



**PROJECT
UMBRELLA
BURMA**

Vision: The safety and survival of all ethnic groups in a free and democratic Burma

Mission: We are dedicated to fostering the development of medical clinics and youth hostels to serve victims of ethnic cleansing and cultural destruction in Burma.

To accomplish this, our Canadian Foundation raises awareness and funds.

What your support has allowed us to buy:

- Microscopes
- Truck & gasoline
- Waterpipes
- Medicine
- Malaria treatment
- Tutors, teachers & caregivers
- Mosquito nets
- School fees & uniforms
- Computers
- Pens & Pencils
- Photocopying
- Plastic sheets
- Umbrellas
- Roof leaves/bamboo
- Eucalyptus posts
- Machetes
- Cement
- Seeds
- Blankets & Sleeping mats
- Bamboo
- Buckets
- Rain hats
- Fish & Fish nets
- Rice & chicken
- Salt & Chilli
- Tomatoes
- Pumpkins
- Cabbage
- Pots
- Bowls
- Slippers & running shoes
- Chess & Scrabble
- Paracetamol
- Soap
- Toothpaste
- Guitars
- Scissors

**PROJECT UMBRELLA BURMA
DONATIONS**
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Orillia, ON LEV 5X6
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NEWSLETTER 2005-2006 vol.1 no.3

PROJECT UMBRELLA BURMA matures: Strong and proud we enter our fifth year

A Year in Review

It has been a challenging year for PUB. Our initial mandate was to help at the Clinic and to feed clothe and shelter the exceptional children of Kaw Tha Blay Hostel. As well, money and equipment are in short supply at the clinic and triage is the norm. The young do grow and Cathy and David have had to accept that a future wasn't just going to happen automatically for these kids. So it was clear that more cooperative intervention was needed for the Karen both at the clinic and with the Kaw Tha Blay students.

David was the only western trained physician at Mae Tao Clinic for several months this year. As usual it has been busy but he says his medics are stellar and need him less and less. Journalists, missionaries, English speaking professionals and interested people from all over the world find their way to the Trauma Unit where he 'hangs out'. As a result, he has been featured on Australian TV and radio, BBC TV, by Radio Netherlands and interviewed

by Japanese, Taiwanese, American and Korean journalists. With this exposure more people have heard about PUB and the Mae Tao Clinic and awareness and donations have resulted.

The hardware in Trauma has improved thanks to matching grant Rotary Donation that originated with the Orillia and Lake Country Rotary Clubs. New OR lights, a larger autoclave and oximeters were appreciated by valuable short term visiting surgeons, our own Dr. John Toye being one. Si Lowry also came last year and did anaesthetics.

Cathy works with what we now call the Kaw Tha Blay Group. Of necessity, this now includes a small technical college, a malaria center, and our 'Futures House,' a place where the young can be safe, learn and begin a journey towards a Civic Society to stand up in comparison to any in the world.

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Top right photo: Students from Kaw Tha Blay are taught CPR by volunteers from Canada.



Poh Paw helps unload food for the hostel from the truck both supplied by PUB.



Students at the college write an exam

THE COLLEGE creating tomorrow's leaders

Kaw Tha Blay Junior College

In its first year, the Kaw Tha Blay Junior College survived a difficult rainy season, their original sponsor's broken promises and desertion, thoughtless interference of foreigners, hunger and loss of hope. But they kept trying and now look back on a year that ended with academic achievement and great memories of sport, adventure, friendship, song and hard work.

In early 2005 unable to encompass taking on the sponsorship of this essential facility, Cathy helped write a proposal which sought funding for the college. Soon a sponsor appeared, promising to fund the fledgling school for one year. In three months they were gone saying it was dangerous.

The need for the college as a place for skill development, practical academic growth and hope was essential for the 22 students from our hostel graduating in 2005. For all but the most academically exceptional, the only future is migrant work, return home to Burma to forced labour and early death or to stay in the refugee camps and produce more children who will also have nowhere to go.

When the sponsor stopped support Cathy and David had no choice now but to assume responsibility. These young people were left with no future. With the PUB Board's consent, KTBJC successfully completed its first year. With a strong headmaster, they have begun a second year with 14 more level ten graduates from our hostel and other students from three more camps on the border, a total of 50 students.

Skills learned at the college

They are studying Agriculture, Accounting, Leadership, Computer Skills, English, and Thai and in the second year they have added Business (and office) Management and Community Health Worker Training.

