

2010

Room to Grow Foundation



Annual Report

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Letter from the Chairperson

The year 2010 marked the second full year of operation for Room to Grow Foundation. It has been a year of challenges and growth for us.

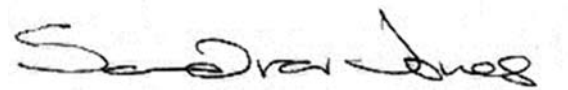
In early 2009 we were working with just five partners, feeding and sheltering approximately 200 children, primarily in refugee camps. In 2010 Room to Grow supported the work of over 15 partners and helped to feed and shelter approximately 2,000 children. We are not solely responsible for the care of these children; but we do make significant contributions to their care, primarily in terms of food and shelter.

The majority of work gets done by local people and always with the help of a large team of donors, of which we are but one. This was a year of collaboration both with local communities and with international groups from Australia, the UK, and Thailand.

The majority (83%) of all boarding house students have been separated from their families by conflict but Room to Grow also supports projects which specifically target children who have been orphaned or abandoned. Our work enables the community to create safe shelters for children whether they are seeking an education or in need of a home.

Prices went up this year. Fighting in Burma continued and sometimes intensified. Organizations providing food to children's programs lost funding. In these challenging times Room to Grow continues to work closely with numerous organizations to assist in the delivery of food, shelter and services to the children of Mae Sot and surrounding areas. We will face those challenges as they come and work hard to ensure that children in this part of the world grow up healthy and educated and safe.

I have great expectations for 2011 and have confidence we will achieve our goals for the upcoming year.



Sandra Jones
Chairperson
Room to Grow Foundation



(Top) Sandra volunteers her skills as an Occupational Therapist to work with children with disabilities in Mae Sot.

(Above) Sandra brought with her to Thailand three boxes full of toys and clothing for children including these toothbrushes and shirts from Forzanis Foundation which she took to Umphum in July.

Highlights of 2010



In 2010, Room to Grow provided services to over 2,000 children and supported 17 local programs, many of whom are new partnerships developed over the year. That is over ten times the number of children affected compared to 2008.

We sent 13 orphaned or abandoned children to a Thai primary school, where their education will be formally recognized and where they will learn Thai language and culture.

We set up our first office in Mae Sot, thanks to the generous in-kind donations from World Education, and hired our second full-time staff member, Myat Nobel Than, who has been an excellent addition to the Room to Grow team.

In February we held a Games Day in Umphium Mai attended by over 100 children who live in boarding houses. The participants all received Mother's Day t-shirts from the Forzani's Foundation and spent the day competing for fun and prizes.

On October 31st, we held our second annual Forgotten Birthdays Party and doubled the number of children participating. One hundred children in the boarding house received a personalized cake and wrapped gift and spent the day playing games and celebrating.

With our partners at Khom Loy Development Foundation, we set up small farms at two schools which help feed over 500 children.

With our partners Thai Children's Trust and Women with a Mission, we expanded our mushroom project and trained nine programs in mushroom cultivation. Following the training our most successful mushroom growing project increased their yield two and a half times, producing 205kg of mushrooms.

In November, as thousands of refugees poured across the border into Thailand, Room to Grow quickly responded to provide emergency assistance to those in need. Over the weeks that followed, we distributed toys to children in hiding and provided food, blankets and other assistance to over 100 people.

During the year as a whole, Room to Grow spent just 8 percent of the annual budget on administrative costs. Many of these costs were covered by specific donations for that purpose, which allowed us to spend 97 percent of every donation on direct program costs.

(Top) Students at Dooplaya Dormitory in Umphium say Thank You to R2G.

(Above) Picture of the Birthday party
(Copyright Jason Miller)

Mission Statement

Room to Grow Foundation works to alleviate poverty among un-parented children from Burma who have sought refuge in Thailand.

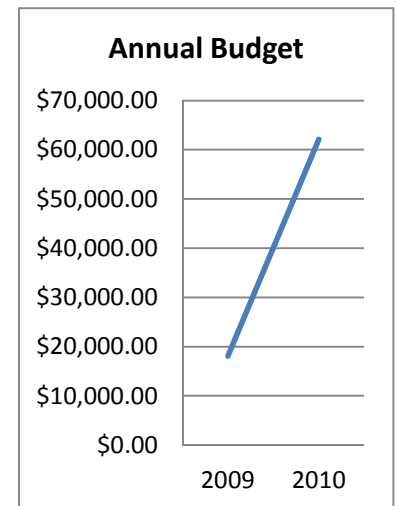
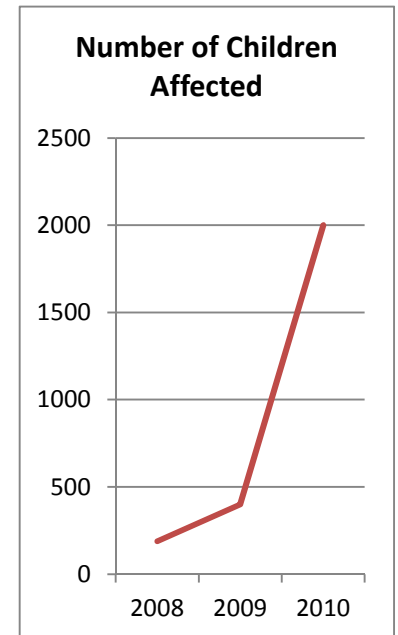
History of Room to Grow

