

**OUR VISION** is the safety and survival of all ethnic groups in a free and democratic Burma.

**OUR MISSION** is to provide care and education for young people and for medical clinics - to serve victims of ethnic cleansing and cultural destruction in Burma. To accomplish this our Canadian Foundation raises awareness and funds.

## OUTREACH TO OUR DONORS

You have made it possible for our children to escape the obscenities of the Burmese Military, from whom they would otherwise be subjected to burning, murder and rape, the stealing of crops and animals, forced labour, their use as human landmine detectors, and the forced relocation of whole villages. Horrors that are incomprehensible in our well ordered and stable world.

PUB cares for 150 children without a country. Your continued contributions are vital to allow them to grow up in safety, in good health, and unafraid.

PUB cares for Burmese patients at Dr. Cynthia's Clinic who have nowhere else to go and for Medics who receive very little for their dedicated service and for medical equipment.

Thank You from all of us.

**PUB IS A DIRECT AID CHARITY** All donations go directly to the children, the patients of Dr. Cynthia's Clinic and the Medics.

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## NEWSLETTER 2007-2008 Number 5



## THE YEAR IN REVIEW MAKING LEADERS

David returned to Mae Sot in November 2007. Kshakalu had arranged for David to bring two medics from Dr. Cynthia's clinic, Etamwe and Tai Tai to the college at Doh Tah for elementary suturing training. Two days after this training the Kaw Tha Blay College students as part of their Community Health Training, crossed the border into Burma backpacking medical supplies to groups of internally displaced people.

Soon after, Kshakalu took David to watch the Kaw Tha Blay Hostel students practising their traditional Karen dance (Done). The Done is an awe inspiring experience for the onlooker. Later in December they performed in the refugee camp, in Karen and Thai Karen areas, in Mae Sot at the clinic and at a large school for migrant workers' children. This dance is a new enterprise for the students. **(photo above)** The confidence the children gain by practicing and performing this dance connects them to their cultural history and gives them the strength of purpose to become leaders within their community.

Cathy came in early December rented an old car and was immediately involved in the different locations of our project; the need to replace the temporary Hostel buildings in Mae Lah and to build a permanent classroom and boys dormitory at Doh Tah. While occupied with this, she worried over the finances with Kshakalu, accompanied the children to various places to dance as their reputation grew, took part in this year's graduation of Kaw Tha Blay College students, and taught when required, sharing the kid's food, bamboo sleeping areas, outside toilets, the bugs and the snakes.

The death of General Bo Mya in December 2006 threw the Karen leadership into confusion. The military dictatorship in Burma persuaded one of the Karen Generals to 'come over' and a lot of territory was lost with the remaining threatened. There was a marked increase in attacks on civilians by the Burmese military (SPDC) forcing villagers once again into the jungle. The SPDC put a price on the head of all Karen leaders and on February 14th, 2008 tragically Pah Doh Mahn Sha, the much respected General Secretary of the Karen National Union was assassinated.

Coming back to the Clinic, the work was going on as usual, but there was a distinct change of mood. Many more had given up and taken the UNHCR's option of emigration to the developed world - the Karen were losing their best. Medicine Sans Frontiers decided it would no longer treat patients diagnosed with TB from across the border because of increasing resistant forms of the disease. Triage here was frequently too painful to bear. Our best people had been working day in, day out. There was a definite danger of "Burn-out".

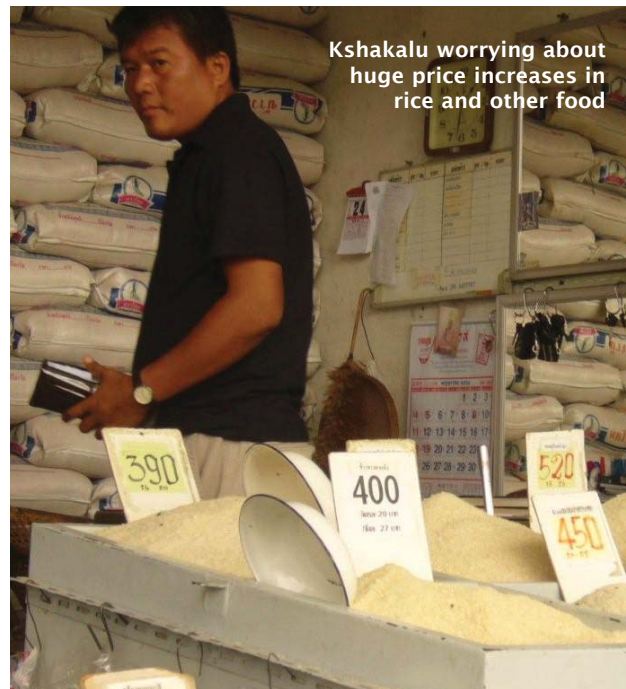
But as the months passed, their resilience returned. The senior medics in Trauma took some time off. Etamwe, the team leader, cannot be 'down' for more than 5 minutes and Law Kwa decided after a long debate, he had a duty to stay and help his people. Kshakalu's emphasis on 'Education for Leadership' is being recognized by senior Karen more and more and a new spirit is entering into the Karen Community. The Burmese Military cannot survive for too much longer in the wake of the Saffron Revolution and Cyclone Nargis.

