

Impact Report 2023



A note from our director

Last year was an especially exciting year as we celebrated Creative Life Foundation's 10th anniversary. To celebrate the occasion, my family, leadership team, and founding students splurged and stayed multiple days at a hotel in Bangkok, reflecting our organization's history. We shared countless stories, memories, and joyful tears, looked at old photos, and acknowledged how much we had grown—not only as an organization but individually too.

After years of working with individuals who had experienced trafficking and other forms of exploitation, we registered Creative Life Foundation with a focus on prevention. What began with a classroom for 7 children to prevent their need to sell flowers and beg for money in Bangkok's notorious red-light districts has evolved into multiple programs serving over 200 people.

10 years ago, Yadfon, our Northern Thailand programs leader, joined our team with an existing passion and vision to create access to education for Hill Tribe girls to prevent child marriage.

10 years ago, Plar, our Bangkok Scholarship Program leader, joined our team with an existing passion and vision to create access to education for vulnerable Thai and migrant children.

10 years ago, Mina, our Refugee Support Program leader, once in the asylum process herself, officially joined our team with a passion and vision to use her personal experience for good.

Since 2013, we have been breaking the cycle of generational poverty and creating a pathway to freedom—one child and family at a time.

Our first ten years wouldn't have been possible without our board members, volunteers, and financial partners—particularly our friends and family who faithfully give each month—many of whom have continued giving since the beginning!

We are blessed to have such a dedicated and generous group of people helping make our critical work possible.

In this report, you will see our slow and steady growth. The two stories featured in this report are shared experiences and reflect the fruit of our programs and the need for our work to continue.

Thank you for being a part of our journey, and helping us tackle the root causes of trafficking and other forms of exploitation.

Enjoy this overview of 2023!



Tim Hupe
Director and Co-founder

Meet our Local Leadership team



Yadfon Boonlab

Yadfon Boonlab

Northern Thailand Programs Leader



Mina Thapa

Mina Thapa

Refugee Support Program Leader
Mina's Whole Foods



Laksana

Laksana Sawarot "Plar"

Bangkok Scholarship Program Leader



Siwasin

Siwasin Kunwanwuttikul "Bon"

Accounting | Office Manager



Youth Leadership Team

(A growing team of mentors)

Yutthana
Narong
Chulachak
Thom
Thada
Mayuree
Namwan

What we do

For anyone new to the Creative Life Foundation, we are an organization supporting children and parents vulnerable to human trafficking, child marriage, and other forms of exploitation.

Our mission is to connect vulnerable and marginalized children and parents in urban and rural Thailand to critical resources that create a pathway toward freedom and prevent human trafficking.

To achieve this, we provide



Education, Literacy,
and Scholarships

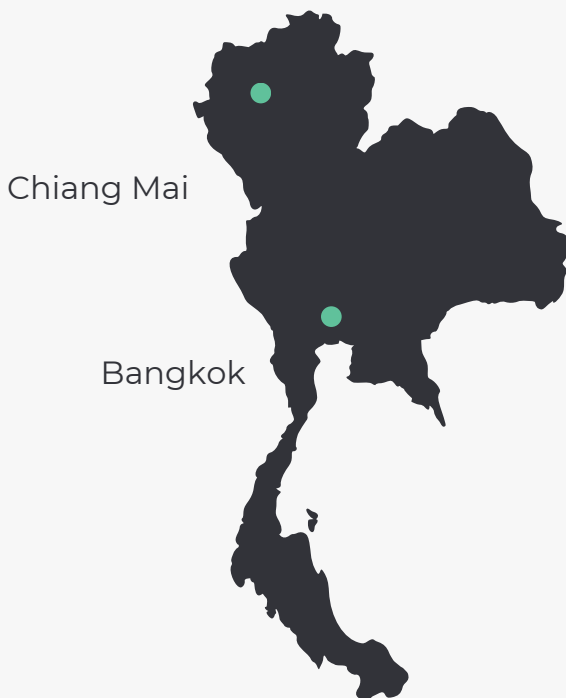


Mentorship and
Holistic Care



A Path to
Citizenship

Where we work:



Scholarship + Mentorship

In theory, Thailand offers free education through 12th grade. For families living in poverty, however, the costs of transportation with the mandatory fees for uniforms, meals, and extracurricular activities, prevent children from either going to school or dropping out after the 9th grade (compulsory education in Thailand) when they can apply for low-paying jobs. Children who do not receive a high school diploma grow up having little opportunity for success and are left more vulnerable to exploitation. Migrant families who live in Thailand face additional barriers, leaving children even more at risk of exploitation.