In 2007, three women working for educational organizations in the refugee camps along the border between Thailand and Burma noticed a difference between two groups of children in the camp schools. Through their work, they came into contact with children who had come to the camps with their family and children who had been born inside the camps. They also worked with children who had left their family to find an education in the refugee camps and children who had lost their family to the conflict that rages inside Burma.

After working with refugee orphans and unaccompanied minors in their free time, they quickly realized that it would take a little more than volunteer work to help the children get the same level of education provided to other young people in camp.

In 2008, Room to Grow focused mainly on four projects in two refugee camps: Umphium Mai and Mae Ra Ma Luang. In 2009, our focus expanded to include children who had been orphaned, abandoned or separated from conflict who were living outside the refugee camps.

In June 2009, Room to Grow became a registered charity with the Government of Canada.



Beneficiaries



My name is Bid

Bid and his siblings live in the SAW Safe house because his father is in jail on drug charges and his mother is very ill. Before coming to the Safe house, Bid suffered from malnutrition and ill health, and could not go to school.

Today Bid is seven years old. He, his sister Nan Hta Wan and his brother Pa Wan Ri, live together. They eat good meals every day and they all go to Thai school.

Bid started kindergarten in 2009. His teachers say that he is a smart boy who likes to study. He follows the teacher's directions well and behaves well in class. He always finishes his homework. He is still sick frequently and has trouble eating, but his favorite food is fish.

This year, Bid started Grade 1. He is learning to speak both Burmese and Thai. His favorite animal is the whale and his favorite color is blue. He likes to go to school because he can play with his friends there and he likes the teachers (even though sometimes, he says, the teachers scare him a little). One day, he says, he would like to be a doctor.

Room to Grow supports projects which provide services to children who have been orphaned, abandoned or separated by conflict in Burma. Over the course of 2010, our programs affected over 2,000 children in 17 programs along the Thai-Burma border.

Our work supports local individuals attempting to respond to the needs of un-parented children. We increase the capacity of our local partners to interact with foreign donors, write and present proposals and prepare budgets which reflect their programs' needs. In addition, we provide guidance and training on areas of need including accounting management and child protection, helping local people improve the level of care they provide. In 2010, we supported seventeen partners:

- Dooplaya Dormitory (Umphium Mai Refugee Camp)
- Moon Garden Dormitory (Umphium Mai Refugee Camp)
- New Hope Dormitory (Umphium Mai Refugee Camp)
- Ler Doh Dormitory (Mae La Refugee Camp)
- Social Action for Women's Safe House (Mae Sot)
- Agape School and Orphanage (Mae Sot)
- New Day School (Mae Sot)
- Hsa Mu Hta School and Boarding House (Mae Sot)
- Pyi Chit School and Boarding House (Mae Sot)
- Sky Blue School and Boarding House (Mae Sot)
- New Blood School and Boarding House (Mae Sot)



Children from the SAW Safe house who are sponsored by R2G to attend Thai school.

- Child Development and Training Center (Mae Sot)
- New Arrivals / Emergency Refugees (Mae Sot)
- Maw Taw Lu School and Boarding House (Mae Ramat)
- Nah Li Ah Tah School and Boarding House (Mae Ramat)
- Thoo Mwe Khee School and Boarding House (Pho Phra)
- Future Garden School and Boarding House(Pho Phra)

The majority of children in these programs are separated from their parents. A recent survey of boarding houses in the Mae Sot area found that there is a fairly equal distribution of students in boarding houses by gender. The vast majority of students are from the Karen ethnic group and come from areas inside Karen State, Burma, where conflict is still ongoing and human rights abuses by military troops is common. Approximately a quarter of children came into Thailand solely motivated by the search for a better education however, most of the rest came for reasons directly related to the conflict in Burma, seeking shelter and safety and avoiding conscription into armed forces or forced labour.

In the average boarding house, just fourteen per cent of children are orphaned or have no contact with their family. The SAW Safe house, however, is entirely created for children who have been orphaned or abandoned. Many of the children lost their parents to HIV/AIDS. Many of those who were abandoned are children with birth defects, or developmental disabilities.

