



Children in difficult circumstances



The Fellowship Foundation of Child and Youth Development (FCYD) is a registered non-profit organization (registration No. 5/2557) their main goal is assisting the development of disadvantage children and youth to allow them to have a better life through both education and health.

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Note: The above photo contains children at the Friends for All Children residential home in Nong Khai (Thai name: Ban Mit Muandek) the photo is used with their permission. Should you wish to donate supplies to these children you can contact the FCYD using the above phone number. Thank you

Who are the children in difficult circumstances?

According to the Child Protection Act (2546), “children in difficult circumstances” refers to children in poor families. Their parents could be divorced, separated from the child, or imprisoned. The child could be abandoned, unable to support himself or assigned family obligations beyond his age, ability and intelligence. The foundation also includes children with disabilities or diseases, those at risk of abuse or of offending, children of addiction, and orphans under this title

Why are they living in difficult circumstances?

Most of us choose not to live in difficult conditions. However, some of us do not have the choice. Unfortunately this is the case for these children; they find themselves in redundant positions such as being disabled or orphaned. They do not always have good parents or enough money. This is especially the case when parents are poor or the children do not live with their birth parents (living with grandparents, extended families, or under the care of an orphanage). All of this results in children who do not get enough care and food. They do not grow properly, physically, mentally, intellectually and emotionally. The main things that raise the risk to the child are due to lack of awareness and ignorance. This is the responsibility of the parents and guardians. We can remedy these difficult circumstances with help from all sectors- both public and private. If not these children become trapped in a cycle that is very difficult to break free from. Problem will be circled and unfinished.



Why should we help these children?

The answer to this is obvious and universal, promoting the well being of other humans. This is no different to the Buddhist teachings on helping others. This is a chance to help others have an opportunity to develop their own lives and have a better future.

Why do parents not take care for their children well enough?

This is a question that is hard to find a specific answer to, whether it is in the context of Thailand or anywhere else in the world. Adults have a direct impact on the level of difficulty in children’s lives. Many parents are in poverty and are not well educated which can affect their ability to raise a child well. This isn’t always the case and often we see a great deal of love and understanding between parents and their children. Despite poverty parents can raise their children to have a good future. **In Thailand, merit and karma may be another answer and solution of ‘being difficulties’.** However in this situation, it is a speaking on behalf of the children that “the parents are limited potential and capable of raising a child well...”



Where are these children?

In 2009, the Foundation and a network of health volunteers found that the children living in difficult circumstances are everywhere. This includes urban and rural communities and remote areas. The children's circumstances and location are based on the decisions of adults, for example:

- ✓ Parents are not happy and accepted about the birth and not capable to raise the new born. The child is sent to an orphanage
- ✓ Parents send the children to live with their grandparents in the provinces
- ✓ Parents are prosecuted or imprisoned and must send children to live with relatives in the provinces
- ✓ Parents have died from AIDS, children are sent to live with relatives
- ✓ Children are disabled and there are congenital diseases in the community
- ✓ Children are sent to juvenile delinquency and child protection services.
- ✓ Children are being abused and sent to rehabilitation center.

The FCYD Foundation, in collaboration with local communities and health volunteers surveyed and recruited children living in difficult situations. The survey also defined ability of parents and family members to parenting the children. The survey found that there are a number of children living in difficult situations in every community. The number of children found was not statistically indicative of the entire population of the district but the inability to find a significant value is reflective of society and local communities. To help these children, the FCYD Foundation will be a "bridge" to connect the children to the correct government agencies for proper management.



What does the FCYD Foundation do?

The FCYD Foundation works with a network of local child protection services and provides assistance in urgent conditions of hardship. The assistance includes;

1. Surveying and visiting families
2. Assessment of difficult conditions
3. Working to determine the solution, including child protection
4. Working in co-operation with government agencies and schools to help children and implement long-term solutions.

In cases where urgent help is needed, for example, children with disease, abused children, or a failure of the parents to support education for the children, a **multidisciplinary team** in partnership with the community committee and leader will attempt to address and remedy this immediately. A grant will be considered for expenses such as; travel costs and accommodation for the child admitted to hospital, scholarships, provisions for the family, and co-ordination of rehabilitation services and treatment. The average value of the FCYD's emergency assistance is in the order of 2-3 thousands Thai Baht for children and families. The community committee will witness and monitor this as is agreed.



In Thailand the government is trying to develop and improve basic services in education, and health and well being. However, there are still many children who are affected by these problems in their family. These children need your help.

Can you help these children?

The FCYD Foundation has completed a survey and has children who are in difficult conditions in each district. There are plans to extend assistance to the neighboring provinces of Upper Northeast. The details of these children are confidential and must be handled properly. If you would like to know more or are considering providing assistance, please contact directly to the FCYD Foundation.

The Foundation is accepting donations, grants and various appliances. We especially need donations towards young children aged 3-6 years in child care centers in the districts. In remote areas there is a lack of resources for teaching and learning. You can contact us to make a donation directly to the Foundation using the contact details listed on page one, or through the Foundation's bank account at

Bank	Krung Thai Bank
Branch	Nong Khai Government Complex
Name	The Fellowship Foundation for Child and Youth Development
Account Number	982-8-58723-8

After donation, please inform the FCYD Foundation of your donation. A receipt will be delivered to you. If you have the opportunity to visit Nong Khai, you're welcomes to visit us at our office. Amen and thank you for your compassion in helping children in difficult conditions.

