

Rejoice Newsletter

July 2013



Scholarships



Orphans and Grandparents



Home Care Visit



Education and Prevention

Background

Rejoice Charity provides medical, social and educational support to communities infected with and affected by HIV/Aids

Rejoice has no religious or political affiliation and does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, socio-economic status, sexual orientation or ability.

Based in the city of Chiang Mai, Rejoice makes weekly visits to communities as far afield as Fang in the north to Chom Thong in the south.

Sponsor a Child's Education

Rejoice currently directly assist 313 HIV+ patients and their families regularly on a weekly basis. The children of these patients and HIV/Aids orphans are eligible for educational scholarships. Currently 53 children have scholarships through Rejoice. All, in one way or another, are affected by the virus and their extended families are finding it extremely difficult to make ends meet. They have become much poorer and many are finding it difficult to come to terms with the additional hardship and responsibility of living with HIV. Many extended families cannot cope with the increased costs of caring for an addition child (or children) and have no option but to put the child into an orphanage. Others, with the help of sponsorship can afford to send the child to school which often frees-up sufficient funds to allow the family to stay together. Ostensibly, the sponsorship is

in the form of an 'educational scholarship' but in reality it is much more, it will;

- allow the child to attend school
- allow the child to grow-up in his/her community with their extended family
- allow the child to learn to speak the language and follow the religion of their community
- make it easier for the family to accept financial help – the money is received on behalf of the child
- prevent the child becoming institutionalised in an orphanage
- be a significant factor in deciding whether the child continues his/her education to high school, college or university.

Objectives

Rejoice's Goal is to provide the much needed medical and social support system to the poor, sick and under-privileged living in Chiang Mai's villages and the surrounding hill areas. In particular, Rejoice addresses the diverse array of medical and social needs of HIV/AIDS affected people.

Rejoice's programmes cater to a variety of needs, there are HIV/AIDS medical care, HIV/AIDS education and prevention programmes, free infant formulas, education sponsorships and one to one counselling. The distribution of infant formulas has been very effective. Apparently, babies born to infected mothers may not develop HIV/AIDS if not breast-fed.

Three Men and a Truck



The photo shows the Outreach Team with their new pick-up truck by means of which they visit the rural communities and families affected by the HIV in Chiang Mai province. The threesome are Rejoice's only salaried personnel—the use of the office and administrative work is carried out by volunteers both in Thailand and overseas.

Gee (centre), is the team leader and has worked with Rejoice for the past 15 years receiving on-the-job training from Rejoice's founder, the late Steve Hallam. Now, Gee uses this knowledge and the patients' trust, which he has accumulated over the years, to benefit the needy poor in the remote, rural areas of the province.

Arm (left in photo) contracted the HIV at birth from his mother. Arm, as a young boy, benefited from Rejoice's regular visits to his family home in Mae Rim. Some 5 or 6 years ago, Arm asked Steve if he could help Rejoice. He has been helping Rejoice ever since.

Wi (right) is an ethnic Tai Yai who fled the civil war in Shan State, with his family some 12 years ago. Wi previously worked part-time for Rejoice but now works full-time. Able to read and write the Shan language is a great advantage in building trust with the many migrants in the rural areas.

Living with HIV

Supporting; children, families and communities in rural Chiang Mai Province
Providing; formula milk, palliative medicines, food provisions, school scholarships
Emotional support; counselling, community meetings focused on education and prevention of HIV and other STDs.

The Rejoice Scholarship Project



Screen snip showing an example of PDF file which Rejoice makes for each scholarship child. Here is a 5 year old Tai Yai boy who is HIV+ in his first school uniform. Also shown with his mother (HIV+) and newborn brother.

Sponsor a child's education for one year.

Currently the project asks for potential sponsors to make a one-off donation of either, at least 5,000 baht (for pre-school, primary and secondary school students) or, at least 7,000 baht (for high school and college/university students). The excess going towards providing formula milk, medicines and fuel for Rejoices mobile clinics.

Please specify which age group you would like to sponsor (pre-school, primary, secondary or high school/university). Also, if you wish, you can specify whether you would prefer to sponsor a boy or a girl.

[\(link to currency converter\)](#)

Rejoice makes a PDF file for each child into which can be added any correspondence or photos. Rejoice will translate any letters and add them to the PDF file.

Bank details for donations can be found on [Page 6](#) Please send an email to contact@rejoicecharity.com so that we can thank you and acknowledge receipt.



Some of the many children who already have scholarships. There are many more poor, deserving children who could benefit from your sponsorship.

