



Annual
Report

2012

“Helping people to help themselves”

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Introduction

The Raintree Foundation is a grassroots social non-government organization registered under the Ministry of Interior, mainly operating in Thailand among rural and underdeveloped communities. The aim is to help people through education, appropriate technology and self-help projects to improve their living standards. The organization was founded in 1992. It has grown over the years and now serves more than 230 children in 6 projects.

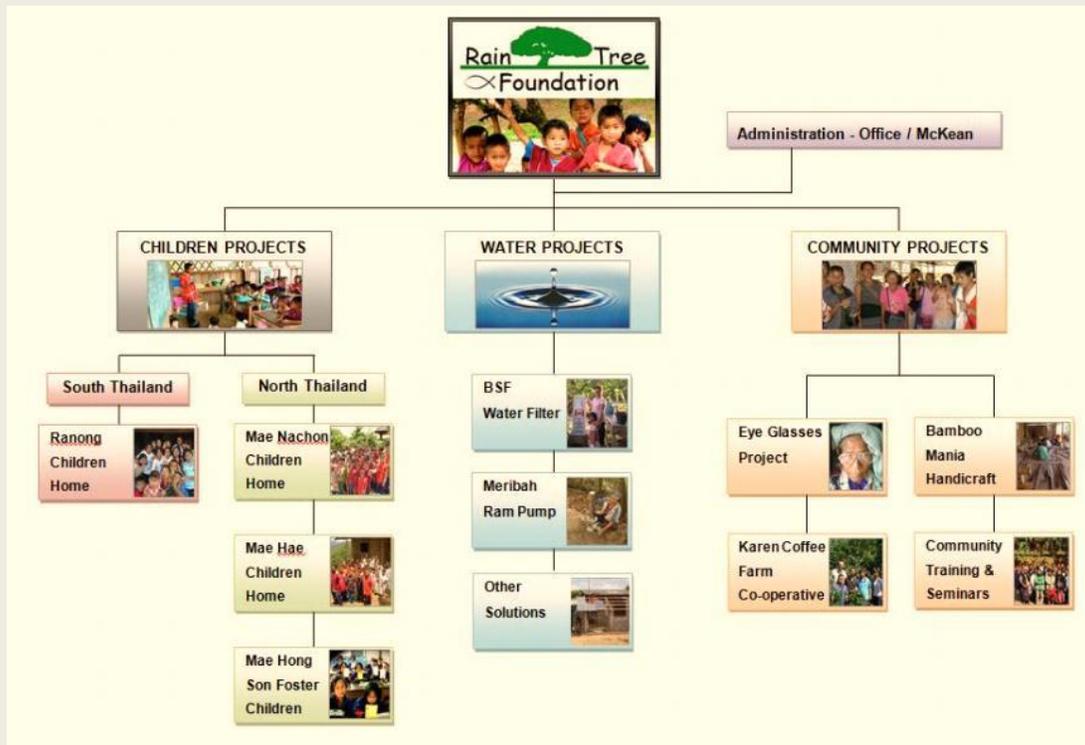
Present projects are children's homes, day-care centers, manufacturing bamboo and herbal products, informal vocational training and the provision of clean drinking water to villages by providing appropriate filter systems and supplying water through various pump systems.

The staff at the Raintree Foundation continuously looks for new opportunities and ideas as to how we can better help rural people. The local staff members at the foundation are from various local ethnic tribal groups in Thailand.

Organizational Overview

In 1992 we started our Program Thai Care, which is committed to helping children in need in Thailand.

Nowadays, the former Thai Care program has become Rain Tree Foundation. It has grown over the years and we serve and support more than 230 children in 6 projects.



Project Map



Communities we serve

Hill tribes in Northern Thailand

The hill tribes of Thailand live for the most part in the upland areas of the north, in the region known as the Golden Triangle. There are six main groups recognized by the Thai government. These people migrated from China into Laos and Burma, and then into Thailand. Many of them were forced to flee to Thailand after the Communist takeover of Laos in 1975.

Most hill tribes practice slash and burn cultivation which causes them to migrate gradually from place to place. The majority live at high elevations, above 1,200 meters. Hill rice is the principal food crop although some tribal groups are now cultivating lowland irrigated rice. Maize and a variety of vegetables are also grown, but the most prized cash crop is the opium poppy. The government has made efforts to curb the cultivation of the poppy by substituting alternative crops, but it is difficult to control due to the inaccessible nature of the terrain and the power of the heavily armed opium traffickers who maintain a monopoly of the traffic between the villages and markets. It is also a crop which hill people can cultivate without competition from valley-dwelling farmers.

The Thai government has made great efforts to settle the hill tribes. It is uneasily conscious of the fact that they are frequently manipulated by drug traffickers, warlords and communist insurgents who provide them with medicines, cigarettes and guns in return for message-carrying, opium and shelter.