On November 8th, thousands of people fled from Myawaddy, walking down the Asia One Highway into Mae Sot. Fighting had broken out and shells were fired, some falling in Thailand. The people were interned at an Army Base near the airport and were sent home less than 24 hours after arrival. Following the forcible resettlement of the majority of people, several groups remained in hiding around Mae Sot, afraid to go back home. Room to Grow provided emergency assistance to groups hiding at Agape, Grace Church, and on the riverbed near Gate 2. Staff volunteered to distribute food with Help



Without Frontiers and coordinated volunteers to staff the kitchen. We also distributed toys to children in Wah Lay area, near Pho Phra. Our assistance affected an estimated 100 people, including adults, families and children.



“In Burma, I was afraid of the SPDC soldiers and the battles. The school was very far from my village. In here is very near with my boarding house and the school. Sometimes when the battles happened I could not attend the school for a long time. I have to wait until the war finished. Now, I am worrying for my family because the war always happens in our village.”
Mue Mue Wah, Moon Garden student (June)

(Above) Newly arrived refugee children play with new toys thanks to generous Canadian donors and transport provided by Air Canada.

(Left) Three orphaned sisters who have found a home at Agape Orphanage and Boarding House.

Where We Work

(Right) R2G programs operate in the following areas in Thailand:

Mae La:

- Ler Doh Dormitory

Mae Ramat:

- Nah Li Ah Tah School and Boarding House
- Maw Taw Lu School and Boarding House

Mae Sot:

- Social Action for Women’s Safe House
- Agape School and Orphanage
- New Day School
- Hsa Mu Htaw School and Boarding House
- Pyi Chit School and Boarding House
- Sky Blue School and Boarding House
- New Blood School and Boarding House
- Child Development and Training Center
- New Arrivals / Emergency Refugees

Pho Phra:

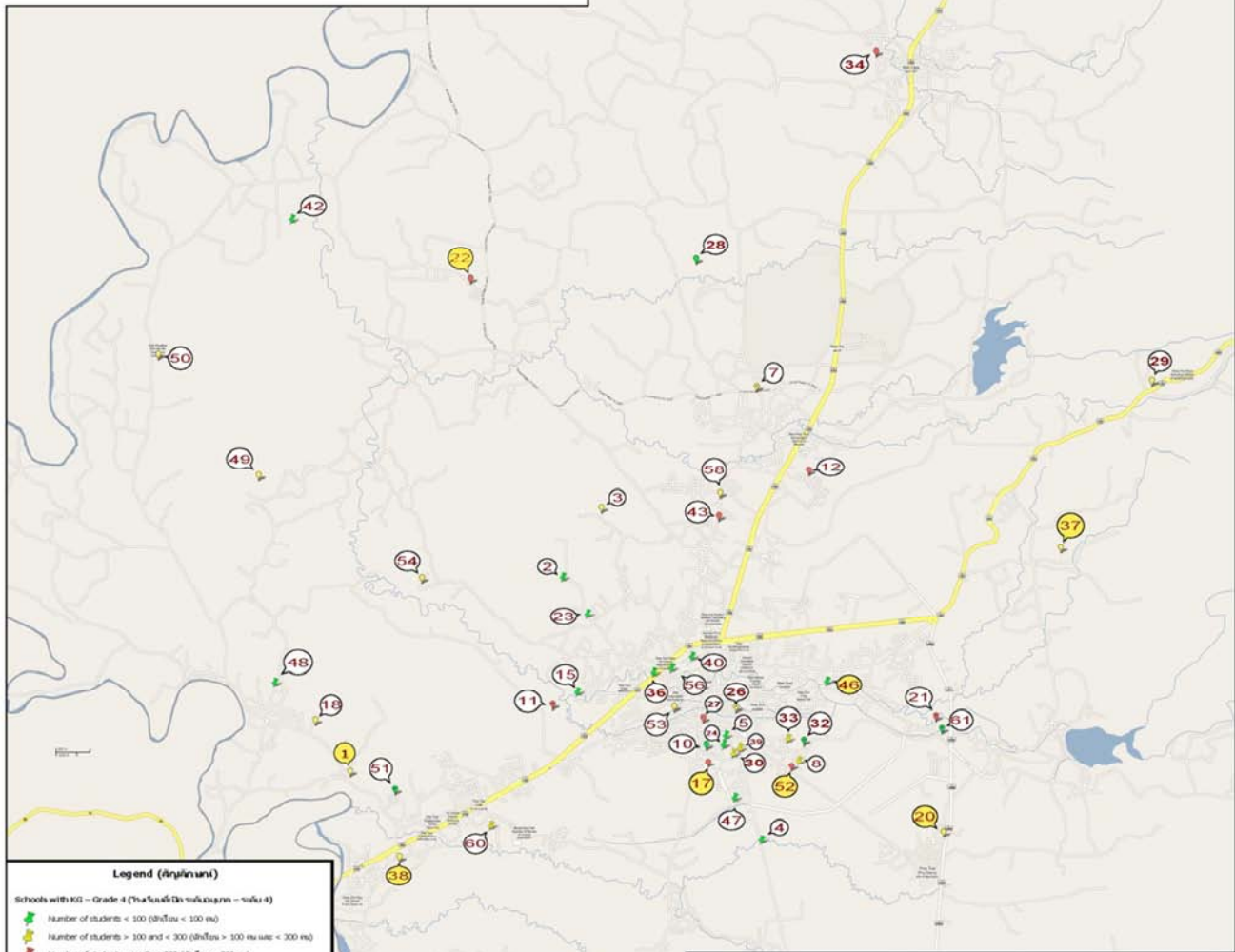
- Thoo Mwe Khee School and Boarding House
- Future Garden School and Boarding House