[More on School Project](#)

Grass Roots support to Remote Rural Communities

The Rejoice Team together with the volunteers from Chiang Dao, and more recently, Sankampheang hospitals make regular visits to remote villages in rural areas of Chiang Mai Province to serve the medical and emotional care needs of poor people suffering from HIV/Aids infection. The programme provides free, on-going care to communities which lack adequate medical services. Fully operational since January 1998, Rejoice today serves a population of very poor, sick and underprivileged people living in urban slums, impoverished villages and the surrounding hill tribe areas. The direct beneficiaries of our projects are the poor, women, children, sex workers, drug users



Many of the roads are un-surfaced and access is difficult in the rainy season.

and other marginalised groups such as local hill tribe communities. These are the people most affected by HIV/Aids, suffering from a high rate of transmission

and few resources to cope with the many problems associated with the disease. Rejoice serves approximately 1,000 families in the Chiang Mai Province, who otherwise would have little or no access to basic health care, little or no education about how to improve their own health standards and very few social and emotional support systems to help cope with the consequences of HIV/Aids.



[Home Sweet Home](#)

[click](#)

HIV affects many communities

The current population of Chiang Mai Province is estimated by the Thai government at around 2.7 million people. There are 1,072 communities dispersed throughout the province. Ethnic groups include Tai Yai and [hill tribes from Shan State](#) as well as many [indigenous hill tribes](#) such as Karen, Lahu, Lisu, Akha, Yao, Meo, Hmong, and tribal Chinese. However, this diversity often leads to a fragmentation of the population into ethnic enclaves, each possessing a distinct set of medical and social needs.

The Aids virus is a devastating common denominator among all of these sub-populations. Chiang Mai had the misfortune



of being one of the earliest epicentres of the Aids epidemic in Thailand. Today, the increasing number of infected individuals succumbing to Aids-related diseases has given rise to additional economic and social needs as well as the usual medical ones among the local population.

[Babies and Children](#)

[click](#)



HIV Orphans

Particularly vulnerable are the children orphaned by HIV. Whilst not being inflicted with the virus themselves, they can suffer a great deal because of the stigma attached to being a child whose parents have died as a result of the virus. Similarly their guardians, usually grandparents or close relatives, can be put at a great disadvantage. Not only do they have the expense of feeding and clothing the child, but also have to consider the child's education. Often with little or no

income and being elderly and possibly infirm make it impossible to send the child to school—all too often the child is removed from his/her community and institutionalized in an orphanage.

[Families and Orphans](#)

[click](#)



Education and Prevention



Gee and Wi share a joke with the patients during their presentation

As reported in our previous Newsletter highlighting the work being done by the various authorities in raising awareness of HIV with the younger generation in Chiang Mai Province, Rejoice has embarked on another initiative in co-operation with Chiang Dao hospital. On 10th June the first of eight scheduled

meetings took place with the HIV patients of Chiang Dao Province together with the HIV health Care workers and doctors.

The objective of these "Education and Prevention" meetings is to bring the patients together, many of whom have not met each other previously, to exchange experiences, concerns and ideas amongst each other.

Also, the health care workers can remind the group of importance of taking their medicine on a regular basis and give advice on reproductive health care, both separate male and female groups.

It is estimated these meetings will take place, on average once a month targeting various groups i.e. those taking ARV (anti



[Education and Prevention](#)

[click](#)

-retroviral) drugs, those not yet taking ARV, various ethnic groups, children and then all and general public.

To encourage attendance Rejoice will pay each patient 175-200 baht to cover travel expenses and provide a simple lunch.



Thank you Connie

Connie Low from Singapore sent 3 packages containing clothing, school supplies and materials to Rejoice for distribution among the needy children. Connie collected the items from friends and from fellow members of "Singapore Moms Group".

All of the recipients were very happy to receive the gifts and asked Gee and the team to express their appreciation of your and your groups' kindness and generosity.

On the 10th June, at Chiang Dao hospital, there was an informal get together of all the HIV patients in Chiang Dao and Gee and the team distributed the remaining clothes. There were also two pregnant girls who will be grateful for the baby clothes.

Thank you once again from all at Rejoice.



Sunisa (17 years old) with her mother selecting clothes for her new baby boy of one month (right photo). This is in village of Chomthong about 50 km west of Chiang Mai city. Sunisa's husband works as a construction laborer in Chomthong.



The photo on the right is taken at one of our HIV groups in Phrao, about 100 km north of Chiang Mail. The little girl, Kancharna (6 years old) helps the group to sort the clothes



The Singapore Connection

The Friends of Rejoice Singapore (FRS) continue their support. Whether it is sponsoring a child, collecting and sending children's and babies clothing and school requisites or raising funds for Rejoice by selling craftwork –THANK YOU!

