



# REFUGEES &

# DIRECT AID

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**98% OF THE FUNDS DONATED TO PUB GO TO HELP THE CHILDREN AND THE CLINIC**

The many healthy faces of the children reflect the success of our programmes.

**PUB STUDENTS HELP REFUGEES FROM BURMA**

With special aid from the Barber Foundation our students are able to help refugees from Burma

*Dear Friends of PUB*

*With gratitude, we are sending you the story of PUB for the past year from July 2009 to July 2010. We are proud of what we have achieved together. This year our main themes are what it means to be a refugee, what Direct Aid means and how sadly the need is for PUB to continue.*

*Dr. David Downham*

**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.



The picture on the right shows the KTBLC students giving rice, oil, lentils and salt to Karen who have been driven from their villages by the Burmese military. The first wave of about 3000 older people, women and children came in June 2009. The men hid with the domestic animals in the jungle until the border river receded in October and the animals could cross.

Without the help of the Karen/Thai and people like our students, these people would die. Our students helped them settle, purchased the food and gave of their own meager supplies. Twice the Thai Military and Police have sent them back to impossible areas land-mined and patrolled by Burmese troops. They are in Thailand now finding places in the refugee camps and as migrant labourers. They are now part of the estimated 63 million people worldwide known as refugees.



# KAW THA BLAY LEARNING CENTRE

PHOTOS TOP - L TO R

In June 2009 KTBLC campus moved from Burma due to the hostilities of the Burmese Military. Soon after we made our final evacuation the site was bombarded by mortar. Land and a safe house were secured previously in Thailand, knowing an attack was imminent. The new site of KTBLC is in Doh Tah village, Thailand. The Kaw Tha Blay Learning Centre has grown since then. The one room classroom has been expanded, and a permanent roof added together with concrete steps and a new doorway. In the cafeteria, the smokey three-stone fire has been replaced with a much healthier Lorena adobe stove. An office has been built as well as a bamboo house for male staff. Presently the computer room is being restructured using the concrete and wood.

This year the students planted and harvested rice, soyabeans and lentils. The rice paddies are loaned and the lentils grew on a parcel of land recently purchased by PUB. This continues the plan to have the college become as self-sustaining as possible.

Every dollar given is valued. The students and their leaders appreciate this and try to help as much as they can.

## EARLY MORNING FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

The KTBLC students, as refugees in Thailand, must sing the Thai National Anthem and raise the Thai Flag as they are not allowed to raise the Karen Flag. To soften this hurt they sing "We Shall Overcome".

## LEARNING FROM THE INTERNET

The students are having a virtual accounting course 'live' from Portland, Oregon, by a professor of business who volunteers his time for the KTBLC students three times a week.

## A DISTANT VIEW OF THE KAW THA BLAY LEARNING CENTRE CAMPUS

The rice paddies lie below the many buildings that make up the KTBLC campus.

## A BOY RIGS THE GREEN SHADE CLOTH, OUR 'GREEN CLOUD'

On hot days our green cloud allows our grass, trees and plants to grow. It provides comfort to the students from the hot sun.



## THE KAREN FLAG RAISING at the ORILLIA OPERA HOUSE

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*The Orillia Packet & Times, July 7th, 2010*

I cannot thank the mayor Ron Stevens and Project Umbrella Burma enough for arranging to raise the Karen flag in Orillia.

As a diplomatic symbol, the raising of the Karen flag in Canada goes a long way. It is the Karen way of defending ourselves against the Burmese regime peacefully with no other signs or slogans. Flag raising is one of the most important events for the Karen people of Burma where our basic human rights are violated by the regime every day of our lives.

We should not forget that the Karen flag was trampled on by Maung Aye, one of the top Burmese Military Generals to try to intimidate the Karen nation.

The Karen flag, our national anthem, and Karen New Year Holiday are our national heritages recognized by the British Monarchy before Burma gained independence.

Ever since, our Karen flag has become a symbol of national pride, unity and strength and all our Karen people gather under the one flag, regardless of their different backgrounds.

Mahn Kyaw Swe,  
*President of the Karen Canadian Community*



### GRADUATE MEI MWE PAW RECEIVES HER DIPLOMA FROM KTBLC SURROUNDED BY PROUD RELATIVES AND FELLOW STUDENTS

Mei Mwe Paw did two months medic praticanum at the AMI Hospital in Mae Lah refugee camp after graduating. Now she is attending the Organic Farming Programme in Chang Mai.

She recently wrote to Cathy and said, "Today we are learning to make proper compost".

## OUR KTBLC Graduate STUDENTS & their achievements

**WE ARE OFTEN** asked what are the students doing after they graduate. We are proud of what many have achieved as stories drift back of their heroism and leadership. At Dr. Cynthia's Mae Tao Clinic everyone speaks of them respectfully. They are self sufficient as young leaders in the Karen National Union, as journalists, and as teachers both in Karen State and in the refugee camps. They are excellent medics working in remote dangerous IDP areas, 'Inside' as well as in the refugee camps. Our students are teaching the people of their village to read and write in their own language. This is part of our plan to gradually integrate along the border, which also includes sports and traditional Karen dance. Their achievements show their strong desire to survive and thrive and we believe that PUB has given them the foundation needed to get there.