Government schools and health services have been established and a housing program is available to those who are prepared to give up opium cultivation and settle permanently. Roads are being constructed, mainly to assist forestry and mining industries but also in order to facilitate national integration. However the roads have also opened up the areas to lowlanders and tourists who treat the tribes' people as curiosities and have no real respect for their traditions.

Deforestation and water paucity has also become a major problem partly as a result of the demands for firewood and the shifting agriculture practiced by hill peoples but also due to commercial cropping, timber and mining. Many men have ceased to wear traditional tribal costume although women continue to weave and wear theirs.

Gradually tribal people are being exposed to modern Thai and western culture and their own traditions and values are threatened. It seems unlikely that they can maintain their lifestyles in the face of such change.



Sea gypsies in Southern Thailand

The "sea gypsies" or chao leh ("people of the sea" in Thai) came from Indonesia about 300 years ago for a nomadic life on the ocean. They are an Austronesian ethnic group with about 2,000 to 3,000 members who maintain a nomadic, sea-based culture. They speak their own language which belongs to the Austronesian language family.

They refer to themselves also as Moken. The name is used for all of the proto-Malayan speaking tribes who inhabit the coast and islands in the Andaman Sea on the west coast of Thailand, up through the Mergui Archipelago of Burma (Myanmar).

In 1972, the Thai government outlawed their existence. The establishment of Tarutao National Park banned all fishing, farming and settlement within the park boundaries. Rather than forcibly removing the chao leh, today the park authorities are trying to achieve a balance between the noble goals of conservation and residents' rights.

The chao leh and the park rangers do not always agree, and contradictions have led to violent clashes in the past. However the last decade has seen a lessening of tensions, partly because the rangers and the chao leh have learned to live with each other and partly because tourism means the chao leh are less dependent on fishing for survival.

Whilst considering themselves to be Thai, the chao leh have maintained their own traditions and religious beliefs, not to mention a language which is Indonesian in dialect. Chao leh communities all along the Andaman are animist and worship spirits found in nature.





Focus groups

Education

The children that qualify to enter our programs are very poor and come from broken families. At our children's homes we take care of about 100 children mainly from the Karen hill tribe.

The children's home parents look after their needs. The children attend a local government school through high school. After they graduate we encourage them to either go for further studies or vocational training.

Most of the children come from difficult family backgrounds: some of them are orphans, not wanted, have been abused, raised by a single parent or grandparents, have parents that are terminally ill or have parents with addiction problems.

It is very important to provide the hill tribe children with a proper education in Thai as well as English. Since the Karen tribal people have a very different language and culture they have problems integrating into the competitive and materialistic Thai society.

Additionally, through our foster children program, we help around 50 children whose parents cannot afford their education.

By providing them with a good education we are confident they are being given the rightful opportunity to gain a better future in life.



Health

The Rain Tree Foundation aims to provide the villagers in rural areas with access to a sufficient amount of water for their daily needs and safe drinking water. To do this we use the technology of BioSand Filters and Ram Pumps.

In the seasons with none or little rain the villagers spend most of their time carrying water and are not able to irrigate the land and grow their own vegetables and fruits in their village or community. Hydraulic Ram Pumps pump water to the village homes providing a steady water supply for households, farms, fish ponds, livestock, irrigation systems and other water based purposes.

The BioSand Filter is an adaptation of the traditional slow sand filter, which has been used for community drinking water treatment for over 200 years.

We have installed hundreds of BioSand Filters already and the positive impact is measurable through our own tests and through official laboratories in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The people need less fire wood to boil their drinking water and they have to spend less money on curing water borne diseases.



Community Projects

Through our community projects our aim is to improve the hill tribe people's quality of life:

Karen Coffee Project

The highlands of Northern Thailand provide excellent conditions to grow Arabica coffee plants. Many hill tribe farmers are growing organic coffee, but they do not know how to market their products or to produce a stable quality. Often they are in debt and they sell their coffee beans below market price and may not get paid fully.

Presently, there are about 70 families that have started to supply coffee to their own village cooperatives. The Rain Tree Foundation functions as a drop-in center for certain issues like: seeds, organic fertilizer, nursery equipment, knowledge exchange, processing, storage, marketing, etc. It is our aim to gradually improve the farmer's income by developing the farming techniques, improving the processing and quality control and streamlining the marketing efforts.



Eyeglasses Project

We receive and donate annually about 600 – 800 pairs of glasses. We are not professional opticians, but we operate with a selective system that has proven to work quite well.

Most people find that their life changes because of their new glasses. They can start to read again, work again and do things that they stopped doing because of their limited eye sight.

In the early days of the project we went to villages to distribute the glasses. Nowadays we have “centers” where people come, sometimes from faraway places in the mountains, to get the glasses. Sometimes we take the glasses to refugee camps or very distant rural areas.



