

T OF HAPPINESS FOUNDATION GoHF) PROJECT REPORTS FOR 2015

JANUARY 2015

Giving Happiness on Planet Garbage

Project Report – Mae Sot, Tak. 27-31 January, 2015.

Purpose: To distribute donated clothing, bedding, toys and other goods to migrant schools, institutions and disadvantaged communities in and around Mae Sot district of Tak province in northern Thailand.

Project Leader: Mr. Edward Albert Haworth. Director GoHF

Volunteers:

Mr. Simon Balmer.
Mr. Gary White.
Khun Amarin Nissasoka.
Mrs. Eh Thwa Bor
Khun Kit Yongsuwan
Khun Mae Yongsuwan

Activity: Happy Charity's first project for 2015 – goes to the Dump!



What shall we do after school today then?

Gift of Happiness Foundation (GoHF) has been serving the kids who live on the Garbage Dump near Mae Sot, Northern Thailand since 2005, and did so again in January 2015. This aid and show-giving project in also helped the kids living at a residential migrant school near Mae Sot, and all pictures displayed were taken then.

Children shown in this first section all live on the Garbage Dump near Mae Sot. Some of the children are wearing uniforms that GoHF gave them three years ago. Most of the children are wearing clothing we gave them during our last visit in 2013.



Gift of Happiness uniforms worn for the show.



Clothing given on every GoHF visit here.



Back to work as usual on the dump after the show.



Chattering as they head home after school. (Home?)

This Gift of Happiness aid and show-giving project supported 100 children and teachers at the **Sky Blue Migrant School** at the garbage dump. The Foundation also supported people living on the garbage dump located very close to the school, as well as 250 children, teachers and local community members at the Kwe Ka Baw high school, near Mae Sot.



Every child received new towels, toys and more from Gift of Happiness Foundation.



Just a few of the 1,000 happy people in January 2015.

Gift of Happiness Foundation report: January 2015. Director/Founder, Edward Haworth.
January collections, storage, sorting and logistics:

Gift of Happiness Foundation collected five truckloads of goods. These were donated by:

Park Plaza Hotel Sukhumvit, Bangkok;
Six individual family homes in Bangkok; and
Individuals who dropped off goods at DTC Travel Office and The Len Penn Music Academy in Bangkok.

All sorting, storage, loading and packing were done by volunteers and the Director at the Foundation warehouse in Bangkok, and onsite at 3 locations in Mae Sot, Tak. Transportation was provided and organized by the Director, along with volunteers Mr. Pong Puvacharoen and Mr. Amarin Nissasoka. Siam Motor World, Bangkok provided the hire of an extra truck.

Some goods sent from our British collaborators, the Giving Back Community Organisation in Manchester, UK were collected by arrangement from the warehouse of World Mega Logistics in Samut Prakarn near Bangkok. The import agency waved all charges for customs duty and storage costs and the Foundation thanked them with a Certificate of Appreciation given to Khun Paulie Charoenaksornkul at their head office in Bangkok.

Table 1: Project Volunteers as at January 2015.

VOLUNTEERS	DESCRIPTION	NATIONALITY
1. Mr. Edward Haworth	Projects leader	Manchester, UK/Expat Bangkok.
2. Khun Paulie Charoenaksornkul	Storage/logistics assistant	Thai national, Bangkok
3. Khun Pong Puvacharoen	Project transport planner	Thai national, Bangkok
4. Khun Amarin Nissasoka	Driver/Thai translator	Thai national, Bangkok
5. Khun Suksan Valaisri	Storeroom/sorting assistant	Thai national, Bangkok
6. Khun Kit Yongsuwan	Volunteer/liaison officer	Thai national, Mae Sot
7. Khun Mae Yongsuwan	Volunteer/liaison officer	Thai national, Mae Sot
8. Mr. Simon Balmer	Projects photographer	Middlesborough, UK/Hong Kong expat, Bangkok
9. Mr. Gary White	Projects report writer	Sydney, Australia/Expat Bangkok
10. Mr. Todd Gable	Field project volunteer	New York City, USA
11. Mrs. Eh Thwa Bor	Field project volunteer	Burmese national, Mae Sot
12. Mr. Aung Pay	Field project volunteer	Burmese national, Mae Sot

Table 2: Project Beneficiaries, January 2015.

INSTITUTION/LOCALITY	AID GIVEN
1. Mae Tao Clinic, Mae Sot. (200 patients + 100s outpatients)	Baby clothing, medical supplies, adult clothing.
2. Kwe Ka Baw Residential High School and surrounding community. (250 children + 320 adults)	Bedding, towels, warm clothes, educational supplies, toys, books, games and 15 large bags of adult clothing. One educational entertainment performance for all children, 6 teachers and some local adults.
3. Sky Blue Migrant School/Learning Centre and garbage dump community. (100 children + 190 adults)	Warm clothes, educational supplies, toys, books, games and 5 large bags of adult clothing. One educational entertainment performance for all of the children and 2 teachers.

January 2015 projects completed:

During the first three weeks of January 2015, Gift of Happiness Foundation collected around 2.5 tons of clothing, toys, medical supplies, educational equipment, bedding, towels and uniforms. Most goods

were donated in Bangkok and surrounding areas and some were purchased using donated funds. Then all goods were redistributed to poor people in Northern Thailand, as described in Table 2.

During the last week of January 2015, the Foundation produced one main field project giving aid to 350 children and 710 adults, plus an unknown number of outpatients at Mae Tao Clinic. This project was carried out at three locations in Mae Sot City and surrounding areas in Tak province, Thailand. The Foundation also gave free educational entertainment performances for all 350 children, teachers and some parents.

January 2015 money matters:

Gift of Happiness Foundation received financial support from the Cyril Duncan Siam Children's Foundation in Dublin, Ireland, Opus Recruitment Ltd, Bangkok and individual friends of the Foundation. (Details to be provided in the Foundation's 2015 year-end audited accounts).

The Director paid the Foundation's warehouse/office rent, utility bills, truck lease, transport fuel and maintenance, plus hire costs for a second truck. The Director also paid the daily rate for hire of a second driver for 5 days, his food and accommodation, plus extra fuel costs incurred during some of the collections of goods in Bangkok, and fuel for the main project to Mae Sot.

January 2015 report conclusion:

Gift of Happiness Foundation fulfilled its commitment to assist more than 1,000 needy people in Thailand during January 2015. We plan to keep our little charity moving onwards and upwards throughout 2015 and sincerely hope to receive a good level of assistance from friends of the Foundation to help us help the children and people we serve as much as possible



Kids who live on the dump surrounded by their own brand of Christmas presents!



GoHF giving to kids at very poor migrant Community schools every month!

FEBRUARY 2015

There were no up-country project trips in February as the Gift of Happiness Foundation grappled with a large dose of unhappiness due to the untimely and accidental death of one of its most stalwart supporters, our resident photographer Mr. Simon Balmer. More on this later, but we start with a record of some donation activities at the start of the month.



Gift of Happiness Founder and Director, Eddie Haworth (AKA Clown Eckie)

Activity: Bangkok Charity to resume normal operations soon.

Early February 2015 started with business as usual at Gift of Happiness Foundation. The charity Clown performed for around 200 kids who were able to attend the annual Convoy For Kids Massive Day Out to a Bangkok Theme Park. We also collected over a ton of pasta and about two tons of clothing, educational supplies, toys and other used goods to give to the poor.

The big show at Siam Safari World was held for kids coming from The Foundation for the Welfare of the Crippled under the Royal Patronage of H.R.H. the Princess Mother, with quite a few more coming from the [Klong Toey Presentation Slums Mission in Bangkok, run by Sister Joan Evans](#). There were also a couple of minivan loads of orphans and poor kids from north east Thailand, who were brought to enjoy this special day out by a generous Western expatriate who lives in Sisaket, in that part of Thailand.

Mid February the Gift of Happiness Clown Eckie performed three shows in a row for the little ones in year one at Harrow International School in Bangkok. Clown Eckie receives sponsorship for Gift of Happiness Foundation in return for his three shows every year at the Year One Fun Day and Sleep-over. He also performs his unique lecture and show program for the older drama students and has given his Circus Skill workshops at the annual Churchill House Camps located in northeast Thailand.

Later in February we collected the first donation of goods and coins collected by the little boys and girls who attend Bromsgrove International Early Years School in Bangkok. The school holds an annual "Ring of Friendship" event where all the children chip in a few coins to make patterns of flowers and hearts to be photographed and displayed at the school. After, the coins are donated to Gift of Happiness Foundation - this year it was around THB 12,000!

Gift of Happiness Foundation has postponed any further project tours in February 2015 due to bereavement suffered since the loss of our dear friend and resident volunteer Mr. Simon Balmer.

Meantime, we are hoping to resume normal operations with a visit to six schools near Mae Sot, North Thailand within the second week of March 2015. We have just over a ton of dried pasta and another couple of tons of clothing, toys and educational supplies to give more than 1,000 kids during that trip.

Below are pictures taken by Simon Balmer on his final project tour with Gift of Happiness Foundation.



The official notice from the Foundation of the passing of Simon Balmer follows, along with just two of many tributes sent in to the Foundation's website.

5/02/2015. [Sad News at Happiness Charity. Bangkok.](#)

Written by Mr. Edward Haworth, Founder and Director at Gift of Happiness Foundation.

It is with deep personal regret that I announce the sudden death of Mr. Simon Balmer on the evening of February 4th 2015. Simon died aged only 56 years, from injuries sustained following an accidental fall down stairs at his home in the Prakanong district of Bangkok, Thailand.

The accident happened at the Gift of Happiness charity shop/warehouse and home to Simon who lived and worked as the only full time volunteer at our charity.

I not only grieve at the passing of Simon as a dear friend and tremendous individual but also for the loss his family in the UK suffers.

In his role as professional photographer, Simon has been our most outstanding volunteer for the past three years and leaves us with an amazing collection of photographs and video footage that I will cherish and keep for the rest of my life.

RIP my good friend.



Simon Mark Balmer.

Funeral arrangements will be announced following Thailand Government procedures and family instruction. The charity shop will remain closed until further notice.



Picture by Mr. Simon Balmer - 31/01/2015.

TRIBUTES

Two of the many tributes we received are reproduced below.

Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand is saddened to learn of the sudden death of Simon Balmer, a veteran sound engineer and broadcast technician who has worked in this region since the 1980s. Simon worked for many different filmmakers and broadcasters, notably for many years with the US network NBC, for Eurovision, and for APTN. He lived for many years in Hong Kong, before moving to Bangkok. He was known for his warm and generous demeanour, and his fine humour helped many journalists keep an even keel during the toughest assignments. Big Si was a fixture in recent years at the FCCT, and along with so many others we mourn his passing.

Gary White

I only got to know Simon in the past year or so, but am keenly aware of his great contribution to the Foundation and its works, and his wonderful ability as a photographer - the many dozens of amazing photographs on this site are a testament to that. He was quiet and unassuming, but had a wry and acute sense of humour that enlivened many a Mae Sot evening, and was a constant presence on every Foundation project trip I joined. Simon's companionship on and contribution to those trips will be sorely missed, as will his constant efforts on behalf of the Foundation. My sincere sympathies go to Foundation Director Eddie Haworth on his loss, and to Simon's family in the UK.

MARCH 2015

Once again there were no project trips up-country in March, 2015, due to continued recovery from the sudden passing of Foundation volunteer photographer, Simon Balmer, and administrative procedures necessitated by the accident and dealing with his estate. The aftermath of this tragic loss was further compounded by news of another unexpected and tragic accidental death, that of Mr. Geoffroy Van Innes, in Belgium. Jeffrey had been a steady supporter of the Foundation and participant in its activities and projects, but had of late suffered health problems for treatment of which he had returned to Belgium. There he died in yet another tragic falling accident.