In February, Dr. Martin Huddart on his annual trip to Thailand, and myself made a short visit to Singapore on a fund raising trip. One day during our visit we were met by Wight Wong, who took us to meet a few of Rejoices supporters over lunch. The photo on the right was taken at the happy gathering.



...and later in June, in Theydon Bois, London, Dr. Martin snapped this photo of Nigel and Alan at Martin's favourite Indian restaurant after a Rejoice Foundation (UK) Trustees meeting.

The Story so Far.....Progress and Challenges

HIV Prevention and Global Health

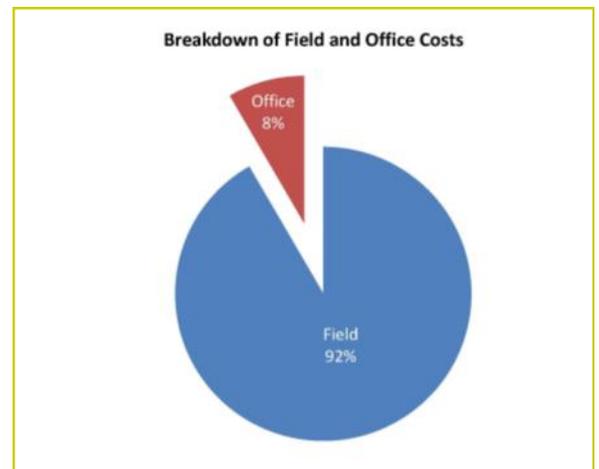
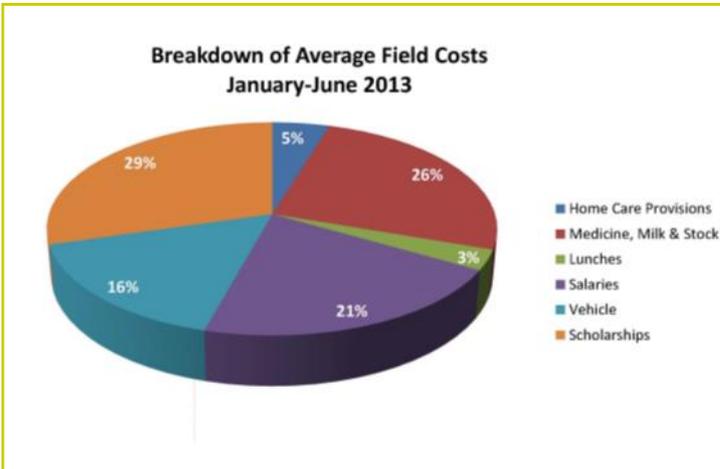
The following screen shots are taken from a recent video from University of California. The video gives an excellent overview of the current global situation of the HIV epidemic and development of prevention strategies.



"The majority of people with HIV do not know their status"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5neGV6aYMI8&list=PLepHs0thoryONhjdT7RIn3srX7CTJZXAU>

Financial Breakdown..... where the money goes.



The above pie charts show the cost breakdown for the period January 2013 to present, June 2013.

The office and administrative costs are only 8% of the total thanks to the fact that the office is rent-free and all administrative work is done voluntarily.

The field costs are solely accrued by the activities of the Mobile Outreach Team (Gee, Arm and Wi) and occasionally, by hospital health care workers on a part-

time basis. Since the Outreach Team are locals, their combined salary is not excessive (currently 26,000 Thai baht per month).

The main chart shows the monthly distribution of the donation and sponsorship money. Already, in the first few months of working in co-operation with Chiang Dao and Sankampeang hospitals, 5% of the field expenditure is spent on home visits to the remote communities.

At the end of each month, details of the Mobile Outreach activity, consisting of clinic, sponsorships, field costs and financial bank details, are sent to our main sponsor [SDL Language Services](#) as part of our sponsorship agreement.

We hope this cost breakdown gives you confidence that your donations and sponsorships are being used in the most efficient and transparent way possible.