Community Training and Seminars

Our concern is to provide the communities we serve with the knowledge and the skills necessary to improve their lives. This is why we organize seminars on various topics, depending on the needs of the community.

Water, sanitation and hygiene, community development, how to deal with conflicts and inner problems, and the responsible handling of finance are some of the topics we focus on.





Progress in 2012

Women empowerment

In cooperation with the Chiang Mai University Coffee Department, the RainTree Foundation holds coffee workshops in the North of Thailand. The focus from these workshops is to empower the women from the Karen hill tribe around Mae Hae village.

It is important for us, working especially with women, to give them access to education and therefore a better perspective on their future. The Rain Tree Foundation is trying to use local resources within agricultural products, for example growing organic coffee to generate income for a self-sufficient lifestyle of the hill tribes.

Topics focus on organic farming as well as quality control, world market prices and the most important theme: how to be self-sustainable.



Progress in 2012

Health

During 2012 we undertook health visits to different communities based in rural areas in the north of Thailand. These visits have numerous purposes: health checks and health education and awareness, mainly. We review the nutrition of the food that the children are eating and inform parents of what nutrition the children's diet requires.

The importance of the children's education is also stressed to the parents as a way of providing their children with better futures. In addition, we also provide HIV / AIDS awareness sessions to the local community. These sessions include offering family planning advice to young people and families.

The remoteness of these villagers to more urban towns and cities makes access to health information difficult so as part of the visits we provide educational brochures and CDs to help raise awareness of health issues among local people.



Progress in 2012

Staff Training

In order to improve awareness and solving tools over some of the problems we deal with in our everyday work, we organize different seminars for our staff.

This year we've focused in identifying children abuse and dealing with it. It is really important to know and to recognize how the children behave and how they feel when this happens to them.

Another of the themes we have focused in is morals and cultural values, where main subjects are about respecting each other, issues that appear when living together in a group, difficulties and solutions. We face many of these problems, especially when the children come from different parts of northern Thailand and have different personal and cultural backgrounds.

As a foundation we are responsible for the children we take care of and training our staff is one of our most important responsibilities.

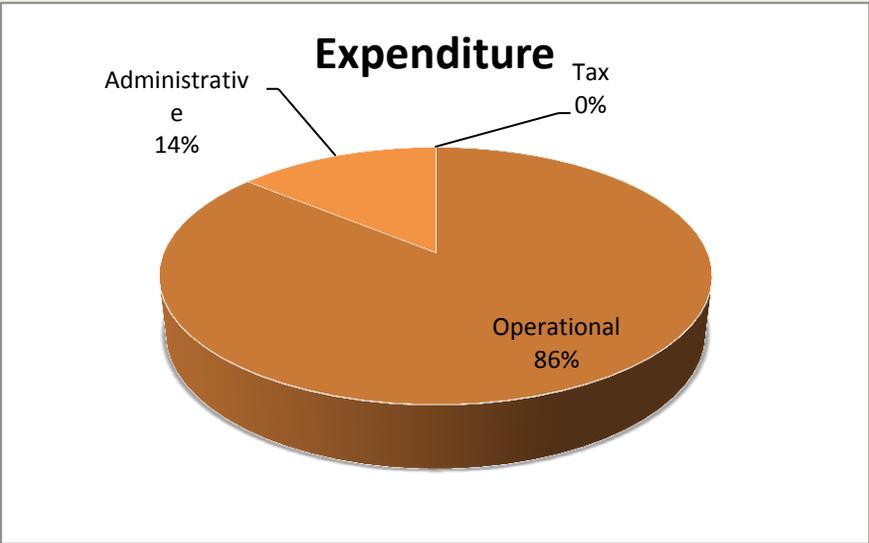
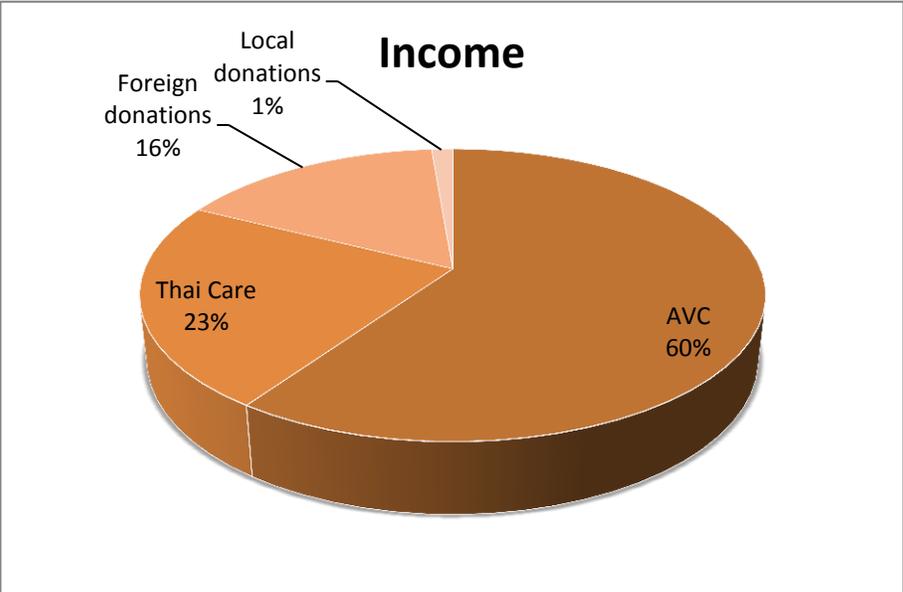