Late in the month we and several supporters of the Foundation, plus friends and family of the two deceased persons participated in a memorial project and Buddhist religious service at Wat Sammakhan, in Ayuthaya. Details of that event follow.

Goodbye at Wat Sammakhan, to loved ones and old friends.

Event – Wat Sammakhan School/Temple, Ayuthaya province. 26 March, 2015.

Purpose: To commemorate the lives of the late Simon Balmer, Geoffroy Van Innes, Jason O'Brien and relatives of Gale Bailey via a charity trip to the Wat Sammakhan School, long supported by the Gift of Happiness Foundation, a big buffoon clown show in their memory, and a short Buddhist memorial service at the adjacent temple of the same name.

Activity: Report of this trip provided by Gift of Happiness Foundation Director and Founder, Edward Haworth (AKA Clown Eckie).

Memorial Day for lost loved ones. 26th March, 2015.

We came to pay our respects and celebrate the lives of Gift of Happiness volunteers and friends, Simon Balmer, Geoffroy Van Innis, Jason O'Brien and Gale Bailey's relatives.



Thank you for coming Gale Bailey MBE, Gary White, Amarin Nissasoka, Mark Erder, Luke Erder, Antoine Van Innis, Ben Calberg and the whole Belgium/Thai contingent. It was a fantastic day for the kids and a great way to say farewell to our loved ones so recently lost.



Gift of Happiness Foundation produced a great day of giving in memory of recently lost members of the happiness team.



We gave the kids a trampoline and loads of educational supplies, toys, T-shirts and more on 26/03/15. Following the sudden death of our resident volunteer, Simon Balmer, plus our past volunteer Geoffroy Van Innis and our Director's long lost dear friend, Jason O'Brien, we produced a memorial show and aid giving day in memory of all three on 26/03/15 at our school near Ayutthaya, north of Bangkok.

Members of their families, and friends, traveled from Bangkok on the morning of the big day. We visited Wat Sammakhan School and Temple located north of Ayutthaya. On arrival, those who were able to help were asked to construct a large trampoline and unload the rest of the happy truck loaded with goodies that we gave to the 102 children who attend the school.

Then there was an opportunity for friends to say a few words about our lost loved ones and hold a moment's silence with the kids and teachers. This was followed by the show, which lasted about 30 minutes. Then we all walked 100 meters to the nearby Temple for a traditional short Buddhist ceremony with several monks chanting and blessing the names of Simon, Geoffroy and Jason. We left

framed pictures of all three deceased (instead of tomb stones) at the temple, which is the traditional way of doing things in Thailand. After all this we departed the Temple and school to head back to Bangkok by early evening.

APRIL 2015

April saw us at last get back into our stride after the very sad and distressing loss of two of our staunchest supporters in the previous months. We undertook our first major project up-country, in Mae Sot, late in April, but first laid the groundwork for that through various fund-raising activities and collection of donated goods from several valued contributors.

We first describe those fund-raising and collection activities, before proceeding on to a commemorative Clown show and then the project trip to Mae Sot.

First off was the brilliant Park Plaza Sukhumvit Hotel doing their bit again!

Early in April we collected another mega-load of essential goods from the Park Plaza Sukhumvit Hotel in downtown Bangkok. The great staff and management there have given our charity some fantastic support over the past few years and we have collected around 8 or 10 truck loads of bedding, towels, slippers, clothing, toiletries and even unclaimed luggage. Thank you to the fantastically helpful staff and Manager at Park Plaza Sukhumvit Hotel: Mr. Surachai Sakhayang (Tao) Bellman, Mr. Sitthisak Sanohwatee (Nui) Messenger, Mr. Pratchaya Artsongkham, Security Guard, Ms. Yanin Priwan (Mai) Receptionist, Ms. Panada Boonthaveesit (Lek) Secretary and General Manager Ms. Veronique Sirault. All these important goods collected in the last year or so have been given to some very appreciative people who are living in seriously harsh conditions mainly in the north of Thailand.



Orphans receive clean, soft bedding and towels from Park Plaza Sukhumvit Hotel, Bangkok.



Next up was more great support coming from the children at Charter International School in Bangkok. On 23rd April, Gift of Happiness Director Eddie Haworth collected some great donations of clothing, toys and school equipment from the children at this lovely school on the edge of the city. The teacher (Ms Louise) has started a new project to help Gift of Happiness in the future and before the school starts the main summer holidays in June we should be able to collect even more goodies.



Thank you to the children and teachers at Charter International School, Bangkok!

Then, on Saturday 25th, we attended the Annual St. Georges Society Ball, where the society raised funds for our charity. This is a fantastic night of very British frivolity and mayhem in Bangkok!



The next day we were at the Bangkok St. Georges Society Booth on the back lawn of the (very colonial) British Club in downtown Bangkok. Yes, we had a great big amazing Car-Boot Sale of goodies for all of the family, with proceeds also going to help our little charity.

On the giving side, apart from the major project detailed below, we took our Happy Truck, complete with Happy Sleepy Cat, to the seaside resort town of Hua Hin in April, over the Lunar Eclipse weekend, to gave a much appreciated happiness show and a truck load of goodies to just over 40 orphan kids from the nearby Baan Nokkamin and Mercy House. This aid and show-giving day was in memory of our dear departed friend, Gift of Happiness volunteer Geoffroy Van Innis (1974- 2015).



*Gift of Happiness Foundation Happy Truck
(Sponsored by Clown Eckie)*



*Red nosed Geoffroy Van Innis as Gift of Happiness
Clown Assistant, December 2013*

The big show, competition events and some donations were sponsored by Geoffroy's family from Belgium, who are trying to deal with their loss through meditation and studying Buddhist teachings here in Thailand. "Rest in peace with no more pain dear Geoffroy."

And so we come to the final event of the month, and its finale, the completion of our toilet and deep well project in Mae Sot.

Deep Well Project Supported by BCTFN (British Community in Thailand Foundation for The Needy) **Bangkok.**
Project Report – Mae Sot District, Tak Province. 26-30th April, 2015.

Purpose: To implement and construct a water pumping project at P' Ya Naung village in Mae Sot district, Tak province, northern Thailand, as well as distribute essential supplies of donated goods to the village, as well as the Mae Tao Clinic and other institutions in the Mae Sot area.

Project Leader: Mr. Edward Albert Haworth. Director GOHF

Volunteers:

Khun Amarin Nissasoka.
Khun Kit Yongsuwan
Mr. Sawlarbartun Tun

Activity:

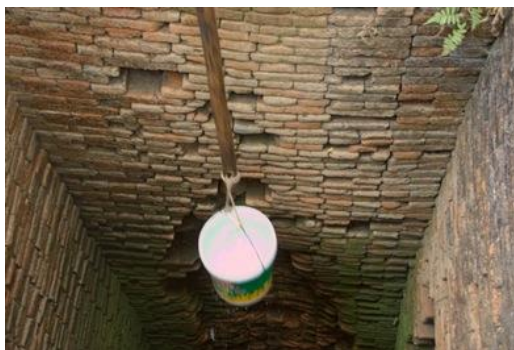
Proud workmen and Gift of Happiness Foundation volunteers completed the construction of new toilets at P' Ya Naung village, in Mae Sot district of Tak province, in 2014.

This month we visited P' Ya Naung again, to give the kids new bedding and much more donated again by Park Plaza Sukhumvit Hotel Bangkok! This month's load went to the girls' and boys' dormitories (around 260 kids) where we built the new toilets last year. The village's name means "Buddha's Mountain" and it consists of little more than a group of remote jungle bamboo huts.



These kids and around 200 more in the Village are finally going to benefit from this important project, so that they no longer have to cart water from a well uphill to the village.

When we previously visited the village and built the six new toilets, we noted the lack of easily accessible water for the villagers, with children having to trek down to a water source and then cart heavy buckets back uphill to the village for use. Gift of Happiness Foundation was determined to finish the water pumping project, started last year, by purchasing and installing a new, submersible water pump into the 7 metre deep well. Then we provided a new power supply to run the pump, plus a secondary pump that we installed, along with all the piping to reach a new header tank located 350 meters up the hill next to the new toilets that we built last year. The total cost of this project was THB 93,000, and it was supported by the BCTFN and the family of Khun Sopavadee Sankosik of the Len Penn Music Academy Bangkok.



Gift of Happiness planned this visit back to Mae Sot to also provide gifts of clothing, bedding, towels, shoes and other goods for around 450 children living in two orphanages near Mae Sot. We also gave around 80 kilos of adult clothing and a new freezer to Mae Tao Clinic in Mae Sot City.

The costs for transport and drivers' salaries etc were generously funded by a friend in memory of our resident volunteer, Simon Balmer (who died following a recent accident). Gift of Happiness Foundation also wishes to show great appreciation to our long term supporter of this and many other projects, the family of Khun Sopavadee Sankosik and the Len Penn Music Academy. The first truck was sponsored by Clown Eckie Entertainments. The second truck was supplied by Mr. Anukorn Puvacharoen of Jirakorn Co., Ltd. Research assistance was given by Mrs. Gale Bailey MBE and Mr.

Raymond McLaughlin.

We employed a local (Mae Sot) workforce and local volunteers helped throughout this project. Gift of Happiness Foundation makes a point of buying goods and equipment from local suppliers wherever possible, and always engages local companies to complete any work.



Gift of Happiness Foundation built new toilets and now give them a new water delivery system.

It was also our sad duty on this trip, the first since the tragic death of Gift of Happiness volunteer, Mr. Simon Balmer, to acquaint the local Foundation assistants, as well as hotel staff, about his passing.



"Simon always had a joke with these guys every time we arrived here"

The charity paid it's usual monthly visit to Mae Tao Clinic to give them this month's donations of essential goods that helps keep the whole clinic functioning and providing medical care to thousands of people every month of the year. This month we gave them a new chest freezer for safe storage of important medical supplies and drugs, plus a couple of very useful air cleaning/filtering machines for the surgical rooms, a large donation of towels, bedding, slippers, adult clothing and even a load of used bags to hand out to the many out-patients attending the clinic every day.



GoHF gives to Mae Tao Clinic almost every month. This time it was a much-needed Freezer and other essentials.



Giving again to AGAPE Orphanage near Mae Sot.

The charity was also happy to give around 50 kilo's of top quality Italian Pasta (donated by **Eurofoodthai.com Bangkok**) to AGAPE Orphanage and around the same amount of pasta went to the boys and girls dormitories in the Village where the water pump project took place. We also gave a load of linen, towels and soft shoes for the children to use in their dormitories.



New bedding and towels and Pasta for kids living in basic village dormitories



Installation of the new water pumping system.



Now they can have running water to bathe in.



Last minute shopping for the concrete water pump base.



Lots more electrical equipment needed to power the pumps.

MAY 2015

Happy Orphans Helped by Coronation Street Star, Giving Back Group and DHL Thailand!

Project Report – Mae Sot District, Tak Province, North Thailand. 17-23 May, 2015.

Purpose: To distribute over 500 donated uniforms, school bags, and tons of other clothing, goods and essential supplies, as well as provide entertainment shows, to 10 migrant schools and other institutions, plus the Mae Tao Clinic, in the Mae Sot district of Tak province, Thailand.

Project Leader: Mr. Edward Albert Haworth. Director GOHF

Volunteers:

Mr. Matthew Hensman. (Giving it Back, Manchester. UK)

Mr. Qasim Akhtar. (Giving it Back, Manchester. UK)

Ms. Tatyana Alimanova

Khun Amarin Nissasoka.

Khun Kit Yongsuwan.

