



**Alternative Education Development
and Prevention for Childlife (Baan Nana)**
PO Box 35 Mae Sai Chiang Rai Thailand 57130
W: www.childlife-maesai.org
E: childlifemaesai@gmail.com
Ph: +66 53732947

Dear friend,

We would like to invite you to become a “Friend of Childlife” to assist and support our activities to help children at risk of human trafficking, exploitation and other abuses that children should not have to face.

By becoming a “Friend of Childlife” and providing regular donations you can help to ensure our services become fully sustainable and that some of the most vulnerable children in the world are protected. With your help we can continue to grow and learn from our children, how we can protect their future, which is our future.

Support Childlife, NOT Child Sponsorship

Childlife (or Baan Nana in Thai) is a strictly grassroots organisation providing direct intervention for children at risk in Maesai. We are a non-religious, non-government organization and care for all children in need, regardless of ethnicity, nationality or religion. We currently provide emergency and long term shelter, food, clothing, education and care for 140 children.

Our children

Most of the children at Childlife are from minority ethnic groups within Thailand and Myanmar, and as such they are not officially registered in either country and cannot obtain Identification cards. As a consequence they are ‘stateless children’, considered ‘illegal’ and have very few social, educational and medical rights. Without Childlife’s help many of these children would face a life on the streets with little hope for the future. All desperately need the support and love of Childlife.

The issues we face

Our services operate in Maesai in Northern Thailand on the border to Myanmar (or Burma), near the famous region often referred to as the Golden Triangle. The Laos border is also close making Maesai a focal point for many refugees from the Shan State in Myanmar, southern China and Laos. Myanmar operates under a brutal military regime that grotesquely abuses children and their families in order to maintain control, causing unspeakable suffering, especially for children. Many children leave their homes to try their luck in their neighbouring country Thailand. As a result, they are often lured into child labour, prostitution, and theft. They frequently become involved with drug trafficking, often abusing drugs themselves.

A report by Save the Children UK states “children and young persons encounter exploitative and violent environments, health risks and denial of a wide-range of basic rights as they migrate across borders”. Childlife is preventing this problem through our services. We have staff and volunteers who work on the ground and understand the real problems and issues the children face. Some of the older children have themselves dealt with life on the street and are able to work most effectively to improve the situation.

Why Friendship NOT Child Sponsorship?

An increasing amount of research is being done on child sponsorship programs and it is alarmingly apparent that for every advantage to the donor there is a corresponding disadvantage for the recipients. For more information see

www.newint.org/issue194/simplely.htm and <http://www.newint.org/issue111/keynote.htm>.

- Administration costs: Childlife is a small organisation and our funding goes directly to supporting the children. We do not have the resources to administratively support a child sponsorship program.

- Imbalance: we are a big family and do not believe in providing benefits or preferences to one child over another.
- Child protection: there are privacy issues involved in publishing children available to sponsors.

By supporting Childlife as an organisation the benefits for all the children will be greater.

We need you!

Every day we face challenges to secure funding and our activities rely entirely on private donations and the commitment of our dedicated team. We do not receive any support from the government and regular funding and resources are vital to ensuring that this service continues. Sometimes private donations are intermittent and Childlife has difficulties meeting its expenses most months.

Action!

The strategy of Childlife is the vision of one man, Kru Ngaow, a magnetic character from Isaan, North East Thailand, who believes that we must act now, because children CANNOT wait. Since being founded 7 years ago, Childlife has seen the lives of many children change for the better, however we desperately need your help and financial support to continue our work.

How do I become a “Friend of Childlife”?

You can become a “Friend of Childlife” through two ways:

- Subscribe to give monthly donations through Paypal by visiting the Childlife website <http://www.childlife-maesai.org/donate/donate.html>
- Provide monthly donations directly to our Thai bank account.
Account name: MaeSai Childlife
Account number: 176-2-31580-3
Bank: Kasikornbank, Mae Sai Branch
SWIFT number: KASITHBK

When you decide to become a “Friend of Childlife” please email us at childlifemaesai@gmail.com so we can keep you updated!

How much should I donate?

The amount you donate is up to you.

How your donation helps

- 1000 B - provides 3 healthy meals a day for 5 children each month
- 2500 B – provides education (school fees, books, uniforms) for a child each year
- 5000 B – provides medical care for 140 children each month
- 6000 B – provides the salary of an Education and Development Co-ordinator each month

NB. 1000B is approximately £15, \$US30, 22€, \$AUS36

What do I get as a “Friend of Childlife”?

- Regular information about Childlife news and activities
- Knowledge that you are directly impacting the lives of less fortunate children and your money is not being spent on the administration of a child sponsorship program.

For more information about Childlife please visit our website at www.childlife-maesai.org

Kind regards,

Childlife

