 others all dedicated to the concept of child rights implementation worldwide using the Alternative Care Guidelines as agreed terms of reference was a powerful experience. We returned to Thailand knowing that we are part of a worldwide network sharing the same goal of enabling all children to live their lives protected by effective child rights systems built around the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

### Ignacio Marin Photography

Thanks to a lot of hard work (pro bono) by our good friend Ignacio (Ignacio Marin Photography) we were very proud to launch our short film 'Keeping Families Together' in March. The film has been widely viewed and has received much positive feedback!  
<https://vimeo.com/169640013>



## World Childhood Foundation Partners Meeting

Our Donor and partner World Childhood Foundation invited us to attend a partner meeting in Siem Reap (Cambodia) in April. We travelled first to Phnom Penh to visit 2 great projects called Children in Families and Aziza's Place.

This trip was an exciting opportunity to meet likeminded professionals and to share ideas and examples of good practice. It was also a first foreign trip and first time in a plane for some of the One Sky team.



## Special Needs Children Report

In 2015 One Sky wrote to the central government and won backing for local children with no formal ID papers to be able to attend special needs schools. We now support a group of children to attend the provincial special needs schools including their transportation home for every holiday and public holiday. Inclusive education has become common now in western

countries, but at this stage there is no inclusion in mainstream school in Thailand for children with special needs and so we are committed to the regular transportation of these children at every opportunity so that they maintain links with their families while benefiting from the specialist educational support only available in the appointed schools.

## Break the Silence Training

With financial support from World Childhood Foundation, we were thrilled to welcome back Nancy from the Stairway Foundation. Nancy gave an excellent 2 day training on child sexual abuse prevention (CSAP) to One Sky staff and our partners. We welcomed partners from local schools, NGO's and the hospital. We were grateful for the use of the hospital meeting room for our training. Several local teachers spoke of their experiences of children disclosing sexual abuse to them and how they had been unable to help as they had no training and

didn't know where to report it. Trainings like this help to strengthen our network and build links to teachers like this who are often alone on the front line. Despite several cases this year we know that we are still scraping the surface in terms of the extent of child sexual abuse in this area.

As we learned in Nancy's training perpetrators of child sexual abuse must overcome both their own internal inhibitors

and also any external inhibitors. With an ineffective police response and no support network for professionals working with children the external inhibitors are minimal and this is why we see such high rates of child sexual abuse in isolated areas like ours. But there is hope, please read more about the formation of the Sangkhlaburi Child Protection Committee in this report.





At the end of August we were very lucky to receive a 3 day workshop facilitated by Mr. Brett Tan introducing the whole team to the concept of Results Based Management focusing on project formulation. It was a great experience for the team to learn from such an experienced Thai person who has worked in the NGO sector in many roles over many years. The workshop was successful in empowering all members of the team and developing a

common language and understanding to assist our future planning. We are very grateful to Brett for giving our whole team the confidence and tool set to participate in the project planning cycle of the organisation. His calm and positive manner and collection of excellent stories will stay with us all and feedback from the team confirmed how inspirational they found the 3 days spent together.

## Volunteers



Welcome to Janeen who is volunteering with us part time and helping us to collate our data into meaningful evidence to use in the campaign to bring an end to the proliferation of illegal children's homes in Thailand.

At the end of this year we welcomed Ashley a Canadian Psychologist based in Bangkok who spent several days interviewing the One Sky team. We expect a lot from our team, the salaries are modest and we face some very challenging situations. Over Christmas staff dealt with the rape of a 4 year old girl by a 70 year old Monk. We expect more victims to emerge in coming weeks. We do the best we can with the limited resources we have. With

Ashley's help we hope to ensure that we do all we can to create a supportive and safe work environment for our staff as they try to make a difference for children living in unacceptable circumstances.



## Accountants for International Developments (AfID)



Our AfID volunteer Andrea worked incredibly hard in the last quarter of 2016 to train us in basic accounting and to support us through a complete system rebuild for our finance system. We are now learning the ropes in our new QuickBooks based system. Thanks to Andrea for her hard work and to AfID for their support.

## One Sky 2016 Financial Summary

Total expense: 4,069,873 baht or \$116,300 or £96,900

In 2017 we hope to offer scholarships to many more children and also to invest in the development of the local Child Protection Committee. Our fundraising target for this year is 5,000,000 baht. Taking into account the pledges already made we have around 1,600,000 baht to go.



‘Everyone at One Sky thanks you for your continued interest and support, none of this is possible without you. We hope you agree that together we are making a difference. We believe a better world is possible and every step in that direction has value, no matter how small.’

Andy Lillicrap, Co-founder One Sky, January 2017.

If you would like to know more about One Sky and our work or if you are interested to support us please visit our website or email us:

**[www.oneskyfoundation.org](http://www.oneskyfoundation.org)**  
**[oneskythailand@gmail.com](mailto:oneskythailand@gmail.com)**



With sincere thanks to Richard Green who with great patience, edited and designed this annual report and as always gave us his time and energy for free.