DHL, Thailand drivers.

Activity:

British ITV Coronation Street character, Qasim Akhtar (aka Zeedan Nazir) brought his own brand of Northern English generosity to poor children in North Thailand last May.



Gift of Happiness Foundation and its Manchester born Director, Eddie Haworth, were honored to have the presence and support of TV and movie actor, Qasim Akhtar, former character in the award winning TV comedy drama, Shameless, and now playing the part of Zeedan Nazir in the longest running TV series in the UK, Coronation Street, when it made its monthly trip to north Thailand in May 2015.

Qasim traveled half way across the planet with his "Bro", Matthew, to help give tons of goodies and joy to hundreds of orphans and poor kids during a six day aid and show giving tour to the remote Northern jungles and mountains of Thailand.

We also had fantastic sponsors for this project. Gift of Happiness Foundation was delighted to be joined by Mr. Matthew Hensman, Founder of the Giving it Back Community from Manchester, UK. Matthew sent 10 large boxes of kids clothing and toys from Manchester and, through his newly formed charity organization, raised enough money to buy 500 new uniforms for poor kids in northern Thailand.

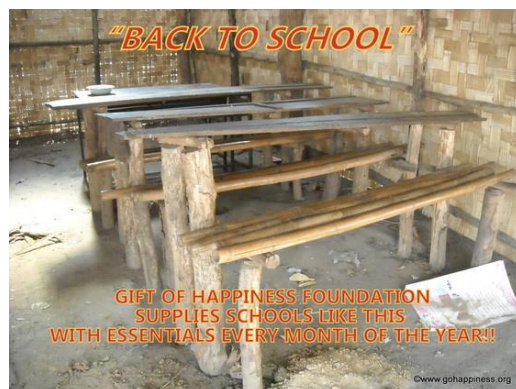
Other brilliant sponsors were Charter International School, Park Plaza Sukhumvit Hotel Bangkok, Len Penn Music Academy, Bromsgrove International Early Years School, and more uniforms from Thai Premium Apparel Co., Ltd, Bangkok.



DHL Thailand provided a massive 10-wheeled truck to take tons of essentials to hundreds of children during this 6-day aid and show-giving project. Just part of this load was 600 new school bags and soft toys donated by Khun Toon Wera, Khun Suchat Samaboot and Miss Moa Svensson. In addition, we had 500+ tooth brushes sent from the USA by Mr. Steve Hunia, plus other toiletries and lots more items donated by many individuals and international schoolchildren in Bangkok and worldwide.

GoHF Founder and Director, Eddie Haworth, provided his own "Clown Eckie Happy Truck" and Khun Amarin Nissasoka drove a second vehicle provided by Jirakorn Co., Ltd, Bangkok. Other volunteers were Bangkok expat from Uzbekistan, Ms. Tatyana Alimanova and a Mae Sot resident helper Khun Kit.

Report written by Gift of Happiness Founder and Director, Mr. Edward Haworth.
THAILAND KIDS GO BACK TO SCHOOL IN STYLE - Gift of Happiness Foundation
helps happy kids go back to school.



Gift of Happiness Foundation gave new uniforms to 550 children in schools like this from 17/05/15 to 23/05/15. Although only a few weeks since our last visit at the end of April, GoHF eagerly returned to

Mae Sot district in Tak province to help orphans and children start the new school term at bamboo hut schools in remote areas around Mae Sot, in Tak Province in Northern Thailand.

Volunteers from the charity were joined by members of the Giving it Back Community, Manchester UK, who had already sent 10 large boxes full of clothing for the children. We were also delighted to welcome our brand new transport sponsors, DHL Thailand, who provided a 10 wheel truck to deliver all the amazing goods we had packed ready for their drivers to collect on the big starting day of this project tour. DHL are sponsors of an annual event that we participate in every year, the **Convoy for Kids**, run by our good friend and supporter Mr. David Mills of Bangkok, and we thank him for his help in arranging this great support from DHL.

We handed out several tons of essential goods including another 550 new uniforms for the most needy children and 450 new school bags for those children who currently use plastic carrier bags. We also gave around 3.5 tons of quality used clothing provided by **Giving it Back Community** and international schoolchildren in Bangkok.

Plus, we gave educational supplies and lots of fantastic toys to those schools where we gave our fun-filled clown shows, to an estimated total of 2,000 children located at 10 migrant schools and orphanages in the region.



During this month's visit to Mae Tao Clinic, we gave a new, modern office copy machine with enough ink/toner and paper supplies to last a year or so. Then we also gave them another 120 kilos of used adult clothing for the outpatients and some medical supplies for the Clinic.

"We couldn't fit all this into our transport a few weeks ago when we gave them a new freezer, air cleaners and lots more. But this time we have a great big 10 wheeler truck to take everything for us, thanks to DHL TH!"

"It's only because of the many friends of Gift of Happiness Foundation that we are able to keep doing these important monthly aid giving projects helping so many children in great need".

JUNE 2015

Another 2,000 Kids Receive the Gift of Happiness – Children's Happy Charity Does Exactly What it Says on the Tin!

Project Report – Sangkhlaburi, Kanchanaburi Province, Thailand. 15-19th June, 2015.

Purpose: To distribute 3 car loads of donated clothing, toys and other goods to institutions and schools in and around Sangkhlaburi town, plus perform Clown Eckie Happy Shows at multiple sites.

Project Leader: Mr. Edward Albert Haworth. Director GOHF

Volunteers:

Mr. Antoine Van Innis.
Mr. Ben Calberg.
Mr. Luke Horton.
Mr. Gary White.
Khun Amarin Nissasoka.
Khun Kit Yongsuwan.



Gift of Happiness Foundation - Giving Just What it Says on the Tin!

This five-day aid and show giving tour included visits to six migrant schools in communities close to the Thai Burma border, but within 50 kilometers of Sangkhlaburi, north Thailand. We also visited a safe house for abused women and children before we returned to Bangkok on Friday 19 June.

Whilst we did not have the exact number of children at each location until we arrive, we now know that almost **2,000 children** were served during this project. We gave a Clown Eckie “Gift of Happiness” performance at each location. At all locations visited, we also gave toys, clothing, educational supplies and ice cream for all the kids.



Charter International School

With the help of International schoolchildren, expat families, a music academy, hotels and other friends, we really do give happiness in places where it's a rare commodity!

There were six people attending this project, five volunteers and one foundation employee. As usual, we used a truck sponsored by the Director to transport donations and some volunteers on this trip. We gave around 1.5 tons of toys, clothing, educational equipment, some medical supplies and a laptop computer. These goods were given to children who are living in very harsh conditions close to the borders of North Thailand and Burma.

All the goods were donated by the children of Charter International School, Len Penn Music Academy, Bangkok, Antoine Van Innis and Mr. Luke Horton, Park Plaza Sukhumvit Hotel, plus hundreds of items donated by many individuals and families in Bangkok and other cities worldwide. The tour itself and prior collections of goods was financed by volunteer and personal contributions, plus the Foundation Director's own resources.



Good news for poor kids in Thailand!

All the people we visit are living in very poor or desperately poor situations and we are always prepared to experience some sights that may be uncomfortable, but we are determined to keep doing this important work as often as possible.

This Gift of Happiness Foundation Project was dedicated to the memory of our dear friend and volunteer Geoffroy Van Innis, who passed away suddenly in March 2015.

The six people participating in the aid and show giving tour were:

Gift of Happiness Foundation founder and director, Eddie Haworth (aka Clown Eckie); Foundation Assistant, Khun Amarin Nissasoka; Project Contributor Mr. Antoine van Innis; Project Contributor Mr. Ben Calberg; Project Contributor Mr. Luke Horton; Project Treasurer, Mr. Gary White.

Independent report: Gift of Happiness Foundation aid and show giving project to Sangkhlaburi, Kanchanaburi, North Thailand – 15 to 19 June 2015. An impartial report by Gary White, former Chief Representative, Westpac Banking Corporation, Bangkok, former President, Australian Thai Chamber of Commerce, and a GoHF volunteer.

The June 2015 Gift of Happiness project was to Sangkhlaburi district, in Kanchanaburi province, north west of Bangkok, where we had not been since March 2014. Five volunteers on this project were expatriates resident in Bangkok. Eddie Haworth and Luke Horton are British, Antoine Van Innis and Ben Calberg are Belgian, and Gary White is Australian. There was also one paid driver/translator Khun Amarin Nissasoka.

Antoine Van Innis is the brother of Geoffroy Van Innis, and Ben Calberg a close friend of Geoffroy, who recently passed away in a tragic accident in his home country of Belgium. Geoffroy had been a regular contributor to, helper of and participant in Gift of Happiness projects and this particular project trip was dedicated to his memory.



Geoffroy Van Innis (Pictured in Sangkhlaburi 2014)

Mr. Luke Horton is a recent recruit to the GoHF crew and dedicated a great deal of effort over some weeks to gathering donations of clothing and toys from his family, his children's school friends, and families in his community. The focus of this trip was to distribute those goods to needy children in the Sangkhlaburi area, as well as other goods donated by Charter International School, Antoine Van Innis, Len Penn Music Academy and Park Plaza Sukhumvit Hotel in Bangkok – plus, of course, great big dollops of happiness via Clown Eckie fun shows at schools and institutions in the area.

Day 1: 15th June

All participants bar Luke, who had an early engagement and was to meet us on the road, met at the Gift of Happiness shop to load up the goods and prepare for the trip. Luke sent his car and driver whilst he himself was otherwise engaged, and we packed his car, and then the GoH Happy Van and Antoine's car. The 3 vehicles, packed to the brim, all set off by 10.30 for the trek to Sangkhlaburi.



Gift of Happiness Foundation Director's own truck being put to good use again!

After a long drive we were all there and checked into our accommodation at P Guest House by 6.30, where we were met by representatives from our local liaison, **One Sky Foundation**. Dinner was at a small and very local restaurant that serves a famous version of massaman curry, before we all turned in for the first day of happiness giving on Tuesday.

Day 2: 16th June

An early start (in fact, they were all early starts!) saw us gathered at the local market by 8am for coffee and tasty local snacks. Then it was off to One Sky's office nearby to pick up some more goods and a generator, as our first call had no electricity and some power is needed for the Clown Eckie show.

I should state at the outset how well and ably we were assisted by Khun Andrew, Khun Un and Khun Off of the One Sky Foundation, who liaised with local schools and institutions to set the programme, chaperoned and guided us to each location, smoothed initial introductions where necessary, and generally facilitated the efficient conduct of all proceedings. They also arranged a local photographer, Khun Wanna, who accompanied us on Tuesday and Thursday (and who took some great pictures, was extremely accommodating to all requests for help, and spoke excellent English).

Once everyone was breakfasted and all was picked up and packed up, off we set for our first engagement, at Parai Noog Satellite School (a satellite of the larger Ban Huay Gop School nearby).



After turning off just before the River Kwai Christian Hospital we drove down an increasingly narrow road that soon turned to dirt and entered a quite remote area at the end of which was a gate proclaiming we had arrived at "Happy Home". This was where Parai Noog was located, and what better site for the first of Clown Eckie's happy shows. The school has 58 students and most of them were present for the show, which was greeted with the usual squeals of delight and laughter.

After leaving bags of toys, clothes and educational goods here, we had a quick noodle lunch at a local establishment back on the “main” road near the hospital, then returned to the side road for our afternoon visit to Ban Huay Gop School (Frog Creek). Another show here for the 190 plus children in attendance, plus half a dozen bags of clothing and toys, and some candy and biscuits courtesy of (I think) Antoine and Ben.

