



"Keeping families together"

In 2018 we have been able to bring positive change for more children and families than ever before and at the same time the quality and depth of our support has grown as I hope you will see in this report.

Social work is about solving problems and the more skilled we become as a collective the greater the problems we can solve.

A nine year old boy in need of heart surgery has been told there is nothing the Thai health system can offer him. Persistence leads to a project in Northern Thailand and the chance of a free operation; how to get him there and who will care for him? His father is a daily labourer and there are 5 children for mum to take care of.

Thailand is home to some of the most luxurious and top-rated private drug rehab facilities in the world, but there is no provision for the thousands of Thai addicts who cannot pay for private treatment. What to do with our 12 year old 'ice' addict who is skin and bone? Reaching out to our network we make contact with a small NGO in Chiang Mai who help boys like this. After a team meeting they agree to accept him. It will be a 14 hour drive for two of our team if he agrees to take this opportunity.

We have been dealing with challenges like these on a daily basis for 6 years now and our ability to find solutions continues to grow. We are committed to working with others, especially the government, to build sustainable systems of care for at-risk and vulnerable children. 2018 has been a huge year for One Sky in terms of establishing government partnership and cooperation locally and nationally. This means we can solve more of the problems that are putting children at risk.

In the last two months Sangkhlaburi police agreed to arrest a man who had been touching the breasts of his 12 year old niece while the family slept at night. I was so pleased that the police now recognise this as sexual abuse and that they were willing to act before the abuse escalated to something even more serious. We are always looking for indicators that our work is resulting in change and for me this response from the police was cause for celebration.

We rely totally on the generous support of the many people who believe in our work and I hope that when you read this report you will share our excitement at the progress we are making and the opportunities that are now available to continue to improve the lives of many more children.

Andy Lillicrap co-founder One Sky Foundation





280 kindergarten children have completed 8 sessions of safety training with One Sky's 'The World Starts With Me' programme this year and the current classes totalling 225 children will finish in February 2019

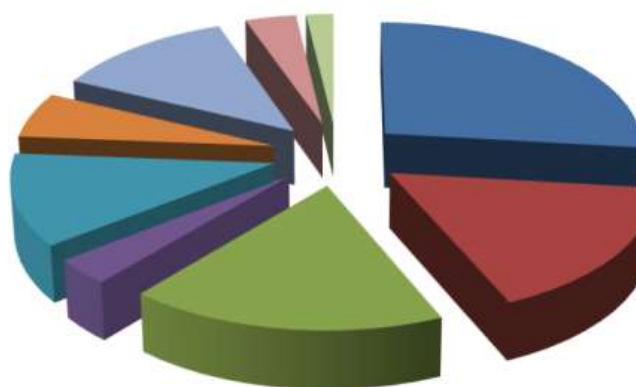
In 2018 One Sky made a difference to the lives of over 600 children

We provided monthly education scholarships to 113 children to help them stay in school



We supported 225 families involving 529 children and 334 adults through our casework and provided advice and brief intervention to a further 42 families

Why were children and families referred to One Sky in 2018?



Reason	Cases
Poverty	114
Access to Education	71
Health physical and mental	75
Disabled mental and physical	14
Abuse	50
Behaviour problems	25
Neglect	53
No parental care	15
Other	8

The last rainy season was a very long one and income for daily workers was hard to come by. The lake reached its highest recorded level this year with the town hall recording 300 houses around the lake that were flooded and uninhabitable for many weeks. Our monthly food support program peaked at 47 families in September. In total we provided additional food for 259 children and 129 adults in 2018.



We provided milk and milk powder for 20 preschool children who were significantly underweight or whose mothers were unable to produce breast milk. It is not uncommon for newborn babies to be given water or artificial orange juice if their parents can't afford milk powder. The team monitors the weight and height of these children each month to check for improvements.