Monthly Expenses							
Field	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Av. 2013
Home Care (CD+SKP)	888	687	4,008	3,727	3,448	4,041	2,800
Daycare provisions	2,696	2,949	2,446	1,240	2,550	3,011	2,482
Milk	5,670	4,788	5,544	4,914	7,392	4,914	5,537
Medicine	9,986	8,429	8,776	6,981	8,440	7,898	8,418
Meals	4,160	2,865	3,340	3,340	3,620	3,395	3,453
Salaries	19,800	19,800	23,900	26,000	26,000	26,000	23,583
Diesel	7,150	5,640	7,485	8,030	8,690	6,440	7,239
Car Servicing - Ford/Toyota	1,791	835	0	0	2,009	0	773
Toyota HP payments	10,284	10,284	10,284	10,284	10,284	10,284	10,284
Misc. costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Field	62,425	56,277	65,783	64,516	72,433	65,983	64,570
Office							
Electric	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Telephone	270	149	265	153	145	169	192
Internet	970	978	978	978	978	978	977
Admin/Office Supplies	969	1,170	20,262	4,284	532	494	4,619
Maid	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Total Office	6,709	6,797	26,005	9,915	6,155	6,141	10,287
Month Total	69,134	63,074	91,788	74,431	78,588	72,124	74,857
Stock	17,714	17,766	12,483	13,277	13,467	14,941	14,941
School/Sponsorship	7,000	0	39,000	73,000	37,000	5,000	26,833
Rejoice Interim Sponsorships	12,000	10,000					11,000

The figure shows the expenditure for the first 6 months of 2013. The pie charts, above, have been constructed from this data.

Links to previous Newsletters:

- [January 2013](#)
- [July 2012](#)
- [January 2012](#)

Please Support Rejoice....

- **By direct bank transfer;**

Donations can be made either direct to the local (Thai baht) account in Chiang Mai, Thailand or, alternatively to the account in London, UK. Account details are shown in the tables below.

Thailand Account

Account (Thai baht): Rejoice Charity
 Bank name: Bangkok Bank PLC
 Bank Address: Thapae Road
 T. Chang Klan
 A. Muang
 Chiang Mai 50100
 Thailand
 Account No. 251-4-767678
 Swift Code: BKKBTHBK

London Account

Account: Rejoice Foundation UK
 Bank Name: HSBC Ltd
 Branch: Canary Wharf
 Bank Address: London E14
 Account No: 41466879
 Sort Code: 40-02-44
 Swift Code: MIDLGB22
 IBAN: GB89MIDL40024441466879

- **By Credit Card via PayPal**

If you want to make a donation via PayPal, [go to Rejoice website and click on the "Donate Today"](#) button in the top right corner.

- **Create a Standing Order**

If you would like to make a regular contribution /donation, of whatever size, please print out and complete this standing order form with your bank details and amount pledged, then return it to Rejoice Foundation UK (not your bank) at the address below;

Nigel Haunch, Chair, Rejoice Foundation UK, 119 Dundee Wharf, Three Colt Street, London E14 8AY

- **Gift Aid**

If you are a UK taxpayer, Rejoice can reclaim tax on your donation from the Inland Revenue at no extra cost or inconvenience to you. This currently makes your donation (at basic rate) worth an extra 25p for each £1 given.

If you pay tax at the higher rate, you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment return.

For us to benefit in this way when you donate, you can download and print this [PDF form](#), sign it and send to the address below OR, alternatively, you could email your home address to contact@rejoicecharity.com and we will post the Gift Aid form to you to sign and return to;

Nigel Haunch, Chair, Rejoice Foundation UK, 119 Dundee Wharf, Three Colt Street, London E14 8AY

- **Send a Cheque**

If the banks are still accepting cheques and you wish to make a one-off or intermittent donation to Rejoice, please make your cheques payable to 'Rejoice Foundation UK' and send them to;

Nigel Haunch, Chair, Rejoice Foundation UK, 119 Dundee Wharf, Three Colt Street, London E14 8AY

Notes for Donors

Please let us know about your donation by sending a short email to; contact@rejoicecharity.com. So that we may contact you and thank you directly.

If you would like part of your donation to go towards sponsoring a child's education (5,000 baht) please let us know whether we should select a child on your behalf or you would prefer to select a child yourself, in which case we will send the Excel file 'Children Seeking Sponsorship' to help you decide.

Thank you all for your generous support.

Please visit our website; www.rejoicecharity.com and let your friends and relatives hear about us by forwarding this newsletter or better still printing it and use it as a discussion topic.

Your help and constructive criticism will be gratefully received so please send all your comments to;

contact@rejoicecharity.com

Rejoice Foundation UK Trustees

The international fundraising arm of Rejoice based in the UK was started by Nigel Haunch who, after living and working in Asia for some years, returned to London to run his own media consultancy business. Having learned about the work of Rejoice on the internet, Nigel made a visit and was moved by the scale of the HIV/AIDS crisis in northern Thailand. At the same time, he was impressed by the extraordinary achievements of Rejoice in helping those infected and affected by the epidemic, particularly in outlying rural communities.