Last year we thought we couldn't do it. We were wrong. We did it. This year we think we can.



TRUAMA

This year it was very clear that previous teaching had paid off. Law Kwa and Etamwe now do at least five hernia repairs a week. Spinal anaesthetics are routinely carried out. Two amputations were performed since IRC now pays for primary management of land mine injuries at the local Thai hospital. The steady stream of abscesses, fractures, work injuries and tuberculosis in myriad forms continues. It seems that cases of malignancy and congenital problems in children are increasing. Because of the lack of funds some are triaged, some deferred and a few we manage to get to the local hospital and on to the more sophisticated treatment available in Chang Mai. We have had a number of visiting doctors (see Visitors) – including Dr John Toye. The result of his second visit: Law Kwa and Etamwe are now able to take grafts and apply them, a huge advance in the care of the many burns and skin loss from infection that we see there. The new autoclave, the oximeter, the new air conditioner in the operating room made a great difference. The leaking roof has been replaced with a sound one with welcome skylights: the crumbling east wall has been replaced, gaining us six more feet. But best of all, the medics bamboo 'temporary' sleeping and eating quarters is no longer and they now have a proper place to live.

We have had an excellent group of medics in training this year. They had all had previous experience with the Brigades and were older. They came for a six months 'refresher' from Law Kwa, Etamwe, Billy Htoo and David too! – though apart from clinical work, our best time was the hilarious hour at 2 p.m. every day – the English Class – with topics, ' could and should', makeup stories and singing Beatle Songs, which always brought a crowd of open-mouthed amazed patients to our door.



Photos below: Girls at the college watch the boys playing guitar. The college not only offers young people education but also a chance to have fun and socialise.

Photo above: Dr. Joughin from Calgary and David desloughing a very badly infected arm.



THE MALARIA CLINIC

Photo: David and Kshakalu come to look at the Malaria clinic while others wait outside to be admitted.

The world annual death rate from malaria is estimated more than 1 million; particularly at risk are children, pregnant women, and people with reduced resistance. For survivors, repeated and neglected infection results in chronic ill health from anaemia, liver disease, and cerebral and kidney impairment.

Last year we had many cases of malaria in the College. Getting these kids to Mae La for treatment was difficult, expensive and the delays endangered them. There was clearly a need for a malaria and diagnostic clinic in the College and, apart from a medical necessity, this would also provide an educational opportunity. We asked Dr Cynthia if we could send four of our students to her Lab in the Clinic for training and she kindly agreed. The Malaria Research Centre in Mae Sot, the SMRU, tested them, continued their training and is very pleased to have this project now under their 'Umbrella'. Already 40 people with fever have been tested at the College centre, and 28 found positive and treated.

With proper control, malaria in this area can be curbed and hopefully eliminated; a part of a dream for the world that little by little must be made to come true.



Doh Tah Village

Every year we take foreigners to our Kaw Tha Blay Hostel in the Refugee Camp to spend the day. Before they leave everyone gathers in the boys' study/eating hall where the visitors are asked to deliver an 'encouraging' speech. Many of the foreigners are moved to tears as they look out on this sea of hopeful girls and boys. Often these friends would love to stay and work with our students and our students long to learn from them. Unfortunately, foreigners are not allowed overnight in the camps or even to visit. We have found ways around this – one is to bring the visitors in ourselves with our truck, and sometimes using the truck take students out to the college in the north and even occasionally to Mae Sot. But this is not always easy.

Recently we found land in the Thai/Karen village, Doh Tah, between the Refugee Camp and the College. Our plan is to build a bamboo/leaf dormitory and a small \$3,000 home/school where the students can go to take special courses that foreigners might offer (eg. English, human rights, computer skills and healthcare, carpentry etc.). We hope to do this by September. The village has electricity, water and telephone so our students would have access to the internet for the first time! This satellite of both the college and the hostel could also serve as a safe house should there be an attack.



MEH MWE PAW

Her name is Meh Mwe Paw. She is 16, the second youngest of 10 children. Her family is back in the western part of Karen state near the new SPDC capital. Life there is pretty horrible with most of the men in her village taken as forced labour and the few remaining very quiet and hungry. Not long before she came to us (travelling with some others who were returning with Karen soldiers), she and her sisters and other villagers had been forced to stand in the village square for 36 hours while SPDC soldiers harangued them on what miserable, useless people they were.