Umphium:

- Dooplaya Dormitory
- Moon Garden Dormitory
- New Hope Dormitory



(Original map courtesy of TBBC)



Legend (สัญลักษณ์)

Schools with KG - Grade 4 (โรงเรียนที่มีชั้นอนุบาลถึง - ชั้น 4)

- Number of students < 100 (นักเรียน < 100 คน)
- Number of students > 100 and < 300 (นักเรียน > 100 คน และ < 300 คน)
- Number of students more than 300 (นักเรียน > 300 คน)

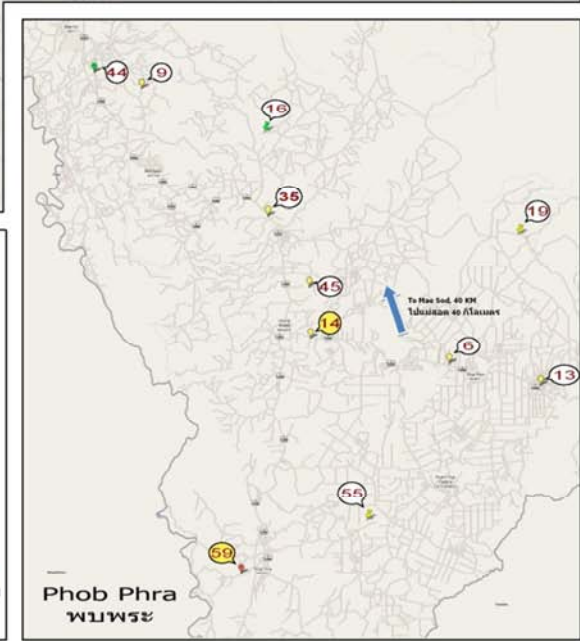
Schools with Grade 5 - Grade 10 (โรงเรียนที่มีชั้น 5 - ชั้น 10)

- Number of students < 100 (นักเรียน < 100 คน)
- Number of students > 100 and < 300 (นักเรียน > 100 คน และ < 300 คน)
- Number of students more than 300 (นักเรียน > 300 คน)

Schools with Post 10 / Vocational (โรงเรียนที่มีชั้นมัธยม 10 / วิชาชีพ)

- Number of students < 100 (นักเรียน < 100 คน)
- Number of students > 100 and < 300 (นักเรียน > 100 คน และ < 300 คน)
- Number of students more than 300 (นักเรียน > 300 คน)

Mae Sod
แม่สอด



- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. AGAPE - อากาเป่ | 21. Hsa Thoo Lei - ซ่าซูเหล่ | 41. Nya Mi Ah Tar - เนย์มีอาฮตาร์ |
| 2. Ah Yone Oo - อ่าโยเนอู | 22. Hway Ka Loke - ห้วยกาโลกะ | 42. Naung Bo Deng - นางบ่อแดง |
| 3. A Linn Young (Light School) - อลินยั้ง | 23. Irrawaddy Flower Garden - อีระยัดดีฟลาวเวอร์การ์เดน | 43. Parami - ปารามิ |
| 4. Avoda - อวอด้า | 24. Islam Bum Roong - อิสลามบุมรูอง | 44. Peace and Law - พิเศษเนต |
| 5. Bangladesh - บังกลาเทศ | 25. Kaw Tha Blay - กอตะบลาย | 45. Pra Hi Ta - ปราฮีตา |
| 6. Best Friends - เบสท์เฟรนด์ | 26. Knowledge Zone - โซนความรู้ | 46. Pyl Chit - ปัยชิต |
| 7. BHSOH - บีเอสเอช | 27. Kwe Ka Baung - กเวกาบอง | 47. Pyo Khinn - ปโยคิน |
| 8. BLSO - บีแอลเอสโอ | 28. LDF - แอลดีเอฟ | 48. Ray Kaw Htoo - เรย์คาวฮู |
| 9. Bwe K Lar - บเวกလာ | 29. Love and Care - เลฟแอนด์เคร์ | 49. Rocky Mountain 1 - ร็อกกี้เมาเท่น 1 |
| 10. Champion Night - แชมป์ไนท์ | 30. Mae Sot Baptist - แม่สอดแบปติสต์ | 50. Rocky Mountain 2 - ร็อกกี้เมาเท่น 2 |
| 11. CDC - ซีดีซี | 31. Maw Yaw Lu - มอว์ยาหลู | 51. STTC - เอสทีทีซี |
| 12. Elpis Centre - อีลิปส์เซนเตอร์ | 32. Min Ma Haw - มินมาฮาว | 52. SAW - ซอร์ |
| 13. Forty-Eight Kilometer - โฟตี้เอทไคโลมิเตอร์ | 33. Moe Ma Kha - มอแมคะ | 53. Say Ta Nar - เซย์ตาเนาร์ |
| 14. Future Garden - ฟิวเจอร์การ์เดน | 34. Morning Glory - มอร์นิงโกลี | 54. Sky Blue - สกายบลู |
| 15. Good Morning - กูดมอร์นิง | 35. Nam Tok - นามตอก | 55. St Peter - เซนต์ปีเตอร์ |
| 16. Green Water - กรีนวอเตอร์ | 36. Naung Kyo Met - นางเกียวเมต | 56. Sunset - ซันเซต |
| 17. Hlee Bee - ฮลีบี | 37. New Blood - นิวบลูด | 57. Ta Hlar Aar Klah - ตาฮลาร์อาครลา |
| 18. Holy Infant Orphanage - โฮลี่อินฟันท์ออธฟานาส์ | 38. New Day - นิวเดย์ | 58. Thoo Kha Hang Sar - ทูอ์คาฮังซาร์ |
| 19. Hope - โฮป | 39. New Light - นิวไลท์ | 59. Thoo Mweh Kee - ทูอ์มเวห์คี |
| 20. Hsa Mu Hlaw - ฮสาหมุหลาว | 40. New Society - นิวโซไซตี้ | 60. United Christian Nursery - ยูไนเต็ดคริสเตียนเนอร์สเซอรี |
| | | 61. Wide Horizons - ไวด์ฮอไรซัน |

