



Life Home Project
PO Box 105 12/16 Montree Rd.
Tambon Taladyai A. Muang
Phuket 83000 Thailand
Tel: +66 (0) 76 242 632
lifehome@loxinfo.co.th
www.lifehomeproject.com

Phuket, 19 June 2017

Dear Lizzie,

I would be delighted to answer your questions regarding the Funding Network's donation to Life Home Project and how this money was spent.

As per your instructions, this money was channeled into the Project's Scholarship Program. As you are aware this was started in response to our wish is to secure a better future for those children who are most vulnerable, helping them to develop to their full potential and break out of the cycle of poverty and stigmatization that entraps them. We believe that the best way to achieve this is to provide such children with an education.



You're probably also aware that in the Scholarship Program, members of the public are invited to become a child's 'Godparent' – committing to pay their scholarship costs for at least one year of education, 5000 baht per year (approximately 97 euros/US\$120/AUS\$167) or roughly 400 baht per month. This covers school fees and any extras such as textbooks and uniforms. Some of it also goes into an 'emergency fund', specifically set up for use by the child's family in times of difficulties or crisis.

There are presently 75 children receiving money regularly from Godparents. As you can imagine, this is a mere drop in the ocean when it comes to the actual number of children needing financial support in order to stay in school. As a result, we have set aside a sum of Project money, of which your grant constitutes a significant proportion, solely for the purpose of assisting those children as yet without Godparents, to help them also realize their dream of an education.

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Currently there are 79 such children on our books. We became aware of their plight in the course of our daily work in the community. These kids don't receive full scholarships as such. However, if it looks like a child is at risk of being prematurely taken out of school to help relieve the pressure of financial difficulties on his/her parents or carer (e.g. due to sickness, sudden or prolonged unemployment etc.), cash donations are made available to prevent this. Each case is monitored closely and all monies allocated are done so in such a way as to ensure maximum returns.



As you probably know, there are three groups of children in the Scholarship Program:

1. Children affected by HIV

Whether the children are HIV positive or not, most will eventually lose both parents to the disease and become orphans.

2. Sea Gypsy children

Sea Gypsies are a disadvantaged minority ethnic group whose traditional way of life is fast disappearing.

3. Slum children

Phuket may be the second richest province in Thailand but many children still lead desperate lives in the area's slums, many of which are located in Patong.

Many of these children are forced out of school and into the workforce before they reach their teens. Drugs are a growing problem and girls in particular are at greater risk of sexual exploitation and hence exposure to HIV. In contrast, the offer of an education represents the possibility of a 'normal future' – one that most children in Thailand take for granted.





The following is a breakdown of how much of the TFN grant totaling 410,121 baht has been allocated to each of these groups thus far:

- 35,552 baht to 32 children in Patong
- 89,005 baht to 23 children in Phuket's other slum areas
- 33,768 baht to 13 children infected with HIV
- 14,150 baht to 6 children living in Phuket's sea gypsy communities

TOTAL: 172,475 baht

You have asked about media coverage of the Project. I am pleased to report that in late August, Phuket's only English language television station, Channel 11, featured a segment about Life Home on their morning news program. This was several days after a visit to the Project by the governor of Phuket. He came with a media entourage, including a reporter from Channel 11 who became interested in our work. As a result, another volunteer, Kathy Manthei, and myself, were invited to appear on the program and be interviewed about the Project – its origins, *modus operandi* and its successful results. It was also a wonderful opportunity to promote our new shop, Helping Hands, located in Phuket's newest shopping mall, Central Festival. The interview was supplemented with footage shot of the project, mainly of the arts workshop, during the governor's visit.



And later this year, Phuket Magazine plans to run a feature about the Project focusing mainly on our new shop. This latest Project initiative is a wonderful opportunity for the women to operate and manage their work themselves – while at the same time acquiring skills in organizational planning, inventory maintenance and production.

I trust the above answers all your questions. Please let me know if you need additional information or clarification on any point.

On behalf of everyone at Life Home Project and myself, thank you again so much for your generous support.

Best wishes,

Jose Luis Gay, Project Director

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