Among the hill tribes, early marriage and early pregnancy are seen as economically beneficial since the children can help with farm work.[1]

Girls who are better educated are less likely to be married off as children and more likely to have opportunities to build healthier and more prosperous lives for themselves and their families.[2]

With a diverse group of students, obstacles can vary. At its core, mentoring lets them know that there is someone who cares about them, assures them they are not alone in dealing with day-to-day challenges, and helps them understand their self-worth.

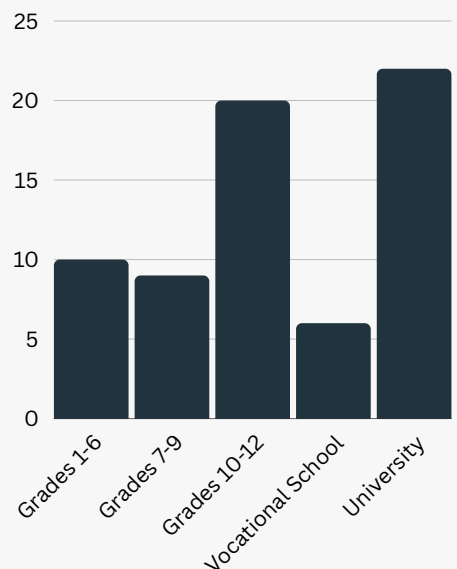
In addition to mentorship, students in our program receive tutoring and homework help. We connect youth to opportunities, like internships and supplemental scholarships; we meet with teachers to ensure our students do well in school and receive college guidance.

1 Walk Free Foundation. "The Global Slavery Index 2018."

2 UNHCR. 2019. Results of the High-Level Segment on Statelessness; 2019.



Current grade levels of students:



Urban Refugee Support

CLF strives for a future where every child has the freedom to attend school; but for some, their refugee status hinders their ability to enroll.

An estimated 8,000 refugees are living in Bangkok, representing countries such as Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Uganda, and Somalia. Because Thailand has not ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention, the government considers asylum seekers and refugees as undocumented migrants, which means families are either living quietly on overstayed visas or detained until they are either returned to their home country or resettled. Without the ability to work, living day-to-day is an incredible challenge.

It can often take time for these families to resettle into more permanent living situations, and during this time, children

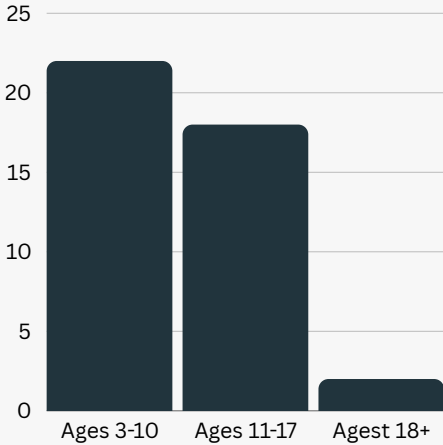
are at risk of encountering learning deficits. Refugee children who fall drastically behind are likely to struggle when they do return to a school environment, placing them at heightened risk of abandoning their education altogether and increasing the likelihood of exploitation.

To ensure refugee children have the opportunity to access education, develop critical learning skills, and meet learning benchmarks; CLF provides children and youth with individualized education packages and will continue providing supplemental educational materials as needed.

In addition to education support, we are also providing families with food and moral support.



Ages of children we provide education support:



Families we support come from: Somalia 45.1%, Afghanistan 39.2%, and Sri Lanka, 15.7%

Women's Literacy Program

While Creative Life Foundation's education program continues to be necessary for breaking cycles of poverty and exploitation, we realize our students don't live in a vacuum. If their mothers remain at risk, so do they. To undergird our ongoing scholarship and mentorship program, we seek to eliminate maternal risk by providing a program focused on Thai literacy.

The challenges of illiteracy are compounded for Hill Tribe women, most of whom speak only their local language. Limited Thai language for most indigenous women means the inability to maneuver through the process of applying for and obtaining Thai citizenship. Lack of citizenship is the major risk factor for Hill Tribe women and girls in Thailand for being trafficked and otherwise exploited.

Our literacy program helps build their confidence, status, and access to information. Literacy will help women better prepare their children for school, engage with their teachers, and supplement their education with at-home support.