Examples of the solutions we provide

Risk reduction: 103 cases

Accommodation: 8 families (rent and fixing)

Sexual abuse court support: 6 perpetrators sent to jail. (2 more under police supervision, 4 more ran away and 1 couldn't be identified)

Broom making: 8 families (24 children, 13 adults)

Home-based food production: 9 families (25 children, 19 adults)

Hospital fees (transport, food, accommodation and medical costs):
57 cases

One to One Psychosocial Support (multiple sessions): 30 children

Youth support groups: 10 girls and 8 boys

Family Psychosocial Support (multiple sessions): 8 families

Student camps – 2 events with 21 and 17 children

Family strengthening days: 14 Families (46 children, 22 adults)

Ongoing support for children returning home from children's homes:
16 children

Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden

In February One Sky founders Wat and Andy were honoured to meet her majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden in Bangkok shortly before she gave a keynote address at the Academic Conference for the Lay Judges of the Juvenile and Family Courts of Thailand during which she praised the efforts of One Sky and other NGO's supported by her foundation, World Childhood.

Wat and Andy spent 20 minutes talking with the Queen about One Sky and our journey so far. She was well informed and asked insightful questions about our experiences and our aims for the future. We were then joined by our families for a group photograph. The Queen was unaware that she would meet our children and was late for her next appointment as she enjoyed talking with them. As we left she handed the children a huge basket of fruit from the coffee table in her Royal Suite!

We were thrilled to be able to sign an agreement with the Queen for funding for a one year pilot project to build a new website service about Alternative Care Reform in Thailand.



Family Support and Child Advocacy Center (FSCAC)



Thanks to generous support from partners around the world we were able to open the Sangkhlaburi Family Support and Child Advocacy Center (FSCAC) this year. An extensive refurbishment of an old house has given us a wonderful space for working with



vulnerable children and families and also provides a safe short term place to stay for children and families in crisis.

Our center is part of a growing CAC network in Thailand. The network is working closely with the Royal Thai Police to improve the care and support offered to children who are victims of abuse, exploitation and trafficking. It was a huge day for One Sky and for Sangkhlaburi when General Suchardt



flew from Bangkok by helicopter to open our center. The general is one of only five top generals overseeing the 230,000 police in Thailand. The heads of the district and provincial police, immigration departments and local government attended the opening to hear the General's wishes that they cooperate fully with One Sky in our work to protect children.

We took the opportunity to ask the General to present awards to some of our local partners in recognition of their work to protect children. The General also presented awards to Auntida and Aye, our fantastic Family Support and Child Protection team leaders.



Thai Internet Crimes Against Children (TICAC)



and video of his abuse were found on his computer and phone. One Sky team traced and visited the victims under the guise of providing education scholarships in order to protect their privacy.

This is the first case of rape of boys that we have experienced in 6 years of One Sky. Perpetrators know that the stigma and shame of male rape make it very unlikely that boys will ever tell anyone. The boys in this case were

"I have never told anyone what happened, it is such a relief to finally be able to talk about it".

A boy (now 16 years old) who was repeatedly raped as a novice monk.

The CAC network has strong links with the TICAC police team. TICAC were notified by Australian police that they had tracked the activities of a paedophile posting pictures and video on the dark web of his rape of boys. It looked like he was a monk and they were able to narrow the search to a small area of Kanchanaburi province. TICAC located the monk and asked for help from One Sky to support and interview the victims. TICAC arrested the monk just after dawn and extensive photos

very clear that it was a huge relief for them that they could finally talk to someone about what happened safely with no shame. With all NGO and government partners working together we can only hope that we will slowly break down these barriers to disclosure that prevent all children, but especially boys, from seeking help.





Sometimes it's very difficult to talk about problems, especially for children who are still learning about feelings and how to express them. PSS training equips us with some techniques and simple strategies to help. Dr Ashley Kies has been instrumental this year in helping us create the environment and skills to help children more deeply. The PSS room at the FSCAC is providing us with a safe and private space for children to come to talk about problems they are facing or bad experiences they have been through.