R2G Programs in the Mae Sot area. (Original map courtesy of IRC Thailand)

Basic Feeding Program

Children's basic physical and mental development can be endangered by malnutrition and a lack of quality food. Furthermore, hunger makes children unable to fully take advantage of educational opportunities. A survey conducted in 2009 of Mae Sot's migrant school children found that on average, one in three children currently suffers from some form of malnutrition. Providing adequate and quality food, is there for one of Room to Grow's most important program areas.

According to the survey, "Prevalence of stunting and underweight in children under the age of five was ... twice as high as reported among children living in Northern Thailand"

Basic Feeding programs are delivered by three different methods. The first is a daily food subsidy which is used to purchase vegetables, meat, and food for the market for the daily meals. The second is the delivery of cooked meals. The last is food deliveries. We take advantage of bulk prices to purchase large quantities of rice and yellow lentils which are then distributed to programs.

This year, R2G distributed 25260.5 kg of rice to children and 664.8 kg of yellow lentils.

All children in Dooplaya Dorm, Moon Garden Dorm, New Hope Dorm, Ler Doh Dorm, SAW Safe House ate rice twice a day. In addition to providing ongoing feeding there, R2G also provided rice and yellow beans, when able, to the following programs: Maw Taw Lu, Nah Li Ah Tah, Sky Blue, CDTC, Pyi Chit, Agape, New Blood, Hsa Mu Htaw, Thoo Mwe Khee and New Refugees.



"This month students got enough food because R2G provided extra rice. Last month and other months, we had to run and beg for the extra rice from some leaders. It was so difficult that if we have no money, we cannot keep the children safe when it is necessary."

*Eh Paw, New Hope
Dormitory student (Oct.)*

(Above) A student at the Child Development Training Center digs into a plate of rice funded by R2G.

(Right) Two students at Nah Li Ah Tah find a quiet corner to enjoy a meal after R2G delivered stocks of rice and yellow lentils for boarding house students there.



Infrastructure Program

Children’s basic physical safety is compromised when children live in old and decaying homes. Traditional low-income building materials, such as those used in the refugee camps and in migrant communities, need to be replaced every two years, more often when they are subject to the high physical demands of large numbers of children. Whenever possible, we aim to provide quality long-term buildings with permanent building material to ensure that children are physically safe in their boarding house homes, and have access to clean and useable toilet facilities.

R2G built or improved buildings at seven programs over the course of the year. New Boarding House facilities were constructed at Nah Li Ah Tah and Maw Taw Lu, as well as at Ler Doh. Moon Garden expanded their facilities and constructed a new building to house more girls. New Hope completely rebuilt their home for the first time in four years. Construction was planned but delayed at New Day School, as permissions to build on the land were slow in arriving from local authorities. Construction began in November of a new library at Agape but is not yet complete.

New Hope and Moon Garden got new toilet facilities and Dooplaya improved their toilet facilities. Future Garden gained access to water after installing a generator and water pipes.

Boarding House Supply Program

Separated children often arrive at their boarding house with little more than the clothes they are wearing. The Boarding House Supply program provides boarding houses with basic equipment such as blankets, sleeping mats and mosquito nets. In addition, through in-kind donations and through purchases, it provides children with basic necessities such as clothing, shoes and underwear.