Then it was back to the guesthouse for a short rest before dinner at the Samprasob Hotel, in celebration of my 63rd birthday, which was that day. Andy from One Sky joined us and the guys got me a cake complete with birthday wishes and a candle – many thanks guys!



The back side of the show!

Day 3: 17th June

After our usual breakfast stop at the town market we set off to a very large school in the Mon village section of Sangkhlaburi town, Wat Wangwiwekaram, near the temple of the same name. This school has over 1,000 students, all Ethnic Mon. The show could not be given to all, as there was nowhere big enough to hold everyone, but we did manage to entertain all the younger ones.

So several hundred enjoyed an hour of laughs and happiness, and again we left several bags of children's clothes and toys to be distributed by the teachers after we left. Antoine and Ben again sponsored snacks for the kids and then it was off for a quick lunch back in the main part of town.

The afternoon saw us head out to Sam Chedi Sam Ong district (Three Pagodas Pass) and Ban Songkhalia School, a satellite of Sam Chedi Sam Ong School, located at the base of one of the many huge chunks of shrub covered rocks that dot the area and represent the last gasp of mountains that trail right down from Tibet and the Himalayas. Another show, more bags of toys and clothes, as well as ice creams courtesy of Antoine and Ben, who then unfortunately had to head back to Bangkok due to unavoidable work commitments.

The rest of us – Eddie, Amarin, Luke and I – headed back to the guesthouse for the evening. Luke helped One Sky's Manager, Andy, sort goods for the next day and the rest of us returned to Raan Aharn Massaman for more of their delicious fare.



Day 4: 18th June

Our last day in Sangkhlaburi started as usual with breakfast at the market, and then we headed back along the road to Thong Pha Phum and Kanchanaburi for a few dozen clicks before turning left into the hills and a very remote school called Ban Gong Mong Tha, which serves a small village community nestled in a valley amongst the hills. More dirt roads, but very picturesque getting there.

At the school we were greeted by Khun Joon, a trainee teacher from the village. He had gone to school there and then completed his higher education at the Kanchanaburi Rajabhat Institute, before returning to Gong Mong Tha as a trainee teacher.

He will become a fully qualified teacher next year and is a credit and inspiration to his community, coming back to help teach the local kids of his village. His English was excellent and he basically chaperoned our visit to this school of over 300 students. After the show we left more bags of clothes and toys and Luke hosted snacks from the school cooperative store for the kids present. It is planned to return to this lovely, well-managed school on a future GoH visit to Sangkhlaburi.



*Musical notes/patterns shaved into his hair at an ethnic
Mon squatter village*

Khun Joon, Ban Gong Mong Tha

After lunch back in town we headed out along the River Kwai Christian Hospital Road again for two impromptu stops. The first was an orphanage way out on the road towards the refugee camps along the border, Suan Lek Lek Mor Lah Kha, with 37 children aged 2-5 years. There was no time for a show (perhaps on the next visit) but we left some bags of clothes and toys, including a beautifully crafted and fully-equipped doll's house given by Luke's daughter.

Next stop was back near the hospital, an ethnic Mon squatter village behind a temple – the village aptly being called Ban Mon Lang Wat (the Mon village behind the temple!) – where we left a few bags of clothes and plan to do a show at some future time. Then it was back to One Sky Foundation offices for the final show and donations of clothing and toys, to various van loads of children and their families brought in from remote, small institutions by One Sky. Luke again hosted ice creams for all and then we and the One Sky staff joined for a farewell dinner (once the One Sky people had provided dinner for all the children and families).



Day 5: 19th June

The next day we set out early and returned to Bangkok, arriving safe and sound around mid-afternoon and thankfully beating the worst of the usual Friday evening peak hour traffic!

This completed yet another very rewarding and enjoyable GoH project. In all nearly 2,000 needy children benefitted in some way from the goods distributed and were given a small taste of a kind of happiness they had never known before via the Clown Eckie fun shows.

Another great job done by the Gift of Happiness Foundation, Eddie Haworth (AKA, Clown Eckie) the volunteers who helped on the trip, and all those who donated goods, time and effort towards its successful conclusion.

Report written on 23 June, 2015 by: Mr. Gary White, Retired Banker; Past President and Honorary Member, AustCham.



JULY 2015

Happiness and Tragedy at Gift of Happiness – The Shows Must Go On!

Project Report – Mae Sot, Tak Province, Thailand. 20th – 22nd July, 2015.

Purpose: A short 3-day there and back aid giving project trip to Mae Sot in Tak Province, Thailand to deliver much needed goods to children and families in need.

Project Leader: Mr. Edward Albert Haworth. Director GOHF

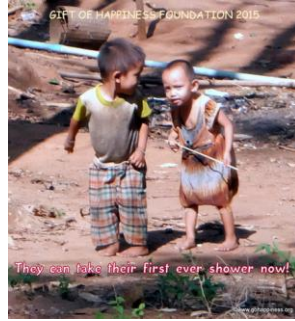
Volunteers: Khun Amarin Nissasoka
Mr. Gary White

Activity:

As July 2015 dawned, the Founder/Director of Gift of Happiness Foundation, Mr. Edward Haworth, and all the volunteers were proud of how much had been achieved in the previous six months, and this despite the accidental death of our only full-time resident volunteer in February, then that of another much valued volunteer in March.



We'd still managed to give many tons of donated goods and happy performances to thousands of needy children and families who have come to rely on our well-established, albeit small, Thai registered charity for a modicum of help in their daily lives and, more importantly, great dollops of happiness from the many clown shows we've performed, as well as other good works done. To this end, we arranged for our first ever mid-year report to be published, which comprises the previous 26 pages of this report.



These kids can take their first shower ever, thanks to Gift of Happiness and its supporters!

Once again we say a big thank you to all those who helped in the past six months. There are many individuals, schools, groups and other organizations who supported us with many tons of useful goods and cash donations that made it possible for us to do so much for so many in the last few months. Of course we would like to thank all donors, but that would mean giving a long list of names, so we have simply chosen to say "Thank You All".



Initially we'd planned to do another of our regular monthly trips upcountry in July, distributing aid and happiness to those in need, but to do this we needed an infusion of funds, so the early part of July was also given over to efforts to secure funding for that project trip. After a few weeks we were unable to achieve our goal and reluctantly set about to defer the mission until August.



However, whilst funds were short donated goods were not, including big items like a complete hospital bed, a wheelchair and a zimmer walking frame! Our storage facilities were bursting at the seams so, despite being short of money, we set off on a quick 3-day trip to Mae Sot to distribute some of these accumulated goods. This was just a distribution trip – no shows, as that meant more time and funds did not permit that.

True to form, Gift of Happiness Foundation did exactly what it says on the tin, again... We gave tons more happiness to kids at an orphanage, a migrant school, a safe house for women and children and the 200+ bed free clinic in Mae Sot, northern Thailand.



We Simply Helped 100's In Just A Day!

The report that follows is by one of the participants.

Report: Gift of Happiness Foundation project to Mae Sot, Tak, 20 to 22 July, 2015. An impartial report by Gary White on our July aid-giving project to the northern Thai/Myanmar border.

In July 2015, Gift of Happiness Foundation (GoHF) returned to its old stomping ground in Mae Sot for a short and somewhat unexpected project visit – unexpected in that it had been planned to concentrate on things closer to home in July ahead of a major trip in August. However, GoHF simply had too much in store by way of clothing, toys and a couple of larger, bulky items. That is not a bad position to be in, but we needed to mount a short trip (visiting a few places and simply distributing goods rather than doing the usual accompanying fun shows) to clear out the warehouse so we can restock for the next trip in August or possibly September.

Director Eddie Haworth took his van (packed to the rafters as usual) and our good friends at Jirakorn Company provided a second van for additional bags of goodies as well as a complete hospital bed, wheelchair and zimmer frame!

Participants on this trip were:

GoHF Founder and Director, Edward Haworth;
GoHF Assistant/Translator (driver of the second truck), Khun Amarin Nissasoka; and
Project volunteer recorder and reporter, Gary White.

After a bit of a hiatus with the packers, so I understand, all was stowed away and the vans set off around 10am, Khun Amarin going ahead whilst Eddie made a small detour to kindly pick me up near my home. We linked up again at our usual first pit stop on the Asia Highway and then travelled more or less in tandem all the way to Mae Sot, arriving just before 6pm. But not without incident! Not too far before Kamphaeng Phet town the tyre tread on a back wheel of the van Khun Amarin was driving blew off, just in front of us. We had to crawl along for several dozen kilometres, in pouring rain – this incident seeming to happen at just about the only lengthy stretch without garages, and at the only time we got rain all day. Sod's Law I guess!

We did manage to find a tyre shop further up the track and the two lads in residence there changed the offending tyre in no time, replacing it with a somewhat dubious retread (albeit the best we could get). Fortunately our kind truck sponsor advised us to get a full set of new tyres when we reached Mae Sot, as the remaining three were not in that good a condition either. This we did the next day. So, having surmounted that little setback we settled into the very comfortable Poonnargun Hotel, then set off for dinner ahead of our task of distributing happiness the next day.

At around 9am, after the usual hearty Poonnargun breakfast (amazing range and standard for a small hotel in a small town like this), we set off for our first call, at the Rocky Mountain 2 Learning Centre. This school, situated in a village called P'Yan Naung ("Buddha's Mountain") is the place where the Foundation last year donated and built a block of 6 new toilets, and this year installed a deep water well pump, pipes and storage tanks so that the children no longer need to waste a good part of every day carting water uphill for use and consumption.

Here we were greeted by the Headmaster, Saw Lar Bar Tun and some of his charges. Eddie inquired about the status of the pump, pipes and tanks, and it was good to learn that all are in working order. One of the tanks fell over when its concrete base eroded, and the tank cracked a bit – but only at the top and it is still usable. Otherwise all is in good order and I must say that, whilst the school and village were demonstrably poor, it as a delightful spot with a good "feeling". We left here 11 bags of teenage clothing, a bag of toys, a box of bamboo pencil holders, a bag of bags, 1 set of plastic filing drawers and two used laptop computers.

Then it was on to the famous Mae Tao Clinic, where we were met by Simon Dickinson, Deputy Director, Operations and Aung Hty (Aung), Public Relations Coordinator, as we unloaded the bed, wheelchair and zimmer frame, plus a dozen bags of assorted clothing, 1 of shoes and another of medical supplies. We also met the (relatively) new Fund Raising and Grants Director, Kevina Maddick. She and Eddie discussed Clown Eckie delivering a mad buffoonery show at some stage in the future.

Lunch was at the famous grilled chicken restaurant near the airport, book-ended by replacing the tyres on the second van. Then it was off to the Social Action for Women (SAW) Health Care House.

The SAW has a number of arms – this one is for women and girls with HIV/AIDS. The Centre Director, Dr Htin Zaw arrived just a few minutes after us and was very pleased to receive our donations of bags of assorted clothing, shoes and toiletries, a suitcase of girls clothing and one of toys. Unfortunately we arrived when the women were having their afternoon nap, but they soon gathered around for a group photo and to wave us off as we departed for our last port of call.

This was to the Agape Orphanage, back on the north side of town – although a bit closer in than Rocky Mountain. This used to also be a school, but now just provides accommodation for 50 orphans and abandoned boys and girls, ages 3-18. Late in the afternoon all the children arrived home from school and it was easy to see they not only recognized Clown Eckie in his civilian garb, but were also delighted to see him again. More bags of toys and clothes issued from the backs of the vans, along with some bedding, shoes and toiletries.

Plus ... the biggest stuffed bear you have ever seen!

Plus, plus ... one spick and span electronic keyboard that the older boys were already making tuneful use of by the time we left. Which we did to the strains of the keyboard and cheers of “Eckie! Eckie!” – and a promise of a show from Eckie and a musical bracket from the Agape All Stars next time we visit! We did note a small store of goods on display in the orphanage office, including a few of the Gift of Happiness uniforms from last Christmas, for use by the kids when they need them!