We are very lucky to have her. Somehow she has managed to get to grade eight by the age of 16. Because she is bright her large family helped her. She will have to work this year on her written Karen as she was not allowed to speak or write Karen in her Burmese government school in Karen State. Like many new ones she has been eating when not studying and we all laugh at how chubby she has become. She will level out when she is secure.



MOE MOE HAR

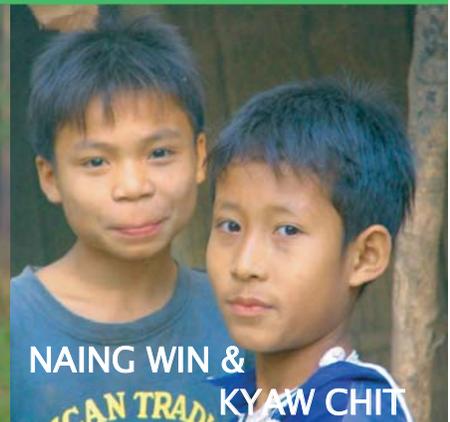
Moe Moe Har, age 20, came to the hostel at 15. Our beautiful 'pig farmer' has raised eight pigs and many chickens and working with other students has managed to make money. This past year, during national celebrations, she sold snacks at a kiosk. She works hard at everything, is often the first to work in the garden, to coo kand to teach the children. Her English and accounting skills and particularly her self confidence have improved. At first she wouldn't venture out of the hostel except to school now she wants to become involved in 'business' on the border until she can go back to lead in her village. This year when she returned from a dangerous visit back to her village, she was unable to speak in other than whispers for several days, as that is the way it is there. She believes she will never see her family again.



NAW CHIT HTOO

Naw Chit Htoo was originally Naw Chit ('Miss Love') She was our second Naw Chit. I jokingly called her Naw Chit 2. She has been with us for three years and just turned 17.

Her father was a teacher and village head-man, traveling to three other villages to teach. He was popular and brave. The SPDC don't want the Karen to learn They wish to keep them sub-human, which justifies their treatment of them. They shot Naw Chit's father. His body was found and everyone knows who did it. Nothing could be done. Naw Chit's mother also died of sickness or loss. Naw Chit was bright it seemed sensible to send her to us at Kaw Tha Blay Hostel. This summer she began the training for malaria diagnosis/treatment and was top of the class. Her English has blossomed. She's in her first year of the KTB JC and working hard. Her smile levels mountains. She's begun to understand what power she has. We watched on her weekend visits as she rose like a gangling filly often knocking things (or words) about in her exuberance, covering her mouth with both hands to stifle giggles.



NAING WIN &
KYAW CHIT

Kyaw Chit and Naing Win came to the camp with a pastor in 2001 when they were just 10 years old. The pastor left them with Kshakalu while he went away for a short time. When he returned they returned to him, but soon ran back to Kshakalu. This happened three times until finally Kshakalu agreed to keep them. They were scarcely seen apart until recently. Naing Win is our scholar, who spends most of his time with his books. He has twice won highest overall mark (98 average) and with it a monetary prize, which he has immediately sent back to his mother in Karen State. Kyaw Chit does well in school but also is superb at Chillo ball and is learning to play the guitar. This summer they both worked hours and hours daily at the College and when they weren't working they were climbing trees, shooting slingshots, swimming in the river and playing football, chillo or volleyball. Kyaw Chit is quite a fierce kick boxer as well!

THE STUDENTS



THANK YOU

Catherine Downham stands with some of the children supported by Project Umbrella Burma.

OUR DONORS Running a charity is a financial challenge. Nothing stays the same and growth is inevitable. It may be that we can find the money to let 50 of the children return to Burma to contact their families; a bit of cash for each providing safety if they run into the SPDC, or, for the boat, essential for ferrying them across the Moei or the Salween, then suddenly we need new roofing leaves that have to be bought at the correct time. The price of gas escalates, and so does the price of rice, the truck breaks down. Yet, in a year that inevitably has seen increased financial challenges, somehow we have managed. This has all been possible because of you, our funders and supporters. Coming home and catching up with John Mayo, the same names of the givers repeat themselves year after year. The Board believes that Project Umbrella Burma is not only essential to the people and children it supports, but that it is a unique template. We know you believe this too. Without you, it just would not be happening. The loyalty of PUB's donors is its sustainability.

You are keeping a small flame alight for the Karens (not only the ones we help directly but others that know about them) and for humanity, which hopefully will burn more brightly and one from which we can all share and benefit.