During the year, 354 new blankets were distributed in Mae La, Umphium, and at Agape, Maw Taw Lu, Nah Li Ah Tah, Hsa Mu Htaw, Pyi Chit, Sky Blue, to every student. During the Emergency period when refugees were flooding across the border, R2G purchased and distributed an additional 135 blankets to new refugees.



“It’s very kind of R2G Foundation. They give us everything we need. This month, after we got new blankets, all the students were very happy. The small girls were trading their blankets over and over and over again because they like all the bright colors of the blankets.”

No No Paw, Moon Garden Dormitory student (Sept.)



(Top) The roof at Dooplaya Dormitory before it was renovated this year.

(Top) Students of Nah Li Ah Tah in front of their new boarding house.

(Above) Delivering blankets and mosquito nets to Sky Blue School.

(Bottom Left) The new boarding house at Maw Taw is made of wood and has a zinc roof.



“Before we got pads from R2G, we had a lot of troubles. We couldn’t buy pads. Nobody in our dorm could buy pads. For me, I wore many layers of underwear. Sometimes I wore two layers of longyi. Some people used cloths. They washed them again and again. But it’s not good. Sometimes the cloth got and black spots.”

*Mu Lah G, Dooplaya
Dormitory student (April,
2010)*

Health and Hygiene Program

Often boarding house projects struggle to provide food and shelter for children, with little additional funds for health prevention or emergency treatment. For the many small injuries and illnesses that children encounter, we provide a first aid kit, which is replenished every three months. In addition, hygiene supplies such as soap and toothpaste are distributed whenever possible. Menstruating girls in camp programs all receive a package of sanitary pads every month, something they say has improved their quality of life dramatically. This year, based on the advice of a team of doctors, R2G treated ten children for malnutrition by providing a daily supplement of fortified milk and provided a multivitamin treatment to 125 children.

Educational Support Program

School statistics and teachers report that boarding house students often achieve lower test score results than non-boarding house students. In addition to providing food so that students don’t have to forage for meals, R2G also provides boarding house students with other forms of educational support. In camp, funding electricity and candles allows students to study after sun-set. In addition, we provide school supplies, and occasionally school uniforms or school fees. The largest part of the program this year was sending 13 children from the SAW Safe House to Thai school where they will get a formally recognized education suited to their life in Thailand.



(Top) Girls at Moon Garden receive a monthly allocation of hygiene supplies.

(Above) Students living in the SAW Safe House take their first set of multivitamins and anti-parasite medication.

(Bottom Right) Children in the SAW Sponsorship program participate in well-being activities.



Well-Being Programs

In addition to ensuring that the physical needs of children are met, R2G engages children in activities designed to promote their emotional well-being. Many children have experienced trauma in their life, often in their home communities in Karen state, while trying to cross the border to find safety in Thailand, and sometimes, as undocumented people in Thailand itself. R2G engages children in games and physical activities, as well as writing and self-expression activities. In addition, we hold special events throughout the year including an annual Birthday Party for children without birth dates, and a Sports Day in Umphium. One hundred children received a cake and a present at the Birthday Party in October and over 100 children participated in the Sports Day in Umphium in February. This year's self-expression activities were centered around the question: What makes you special? Children from Agape, Ler Doh, Moon Garden, New Hope and Dooplaya participated.



Income Generation Program

The Income Generation Program attempts to improve the sustainability of our programs. Working together with Social Action for Women, we design and produce blankets made from traditional textiles for sale. In 2010, the sewing workshop received a month of mentorship and training on improving their designs and sewing efficiency. In addition, they worked closely with an MBA-student intern on sales opportunities. At this time the project has not generated significant income for R2G, although it has provided income and salaries for women in the SAW sewing program.



“We are like comrades when we stay in the dormitory. We are like brothers more than friends. That's why we are happy in the dorm. When we are sick, there are many brothers around us and taking care of us. We respect each other because we are the same and simple people. Honesty and empathy is our main point why we respect each other.”

*Kyaw Win, New Hope
Dormitory student (Dec.)*

(Top): Boarding house students in Umphium participate in Games Day.

(Above): Agape boarding house students participate in the weekly dance session. Photo copyright Jason Miller.

(Bottom Left) Children in the Nah Li Ah Tah Boarding House participate in songs and dancing. Photo copyright Jason Miller.

Agriculture Program



(Above): The cook at Sky Blue school harvests eggplants from the Agriculture Project before a meal.

As food is one of the most important and largest expenditures of most programs, agriculture can reduce boarding house's reliance on external donors and increase the quality of the food they provide to children. The agriculture program focuses on organic small-scale agriculture for the purpose of producing food for consumption. In addition, it supports pig, chicken and fish raising initiatives. The largest part of the program are mushroom huts which use pre-made spore bags to produce harvests of oyster mushrooms. The mushrooms are eaten and sold, and provide variety in children's daily diets.