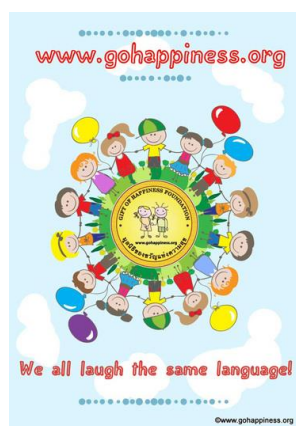
And that was it. Back to the hotel, an early dinner and turn in, before the long trek back to Bangkok on Wednesday. We made good time and managed to thankfully beat the peak hour traffic!

Another great job well done by the Gift of Happiness Foundation. Many thanks to all of those who donated goods distributed on this trip.

AUGUST 2015

In a perverse example of what goes around comes around, because we expended funds on the late July project trip to Mae Sot, however short it was, we did not have sufficient financial resources to undertake another trip in August. Hence there were no formal projects undertaken this month, but rather programmes were in place to gather goods and funding for another trip in September. Nevertheless, Gift of Happiness Foundation did take time, in its own way, to celebrate an annual charitable day, reiterate its mission statement, and generally prepare for more good works in the months ahead.

Activity: World Humanitarian Day – August 19!



Gift of Happiness Foundation is just one small humanitarian organization providing essential or life-saving assistance to thousands of people in Thailand. And it's not just one day a year!

The day aims to honor humanitarian workers who have tirelessly sacrificed their time, money and energy during the course working to help those less fortunate.

Thai government regulations do not permit anyone at the Foundation to recover any expenses whatsoever for any costs incurred during the process of working as volunteers for the Foundation.

To celebrate this day we reiterated our mission statement and broadcast a little about ourselves.

Our Mission Statement.

To serve individuals and families in the poorest communities in Thailand.

About Us.

The idea for this charity was born in 1992 by British and Swedish born circus performers, Mr. and Mrs. Eddie and Charlotte Haworth, who ran circus-training workshops for disadvantaged kids in Liverpool, UK. In 2000, Eddie was invited to perform at a charity event held at the British Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand. Following that performance and a few more for the slum kids in Bangkok, it was quickly decided to bring more gifts of laughter and educational entertainment to orphans and poor families in Thailand. Now supported by a team of dedicated volunteers, Gift of Happiness Foundation is not tied to supporting just a few children at only one location. Therefore, this unique charity has the freedom to provide joy to thousands of children in urban and remote locations throughout the country.

What we actually do.

The Foundation regularly gives simple interactive and educational comedy shows to those whose lives quite often contain little joy. We also give away tons of essential goods during our aid giving projects, delivered where it's needed most and usually at least once every month of the year.

Who we help.

Orphans, vulnerable street children, Bangkok slum dwellers, families living on garbage dumps, AIDS centres and facilities housing physically or mentally challenged children. We regularly serve medical centres, crisis centres for abused women, communities of migrant worker families and people displaced by civil war living in refugee camps.

What we actually give.

The charity gives children and their families basic necessities like clothing, bedding, medical supplies, educational equipment, toys, agricultural tools and tons more useful goods. The children always get to see a top class professional comedy show to leave them with a fantastic memory that no-one can ever steal from them!

Here's how donors help.

Anyone who has any unwanted clothing, bedding, toys, school supplies, household items and like goods, we are pleased to accept them for redistribution to those in need. Contributors can also buy new essentials (via our website) for children who have no one else to provide such important things.

The Bangkok Charity Warehouse.

We accept all manner of goods except for large furniture. There are several drop-off points in Bangkok where people may leave donations or we may be able to collect when necessary.

People wanting to help our small but very effective charity by participating?

Volunteers are always needed and welcomed, provided they pass our stringent qualifications and assessments.

Good News - Bad News!

We will be going back to help the kids on the dump and other locations around Mae Sot, Thailand in September, but we had to postpone the August project through lack of funding. Despite a few donations for fuel costs from friends following social media appeals, we still didn't have enough to fund the planned North Thailand Aid Giving Project in August. Gift of Happiness Foundation wishes to thank those who did contribute something towards the August project. The long drive with two or three truckloads of goods has always been supported by individual cash donations and part subsidized by the charity's director. But the September month target for fuel costs, drivers' salaries, accommodation and other expenses could not be reached. Therefore, we kept what had been given so far and added it to the budget for our newly planned aid giving projects in September 2015.



SEPTEMBER 2015

There were two projects undertaken in September 2015.

Happiness for Survivors of Child Trafficking and Exploitation in Thailand **Project Report No. 1 – A Safe House near Pattaya. 1 September, 2015.**

Purpose: Provision of a professional, educational performance to children at the house, plus donations of ice creams and goods.

Project Leader: Mr. Edward Albert Haworth. Director GOHF

Volunteers: Ms Ailey MacQueen.

Activity:

The Gift of Happiness Foundation's Clown Eckie gave a "Big Fat Happy Buffoonery Show" for survivors of child trafficking and exploitation at a safe house near Pattaya, Thailand. The clown was accompanied by a great supporter and volunteer, Ms Ailey (AKA Kate) MacQueen, who provided some of her fantastic Thai ethnic hand-made bags to some of the lucky residents at the home.

Both Clown Eckie and Ailey were warmly welcomed by the team at the Thrive Rescue Center, who also provided a lovely treat of ice creams for all the kids (and the Clown) after the big show. This was also followed by the hand over of a lovely donation of cash from Kate MacQueen to Gift of Happiness Foundation Director, Eddie Haworth. Every Kate MacQueen Collection bag sold supports Gift of Happiness Foundation, with 5% of the profit from each sale going directly to the charity.

It was a real treat for these kids to see just how silly adults can be sometimes! And the children really appreciate everything given.



True joy for those who deserve a little happiness in their lives



Hand over of profit percentage on Kate MacQueen bags.

Migrant Children in Thailand Receive Essentials from Bangkok Charity

Project Report No. 2 – Mae Sot, Tak Province, Thailand. 4th – 7th September, 2015.

Purpose: A 4-day project trip to Mae Sot, on the northern Thai/Myanmar border, to deliver two big truck loads of essentials and several happy shows to kids who really need them

Project Leader: Mr. Edward Albert Haworth. Director GOHF

Volunteers: **ADD IN NAMES – one per line, indented as per this line.**

Activity:

Gift of Happiness Foundation was pleased complete yet another essential aid and show giving tour to Mae Sot, in the north of Thailand, during the first weekend of September 2015. During this long weekend project we served around 800 poor migrant kids and a few hundred more adults who attend the Mae Tao Clinic close to the Thai/Burma friendship bridge across the Moei River. We gave a performance for around 100 outpatients and some great donations of clothing, bedding towels and hard wearing baby strollers to act as wheelchairs for sick children.

The lucky kids from outside the Clinic were from Hope Migrant Learning Centre, Agape Orphanage, the SAW Safe house for abandoned children and P' Ya Naung village ("Buddha's Mountain" village).



Every item donated, be it goods or cash, goes directly to help children like these.

Gift of Happiness Foundation went back to Mae Sot, northern Thailand, arriving late Friday 04/09/15 to give two more big truck loads of essentials and several big happy shows to kids who really need it!

First thing Saturday morning we visited the well-known Mae Tao Clinic where we gave clothing, toys and other goods to child in-patients, out-patients and those invited from local slum communities. Then it was off to give the same to the kids at AGAPE Orphanage in the afternoon.

Another early start Sunday, and we drove around 60 kilometres north of Mae Sot to give many more essential goodies to the 280 kids who eagerly awaited our ninth visit in the past few years to Hope Migrant Learning Centre. Then it was back to Mae Sot city to visit a safe/rescue home for previously exploited women and children victims of HIV. We gave lots more to those residents and 104 kids from the SAW (Social Action for Women) community in another safe location near Mae Sot.

On Monday morning we began the long drive back to Bangkok with that lovely warm fuzzy feeling inside, all the volunteers knowing they had done something very special for these important, yet often neglected people in Northern Thailand.

Thank you to all those who gave so much to help make this aid giving project such a success!



Just a few of the many people who gave more than two big truck loads of goodies in the last few weeks of August and early September 2015.

We were delighted to have the support of two great volunteers, Jon and Pru Colville from Australia who accompanied the foundation director, Eddie Haworth and two drivers on the long trip to the northern City, then right out into some remote parts of the mountainous Province.

Independent report: Gift of Happiness Foundation project to Mae Sot – 4 to 7 September, 2015.
An impartial report by Pru Colville, from Australia, on our September aid and show-giving project along the Northern Thai/Myanmar border.

Friday: Monsoon season in Thailand and Eddie Haworth from Gift of Happiness Foundation was heading off on another trip to Mae Sot to bring some laughter to children who don't get much in the way of fun. We set off on the long drive north - a convoy of two trucks loaded to the gunnels with donated goods as the rain clouds gathered on the horizon. It was late afternoon before we passed through the police checkpoint and began the climb up through the mountains to Mae Sot, and dark and wet when we finally reached our hotel.

Saturday: The next morning we were fed and watered and on our way by 9am. It's only a short drive to the famous Mae Tao Clinic, which was our first port of call, where we were greeted by willing workers who unloaded bedding and linen, clothing and children's car seats, strollers and chairs and Eddie's assorted boxes full of props for the Clown Eckie shows he would perform throughout the tour. There was no stage and the rain was coming down, so Eddie set up for his show in the waiting area outside the children's clinic. Somehow the news spread that Clown Eckie was there and from seemingly nowhere a crowd materialised. The show was warmly received by children and parents and even the medical staff took a break from their relentless labours to share the laughter.

Then it was time for lunch and meanwhile the heavens really opened up. The downpour turned the ground into a muddy lake in minutes so we waded back through the now waterlogged car park and set off on the drive to the AGAPE children's orphanage where a large quantity of toys, bedding and clothing were donated. The children at AGAPE are mainly victims of the fighting in Burma. Some have lost both parents while others have been abandoned. For the affluent Westerner the bags of cast offs and pre-loved toys might not seem much, but for the children at AGAPE they were magical.

On the return drive to Mae Sot we stopped at a little village called P' Ya Naung, or Buddha's Mountain village. Here, the Gift of Happiness Foundation had installed a water pumping system and toilets some months ago and Eddie wanted to check on how things were progressing. Visiting the village was like stepping back in time, experiencing a traditional Thai rural lifestyle now pretty well lost ... the stilted huts roofed with pandanus leaves; the deep stone well; the people going about their lives as they'd done for endless generations. Then it was back to Mae Sot for dinner and sleep.

Sunday: Off again at 9 on the hour long drive to the Hope School. In the distance the mountains of Burma were shrouded in mist as we passed through miles of fertile farming land lush with crops. The Hope School has been set up for the children of Burmese migrants who work the land. Despite it being a Sunday the whole school had turned out to see Clown Eckie - many of them proudly sporting the Gift of Happiness uniforms donated on a previous trip. Small hands quickly had the trucks unloaded and bags and boxes lugged down the muddy slope and into the school. The show was a huge success as were the donated toys and clothing. The appreciation shown by both teachers and children was so heartfelt it was humbling.

Then it was back to Mae Sot where Dr Htin Zaw - a Burmese doctor has set up SAW - Social Action for Women - which takes the form of refuges for women, including those with AIDS, a medical clinic and an orphanage for abandoned and orphaned children. It was the orphanage we visited - again with toys and clothing. These gifts were met with such delight that Eddie vowed to return at a later date with more donations and to put on a show for the children.