It is a great feeling for us as a team to be able to work in this way. Over the years we have done our best for children who have experienced unimaginable abuse and harm but we have lacked the resources to really give the help they need.

It has been so exciting to witness the transformation in some of the most socially isolated and insular children as they spend time at the centre in one to one sessions or within a group. We are determined to recruit another full-time staff for PSS work in 2019 so that we can offer this help to more children.

Teen girl Empowerment group

The group was formed around the ideas of peer support, empowerment and sharing problems. We wanted the girls to know how to deal with problems, have confidence in themselves and to make friends. We wanted to encourage them and for them to know that they are not alone and to give them time and space to have fun and feel happy.



The feedback from the girls was that they were happy and enjoyed the activity they participated in and they feel more confident. They expressed and shared emotions openly and honestly and learned to be a leader. They all want to have a group activity like this more.

We are now planning for a teenage boys group and later an under 10's groups.

Kung (One Sky PSS Coordinator)



From my very first visit in December 2016, it was easy to see that there was something special about One Sky. Much like a fantastic Thai dish, it is not one ingredient that makes the dish successful but a combination of tasty ingredients and flavours that work together in unison. This has been my experience with One Sky. Each staff member brings a unique flavour and set of skills to One Sky, which results in a magical recipe for success.

After seeing this in my initial visit, I knew I wanted to be a part of One Sky. Subsequently, I visited several times in a volunteer capacity and was thrilled when the chance arose to work full time with One Sky for four months in between other postings.

One Sky staff are deeply connected to and work tremendously hard for the community in which they live. They are often faced with impossible scenarios, to which they respond with ingenuity, patience, and compassion. Despite regular challenges, including safety issues, emergencies, and high demand for their services, One Sky has been able to thrive and grow over the years.

As a result, services have been able to expand to more specialized community aid such as psychosocial support. As a psychologist, I began implementing global mental health and psychosocial support guidelines at One Sky, which involved:

- Training two staff as Psychosocial Support Specialists
- Teaching a series of psychosocial support trainings to all staff
- Co-creating "Girl Group," a bi-weekly empowerment and psychosocial support group for teen girls
- Providing mental health consultations to children and families
- Engaging in weekly case consultations and discussions with staff
- Co-designing a psychosocial support room within the new Family Support & Child Advocacy Center
- Writing a detailed report about the status of unregistered, private children's homes in Sangkhlaburi

Ultimately, I am grateful to have been welcomed into the One Sky family with open arms and open hearts. I have no doubt that I will continue supporting One Sky over the years, and I encourage others to do so as well. It was a privilege and a pleasure being able to add a "dash of Ash" to One Sky's special recipe.

Reflections from a psychologist working with One Sky, Dr. Ash Kies



It has been an amazing year for our scholarship scheme with the number of students we are supporting to stay in school growing from 71 to 113. The project is 'targeted' meaning that we take a lot of time and effort to assess families one by one to be sure that they need our support and how much they need. We are now supporting children throughout the district, an area of 70km north to south.

There is still much to do. 181 children will finish high school in March 2019 in Sangkhlaburi District. Less than 30% of them are boys. These 52 boys represent less than 10% of those who started primary school 12 years ago. We have to improve this situation and we are determined to keep growing the number of students we can help to stay in school. We see this strategy as crucial in our efforts to break the cycle of poverty from one generation to the next.

We have just finished filming a short story following two of our scholarship students through a typical day. We are very excited to share this short film soon. Filming took us out at 4am to be with one family as they worked through the night to collect rubber sap. I was in awe of the parents in both families and just how hard they work to provide for their families.

Being with the families as they shared their evening meal together was a rare insight into the closeness and unity in the face of hardship that these families have. It was moving and humbling and left me in absolutely no doubt that children should not be moving into children's homes just because their parents can't earn enough money to keep them in school. Families are at the heart of communities and when we don't protect these families we allow the fabric of society to be torn apart.