## HUGE ADVANCES to the campus of the **KAW THA BLAY LEARNING CENTRE**

**AFTER 5 YEARS** of dreaming, hoping, planning and working to learn to use computers donated mainly by the Orillia and District Rotary Clubs we were finally able, in our new location to connect to the internet! The satellite dish was installed in November and by Christmas most of the students had email addresses and some were starting to put together power points from the web images. Our monthly cost for this is approximately \$200.00 for up to 100 students and their teachers. Books are expensive and don't last and like most students here, our young Karen can 'google' the knowledge they need and are interested in gaining.



**THE MAIN BUILDING WAS EXPANDED TO ALLOW FOR TWO CLASSROOMS & A STORAGE AREA**  
The students helped carry the heavy teak structural posts farmed from the jungle all the way to the campus.

**CATHY SITS WITH THE STUDENTS IN ONE OF THE KTBLC CLASSROOMS**

The college now has 4 full time teachers with volunteers arriving throughout the year.



**THE NEW SATELLITE DISH HOOKS KTBLC STUDENTS TO THE WORLD WIDE WEB**

The students now have valuable access to the internet.

**THE STUDENTS WORK THE FIELDS AS WELL AS THE BOOKS**

KTBLC campus is surrounded by fields loaned to the students. As well, PUB purchased enough land to bring them closer to independence.

Our other enormous advance came when after 18 months of negotiations between the migrant schools and the Thai Ministry of Education, our teachers and students now have identification cards which allow limited travel, as long as they remain studying and working in KTBLC. A recent visit by the Thai police terrified the students and teachers but they left peacefully after a thorough inspection of the school. The fear of being sent back to Burma at any time, when off or on campus, is now much less.





**THE BOYS' NEW DORMITORY. KSHAKALU, WITH FULL ACCESS TO THE REFUGEE CAMP, BROUGHT SUPPLIES FOR THE ROOF, ETC.**

This year thanks to your generous support we were able to build new dormitories, toilets and showers for the girls and boys living in the Mae Lah refugee camp.

# CHILDREN'S HOSTEL at MAE LAH REFUGEE CAMP

**70,000 PEOPLE** survive in the bamboo shelters serving as homes in Mae Lah Refugee camp, close as fish scales. Either too much water turns the narrow paths into mud slides, or there is none. Facilities for water, electricity, and sanitation hardly exist. Dengue, Cholera and Malaria are rampant. Access to the camp for the foreigner is increasingly difficult because of Thai Military restriction. Kshakalu, our director on the ground, has contined access.

In spite of the refugee camp conditions, our children in the hostel are doing well. The boys and the girls have new dormitories with concrete floors. There is a new dining hall and all these buildings are close to the new Library. The vacated higher ground has been turned into a productive garden by Pi Pi (grandmother) Ya Paw, who also teaches the girls to make clothes with donated treadle sewing machines.

Luckily we have an independent electricity supply and collect clean safe roof water in two large plastic tanks. Our children are well fed, clothed and attend school.



5

FOLD & TEAR OR CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

I am very happy to be part of the care and education of young people and medical clinics through my gifts to PUB.

Please find my donation enclosed:

\$25  \$50  \$100  \$250  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**OR** I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ monthly

(Please enclose a void cheque or fill out authorization to charge monthly to your credit card).

Payment Enclosed:

Cheque (Payable to Project Umbrella Burma)  Mastercard  Visa

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Please fill out form and send using the enclosed envelope.

All donations are fully tax deductible.

A receipt will be issued for all donations over \$20.

THANK YOU!



What your support has provided in Thailand

office building and computer  
gas stove  
enlarged classroom  
curriculum and photocopying  
projector  
paint, varnish  
new stove  
graduation

vitamins and deworming medications  
malaria treatment

seeds  
rice  
property for garden

cement  
new boys' dorm  
chickens, chicken coop  
cows and ducks

volunteer accommodation  
male teacher house

teachers' salaries  
water cooler  
rice sythes and tools

internet fees  
repair and maintenance of

water system  
electricity

guitars  
clothing

shoes  
hygiene products

blankets, mosquito nets  
sleeping mats

truck maintenance and gasoline  
relief for new refugees

labour costs for furniture  
stairs

building of soccer field in conjunction with  
village

girls' shower enclosure  
boys' bathroom

new tin roofs  
water tanks

plastic chairs  
etc.

THANK YOU

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FOLD & TEAR OR CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE



**TWO OF MANY STUDENTS WHO HARVESTED THE RICE PADDIES SURROUNDING THE KTBLC CAMPUS**

This year, as well as rice, the students have planted lentils and soybeans, step by step increasing self-sufficiency.