Monday: Eight hours of driving and we were back in Bangkok. A fantastic, never to be forgotten 4 days. The work that Gift of Happiness does cannot be overestimated in bringing laughter and goods to these mostly forgotten children in the border regions of Thailand and Burma.

This project was only made possible because we received financial support or goods from **Monroe Consulting Group, The Crackers Ladies Group, Len Penn Music Academy, Park Plaza Sukhumvit Hotel, Opus Consulting** and individual donors via our website donation gateways.

OCTOBER 2015

Laughter and Joy are the Strongest Medicines Money Can't Buy!

Project Report – Mae Sot, Tak, Thailand. 29th September – 1st October, 2015.

Purpose: A 3-day aid and show-giving project to two institutions in Mae Sot district, Tak province, northern Thailand, delivering much needed essentials to needy children, plus some a complete hospital bed to Social Action for Women clinic, and a professional education performance.

Project Leader: Mr. Edward Albert Haworth. Director GOHF

Volunteers: Khun Amarin Nissasoka
Mr. Gary White

Activity:

Before we go into detail about our September/October project trip to Mae Sot, spanning the end of September and early October, some background items need to be dealt with.

First off was a request from our friend at the Social Action for Women organization, the “Good Doctor Htin Zaw”. Dr. Zaw was setting up a new small emergency clinic and treatment centre for 104 abandoned children, 19 women, 12 other children, all with HIV, and the residents of another safe house for abused women and children. The clinic, located just outside Mae Sot, northern Thailand, was due to open in late September 2015.



Dr. Zaw asked us to supply things like blood pressure testing machines (easily purchased at most good pharmacies), stethoscopes, surgical knives, scissors, tweezers and the like. In fact anything at all that could be useful to a small team of dedicated medics and the good doctor himself. He had also asked for a top class hospital bed, and miraculously we had been able to source one of those, plus a fairly good supply of bedding, towels and a small amount of syringes donated by a diabetic person.



Tons more goodies given by the children at Charter International School in Bangkok.

Then, the fantastic children who attend **Charter International School** in Bangkok have given tons of their own toys, clothing, uniforms, educational supplies and even little notes of good wishes to the poor children we serve in Thailand.

Teacher, Miss Samuels has done a fantastic job of rallying the troops at Charter International by telling them just how much the poor children appreciate everything they give. Now they all know that it's just like Christmas and birthday time all rolled into one great day of happiness when we arrive bearing gifts-a-plenty from Charter international School.

But one more item needed to be attended to before we could head north to distribute these essential goods and sprinkle a little happiness into lives often bereft of the same – and that was transport.

For some time we had made do with ad hoc sponsored transport, but it was often difficult to arrange the right transport at the right time and we had, for some time, considered how we might be able to afford transport of our own – rather to no avail.

Well, Gift of Happiness Foundation is proud to announce its collaboration with **Monroe Consulting Group, Thailand** who, in September, **bought us a brand new truck**. Whilst the physical purchase and initial delivery took place in September, the official handover only took place in October and it was the trip at the end of September/beginning of October, delivering Dr. Zaw's hospital bed amongst other things, where the new truck was first used.





Monroe Consulting's John Tolmie hands over a brand new aid delivery truck to Gift of Happiness Foundation founder and director, Eddie Haworth. Thousands of kids will be delighted to see this truck arriving every month for years to come!

Monroe said: "We are now the official corporate sponsors for Gift of Happiness. Besides the truck and our regular financial contributions to help keep it ticking over, Monroe's team of recruitment consultants are excited to get more involved because Eddie has always needed volunteers to help gather and sort items donated to underprivileged children throughout Thailand, from the slums of Bangkok to refugee camps in the north of the country."

"The foundation and its team of volunteers distribute tons of vital supplies, including medical supplies, food and clothing, to vulnerable children and their families, and regularly provide interactive and educational comedy shows that bring a little light into the bleak existence of many of the children."

John Tolmie, Managing Director of Monroe Thailand, said the cash injection would ensure that the Gift of Happiness Foundation would continue operating until the end of the year. And starting next year, the recruitment company would provide an ongoing monthly donation to allow the foundation to keep doing what it does best – entertaining underprivileged children, John said.

"We'd been supporting Gift of Happiness Foundation for about 6 months and I was keeping abreast of Eddie's Facebook page. He mentioned they were really struggling because a couple of sponsors had pulled out and he needed a new pick-up truck," John said. "So we decided to buy him one."

John said the Foundation had negotiated with Mitsubishi to purchase the vehicle at cost price and Monroe was happy to provide the 500,000 baht to allow the sale to go ahead. He said that Monroe had had to terminate a relationship with a previous charity the recruitment company had worked with because of management concerns, but this was not an issue with the Gift of Happiness Foundation, which was well run and financially transparent. The foundation and its team of volunteers distribute tons of vital supplies, including medical supplies, food and clothing, to vulnerable children and their families, and regularly provide interactive and educational comedy shows that bring a little light into the bleak existence of many of the children.

"Another Big Thank You" goes to all the great people and companies who support our passion to bring so much happiness to so many children in need. Amongst them are: The Geoffroy Van Innis Memorial Fund, Siam Motor World, Len Penn Music Academy, Park Plaza Sukhumvit Hotel, Opus

Consulting, Regus Bangkok, Kate MacQueen collection, The Bangkok St. Andrew's Society, Bangkok St. George's Society, The Scottish Business Group, and The British Women's Group.

There are also 4 good people who send small but important monthly subscriptions via [PayPal](#) or bank transfer and we thank you all for your continued support as well as so many individual donors of used goods for us to pass on to the poor.

And it's true, nobody gets paid one penny at Gift of Happiness Foundation. 100% of what you give goes directly to support our aid giving projects with nothing spent or wasted on administration, fancy gala dinners, chauffeur driven cars or posh hotels.



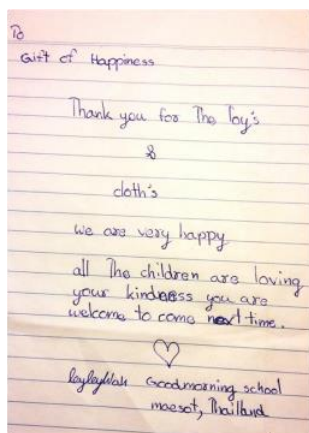
LAUGHTER & JOY ARE THE STRONGEST MEDICINES MONEY CAN'T BUY: 29/9-1/10/2015.



So, equipped with two truckloads of goodies, including a complete new hospital bed for Dr Zaw, and armed with our new, generously donated Monroe van, Gift of Happiness set off at the end September 2015 for another essential aid and show-giving project tour to Mae Sot in the north of Thailand. The project was attended by 2 unpaid volunteers, the charity Founder/Director, Eddie Haworth and Project Treasurer/Recorder, Mr. Gary White, plus one paid driver of our new truck, Khun Amarin Nissasoka.

During the morning of 30/09/15 we served around 280 poor migrant kids and about 20 adults and teachers at the migrant community learning centre and "Good Morning School", located close to the

Moei River and Mae Sot's garbage dump. We recently came to this school and gave a "Big Fat Buffoonery Show" for the children, plus a truck load of goodies. On that visit we were joined by the "Giving it Back Community" team from Manchester UK, Mr. Matthew Hensman and Qasim Akhtar (AKA Zeedan Nazir, British ITV "Coronation Street" character). That's when Matthew gave free professional haircuts and Qasim played football with these kids in the school playground.



Thank you letter written by a child at Good Morning Migrant School



Thank you letter written by a child at SAW Safe House for abandoned children

In the afternoon, we gave another performance for around 160 abandoned children and their carers at the SAW (Social Action for Women) safe house. We also gave a fantastic brand new hospital bed and wheelchair to Doctor Zaw for his new "Free Clinic" near the city of Mae Sot, plus lots more great donations of clothing, bedding towels and toys for the children at the SAW safe house.

This project was only made possible because we received financial support or goods from Monroe Consulting Group, The Crackers Ladies Group, Siam Motor World, Len Penn Music Academy, Park Plaza Sukhumvit Hotel, Opus Consulting, Khun Toon Wera and individual donors via our website donation gateways.

Independent report: Gift of Happiness Foundation (GoHF) project to Mae Sot, Tak – 29th September to 1st October, 2015. An impartial report by Gary White, a project participant.

In recent months, Gift of Happiness Foundation has developed closer relations with several institutions in Mae Sot under the Social Action for Women (SAW) name, managed by Dr Htin Zaw. When GoHF last visited Mae Sot in early September, Dr Zaw asked if it was possible to obtain one or more hospital beds and other medical equipment, as these items were sorely needed by the SAW Group.

Now hospital beds in any form do not grow on trees, but the gods must have been smiling on Dr Zaw because, lo and behold, GoHF quite by chance came into possession of one brand new, fully equipped hospital bed a few weeks ago, plus a new, imported wheelchair and sundry other medical equipment. Other donations of clothing, toys and educational supplies have also flowed in freely, such that the GoHF warehouse was chock a block well before the end of September. GoHF has also recently been lucky to win sponsorship of a brand new carry van, courtesy of Monroe Consulting so, whilst the van is not yet fully fitted out, with storage space at a premium it was decided

to do another quick trip to Mae Sot at the end of September. This would clear some space in the warehouse, as well as help run in the new van.

It was thus that Director, Eddie Haworth, Assistant Amarin Nissasoka and Treasurer/Recorder Gary White set off on the morning of 29th September for the drive to Mae Sot. It was an uneventful trip, apart from a spotlight on the front of the Director's truck working loose and the back casing on one of its rear vision mirrors mysteriously falling off, and we arrived at around the usual time of 6pm and checked in to our regular hotel, the Poonnagun.

The next morning, after the Poonnagun's usual excellent breakfast, we set out for our first stop of the day, the Good Morning Migrant Learning Centre, on the northern edge of Mae Sot. This was a nice little school set amongst fields and trees, with just over 270 students ranging from nursery level to the equivalent of year 1 High School. We were greeted by a teacher cum driver cum sports coach called Samuel, who had quite good English and helped us with the usual formalities. The students helped unload and display 12 bags and 2 suitcases of assorted educational supplies, toys and children's clothing, and posed for photos with their new found goods accompanied by a rousing cheer of "Eckie!" No doubt with his "sports coach" hat on, Samuel put in a request for sporting uniforms for the children. Obviously, this is a tall order, not easily filled – but if a complete hospital bed can suddenly drop from the skies, who knows what can eventuate?

Next it was back into town and out again to locate and inspect the school bus that had previously been in the care of One Dream One World before it closed. The GoHF local volunteer, Khun Kit, had been caring for it since ODOW closed and it needed inspection to see what repairs might be necessary before it goes to a new home at another institution. Lunch was at a (very) local grilled chicken outlet (another regular haunt) before we made our way to the Social Action for Women's Safe House for Abandoned Children. Dr Zaw met us there and was delighted to see the hospital bed packed into the back of the new pick-up. Off he went to round up a utility load of strapping lads to get the bed off the GoHF truck and onto a local conveyance so it could be take off to Dr Zaw's clinic, along with a wheelchair from the UK and assorted other medical equipment and supplies.

Meantime, Eddie/Eckie set up for a rollicking clown of happiness show and we unloaded yet more bags of clothing, toys and educational supplies for the Safe House. The show ended late in the afternoon and, after packing all the show props away, we returned to the Poonnagun for a bit of a rest and an early dinner.

Next day it was back in the vehicles for the long drive back to Bangkok – which drive was thankfully dry apart from a few sprinkles along the way. We were lucky to miss the downpours of Friday and the weekend. Although Eddie wasn't so lucky as he went just outside the Bangkok city limits to get his truck fixed on Friday and didn't escape the horrendous traffic jams until almost 10pm. Many thanks to Khun Toon Wera for organizing the donation of the hospital bed and to Ann McKinnon for facilitating donation of the wheelchair.