We ran student camps in both the May and October school holidays for students who will finish high school at the end of this academic year. This was a lot of fun and brought the students much closer to One Sky staff.

In both camps local school directors, teachers, nurses and provincial college lecturers came to talk to the students about their own experiences and how they got to where they are today.

We wanted to learn about the students' dreams and how they saw their futures after finishing school. What we learned was that many of the students feel trapped in Sangkhlaburi. Poverty and limited legal status in Thailand have lowered their horizons. This is worrying when we consider that these students represent the fortunate 10% who have made it to the end of high school whereas 90% of their peers have dropped out of education already.

Future camps will adopt the mantra of 'The World is Mine' and we hope that we can take these students further from Sangkhlaburi, perhaps to see the ocean for the first time. We want to feed their dreams and help them to see and fulfil their full potential.



We have 6 years' experience of navigating the health system in Thailand alongside the many migrant families we work with, however children and parents still die unnecessarily. We are currently working with an 11 year old girl with cancer. We have been trying to build links in Yangon for children with no Thai papers and this girl and her family have made the huge journey to Yangon Hospital five times in recent months, spending all the money they had borrowed, but still the hospital has offered no complete diagnosis or treatment. We are now switching our strategy to Thailand and hoping we can find a route for her into the Thai system, however we have a growing sense that we might be too late. Using our knowledge of the system and a large network of contacts we are saving lives, but there is still much to do.

"The boys on the bridge" are a group of boys ranging from 8 to 16 years old who don't go to school and are involved in drug taking and selling. Most don't go home and sleep wherever they can find a safe place. The boys told us that one of their group was in

a bad way and asked us to help. We have known P for several years and when we found him he was unable to walk and was very weak, he wouldn't have lasted much longer.



We had to negotiate with the local

hospital to accept him as he had previously stolen from them. We agreed to provide a full-time carer for him and they agreed to treat him. P is not a Thai citizen and so cannot access the 30 baht healthcare system in Thailand. (Thai citizens pay a fixed fee of 30 baht, less than \$1, for all medical treatment with some limitations for expensive treatments).

10 days and nearly \$800 later, P was back on his feet.

Keeping children like P alive comes down to negotiation and money. After his near-death experience P kept himself out of any major trouble for a few months and then suddenly informed us that he had become a monk. We are not sure how long he is going to stay at the temple but at the moment P is enjoying one of the most stable periods of his life so far.

This year we have helped 57 children and parents to get the medical care they need.

Fans of the US TV series Breaking Bad will be familiar with the drug crystal meth. Here in Thailand it is known as 'ice'. It is described as the most addictive of all illicit drugs and we have a growing problem with ice use among teenagers in Sangkhlaburi.

Addiction is very quick and, as the drug takes hold, they drop out of school, stop eating and wither away. The paranoia and depression resulting from ice use make it difficult to build trust with these children. We are working with the local police and now reaching out to the provincial juvenile detention center to work together. We are working with a group aged from 12 years to 16 years old, some of whom have already had several stints in detention. We hope to be able to work with them while they are in detention to prepare for release and a change in lifestyle, breaking the current cycle of ongoing drug use and arrest.

Without proactive intervention and strong partnership working it won't be long before we see our first teenage ice death in Sangkhlaburi.





In our interviews with over 600 children living in children's homes in Sangkhlaburi we learnt that 90% of the children had at least one living parent. Of the remaining 10%, almost all were living with extended family members (kinship carers) before they entered the children's home. We know that children who have lost both parents can thrive and maintain their community and cultural identity given the chance to grow up in a loving kinship care family.

The additional financial burden of having extra mouths to feed can be the push factor that brings these children to the doors of children's homes. This year we started to look more closely at the families we support and to identify kinship care families. After assessment of these families we have so far identified three families that were facing severe hardship; however the standard of care for the children was very good. We are now providing monthly financial support for six children living in these families. We are very happy with the outcomes so far. Supporting these kinship families is much cheaper than taking the children into children's homes and we believe is a much more positive option for the children's overall wellbeing.