Our year in numbers

130

children + women receiving access to education

64

children receiving education scholarships

224

people served with education and food support

101

hours our leadership team spent in professional development

86%

graduation rate compared to only 6% of student's parents

28

students currently enrolled in university and vocational school

3388

mentorship encounters with students and parents

89

food deliveries for 43 families

582

hours of after-school tutoring

Survey Results

- 86% of our students graduate from high school after joining the Creative Life Foundation, compared to only 6% of their parents.
- When asked how our programs are helping beyond a scholarship, common answers from students were:
 - "I feel like there is always someone encouraging me to do better."*
 - "I am a better leader."*
 - "I have built friendships outside of school by attending CLF's group activities."*
 - "My scholarship is helping my mom and dad."*
 - "I have a clear vision and goals."*
 - "I am a more responsible person."*
 - "I am a positive role model for kids in my village."*
 - "I am always learning something new."*
 - "I've learned to have more courage, set goals, and become a learner outside of school."*
 - "My mentor motivates me to do better."*
 - "My mentor gives me good advice."*
 - "I have more confidence."*
- 100% of students agree they have higher educational goals because of the Creative Life Foundation.
- 100% of students agree they are more confident in accomplishing their educational goals because of the Creative Life Foundation.
- 96% of students are satisfied with the availability and relationship with their mentor.
- 100% of students would recommend the Creative Life Foundation to other children in need.
- 82% of students have a friend who had to drop out of school to work.
- 73% of students know someone who has worked in the commercial sex industry (including bars, karaoke bars, and massage parlors.)

Yaowana's Story

Yaowana's journey from the hills of Ban Blakol to the halls of higher education is another testament to resilience, determination, and the transformative power of support. Born into a family with limited means and opportunities, she faced the harsh reality of financial struggle and familial hardship from a young age. She was raised by her mother, who single-handedly provided for Yaowana and her two siblings as her father departed from them when they were young. From a young age, she learned the value of perseverance and the importance of education. Yaowana's family belongs to the Karen Hill Tribes, one of the many indigenous ethnic groups in Thailand. The Karen people have their own unique language, culture, and traditions that distinguish them from other indigenous groups in Thailand. In the Hill Tribe communities of Thailand, getting married and having babies young is thought to be economically good because the kids can help with farming. However, girls who go to school longer are less likely to marry young. They have better chances to make a good life for themselves and their families.

Yaowana's parents are farmers and have never been to school due to a lack of resources. Despite the odds stacked against her, Yaowana's spirit remained unbroken. Her aspiration for learning and her innate desire to create positive change in her community never wavered. It was through a stroke of fate and the intervention of a caring friend that Yaowana's path took an essential turn. "A friend recommended this scholarship from the Creative Life Foundation to me when I was in Mathayom 6," says Yaowana with gratitude.

With the support of the CLF scholarship, Yaowana's dreams suddenly seemed within reach.

1. The Karen Hill Tribe History and Culture, Green Trails 2. Thailand MICS, Monitoring the situation of children and women 2015-2016



Free from the burden of financial worries, she could finally devote herself fully to her studies, unleashing her true potential. She no longer had to juggle a few part-time jobs with her academic pursuits; instead, she immersed herself in learning and blossoming into a confident, ambitious young woman.

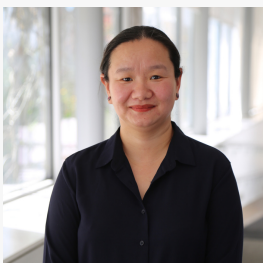
However, the impact of the CLF went beyond just financial assistance. Under the guidance and mentorship of the foundation, Yaowana found a support system that bolstered her every step of the way. With Yadfon as her mentor, she had a guiding light, a source of encouragement and inspiration during challenging times. Yadfon witnessed firsthand Yaowana's unwavering dedication and determination, marveling at her resilience in the face of hardship. "She never gives up easily, and I remember the days when she had a few part-time jobs to support herself," Said Yadfon.

For Yaowana, the journey was not just about personal achievement but about paving the way for a brighter future for her family and community. With each passing day, she grew more determined to become independent, to use her education as a tool for social change, and to uplift those who, like her, were born into circumstances beyond their control. Her goal of becoming a social worker is not just a dream; it is a promise to herself and her people, a commitment to bring about tangible, lasting improvements in her hometown and beyond.

Today, Yaowana is surrounded by fellow students from diverse backgrounds at the university, united in their pursuit of knowledge and change. **She knows that her education is not just a means to an end but a tool for transformation – a pathway to freedom for herself and her community.**

However, Yaowana's story is not just about her own triumphs; it's an example of why the work of organizations like the Creative Life Foundation is so critical. By providing support, resources, and opportunities to vulnerable communities, CLF is helping to break the cycle of poverty and exploitation one life at a time.

As Yaowana stands on the brink of a bright future, her spirit unbroken and her determination unwavering, she serves as a beacon of hope for her people and an inspiration to us all. With each step she takes toward her dreams, she reminds us that no challenge is unbeatable and that with courage and compassion, we can build a world where every child has the opportunity to thrive.