Financial information

Origins of Donations

This pie chart shows the sources of income that we received in 2012.



Project Expenditure

The pie chart shows the proportion of operational and administrative expenses to total expenses.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Balance sheet as at 31st December 2012

ASSETS

Non- Current Assets

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Plant and equipment | 331,796.11 |
| Other non-current assets | 30,000 |
| Total Non-Current Assets | 361,796.11 |

Current Assets

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Cash in hand and cash in bank | 290,586.48 |
| <i>Other current assets</i> | 0 |
| Total Current Assets | 290,586.48 |

TOTAL ASSETS **652,382.59**

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Current Liabilities

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Account payable and Others | 18,200.00 |
| Accured income tax | 156.87 |
| Total Current Liabilities | 18,356.87 |
| Total liabilities | 18,356.87 |

Fund Balance

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Funds | 200,000.00 |
| Excess of Income over Expenditure | 434,025.72 |
| Total Fund Balance | 634,025.72 |

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE **652,382.59**

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31st December 2012**Income**

Donations 5,796,072.30

Bank Interest 1,568.74

Total Income 5,797,641.04**Expenditure**

Expenses for projects 4,855,271.80

Administrative expenses 791,533.60

Tax 156.87

Total Expenditure 5,646,805.45**Surplus/(deficit) 150,678.72**

Why support us

Experience

For 20 years we have been working in the field of humanitarian help in Thailand. We can call upon a wealth of experience to enable children to have a better future and we support people to move successfully from poverty to self-sufficiency.

Expertise

Our team is well educated and experienced in their field of work. Through skill-based assignment of volunteers and staff we can manage our different projects successfully. We generally work with local staff in our projects and profit from their local perspective, their knowledge and knowhow.

Innovative

We never stop learning. Our projects are not the same, nor are the problems and the people. Breaking new grounds and producing new ideas are all motivating parts and are the basic principle of our work.

Efficiency

The Rain Tree Foundation is a small organization with a lean management team. Everything we do is focused on our aim of giving tribe people in Thailand a better future and fairer life. We are working on the spot and visit all our projects as often as possible to guarantee a lasting and reliable support.

Values

The Rain Tree Foundation is a credible partner; we are working with our mind and heart, as this is the basis of our commitment.

Respect, reliability, sustainability and responsibility are values which underlie everything we do. We attach great importance in always using environmentally friendly ways and means in our daily work and are always looking to save the culture of the tribes.

How you can help

Become a Foster Parent

Since more than two years ago the Rain Tree Foundation supports with the help of many foster parents around 40 children in the Mae Hong Son province in North Thailand.

The children get integrated into a family and are therefore able to attend the local government school. Furthermore, we provide health care, clothes, healthy food and a caring and loving environment for them.

Our field staff visits them regularly and the Rain Tree Foundation office team personally visits all foster children at least twice a year to ensure the proper care and education of the children.

The children of our Foster Program are particularly dependent on monthly sponsor's support. The sponsored families are in difficult situations, which make it impossible for them to become healthy and nourished individuals. You can sponsor a child living at one of our projects for Euro €25 per month. We assure you that 100 % of your financial help will be used for the children needs.

Sponsoring a child means giving a powerful, quick and sustainable help. For children it means a real chance for a better future and a positive change in their lives.

The Rain Tree Foundation takes care of the children in Thailand and makes sure that your support will be well received and purposefully used.

Make a donation

Many of our projects need an ongoing support from a strong partner in order to be continued and developed. We are also pleased about donations in kind, like second hand toys, clothes, blankets, etc... We need many things, but unfortunately we cannot provide for all needs.

If you chose a onetime donation or monthly giving, you can be confident that 100% of every Baht, Euro or Dollar donated supports Rain Tree Foundation programs.

Our bank account details for transferring funds:

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Account Name: | Raintree Foundation |
| Account Number: | 402-244477-1 |
| Bank: | Siam Commercial Bank |
| Branch: | Big C Hangdong |
| Swift/BIC: | SICOTHBK |

Contact Information

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