The Trustees of Rejoice Foundation UK are as follows;

Chairperson Nigel Haunch

Vice Chair Dr Darrall Higson—a Consultant in Pharmaceutical Medicine and formerly a medical director of GlaxoSmithKline

RFUK honorary Secretary Prof Philip Evans, Director of Research for the University of Westminster,

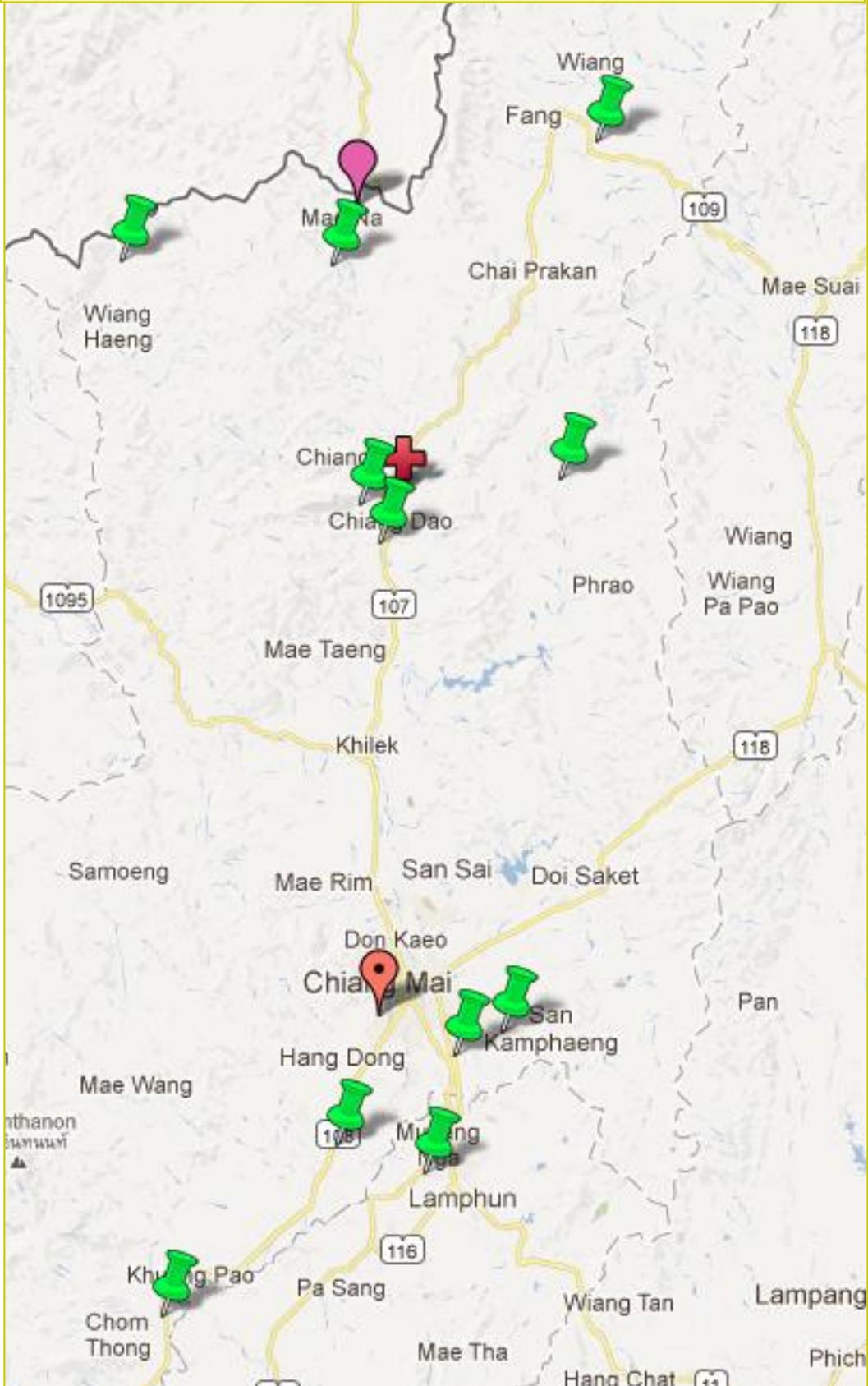
Dr Martin Huddart is a General Practitioner in East London and also a tutor at the UK's Royal Free and University College Medical Schools



[Alan Wheeler](#)
July 2013



Map of the locations in Chiang Mai Province currently covered by the Rejoice Outreach Team



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