Thank you so much for your understanding. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Thank you to the donors listed here who donated from our last fiscal year June 1, 2005 to May 31, 2006

Note: Please forgive us if we missed anyone.

Argent, Jean/Robin
Arnold, Christina
Bailey, Louise/Margaret
Bam, Homi/Linda
Barber Family
Barr, Margaret/David
Bedford, Patricia
Beesley, Kenneth/Imelda
Black, Murray
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Brewster, C.F Dr
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Downham, David/Cathy
Downing, Bernie
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Fancy, Betty Lou
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Frampton, William
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Griffith, Anne
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Maltby, Cameron/Mary
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McBirnle, Patricia
McBrice, Erin
McBride, Eugene/Catherine
McCarthy, Alana
McCarthy, Gerrard
McCarthy, Marlene
McCarthy, Phyllis
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McPherson, James

McRobb, Dorothy
Murray Family
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Purves, David/Suzanne
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Scott, Cynthia
Selby, A.B
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Sinclair, Muriel
Smith, Barry
Southorn, Wendy
Stanton, Mary Lou
Stewart, Laurie
Swinimer, Bill/Susan
Thomson, Adam/Shirley
Township of Ramara
Toye, Lynn/John
Turnball, Bryan
Turnbull, Rosemary
Twin Lakes Secondary School
Wachter, Gisela
Waite, Bruce/Susan
Washago Lioness Club
Weber, Marika
Weiler, Eric/Donna
Whalen, Scott
Wilkins, Elizabeth

OUR VISITORS In 2005/2006, again several individuals from the Orillia area traveled to Mae Sot, Thailand to participate in P.U.B. educational and medical related programs. These people continue to increase the awareness of P.U.B. in Simcoe County. The Board of Directors appreciated for their expertise and willingness to help in the endeavours of Project Umbrella Burma and thank Dr. John and Lynn Toye for their time, carrying supplies, skills, interest and work, Marlene McCarthy for her continued support, hard work and enthusiasm and, with her this year, Leslie Little and Sam and Maggie Little who contributed hard work and joy for many disadvantaged Burmese children. Also thanks to Jane and Robert Hawke for bringing supplies and gifts and for Jane's work and generosity. Betty Lou Fancy and Pat McBirnle are thanked for their time, interest and for their encouragement and inspiration to the Kaw Tha Blay Hostel and College students.

The Downhams with visitors to Thailand, the Toyes, Marlene McCarthy and the Little Family.



AT HOME As well as their intense schedules, the PUB Board have had many meetings and since our last newsletter they have completed the PUB strategic plan, with the help of Bruce Waite they have developed legal guidelines and medical forms for volunteers to the border, completed guidelines for Board members and all the rest of the infrastructure we feel will guide us in the next few years. Not an easy task!

Karen Graham spoke to the General meeting of the Ontario Teachers Federation and later to an enthusiastic group of students at Twin Lakes Secondary School. Last Year Simcoe County Yoga Teachers were encouraged by Betty Lou Fancy and Anne Robinson to make PUB their charity of the year. Bear Creek SS and Orchard Park PS also took on projects and as a result many young people became involved in the desperate plight of the Burmese.

Our Board at home is always available to share information about PUB in any way they can to help spread the necessary awareness that will lead to all levels of support for PUB and the Burmese Crisis.



Catherine buys food and supplies for the hostel and college in Mae Sot.

FINANCIALS

Statement of Operations and Surplus
Unreview - Unaudited
For the Year Ended May 31

	2006	2005
Revenues		
Grant - Barber Foundation	4,825	2,500
Donations	75,808	62,665
	80,633	65,165
Administrative Expenses	2,324	3,361
Direct Expenses		
Special Project	-	4,691
Uniforms	4,529	2,999
Food	15,347	10,701
General Supplies	5,293	4,527
Stipends (local)	2,247	1,368
Transportation	6,276	5,508
Recreation	3,461	950
Buildings and Premises	7,990	3,730
Clinic	3,571	3,016
Communications	783	848
Academic Supplies	2,860	2,078
Medical Supplies	2,255	2,960
Miscellaneous	453	1,018
Capital Items	3,343	12,070
Travel Costs to Thailand	3,637	12,890
Total Direct Expenses	62,045	69,354
Total Expenses	64,369	72,715
Surplus (deficit) For the Year	16,264	(7,550)
Surplus Beginning of the Year	(6,882)	668
Surplus (Deficit), End of the Year	9,382	(6,882)