

Good Shepherd Youth Centre
169, Moo 17. Tambon Charoen Muang
Amphur Phan. Chiengrai 57120, THAILAND
Tel. & Fax 053-659-875, Email: anurakc62@yahoo.com_

Project Application for
CHILDREN IN ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

Title of the project: Project for the education and care of Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances.

Beneficiaries: 30 Northern and Hill Tribe children aged between 4 and 14 years old.

Project holder: Sister Anurak Chaiyaphuek

Description of the project: After having gained much experience with migrant youth from the North arriving in Bangkok, the Good Shepherd Sisters decided to extent their ministry to the north of Thailand.

There is a great need to help children affected by Aids A child can be abused in many different ways. Some have contacted the disease themselves through sexual abuse, others have lost their parents, but the most dehumanising affect is the stigmatisation that occurs when the child is a member of a family that has AIDS. The child is shunned, ridiculed or, because of tribal believes, accused of being possessed by evil spirits.

The consequences are that the child no longer goes to school and is neglected. Children become an easy prey for traffickers and other unscrupulous people because the tribal community is glad to get rid of the child. We feel that through our outreach program we are able to get in touch with parents and guardians. Through our pastoral work and counselling we are in a position to protect children and change the attitudes of people against superstitions. We also visit schools to inform them about AIDS and the danger of being lured into the sex industry We provide the children that have to live under extreme difficult situations with support and the means to continue their education.

We hope that with help received from benefactors we will be able to help those who cannot help themselves. Whilst education services by government institutions around Chieng Rai are offered, the objective of the Good Shepherd Ministry is to offer more than education alone.

Next to education, it is very important to obtain Thai citizenship. Many children are entitled to Thai citizenship, but the parents are illiterate and do not speak Thai. They cannot complete the long and complicated forms to apply for citizenship. Thai citizenship is the key to a life with dignity and most problems experienced by the hill tribe people revolve around this issue. It makes them vulnerable and easy prey fol traffickers. The sisters have won the trust of local governments and have structures in place to trace the ancestry of people. Every year the sisters very successfully obtain citizenship fol a large number of children.

Besides education this is another important area that the sisters would like to focus on in Chieng Rai.

The ministry for Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances is very worthwhile, because it gives a totally new perspective to children who, without help, would perish either through disease or abuse.

For further information please contact Sister Anurak directly:

Email: anurakc62@yahoo.com

or contact our volunteer worker:

Mrs. Joke Kok, Wiekslag 143, 3815 GE Amersfoort

Tel.: 033 470 2073, Fax: 033 4702076, Mobile phone: 06 25 445 339

Email: joke.kok@wxs.nl