**ORILLIA GENEROUSLY SUPPORTS PUB, "FROM THE BORDER"**

On an amazing winter night 150 supporters of PUB came out to The Brewery Bay Food Company in Orillia to help raise over \$12 000. This event was made possible by the generous support of Steve Clarke and Chris Marsh, owners of The Brewery Bay Food Company, the staff of the "Good Grub" team, PUB board members and the generous people who support the efforts of Project Umbrella Burma. The money raised at the event is a good example of the direct aid mandate of PUB.



**FINANCIALS**

For the year ended May 31

	2009	2008
<b>Revenues</b>		
Grant - Barber Foundation	5,590	5,570
Donations	98,340	104,395
	103,930	109,965
<b>Administration Expenses</b>		
Accounting Fees	210	212
Newsletter	1,682	2,387
Supplies	293	928
Bank Charges	752	523
	2,937	4,050
<b>Direct Expenses</b>		
Clothing	4,474	11,278
Food	22,885	21,754
General Supplies	9,649	7,102
Stipends	7,514	4,781
Transportation	9,976	11,936
Recreation	5,414	5,952
Building & Premises	11,117	12,743
Clinic	2,386	5,743
Communications	1,416	1,404
Academic Supplies	5,777	4,646
Medical	2,297	1,240
Miscellaneous	3,584	2,092
Capital Items	18,154	6,482
Travel costs to Thailand (donated)	5,835	5,064
<b>Total Direct Expenses</b>	<b>110,478</b>	<b>102,217</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>113,415</b>	<b>106,267</b>
<i>Surplus (deficit) for the year</i>	(9,485)	3,698
<i>Surplus (deficit) beginning of year</i>	9,990	6,292
<b>Surplus (deficit) end of year</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>9,990</b>



### ERIC & CATHY SAYLE ON THE CAMPUS OF THE KAW THA BLAY LEARNING CENTRE

The Kaw Tha Blay Learning Centre is a community complete with three dormitories, a library, an office, volunteer & teachers rooms, a cafeteria and two classrooms. The college is surrounded by gardens, stockyards and fields of various grains and beans. The Sayles have become a major contributing force to the activities and success of PUB here and in Thailand.

# MAE TAO CLINIC

**DR. DOWNHAM & DR. BREWSTER WALK FROM THE CLINIC**

## DIRECT AID

**PUB IS PROUD** to be "Direct Aid" and over 98% of the money given is spent on the needs of the children and Clinic. This may be possible because we are less an institution, but more, "a local enthusiasm"!

PUB has no paid positions in Canada. We pay no rent, our secretary gives her services for free, we do our own fundraising. Our greatest expense is stationary! When volunteers work on the ground they pay for their own transport, accommodation and food. All money raised goes into a bank account in Canada and is withdrawn from an ATM in Thailand.

Project Umbrella Burma is responsible for the children of the Hostel and the older ones in the Learning Centre. Sadly, during this stewardship, three have died; one from malaria, one committed suicide and one was shot and killed by the SPDC while working across the border. Without your concern and help there would be many, many more.

PUB uses every penny to help, to protect and to educate the children, youth and medics living on the border.

**OUR PATIENTS** come from within Burma; drawn to the Mae Tao Clinic for care when they cannot carry on. I am a Canadian family doctor with Project Umbrella Burma.

The lady on the "bed" had the medics puzzled. Her blood pressure and pulse on both arms are zero. (The Karen Medics' observations can be relied on 100%!). But surprisingly I could feel excellent pulses in her ankles. From somewhere out of my medical memory, came the recollection; "Takayasu's Arteritis" or the "Pulseless disease"; a condition perfectly representing this presentation, characteristically occurring in South East Asian women. Luckily the treatment is simple and cheap and with high dose cortisone the pulses re-appeared. It was a small important and very valuable win for this loving couple. It was a surprise and magic to the medics, who mostly battle with great skill against the more common diseases here; Malaria, TB, Filariasis, Dysentery, Asthma and AIDS.

As a Canadian doctor, do I think we have business here? Much more than that, I believe we have an obligation and one returns with a new understanding and a new way of looking at the world.

Dr. Frank Brewster



MEGHAN WARING, VOLUNTEER



TEVIAH MORO, JOURNALIST



ALEX WISDOM, VOLUNTEER, WITH TEACHER

# AND THREE CHEERS TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

## A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The Board of PUB again expresses its gratitude to our donors. This is a project that is sustained and validated because of your involvement.

What happens in one part of the world is now bound to affect the rest, and unless we become more aware, what is happening in Burma will in some form, be part of what happens here.

For better or worse, we have become a global village. It is time to behave as villagers to each other. There is no hope for our species unless there is a general and universal revolution within our consciousness. Someone has to make a beginning. Your generosity is an example of this and we are so proud and grateful to you.

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. 2009 to May 31st. 2010.

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