



Lert Sa Wat Child Development Project

Registered charity number 1085099

Giving Thai children the chance to escape poverty

Trustees Annual Report Year ending April 2025

April 2025 marked 25 years since Deeo enlisted the help of Melvyn & Maureen Wallhead to find sponsors for 10 needy rural Thai children. Lert Sa Wat was built on Christian principles of love and care for all, and that continues. Visitors to Lert Sa Wat are impressed by the relationships the staff have with children of all ages. The Nursery starts with children aged 3, though sometimes children are accepted just before their third birthday, especially if they already have a sibling already in the Project. Older children are sponsored to go to local schools, colleges and universities. They do not just go to Lert Sa Wat to collect money for their uniforms, school fees and lunches. They go to chat to the



staff and have fun together, such as at Christmas and Children's Day parties. Thai people are famous for celebrating with food! Members of the local church helped prepare a full meal for children, their parents and siblings at Christmas. Every child in the Project received a Christmas gift. Families most in need also received food parcels.

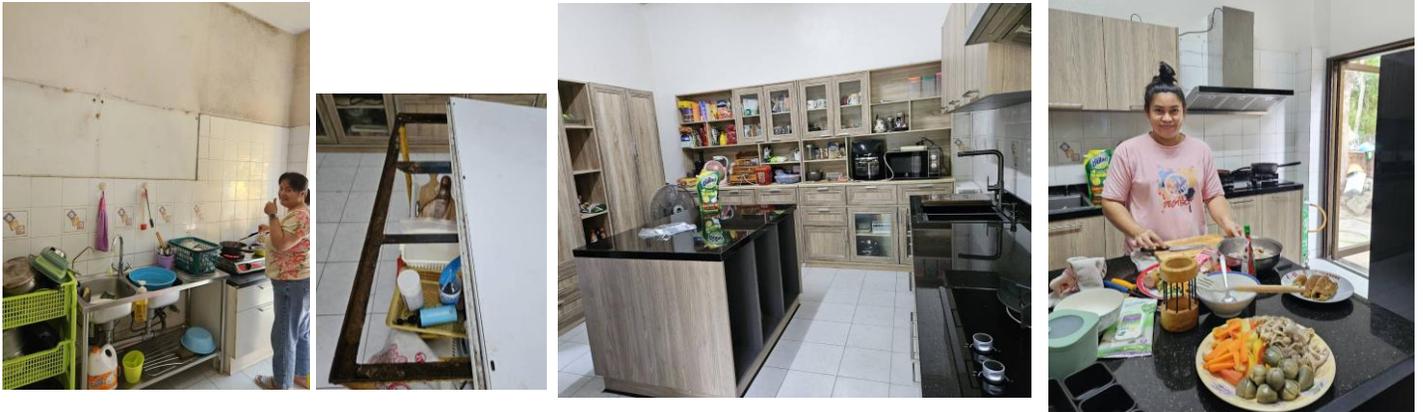


Lert Sa Wat is unlike many charities in that we do not select children to support based on academic ability. Children are welcomed into the Project based on the needs of their families. This means that some of the sponsored children have special needs. Eve on the left has Down's Syndrome. Achi in



the centre has a learning disability and eye problems. There are no special schools in North East Thailand where children with learning disabilities can receive an education. Instead they are kept in mainstream schools, usually with a doctor's certificate allowing them to progress more slowly than their peers. Sponsorship helps Eve and Achi experience the positive benefits of being with people their own age throughout school. Boss on the right has finished education. He is not able to work, but thanks to his kind sponsor, he continues to receive food parcels from Lert Sa Wat.

For years, the kitchen at Lert Sa Wat had been in poor condition. When rotting cupboards fell off the walls, it was time to act. Firstly a generous donation from Generation Trust allowed the purchase of large cupboards for the sides of the kitchen, then a combination of fundraising and donations raised sufficient funds to completely modernise the kitchen.



Staff are delighted to have a clean and spacious area to prepare meals for the Nursery and Home, and the children enjoy their freshly cooked meals each day. They are taught personal hygiene - handwashing before meals and afterwards collecting their personal mugs and toothbrushes for teeth cleaning.



As all teachers know, happy, well fed children are in a good position to learn. The children continue to enjoy learning through the Montessori system, with more formal teaching given to those about to start Primary School.





What of the 2 remaining boys in the Home? Physically, Boss and Blue are thriving. Neither is particularly academic, so Joop paid for them to attend extra classes on Saturday mornings. The boys enjoyed the classes as they were learning through activities rather than the normal method of rote learning. Both boys improved at their village school, Boss coming 5th in his year group in the mid year exams.

Boss finished primary school in March. When he went to take an entrance exam for a larger secondary school, large gaps in his knowledge became apparent. Since there were no local alternatives that could help Boss progress well, Joop and Nong decided to send Boss as a weekly boarder to a small school about 50 miles away near Korat.



Physically, the boys are very different. Boss is tall and strong for a 12 year old: Blue is small and slight. Blue was chosen for the star part in his class drama – playing Phra Aphai Mani, hero of Thailand's 48,700 line epic poem. Despite the extra lessons, Blue wasn't doing well at school, so Joop and Nong have taken the decision to send him to a bigger Primary School about 6 miles away in the town of Sikhiu. Blue's old friend from the Lert Sa Wat Nursery, Antle, is there.



Both boys are fond of 2 young adults who grew up in the Home, Tee and TonKhao. This year something unexpected happened. Autumn was a difficult time for Project visionary, Deeo. She continues to be very unwell, needing 24 hour care. Deeo spent several months in hospital in the town of Sikhiu, but has been home since January. One of the health care assistants in the hospital was none other than Pen, who had also grown up in the Home. Someone cared for by Lert Sa Wat is in a caring profession.



None of the achievements of the past year would have been possible without the love and dedication of Joop and Nong, continuing Deeo's vision, and adding to it their own personalities and sense of fun. So much is also dependent on you, our supporters, who continue to give children and young people the chance of a better future. Thank you from all at Lert Sa Wat.

To find out more about Lert Sa Wat and child sponsorship for £20/£25 per month, visit our website lertsawat.com or email lertsawat2000@gmail.com.