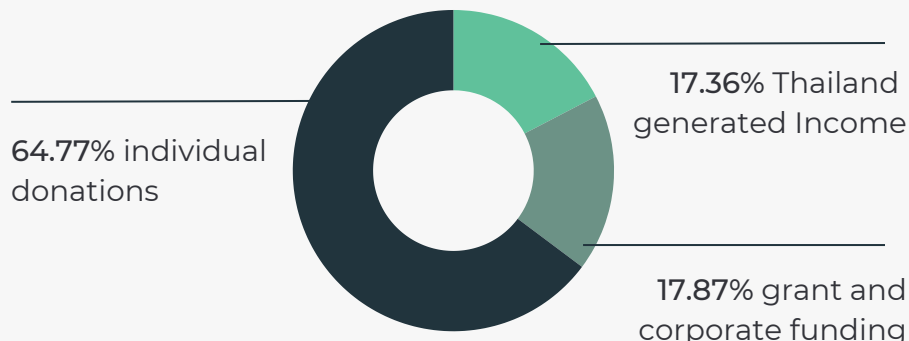
Dorji Kyi

Fundraising and Donor Management Intern

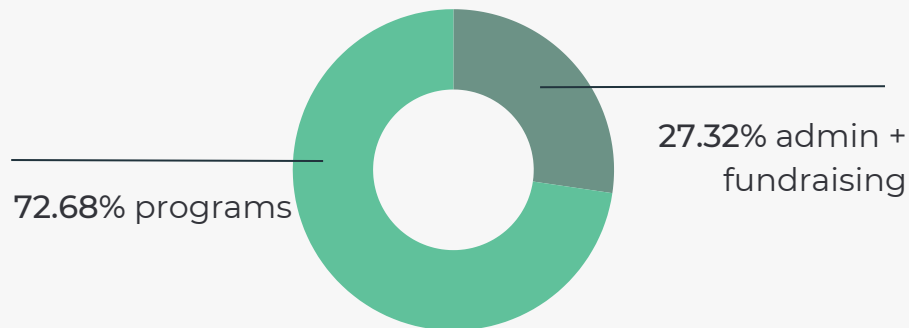
Brandeis University | Heller School of Social Policy and Management
Creative Life Foundation

Our financials

Together we raised
\$142,760.06



Expenses



A special thanks to



Giving Patterns

\$54 median gift size
 \$442 average gift size (US-only)
 70% (about \$97,000) from repeat donors

Donor Relationships

290 individual donors
 47 monthly donors
 85 recurring donors
 135 first-time donors (USA)
 70 first-time donors (Thailand)

We are proud to have earned the highest seal of transparency on Candid.



Candid was formed in 2019 when GuideStar and Foundation Center merged. Candid offers the most comprehensive, global source of knowledge about nonprofit work.

Our year in pictures

Follow us on social media to enjoy more photos. The Creative Life Foundation commits to using images of people in a respectful and honoring manner. CLF will only use photos and videos if those pictured consent to CLF using his/her photos/videos in CLF materials and social media platforms.



Aim For Change
Cornhole Tournament
group photo



Move For Freedom Challenge



Mental health workshop



10 year anniversary celebration



Live performance at the
Aim For Change Cornhole Tournam



Youth leadership team meeting



Internet safety training



Group photo with Plaar



SMART goals workshop



Mina



Literacy Program teacher delivering certificate



with Yadfon



Afternoon smoothie with Mina



During a group activity in Om Koi

The Value of Support

Baithuy's childhood is representative of what most children face in Thailand: poverty, housing insecurity, food insecurity, limited education opportunities, and insufficient access to healthcare. **However, with support from the Creative Life Foundation, Baithuy has been able to change her life's trajectory.**

Her parents were both educated until 7th grade, which is quite typical in Thailand. Around the age of twelve, many children are forced to abandon their education to find work. They need to support their families financially, and there is certainly no money left over for school tuition, uniforms, and supplies. Thus begins a long life of trying to string together enough low-paying jobs to make ends meet.

CLF interceded in Baithuy's case because she met Plar, one of CLF's mentors, through church. Baithuy first started in CLF's Saturday English program. After finishing 6th grade, her family was about to pull Baithuy out of school because they could no longer afford the school fees. Plar helped Baithuy apply for and receive funding from CLF for tuition and school supplies. At the time, Baithuy was living with her grandmother because her parents had other young children at home and couldn't afford to care for her. **The poverty Baithuy experienced is indescribable, so CLF's tuition scholarship was life-changing.**



Because of CLF's support, Baithuy was able to stay in school and balance just one part-time cashier job to supplement her family's income. **Since she was able to focus on school, Baithuy successfully graduated last year. She is now enrolled in university and studying human resource management.** She still works part-time but because of the scholarship she receives from CLF, she is not scrambling to finance her education or afford groceries.