In 2010, R2G worked with Thai Children's Trust and Women with a Mission to provide training and equipment for schools to produce mushrooms. We built four new mushroom huts and trained XX schools in mushroom cultivation. As a result of the training, one program successfully increased their yield of mushrooms over 10 times, producing 208 kilograms of mushrooms in a three month period.



(Above): Aung Ko, a nursery school student at Agape, looks up from a plate full of rice. Photograph copyright Jason Miller.

Contributors

In Kind Donations

The Room to Grow office in Mae Sot opened in May 2010 thanks to the generous contributions of World Education, who donated the use of a room in their staff house for our use. In addition, World Education provided monthly transportation to Umphium Mai free of charge. ZOA Thailand provided the camp pass required to access Umphium Mai and Mae La camp.

Jason Miller provided the office with its first desktop computer and provided his services as a photographer to Room to Grow's Christmas Campaign.

Terry Michaels, in addition to volunteering, provided a large quantity of toys and children's goods for the Birthday Party. He also transported two IBM ThinkPads for use in our office.

The Early Learning Center Bangkok sent a truck from Bangkok to Mae Sot full of goods for children including almost a year's supply of pads for the girls in Umphium, shoes, hygiene supplies and school bags.

Forzanis Foundation donated several hundred t-shirts from the Mother's Day Race in Calgary and these were distributed in Mae La, Umphium and Mae Sot to over 250 children. In addition, they donated toothbrushes and sports equipment. The transportation of these supplies was provided by an in-kind donation by Air Canada who allowed them as excess luggage.

Donation of clothing and toys was made by several individuals throughout the year and made possible the very successful Birthday Party.

Volunteers

Room to Grow would like to thank its volunteers in 2010. Dianne Pennock did an excellent job raising funds and awareness this year in Canada. Nick Timpone, an MBA student, worked with us during the summer to research and improve our income generation program.

Terry Michaels worked as the resident handyman at several projects around Mae Sot and left a lasting impression with many children.

In December, a team of volunteer doctors spent several days in Mae Sot performing a health assessment at Agape. The team was led by Catherine Wong, who also spent several months raising funds for the project in Singapore. In addition to performing health education and health interventions, the team also purchased hygiene supplies for the children and helped fund construction of the school library.

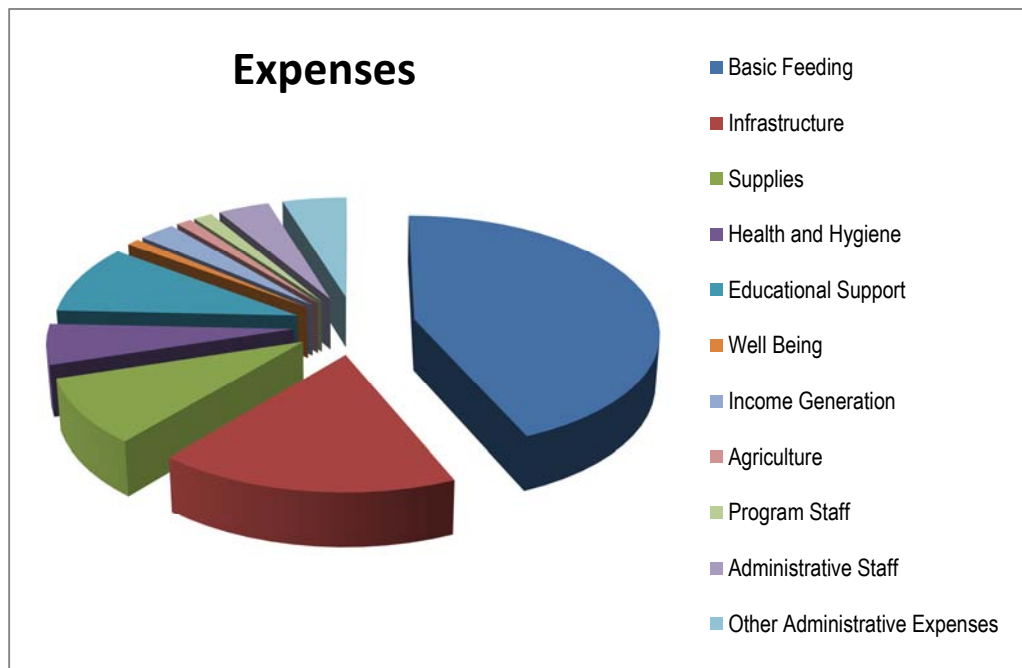


(Top): Photographer Jason Miller takes a break out of taking pictures to play with the children at Agape.

(Above): Volunteer Terry Michaels helps unload mushroom spore bags on a trip to Umphium Mai Refugee camp during his two month time in Thailand.