NOVEMBER 2015

Project Report – Show and aid-giving project to institutions in and around Mae Sot, Tak Province, northern Thailand. November 26-30, 2015.

Purpose: To distribute donated goods and provide Gift of Happiness “happy” shows to underprivileged children and their families in northern Thailand

Project Leader: Mr. Edward Albert Haworth. Director GOHF

Activity:

The month of November started off with Gift of Happiness giving a performance of a different sort to children of a different sort.

On 6th November we gave a unique lecture on the Art of the Clown, followed by a professional performance produced by Clown Eckie and sponsored by Harrow International School, Bangkok, to Harrow International School drama students.



Can't beat a good old-fashioned laugh every so often!

We just want to say another big "Thank You" to Harrow for sponsoring this performance, coming just a few weeks after the last one when Clown Eckie spent a few days giving his Circus Skills workshops at a Harrow House Camp in Khao Yai National Park.

Harrow International School have been supporting Gift of Happiness Foundation since before the charity became a Thai registered non-profit organization in 2009. The help they have given over the years has been very much appreciated by thousands of poor children we serve in the north of Thailand. We hope to continue our collaboration with the great staff and students at Harrow for many more years to come.

We also put on another Gift of Happiness Foundation Clown at this year's Harrow Fair on 21st November, and collected donations of used toys and clothing for the poor kids we serve. The Clown was there with our brand new truck recently donated to the charity by Monroe Consulting Group, Bangkok. With this "Big Top" truck we can collect everything anyone can ever bring or buy for children in need.



Gift of Happiness Foundation received a brand new truck from Monroe Consulting Group, Bangkok.

Bangkok Good News Charity! Gift of Happiness Foundation off again on yet another aid and show-giving project to northern Thailand.

As the highlight of November, Gift of Happiness Foundation produced another important aid and show giving project delivering tons more essentials to hundreds of children and families in northern Thailand from 26 to 30 November, 2015. We gave our brand of happiness and essential supplies as usual to hundreds of patients at Mae Tao Clinic, 340 students attending Nam Tok (Waterfall) Migrant Learning Centre and around 160 children who live on the garbage dump, all near Mae Sot, Tak Province.

This project tour also included a special visit to the small town of Mae Taeng Sai Ngarm, Kamphaeng Phet. Here we gave more goodies to the children at a Thai Government school called Ban Nong Mae Taeng School (Thammasat Arsa). The children and school Director have seen on the internet what kind of happiness we bring and asked the Gift of Happiness Clown to headline a family fun day being held at the school on Friday 30th November 2015.



Poor kids enjoying a Gift of Happiness Quality Experience



Gift of Happiness Foundation climb the Magic Hill that leads to so much joy for so many people.



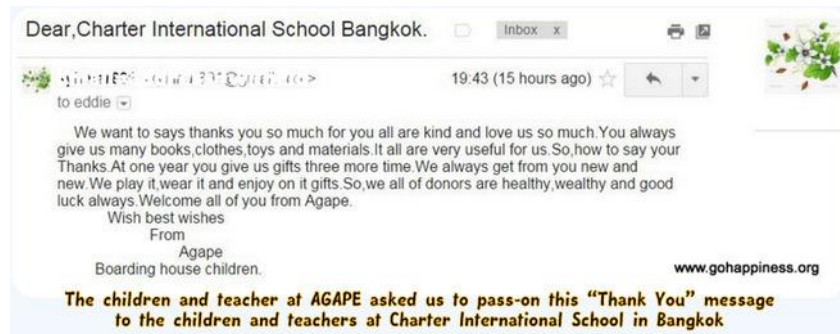
We delivered goods in our brand new truck that's already covered 3,500 kilometres in only 4 weeks!

We were also happy to re-visit the Nam Tok Learning Centre. We first starting supporting this school way back in 2007, making this our 15th visit to deliver toys, clothing and educational supplies enough for all 380 kids who attend the school.



Nam Tok Learning Centre (Or: The Waterfall School).

The visit to Nam Tok was followed by yet another much needed appearance at the AGAPE Orphanage, which lies very close to the border just outside Mae Sot itself. We have been supporting this orphanage for several years and particularly during the past year and a half since they lost some important funding and had to re-order the running of the place. There's now only around 65 abandoned or orphaned children living at the orphanage and they are cared for by only a small group of most dedicated (and quite young) volunteers who are doing a fantastic job of keeping the kids well fed and schooled. We are proud to have been instrumental in making sure the poor children here are also well clothed and have plenty of toys to play with or teddy-bears to cuddle.



After all the fun and giving so much happiness in Mae Sot, we set off very early on the Friday morning to travel back along the road to Bangkok, which normally takes around 7 or 8 hours, mostly along the Asia 1 Highway. But this time it would take almost 13 hours because we went via a small village located around 80 kilometres off along a smaller road heading in the wrong direction from our normal way to Bangkok. We managed to get slightly lost a couple of times, but eventually arrived at the village and its largest building, which is the regional Thai Government school called Ban Nong Mae Tang Thammasat Arsa School near Phaisan Kan Chang Nong Mae Taeng, Kamphaeng Phet. This visit was arranged following a special request from the head teacher, Mr. Pheng Sornsakun, who is friendly with one of our past volunteer entertainers who lives in London, Gingernutt the Clown (who will join us again in January 2016). It was he who had recommended us to the head teacher, knowing that we would be made very welcome by all the great children who mainly come from quite poor backgrounds and who've never had the chance to see the kind of Western live comedy entertainment that we provide.



This project was funded entirely by Clown Eckie and cash donations given via our website "Donate and Subscribe Buttons". Our Corporate sponsor, Monroe Consulting Group, also provided essential logistical support.

Finally, for November, Gift of Happiness Foundation Thailand has been vetted and approved to receive grants from CAF America. So now a US donor wishing to make a tax-deductible contribution to

support us may give to CAF America and recommend that the grant be made to Gift of Happiness Foundation Thailand.



Are the kids happy?

Yes, they generally are, but they have no sense of community, very little spirit, no real sense that they belong to anything, which inhibits their ability to learn and positively develop their own social interactions. It is quite amazing to see how a simple item of decent used clothing, a few bashed but usable toys and some very basic coloring books and pencils can change their entire outlook on life, starting from the moment they receive our gifts.

Where do all the goodies come from?

We collect lots of toys, clothing and all sorts of other essentials from International Schools and families who are having a good old clear-out or moving house. We also get some goods from people traveling into Thailand with a little room in their baggage to bring lightweight clothing or toiletries.

Charter International School Bangkok have given tons of really good supplies following an appeal from a primary school teacher, Miss Samuels and the head boy and girl at the school. The head teacher researched our organization and was more than satisfied with our credentials, so he also encouraged the students to collect their used goodies for us to pass-onto the poor kids that we serve.

[THANK YOU CHARTER INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BANGKOK!](#)

In November 2015, the charity received more goods and some money from quite a few other places around Bangkok. *Notably the Norwegian Ambassador and the [Norwegian Chamber of Commerce](#) made a great contribution to the cause when they engaged the Gift of Happiness Clown to entertain the Ambassador, his wife and around 100 respected members of the Norwegian Chamber at the annual Christmas party, hosted at the Ambassadors residence in Bangkok.

*[The St. Andrews Society](#) (SAS) and the [St. Georges Society](#) (SGS) in Bangkok also renewed their strong support for Gift of Happiness Foundation during their SAS Annual Scottish Ball and the SGS Presidential election meeting held at the British Club in Bangkok.

*A great American family gave donations of food on Thanksgiving Day when their children came across town with dad to make their Thanksgiving donation directly into [our 24/7 drop-off box in the City](#).



"Thank you" to G & B for your lovely gifts to some poor children in Thailand!"

*[Harrow International School in Bangkok](#) supported us twice during November when they sponsored the Gift of Happiness Clown to perform his 'Unique Lecture and Show' for the schools Drama students who are studying the ["Art of the Clown"](#). Then the Clown appeared again giving his rather silly "Buffoonery shows" at the annual Harrow Fair. Some of the Harrow students and teachers also gave toys and clothing to our charity so that we can pass them onto the poor kids we will serve throughout December.

*The Gift of Happiness Clown also entertained thousands of "Happy Gala Event Goers" at the annual Ploenchit Fair organised by the [British Community in Thailand Foundation for the Needy](#). The [BCTFN](#) had helped Gift of happiness Foundation to develop a water pumping system and new toilet block construction work at a remote northern Thai village that the charity has supported since 2009.

*[Siam MotorWorld](#) provided our charity with it's usual five star service at minimal cost

when we needed an emergency fix to one of our vehicles that had been involved in an unfortunate accident that caused extensive damage to the upper bodywork (*no-one was hurt*). We were right back on the road within three days following the accident so we were able to deliver much needed goods to the children of a poor community about 2 hours drive north of Bangkok.

***Walk-A-Thon, November 2015.**

We wish to say "A Big Thank You" to [Fab Card Asia](#), [Pacific Cross Insurance](#) who supported us directly by giving a total of 25,000-THB on the day of this years Walk-A-Thon fund raising event at Lumpini Park, in central Bangkok.

"Thank You and well done on completing the walk" to all those who attended and gave in good faith to all three charities named by the organizer.

Note; The organizer of the 2015 Walk-A-Thon event in Bangkok declined to pass-on to the Gift of Happiness Foundation any part of the remaining 271,450-THB of general funds raised in the name of Gift of Happiness Foundation and two other charities.

More info [contact us](#)

DECEMBER 2015

Happy Charity Reporting Happy Giving Again!

12/6/2015

Gift of Happiness Foundation are taking two more truckloads of essentials to 1,050 poor kids again on Monday 07/12/15!



Gift of Happiness Foundation brief overview of migrant children in north Thailand. Over the past three decades, as migrant populations have grown in Thailand, so has the need to provide education for the increasing number of children accompanying their parents and those born in the country. In response, communities began setting up locally run schools, commonly referred to as migrant learning centers, not considered accredited schools by the Royal Thai Government.

Typically established spontaneously by experienced educators from Myanmar, there are around 156 Learning Centers in the north of Thailand with approximately 18,000 students. All Learning Centers typically receive funding from the non-governmental and, in some cases, private sector. They are not recognized by the Myanmar or Thai governments and rely on outside funding. This, coupled with decreasing support for displaced communities in Thailand in recent years, has made Learning Centers increasingly unstable. Gift of Happiness Foundation is just one of many small NGO's who've been support some of these Learning Centers mainly in Tak Province since 2005. And as a well established support organization we have now gained the respect of large organizations like [UNICEF](#) and the [Charities Aid Foundation of America](#).



The children we serve are very poor, but there are “poor kids” and “POOR KIDS”.

Most children we support are educated and live on dirt floors, under leaf thatched roofs with woven rattan walls. The children wear cast-off clothes and old shorts for underwear, most of which has deteriorated to little more than rags and their learning centers are very sparsely equipped.



Are the kids happy?

Yes, they generally are, but they have no sense of community, very little spirit, no real sense that they belong to anything, which inhibits their ability to learn and positively develop their own social interactions. It is quite amazing to see how a simple item of decent used clothing, a few bashed but usable toys and some very basic coloring books and pencils can change their entire outlook on life, starting from the moment they receive our gifts.

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researched our organization and was more than satisfied with our credentials, so he also encouraged the students to collect their used goodies for us to pass-onto the poor kids that we serve.