Surprisingly, Baithuy says the mentorship and advice she has received from CLF has had the greatest impact on her life throughout the years. One would think it was solely the tuition funds that changed the course of Baithuy's life, but, in reality, navigating poverty is common in Thailand. It is far more challenging to know whom to turn to for career advice or help with homework because so few in Baithuy's life have experienced these accomplishments. **She is immensely grateful for the tuition she has received, but even more thankful for her mentor, Plar, and the countless hours of professional development, advice, and guidance Baithuy has received over the years.**



Rachael Rossi, Ph.D.
CLF Board Secretary

“

Plar has been there for me during very difficult times in my life. She is always by my side, encouraging me to do my best and motivating me to work hard in school and life. I am successful because of the advice I receive from Plar.

—Baithuy

Looking ahead

We are in growth mode!

We are excited and ready to scale our impact. For this to happen in a way that prioritizes our core values, our priorities are to increase our number of staff and open an office in Chiang Mai.

Having additional staff will provide more hands to monitor and evaluate our programs, help with the tasks that increase donor retention and care, and share the responsibilities of mentorship and support for existing and new students.

Having an office in Chiang Mai will allow us to welcome and work more strategically with volunteers, provide a location where we can meet with potential funders and showcase our work, meet with our youth leadership team more regularly and effectively, hold activities for our students and team that will support their growth and development, and help us build a stronger presence in the community.

CREATE WITH US

- Give by credit card (earn points while making a difference every month)
- Set up a recurring or one-time grant within your DAF portal
- Give by check
250 Northern Ave. Suite 400
Boston, MA 02210



Last but not least

It takes a lot of people, resources, and time to tackle the root causes of trafficking and break deep generational cycles of poverty and exploitation.

Thank you! Your support and encouragement help drive our work.

In no particular order, we want to especially thank Carol Rogers, Rachael Rossi, Rangsun Sitthichai, Deanna Assad, John McKenna, Sirirat Udonpong, Jon Cronin, Angela Cronin Starlite Foundation, the team at Global Fund For Children, Giv Coffee, Jeff and Emily Brooks, Girls Rights Project, the team at Unseen, Eisai Foundation, Grace Community Church, Stephanie and Robin Hood, Andy and Rosalia Barber, Peter and Karen St. George, Daniel and Shannon Ross, Amy and Kip Baggett, Ludwig and Mary Hupe, Maddy and Alek Marinos, Joy Schneider, Kristiann Rushton, Alyssa and Andrew Reaves, Trinity Episcopal Church, Steve and Rachel Gabrielse, Carol and Dave Huff, Josh and Bekah Hilts, All Nations Worship, Matt Modaff, Jodi and Will Pollock, Anjali and Neil Kanagaratnam, Christ Church Bangkok, Adam Craig, Bud and Caitlin Bareither, David Bayne, Erica Dimuccio, George Rideout Jr., Jaime and Travis Randall, Jean Andreas, Jeanene and Will Mutchler, Jesse Anthony, Josh and Kate Hupe, Kevin and Michelle Liao, Kurtis and Audrey McFadden, Kyle and Sera Scott, Laurie and Garrett Macleod, Luke and Megan Burnett, Margaret Jennings, Mark and Susan Manson, Matt and Michelle Beattie, Matthew Fairfax, Meredith Bertram, Mike Demps, Miranda and Cleveland D'Agostini-Walters, Nicole & Sean Andreas, Nick Mamakos, Ron and Do Hupe, Sharon Holuk, Stephanie Williams, Stephen and Glauca Hernandez, Suhrei and Josh Acevedo-Daniels, Tom and Stephanie Drury, Tricia Vaccaro, and Vafa Ansarifar.

And a special thanks to everyone who participated in our Annual Move For Freedom Challenge. Especially to John Feehrer, Daniel Ross, Joel Nichols, Danielle Hupe, Carol Rogers, Dorji Kyi, Deanna Assad, John McKenna, Rangsun Sitthichai, Mary Hupe, Scott Miller, Sarah Incutto, and Tim Hupe.





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CREATIVE LIFE FOUNDATION
 มูลนิธิสร้างสรรค์ชีวิต

The Creative Life Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization registered in the state of Massachusetts and is a registered foundation in Thailand. Creative Life Foundation was registered in Thailand in 2013 and registered in the U.S. in 2018.

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