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Please download this introduction video here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Swe1xm0ihSo>

GIFT OF HAPPINESS FOUNDATION PROJECT & TOUR REPORT

15th free shows and delivery of donations project - Tak province, Thailand, 23rd to 27th August, 2010.

Pre-project summary

The latest project started with some pre tour collections in July and August 2010. We collected over four tons of donations...Toys, bedding, clothing, medical supplies and other useful goods from some dedicated friends of the Gift of Happiness Foundation in Bangkok. There was a large selection of English language children's books amongst some of the donations and we agreed with the donors that we could sell the books to raise money for our on-going running costs. During the second week of August we had some help to sort and price the books by a volunteer (Jackie Tudge) from the British Women's Group in Bangkok. We will be holding the sale at our booth during the 'Living in Bangkok Exhibition' on 11th September 2010.

Project summary

- **Monday 23rd August at 09.00.am.** Five GOH-Foundation volunteers and five TV film crew from Al Jazeera gathered at the Gift of Happiness Foundation Sorting house in Pathom Thani, north of Bangkok. We filled two trucks with over four tons of donations and then loaded Clown Eckie's 'Clown TukTuk' onto a trailer.
- **11.30am.** We departed from Pathom Thani in two pick-up trucks and the TukTuk trailer. One of the trucks and the trailer was donated for use for the whole tour by Khun Anukorn of Jirakorn Co., Ltd. Klong Toey, Bangkok and the second truck was donated by Clown Eckie from Pathom Thani.



Loading the only Clown TukTuk in the world onto trailer
(TukTuk is the name of these three wheeled vehicles in Thailand)

- **5.30pm.** We arrived at the cheapest reasonable hotel in Mae Sot and unloaded the TukTuk from the trailer. A meeting took place and the weeks schedule for shows and giving donations was re-confirmed with the volunteers and film crew from Al Jazeera. We also spoke with Ms. Lena Weller from a locally situated German based N.G.O. 'Help without Frontiers', who helped with organising some of the locations for our shows during the week to come.
- **Tuesday 24th August 09.00am.** Four volunteers and GOH-Foundation Operations Director visited the office of Help without Frontiers with one truck driven by volunteer, Terry Sherwood and the Clown TukTuk being driven by Clown Eckie. We were guided by Lena Weller, to the first migrant school of the tour 'Noh Bo Deh School', which is situated in a forested village close to the Thai/Burmese border.

- **10.00am.** We arrived at the village school and set-up the show equipment ready for the performance which began at about 11.00.am. We stayed in the village to interact with the children, parents and teachers until about 12.30.pm.



Noh Bo Deh School with 'Clown TukTuk' and show at forest location

- **1.00pm.** Due to the remote location of the village... Lunch had to be about 20 kilometres away in the nearest restaurant and close to the friendship bridge on the Thai Burma border near Mae Sot.
- **2.30pm.** After lunch, we arrived at the second show of the day in the village where the 'Pa Yan Daw' school is located. The show started after set-up, at about 3.15 pm. We held the performance in the village 'Wat' (temple) meeting place on the edge of the village which is situated within another forest. We stayed to interact with the children until about 4.30pm and then started the long TukTuk and truck drive back to the hotel base in Mae Sot where we arrived at about 6.00pm.



Pa Yan Daw School with 'Clown TukTuk' and show in temple meeting hall

7.30pm. We held production meetings with the TV crew and decided the best way to organise the next days filming of a show for the children who live on the garbage dump near Mae Sot.

- **Wednesday 25th August 07.00am.** The film crew and a local translator set-off early with one of our volunteer drivers to record interviews with some of the families who would be attending the show later that day. Once they arrived at the location, where the garbage dump school is situated. They made good use of their time by interviewing and filming some of the people who were to become part of the Al Jazeera world news article about their plight.



'Co Jo Productions' Camera-man for Al Jazeera News

- **10.30am.** Clown Eckie arrived in the TukTuk and was warmly greeted by the children of 'Sky Blue school' who had been gathering for most of the morning, so they would be sure not to miss any of our silly clown shows. They were also aware of the donations that were about to be handed out and of course, everyone eagerly waited to receive the gifts after the show.
- **11.30am.** The show started and all the children, some parents and volunteer teachers enjoyed the buffoonery of the clown show which on this occasion, was help along with a mains power supply. Past shows at the old school on the dump needed a generator for the important power supply that's needed during the shows.