Prevention of abuse – The World Starts With Me

In 2018 the team has worked with 11 schools reaching 505 kindergarten children with this fun and interactive self-awareness program. Pre and post program testing includes naming the private body parts, naming your circle of trust (people or person you talk to when you don't feel right about something), recognizing different emotions and feelings and how to deal with strangers. More than 95% of the children move from zero scores to 100% by the end of the eight sessions. A small number of children are still learning Thai language and need a little more help.



The school has gone from strength to strength this year. Our teachers were excited to spend time at Harrow International School Bangkok to share experiences and learn new teaching techniques for preschoolers.

We were thrilled to see the Thikrong teachers putting these teaching ideas immediately into practice when they got back to the village.

The school has gained some financial support from inside Thailand this year which is really encouraging as most of our work still relies on international funding. Most importantly the children coming to the school are thriving!





One Sky team spent a weekend in Bangkok in November attending the Harrow International School Bangkok annual fair and raising awareness about orphanage volunteering in the backpacker hot spot of Khao San Road.

The Harrow Bangkok's prep students collected a mountain of milk for One Sky this year; we needed four trucks to carry it all!

Children At Risk in Asia (CARA) trustee Colin gave a helping hand in Khao San Road and boosted the team's confidence in talking to people about the potential risks of doing more harm than good by volunteering in an orphanage.





This year there was an exciting opportunity for all our staff to study an online accredited course in Child Protection. The course was built by the Thailand Association of Social Workers, The Center for Protection of Child

Rights Foundation (CPCR) and UNICEF Thailand. The course material was excellent and the One Sky team relished the chance to work through a professional, accredited course in Thai that was so directly linked to their day-to-day work.



สมาคมนักสังคมสงเคราะห์
แห่งประเทศไทย

Thailand Association
of Social Workers



The Center for the Protection of
Children's Rights Foundation

Convention on the Rights of the Child Coalition Thailand (CRCCT)



“Institutional care of children in Thailand is a choice and not a necessity”

The CRCCT has six thematic working groups covering different areas of children’s rights. One Sky is part of the Alternative Care working group. 2019 marks the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child or CRC. Every member state of the United Nations has ratified the CRC except for the USA. Different countries are at very different stages in terms of developing legislation and implementing it so that the rights of their children are enabled in line with the vision that the CRC has established.



2019 also marks the 10th anniversary of the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children. The UN CRC committee developed the guidelines because of international concern at the widespread over reliance on institutional care for children, especially those who have families that could care for them. Despite accepting the guidelines in 2009, the Thai government has made very little progress in trying to control and reduce the overuse of institutional care for children in Thailand. The aim of the CRCCT Alternative Care Working group is to work with the Thai government to make the necessary changes to legislation and to formulate and deliver a national strategy of implementation. The result should be much more help for families so that they can care for their own children. When all efforts to keep a child safely with their own parents have been exhausted we hope to see high-quality family-based care options available including kinship care and foster care. We firmly believe that institutional care of children in Thailand is a choice and not a necessity.

There was an impressive step towards this goal with the Department for Children and Youth hosting the first ever Alternative Care Conference at Thammasat University. One Sky’s role in this arena is to provide the evidence base needed to drive the care reform process. For example One Sky’s work to document 240 illegal private children’s homes in Thailand has ended the denial about the scale of this issue in Thailand. Other research conducted by One Sky confirms that the current processes through which children enter both private and government children’s homes in Thailand completely lacks the core elements of necessity and suitability assessments that are set out so clearly in the UN Guidelines.

One Sky was approached by UNICEF Thailand this year and we have been asked to conduct a major research project into the situation of Alternative Care of children in Sangkhlaburi in 2019. Together with UNICEF we will be presenting the findings of the research, along with recommendations, directly to the Department of Children and Youth. This is a great opportunity to meet our goal of evidence led policy change to reform the care system for children in Thailand and to close the gap between the current reality and the vision set out in the UN Guidelines. We look forward to sharing the outcome of this exciting work in our 2019 report!

