



BORDERLESS FRIENDSHIP WA • WWW.BORDERLESSFRIENDSHIP.ORG

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## MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO A HILL TRIBE CHILD

Borderless Friendship WA Inc (BFWA) is a not-for-profit Western Australian organisation. Our purpose is to support the work of Borderless Friendship Foundation (BFF) in Thailand, who seek to provide the best possible opportunities for healthy, safe and rewarding lives for hill tribe children and youth in their care in Thailand, ensuring inclusion of family. BFWA do this through advocacy and fundraising and by directing these funds towards accommodation, education, health and sustainability.

With little or no access to education, these hill tribe children are prone to poverty and vulnerable to exploitation within Thailand's ubiquitous sex and drug trades. Those fortunate enough to get an education grow up able to take much better care of themselves, their families and their community. We focus on enabling children and youth to continue at school.

When faced with poverty, education becomes an extravagance. Through sponsorship and donations, BFWA support nurturing hostels. This gives access to education for children who have lost one or both of their parents, or whose parents do not have the capacity to provide for them.

### BACKGROUND ON HILL TRIBES

Six major tribes (Karen, Akha, Lahu, Lisu, Hmong, Mien) or ethnic minority groups comprise what is collectively known as the 'hill tribes'. These people inhabit the Thailand/Myanmar/Cambodia/Laos border area. Neither country recognises them as citizens, thus depriving them access to a variety of education and health services, and Thai identification (ID).

With limited education and little knowledge of the Thai language and no ID, most hill tribe people stay in the mountains of Northern Thailand. Many Thai schools do not accept hill tribe children and, in cases where they do, the children are given little support with the costs of schooling and materials.

Geographically and socially isolated, mostly living in poverty, hill tribe children are highly vulnerable to sex trafficking and forced prostitution. There is a high level of STIs and untreated HIV/AIDS. Many hospitals refuse treatment of hill tribe patients without proof of citizenship and many who have citizenship cannot afford treatment.

A combination of early deaths from AIDS, death in child birth and being jailed for drug smuggling, means that many of the children are left parentless. The children are the most vulnerable of all.



## FUNDRAISING

BFWA supports more than 400 'at risk' children, most of whom have no family to support them. We completely rely on raising funds for these children, as we have no government assistance. Some fundraising activities include selling handicrafts at local market stalls, organising fundraising events, running a successful child sponsorship program, and we welcome your support and donations. Every cent is valuable to our cause and carefully put to best use — 100% of proceeds go directly to supporting our work in Thailand.

## HOW WE USE YOUR DONATIONS

- Education – primary school, scholarships for secondary school and university, Mooditj workshops
- Safe, nurturing accommodation (so they can continue at school)
- Nutritious food, clean water and essential clothing
- Access to medical treatment through our medical fund
- Sustainable agriculture
- Projects to build self sufficiency

## MOODITJ SEXUALITY AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION PROGRAM

We work with hill tribe people to deliver the award-winning Mooditj program – a fun weekend workshop on health, sexuality and relationships. The aim of the Mooditj program in Thailand is to provide young hill tribe people and adults with information and skills that assist them in their daily life, in their relationships, to protect them from abuse and trafficking, and acquiring sexually transmissible infections.

Content covers self-identity, puberty and body care, understanding emotions, relationships, consent and respect, STIs, sexual rights and protective behaviours, parenting, and identifying goals and dreams.

## CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Borderless Friendship WA runs a successful sponsorship program for hill tribe children in BFF's care. We dream of sponsorship for all of these children. Thanks to our generous sponsors, these children have food and essentials guaranteed each month. We now have young people going to technical school and university – the leaders of the future! By sponsoring a child you will be supporting the next generation of young people to reach their full potential.

Sponsors receive annual updates, photos and communication with their child. **The program is 100% volunteer-run and we do NOT deduct any handling fees or administration costs.** You can be confident that all funds reach the children in need. Unlike other programs, we have direct contact with all the hostels and each child, and a personal relationship with the sponsor and child can be built.

Sponsorship is truly life-changing for the children and it is incredibly satisfying for all sponsors, especially sponsors who travel to Thailand to meet their sponsor children. Annual sponsorship of \$480 a year (or \$40 per month) provides basic essentials so the children can continue at school.



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