Sky Blue School with 'Clown TukTuk' and show in new school room

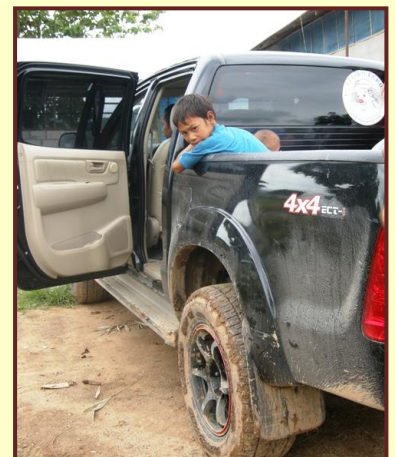
- **12.30pm.** Following the show, we arranged about two tons of clothing and toys to hand-out to the children and their parents. We also developed a separate table with some essential educational equipment including writing books, pencils and learning charts to give to the teachers. Clown Eckie and some of the teachers spent the next hour or so handing out the goods while most of the volunteers were helping the TV crew with interviews and filming outside the school itself.



Donations of toys and clothing for the children and teachers of Sky Blue School

- **2.00pm.** We were just about ready to leave the location when one of the trucks struck something sharp in the muddy ground and the front tire blew-out. Normally that wouldn't be a big problem, but on this occasion we couldn't change the tire due to a lack of proper tools for the job. We had to enlist the help of a friend in Mae Sot who travelled to the location and took the ruined tire back to town to buy a replacement at a cost of almost 5,000 Baht. This kind help came from a past sponsor of our organisation, Khun Pong of 'Y Sports Shop' in Mae Sot.
- **4.30pm.** With the truck fixed, everyone made their way back to the hotel where there was lots of editing and posh lap-tops being used to get the translations and basic editing done ready for publication on TV. Here's a link to the Al Jazeera article:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqsinmgtqY>



Clown Eckie's car finally fixed and ready for more donation deliveries

- **Thursday 26th August 07.30am.** This was our last day of the tour and we had planned to visit another school then leave Mae Sot to return to Bangkok around lunchtime. Before we started out to visit the school we held a meeting with Mr. Thanzin who is a Burmese/English translator and volunteer worker in Mae Sot. He is also a good friend of our organisation and helps us on most of our visits to the region. During that meeting, we learned that some essential equipment (a generator) which we gave to a 'Men's Health Centre' about six months ago, had broken down. Operations Director 'Edward Haworth' (AKA Clown Eckie) had to make a decision to collect the broken generator and try to get it fixed back in Bangkok, then return it on our next visit. The men have no other way to have lighting or to see the TV that we gave them some months ago. When one of our volunteers 'Terry Sherwood' heard this, he offered to buy a new generator for the men at the health centre. We went straight to the generator shop and Terry bought a new one as well as some fuel to run it.
- **09.30am.** Once we had the new generator we set-off to visit the 'Best Friend Migrant School' which is situated too far away for the TukTuk to travel. This school also requires a four wheel drive truck to negotiate the rough terrain where it's located.
- **10.00am.** Due to the lost time buying the generator, we arrived much later than was planned. When we finally arrived at the school it was realised that we had recently visited there and given a show and some donated goods on that last trip. But the children were all waiting to see the show and looking forward to receiving more goods...So we quickly set-up some show equipment and unloaded some donations to give them. No time for changing into costume at this show. The clown puts his make-up on in front of the children which makes it easier for them to see that he's not something to be afraid of. So this took place as usual and the children then went on to see the funny fat clown making a fool of himself while giving them another rare and happy memory for life.
- **10.45am.** We handed-out clothing and some school bags for all the children. This is very useful for those children as they often have to walk many kilometres to get to school with only a plastic bag to carry their books and often one set of very shabby clothes to wear for the whole school week.