Financial Statements

	<u>THB</u>	<u>CDN</u>	<u>TOTAL CDN</u>
Revenue			
1. Private Donations	1,603,487.82	\$44,861.82	\$96,587.23
2. Sale of handmade blankets	15,650.00	\$805.00	\$1,309.84
3. Bank interest	<u>1,731.98</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$55.87</u>
Total Revenue	1,620,869.80	\$45,666.82	\$97,952.94
Program Expenses			
1. Basic Feeding	839,015.00		\$27,065.00
2. Infrastructure	337,288.00		\$10,880.26
3. Supplies	175,656.00		\$5,666.32
4. Health and Hygiene	106,111.00		\$3,422.94
5. Educational Support	182,479.00		\$5,886.42
6. Well Being	18,204.00		\$587.23
7. Income Generation	52,504.00		\$1,693.68
8. Agriculture	22,100.00		\$712.90
9. Program Staff	<u>27,160.00</u>		<u>\$876.13</u>
Total program costs:	1,760,517.00	\$0.00	\$56,790.87
Admin Expenses			
1. Office	83,627.74	\$14.04	\$2,711.71
2. Admin Salaries	73,800.00	\$0.00	\$2,380.65
3. Bank Fees	<u>703.00</u>	<u>\$230.09</u>	<u>\$252.77</u>
Total Admin Expenses	158,130.74	\$244.13	\$5,345.12



Looking Forward to 2011

In the years ahead, Room to Grow will be looking to grow and mature as an organization, strengthening its systems of governance and becoming more sustainable overall. We will be looking to diversify our sources of funding and increase our partners locally and internationally.

On the ground, we will continue improving our relationships with existing local partners so that we can focus our projects into three main areas.

Focus on Nutrition

Statistics show that as many as one third of migrant children suffer from a form of malnutrition which means they are not able to take advantages of their educational opportunities. The solution is to increase not only the quantity of food available to children, which is often inadequate, but also the quality of food available. In addition, we will be exploring ways of better collecting information to monitor malnutrition among children in our programs.

Focus on Shelter and Safety

Without a safe place to sleep, children cannot focus on their education. We have renewed our commitment to creating safe spaces of children for the upcoming year. We will be assisting with the building and renovation of boarding house projects, as well as working with local staff to create environments which are safe and welcoming to children without parents.

Focus on the Future

Room to Grow works hard to create an environment for children which enables them to access educational opportunities. We aim to increase the number of children attending school in targeted communities in the upcoming year. In addition, wherever possible, we will seek to ensure that education is not only available but that quality education is available. For children from Burma, that means getting an education which is delivered according to a recognized standard. In Thailand that means learning to speak Thai. We will be working this year to increase the number of children from Burma who are able to attend Thai schools and receive a quality education.



(Above): Children wait to dig into rice and fried mushrooms at lunch at Has Mu Htaw

(Below): The construction of a new dormitory at Ler Doh in August benefited from the help of many community members.



Children at Agape take a break from their dancing to smile for the camera (Copyright Jason Miller)

How to Help

A donation of **\$100** is enough to provide staple foods of rice and yellow lentils to one child for a year.

A donation of **\$500** is enough to send one Burmese child to Thai school for a year. That's just **\$42 a month**.

In 2011, we would like to build a nursery school building at Sky Blue for children who live on the town garbage dump. The nursery will cost **\$4,500** to build.

r2gfoundation.wordpress.com
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Toronto artist Aindrea Skelly volunteered her time and talent in 2010 to provide us with this beautiful painting of life in Umphium.

Room to Grow is a small organization powered by individuals who can and do make a difference. One of those individuals could be you.

Donate

In 2010, over half of the total income for the year came from individuals who made donations. Because many of our administrative costs are already funded from other sources, at least 97% of every donation goes directly to the children, buying food, shelter, and other needs. Canadian dollars go a long way in Thailand and we work hard to stretch those dollars as far as we can. Donations can be made online through Paypal or by Interac money transfer, by cheque or by wire transfer. We provide tax receipts for all donations of \$20 or more.

Fund-Raise

Larger groups such as churches and schools can work together with Room to Grow in order to support a school or boarding house over the course of a year. We can support groups who wish to raise funds by various means such as silent auctions, bottle drives, bake sales, or by other means and provide groups with updates, photos, letters and sometimes online video chats, in order to create a connection between Canadian communities and groups on the Thai-Burma border.

Volunteer

Room to Grow is a small organization which needs independently minded volunteers who are able to accomplish tasks with little assistance. We provide orientation and support in Thailand but are also in need of volunteers in Canada to assist with fundraising and support. In 2010, volunteers helped to create and deliver programs in Thailand, but they also informed and educated staff from Canada, providing invaluable contributions to the team in important areas such as accounting and nutrition.

Spread the Word

A lot of good things happen through word of mouth so don't be shy to tell your friends about Room to Grow and our work. We are on Facebook and we have a website and a blog. In 2010, we made a lot of great connections by word of mouth that resulted in a lot of great ideas, new support and new projects getting started. A few words can go a long way.