Cathy and David are now back in Canada working hard to raise critically needed funds for the coming year.



## POST CYCLONE NARGIS

It is poorly understood that between 40-70% of the farming population of the Delta are Karen. Our Karen friends know that the Military's neglect, prevention of foreign aid and forcing the refugees of Nargis back to their villages, was part of their policy of genocide of the Karen. Yet the monks and communities have united to help those most in trouble and the starvation and disease feared in the aftermath though critical are not as devastating as previously feared. The Burmese are more resilient than ever and this speaks well for the future.



Kshakalu worrying about huge price increases in rice and other food

## FINANCIALS

May 31st, 2007

Revenues	2007	2006
Grant - Barber Foundation	16,000	4,825
Donations	76,346	75,808
	<b>92,346</b>	<b>80,633</b>
Administration Expenses		
Accounting Fees	212	268
Newsletter	570	-
Conference	-	488
Bank Charges	506	583
College of Physician Fees	-	985
	<b>1,288</b>	<b>2,324</b>
Direct Expenses		
Malaria Clinic	1,188	-
Clothing	4,546	4,529
Food	18,874	15,347
General Supplies	8,120	5,293
Stipends	4,509	2,247
Transportation	7,142	6,276
Recreation	2,546	3,461
Building & Premises	5,961	7,990
Clinic	1,877	3,571
Communications	1,321	783
Academic Supplies	4,040	2,860
Medical	3,571	2,255
Miscellaneous	1,661	453
Capital Items	14,095	3,343
Travel (donated by volunteers)	14,697	3,637
<b>Total Direct Expenses</b>	<b>94,148</b>	<b>62,045</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>95,436</b>	<b>64,369</b>
<b>Surplus (deficit) for the year</b>	<b>(3,090)</b>	<b>16,264</b>
Surplus (deficit) beginning of year	9,382	(6,882)
<b>Surplus (deficit) end of year</b>	<b>6,292</b>	<b>9,382</b>



**OUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE** L to R Tun Kyi, Hostel in Charge and Kyaw Dah, top monitor with Naing Win after his grade 10 Graduation, Mae Lah Refugee Camp.(B&W photo insets of both boys when they first arrived at the hostel) **FAR RIGHT** Thay Thay Win, Leader . (picture taken at Malaria 'rapid test' Seminar) We have almost 50% girls in KTB College and have 30% in the Hostel.

**TUN KYI**  
Tun Kyi, another of our graduates, is now looking after the 87 children in the Hostel in Mae Lah, with the assistance of two 'grandmothers' and a watchman. He manages a budget which includes - paying for food, clothing, school fees, maintenance and new building. He is vigilant about school attendance and the children's health. He has a group of 'monitors', who are responsible to him - for everyone, a learning experience. We are very proud of his excellent work.

**AN EYE TO THE FUTURE**  
Several people have asked the question: " What happens to the children, when Cathy or David can no longer make the journey and what if anything should happen to Kshakalu. Through education and leadership training, our senior students have already begun to take on responsibility. More and more individuals from our community, County and Country are becoming interested. This year already several of our Community Leaders have committed to visit the work of PUB on the Border. Should the situation in

Burma change for the better, our concern will continue and our Community will have a significant and needed although changing role for many years.

**BUILDING LEADERS GRADUATION 2008**  
In April, we celebrated our second College Graduation and 18 students made a commitment to serve their people. Some have gone on to a 3 month practicum following a school year of theory in Community Health at the AMI Hospital at Mae Lah and when finished have work in various Karen Organizations, such as the Karen Women's Organization, Karen Information Department for journalist internship and three more have joined three others already working with Dr. Cynthia. The Kaw Tha Blay Junior College have graduates working with Handicap International, teaching on the Border and five are back in Burma working with a Civil Rights Group - a very dangerous mission. Several others will work with Kshakalu managing the animal husbandry, agriculture and wood businesses and the Photo Copy Shop which are all part of the Kaw Tha Blay Group. Three boys have chosen to take a six month Officer Training Course which is focused on surveillance, resistance, protection and politics.



**Cathy with new students from Burma, May 2008 and they keep coming...**



**David with the medics of Trauma**

**NEWS IN CANADA**

The City of Orillia Council has adopted Project Umbrella Burma 'as an International Outreach Initiative by giving the Project its seal of approval'.

On 30th July, the Karen Flag was raised in front of the Opera House in a ceremony attended by the Mayor, by City Councilor, Don Evans, by our Provincial and Federal elected leaders and by Karen Canadians and many concerned citizens.

**THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS**

We wish to thank you our donors who have continued to believe in PUB. Without your loyalty and continued support this work would be impossible. If you have been by chance, omitted, please forgive us, and let us know.

We thank the following people who have supported us in the fiscal year June 1st. 2007 to May 31st. 2008.

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