[THANK YOU CHARTER INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BANGKOK!](#)

Gift of Happiness Foundation also gave yet another two truck loads of really great supplies to the children at Watsammakan school near Ayutthaya, north of Bangkok. We have been serving the kids at this very worthy school since 2007 and this project saw us deliver some goods that we could never have brought before we acquired our lovely new truck from [Monroe Consulting Group, Bangkok](#)...We gave a load more books and educational supplies for [the library that the kids built themselves](#) last year...and just see what else we gave the kids this time...



Watsammakan School near Ayutthaya receive fantastic new goods in the new Go-Happy Truck

LOOK WHAT WE DID THIS CHRISTMAS!

Volunteers on this project; Ian, Judy, Yak, Eddie & Amarin.

Sponsors; Generosity/Indigogo [Crowd-Funding donors](#). [Monroe Consulting Group Bangkok](#) (Logistics), [Goeffroy Van Innis Memorial Fund](#) (Christmas hats). [Kids Academy Bangkok](#) (Toys and money). [Len Penn Music Academy Bangkok](#) (Goods and services).



**Christmas 2015 at the Thai/Burma Border...
Quite simply, we made a lot of children very happy!**

**Gift of Happiness Foundation Founder/Director, Eddie Haworth
wishes to personally thank all those who made this wonderful Christmas project
work so well for around 1,1000 very poor children.**

Volunteers on this project; Ian, Judy, Yak, Eddie & Amarin.

Sponsors; Generosity/Indigogo [Crowd-Funding donors](#). [Monroe Consulting Group Bangkok](#) (Logistics), [Goeffroy Van Innis Memorial Fund](#) (Christmas hats). [Kids Academy Bangkok](#) (Toys and money). [Len Penn Music Academy Bangkok](#) (Goods and services)



[Christmas Giving to Poor Kids](#)

12/19/2015

Gift of Happiness Foundation Founder/Director successfully appeals for support to feed abandoned & orphaned kids on Christmas Day 2015!



Here is a direct copy of the Crowd-Funding appeal made in late November 2015. Target for funding was reached by 15th December 2015 - Thank you to all who contributed!

I am founder of a state registered charity in Thailand. We serve around 1,000 very poor migrant children with clothing, toys, educational supplies and bedding every month, mainly in northern Thailand. As a professional Circus Entertainer I also give the children and teachers a high quality comedy performance that always leaves them with a wonderful happy and life-long memory that no-one can ever steal from them.

This is really a personal appeal. Please read my little story about why I need your help this Christmas time.

I am just one of millions of people who've been left alone in this world, and just like so many others, I always have a difficult time coping with the festive season. But through my work with the charity, I have made connections with several orphanages where the kids try

to celebrate Christmas as best they can without much support from adults except for their house mothers and orphanage trustees who are often unable to afford anything special or different for them to eat on Christmas Day.

In past years I have always given toys and clothing to children in need or visited hospitals and clinics to perform comedy shows in my role as a "Clown Doctor". It is my intention to do much the same again this year and I have already collected a large amount of clothing and toys to give the kids, and this year I want to give them a little extra something special...

Fact is...

I probably don't have too many more Christmases left in my life to do this...So...With a little help, I know I can really make a lot of abandoned and orphaned children very happy on this Christmas Day. I will also leave them with something to sustain that happiness for the rest of their lives and long after mine is finished.

On 23/12/15, I will drive for 7 hours from Bangkok to Mae Sot, Thailand with two truckloads of goodies and some brand new cooking equipment, plates, pots-n-pans, plus loads of food.

On 24/12/15, I will be visiting two remote migrant communities to give essential clothing, toys and a couple of fun interactive comedy shows.

On 25/12/15, I plan to cook a big Christmas day meal at a small home for 107 abandoned and orphaned children located next to the Thai/Burma border. I will also give the kids even more much needed toys and clothing.

Helping me do all this is simple and not expensive!

I need money to buy food and cooking equipment so I can cook the big meal on Christmas Day and I need to pay the costs of a driver/translator and worker to help me physically handle around 1.5 tons of essentials that I want to give the kids.

It will cost at least \$1500 USD to buy enough food and bulk catering cooking equipment for me to get this job done properly. I will also very much appreciate anything over that amount to help me pay the drivers salary, accommodation and fuel costs for two trucks.

Any amount of money you can contribute to this fund is greatly appreciated. It is extremely difficult for me to cover expenses from the small pension I receive. Our charity is totally out of funds for this project since all money in the charity account is allocated to another aid and show giving project, also in north Thailand starting 07/12/15 to 11/12/15.

I am determined to make it happen for those kids on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, so please dig deep into your Christmas savings to help me reach my target.

Thank you.

Poorest of the Poor Get a Little Joy this Festive Time

Gift of Happiness Foundation Aid & Show Giving Project 06/12/15 to 10/12/15.

Special Christmas project is 23/12/15 to 27/12/15.

Gift of Happiness Foundation (GoHF) is proud to be collaborating with UNICEF and the Burmese Migrant Workers' Education Committee, both of whom are helping us visit the very poorest migrant schools that somehow manage to exist in the northern regions close to the Thai/Burma border.



Just one of thousands of poor kids that so much need a little happiness in their lives!

Preparation and loading of two trucks were undertaken by Eddie Haworth (Director at GoHF) at the foundation's warehouse in Bangkok during most of the day on Sunday 06/12/15. Eddie also gave some baby essentials to a local single mother who lives close by the foundation warehouse in Bangkok. **Then an early start was made on Monday 07/12/15** for the long drive, with only Eddie and our regular driver, Mr. Amarin Nissasoka, taking the two trucks up to Mae Sot in Tak province, Northern Thailand. This time the journey would take nearly 9 hours because we needed to stop off in Ayutthaya as Eddie had some technical difficulties with his android device, which contained much of the information he needed to find the remote locations we were to visit during the planned week ahead.

We still managed to arrive soon after the other volunteers' flight landed at the small airport just before dark. These volunteers were Mr. and Mrs. Antione/Emmie Van Innis and Mr. Ben Calberg, who were invited along to help by teaching some Thai language and organizing some extra fun and games for the children when we arrived at each location. Mr. Van Innis is the brother of our dearly departed friend and strong supporter of our charity, Mr. Geoffroy Van Innis, who sadly passed away in March of 2015. This project was partly funded by [Fab Card Asia](#), [Pacific Cross Insurance](#), [Horton International](#) and a very kind donation of money from the Geoffroy Van Innis Memorial Fund, and we also dedicated one of the shows in the name of Geoffroy and Antione's grandfather, who also passed away just a couple of days before this project was started.



First thing on Tuesday morning we drove a short distance across town from our usual guesthouse to the offices of the Burmese Migrant Workers' Education Committee (BMWEC), where we met with our Karen/English/Thai speaking translator and guide, Mr. Aphichat Siriphongphana. Then we were off to the first of four Migrant Learning Centres, located around 33 kilometres south of Mae Sot along the high mountain road to Umphang. We arrived at the Hta Lor (Talar Aor Klar) School to be greeted by around 80 very excited children who'd made a special effort to dress in their finest clothing in order to show respect for their unusual Western and Thai visitors. We set up all the show equipment ready to give the kids an hour or so of great Western style slapstick comedy silliness presented by Clown Eckie.

Quote;

"People who can make others fall down laughing posses a divine gift of creation which must be given freely to those in need"

Before the big show started, our latest volunteer Thai language teacher, Mrs. Emmie Van Innis taught all the children in one of the classrooms and played some fun games based around using Thai language. Emmie did this kind of teaching at all the other places we visited during this project and so all the kids we saw this

time had even more than the normal happiness that we give them so often! We followed the teaching and big show by giving the whole school lots of toys, educational supplies and clothing. The head teacher and all the children were absolutely delighted to receive all our offerings and they are already looking forward to our next visit to their school in 2016.

After lunch at a nearby waterfall and nature reserve restaurant, we drove another 20 kilometres or so along the same Umphang mountain road to do it all again at the Parahita Htoo Migrant Learning Centre. This school consists of just one small classroom with one full-time teacher who somehow manages to teach just over 100 kids who are mostly underfed and in very great need of some decent clothing. Our volunteer, Ben Calberg, pointed out that he could only find one single deflated football in the dirt yard behind the schoolroom, and there were no signs of any other toys at all. So we were delighted to be able to give them a large dose of happiness through the Clown Show and an even larger load of essential items of clothing, educational supplies and much needed toys.

GoHF Director, Eddie Haworth, says: *"I've been visiting and helping poor kids in this country since 2002, and I've seen the poorest of the poor living in terribly hard conditions. But this place is now very close to the top of my list of desperately poor kids, just under the kids we serve who live on garbage dumps!"*

We will return to give them as much as possible in 2016.



Wednesday 09/12/15, we revisited the BMWEC office to collect our great helper and translator, Mr. Aphichat Siriphongphana, and from there we drove to another location about 50 kilometres away from Mae Sot and in the same general direction towards Umhang. But this time we were visiting a migrant school called Thoo Mwe Htee Ger Ni, located in the village of Phop Phra, which is in turn located in a more remote area and deep within the jungle that straddles the Thai/Burma border south of Mae Sot. The 200 children attending this school were not quite as poor as the ones we had visited the previous day, but they still needed the large amount of goods that we brought for them. We noticed the children here are being educated by some very seriously minded teachers who seemed to enforce a strict regime of segregation between boys and girls. This, in turn, meant the children were under orders not to stand up or interact with the clown during the show! However, they tried very hard to relax enough to thoroughly enjoy the "Great Big Buffoonery Show" presented by Clown Eckie on the large school stage, and by the end of the show even the teachers were in fits of unadulterated laughter. So, mission happiness was accomplished yet again!

After a quick lunch of Thai noodles in a roadside eatery, we went back along the road to Mae Sot where we turned off to head into another quite remote area where the last Migrant Learning Centre for this project was located. The name of this school is Parahita Learning Centre and it is located within the temple grounds at Wat Hway Nu Kalae, around 35 kilometres from Mae Sot town. There are around 150 kids attending this small school, which has no enclosed classrooms as the buildings are mainly converted cattle sheds and temple buildings. There is an obvious great need for clothing, educational supplies and toys here as the children were all very poor indeed and, in some cases, had nothing but hand-me-down old rags to wear. So we were delighted yet again to be able to give them so many essential goods and so much equally essential happiness through the silly old clown show that was presented on the steps leading to the all-seeing statue of Buddha *(who we think also enjoyed the happiness?)*.

After all the giving and spreading of happiness to so many children in need, we had to head back into Mae Sot just in time for our three great volunteers to take the last flight to Bangkok and start writing their own report about the experiences they all enjoyed during this short but important aid and show giving project.



AGAPE Orphanage/Go-Happiness Boy Band get new Guitars!

Amarin and Eddie left the airport and drove to the Thai/Burma Friendship Bridge, from where they headed along the border to the Orphanage that GoHF has been supporting for the last few years. We arrived at AGAPE Orphanage with a small but very important gift of three good quality guitars for some equally very important teenage boys who are rapidly becoming highly skilled musicians! The young men were absolutely delighted to see what we had brought for them and immediately started tuning and playing their new instruments. We will be visiting this orphanage again in January when the whole group of children and those teenage boys will be entertaining our merry band of volunteers, one of whom is coming from London, and others are expatriates from Australia, USA and Wales.



A message from our Director & Founder Eddie Haworth

What an amazing year 2015 has been, there has been sadness and dear friends have departed but on the positive side we have managed to achieve so many of our aims and goals and above all fulfilled our primary goal to BRING HAPPINESS

I cannot achieve this without all the amazing people who have supported us this past year – without you we could not even come close to spreading some joy into all the childrens lives.

Looking forward to 2016 we still have so much to do and with your continued support we can achieve even more than we have ever before.

Thank you for your continued support