Throughout the year we have been working hard on a new website that will provide visitors with everything they need to know about alternative care in Thailand. The site will be available in English and Thai languages. We are behind schedule with this project but hope to have the site ready by March 2019. Watch this space!



New Foundation status

After a two year process One Sky's Foundation status has been enhanced following assessment by the Department of Social Development and Welfare. This enables us to apply for some government funding if any of our activities match their goals for that year and also entitles us to reduced electricity and water charges.

It has been a strange and very bureaucratic process but it does strengthen the Thai government's recognition of our work and enables us to further strengthen our partnerships with government departments responsible for services to children.

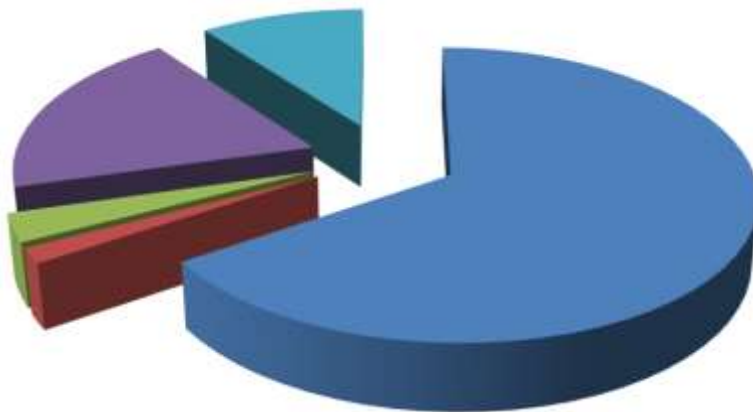


Financial summary

In 2018 we spent 5,079,299 baht (around £124,000 or \$162,000) Including our national advocacy work which has no direct benefit to children in Sangkhlaburi. The number of children we support has now surpassed the total number of children supported by 18 children's homes operating in the same area. In 2019 we plan to ask an external evaluator to assess whether we are solving the same issues as those homes while still keeping children in families and at a fraction of the cost. Children's homes spend on average 4,000 baht per child per month. $4,000 \times 12 \times 650$ children = 31,200,000 or \$996,000.

We look forward to sharing the results of this evaluation in the 2019 report!

One Sky relies totally on the generous support of many people and we aim to use every penny, cent or baht that we receive in the most effective way to achieve the goal of all children growing up in a loving family environment.



- Central costs including salaries, fuel and rent
- Children's activities
- Advocacy and child's rights awareness
- Welfare
- Building development and refurbishment (FSCAC and Thikrong)



In the early days of One Sky working in Sangkhlaburi most of our time and energy was spent on responding to crisis situations of children. Many children have been helped, rescued and protected because of our work and support.

Of course we are proud of this, but we are not content with this situation. The more work we do, the more lessons we learn.

One of the things we have learned is that we cannot only work reactively to problems. To get to the root cause we have to work with parents and guardians.

To solve the problem we have to work with the children but to prevent their problems is nothing to do with them. Instead we have to work with parents, teachers and all the people around the child.



We know One Sky can't exist forever and we don't want to keep facing the same problems again and again. We know the next step is strengthening the family and installing child protection systems and mechanisms and to ensure they are working well.

We look forward to a day when we don't have to help any children, when we see all children growing up in a loving family and a community that can care for and protect them.



Thank you all who walk with us and support us. We promise to use all the resources we have from your support to make a change to the children's lives and make this world more habitable and friendly for our children .

Wiwat Thanapanya
Co-founder and Director of One Sky Foundation

One Sky is growing to meet the needs of children and to bring about social change. We hope to recruit four new staff and desperately need a second pickup truck.

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

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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.