Clown make-up and show then Donations of school bags and clothing for the children of Best Friend School

- **11.00am.** As we left the school, our guide and good friend told us that he'd accidentally booked a show at another school on that day. We knew the children would be waiting excitedly to see the clown. So it was onto the 'KGA School' which is located on the mountain road leading to Umpang. We last visited this school about five years ago before it was developed by the dedicated head teacher. On our last visit we performed a show in a drainage gully where the children often played when it wasn't raining. On this occasion we found they had managed to build two new school rooms using money saved from the sale of goods grown and raised through their sustainable projects. Including, fish breeding in concrete tanks, growing flowers and mushrooms inside and behind the class rooms.



Last clown show for the children and teacher at KGA migrant school on the road North to Umpang Thailand

- **12.30pm.** We departed from the school and were now very late to start our return journey to Bangkok. But we still had to deliver the new generator to the 'Men's Health Centre'. This very basic wooden dwelling is situated on a remote part of a hillside about ten kilometers from the nearest town. The number of men living here has recently grown from five to seven; with most men suffering from HIV related sickness and one with an advanced cancer that can't be cured.
- **1.15pm.** We arrived at the health centre and quickly unloaded the new generator said a quick hello to the men and one lady volunteer helper. Then we took the broken generator away, to fix and give to someone-else later.



Some of the men and volunteers during the hand-over of a new generator

- **2.30pm.** Back to Mae Sot to load the TukTuk onto the trailer. Then a quick change and shower before delivering the last of the donations to the office of 'Help Without Frontiers'. We were happy to put our trust in them and take advantage of their offer to deliver the remaining donations to some of our preferred schools and migrant communities in the area. This was done during the next morning and the children were very happy to receive the goods. At these places: Ah Yone Oo School/Relocation Centre (Toys, Men's Pants and their sewing workshop received more large clothing). Noh Bo Deh School (toys, girls clothes, shoes, baby things and mosquito nets). More toys for P'Yan Daw school children.



Children at migrant schools receiving donations

- **3.45pm.** The long journey back to Bangkok started at the petrol station at the foot of the mountain that we had to drive over in a very heavy tropical storm. The rest of the journey was also made very slow by the worsening weather conditions. We had to dodge many fallen trees and avoid some accident debris along the way, while trying to see our way through the storm. The TukTuk on an open trailer was damaged by the storm and is still un-usable and awaiting expensive electrical repairs.
- **Friday 26th August 12.00.midnight.** Arrived back in Pathom Thani to unload the TukTuk and send the trailer and truck back to it's base in Bangkok. Then we eventually found a taxi for volunteer, 'Terry Sherwood' to go back to Bangkok as well.
- **01.30am.** Everyone safely back home and this project and tour declared closed.
- **Sponsors** of money, transport, labour and equipment for this project: Mr. Terry Sherwood, Bangkok - Mr. Neil Johnston, Rayong, Thailand & Liverpool, UK - Al Jazeera World News - Suttle Group Co., Ltd, Bangkok - Khun Anukorn, Jirakorn Co., Ltd, Bangkok - Mrs. Jackie Tudge, British Women's Group, Bangkok - Jon Matthews & Pru Colville www.cojoproductions.com Australia - Clown Eckie, Pathom Thani, Thailand.
- **Short fall of money** for this project is approximately 20,000 T/Baht USD \$642.00 and cannot be fully accounted until repairs of transport and equipment are finished. No one is paid for their work on our projects. All operational and administration staff are volunteers and are not paid. Accounts for the Gift of Happiness Foundation are available for inspection upon request.
- **Running costs.** The Gift of Happiness Foundation monthly running costs for transport, office, legal, accountancy and other services are 45,000 T/Baht (USD \$1,445.00).
- **You can easily help.** We are entirely funded by donations. Our small unpaid dedicated team ensures even the smallest contributions go a long way. We need your help to raise funds through your local community groups/clubs, office, school and friends. "Large or small amounts are always very welcome."

Every bit helps! Please contact Gift of Happiness Foundation Founder and Operations Director. Mr. Edward Haworth. edward.haworth@gohappiness.org
Please donate in your currency here: <http://www.gohappiness.org>
Thank You.



**You are never fully dressed until you put on a smile.
 Enjoy your life while you have it.
 Give someone near you a great big smile today!**