# Rejoice Charity News



Rejoice Charity January 2012

### Reaching out to Communities in Northern Thailand

The Rejoice care unit travels to homes and communities to serve the medical and emotional care needs of poor people suffering from HIV/Aids infection. The programme provides free, ongoing 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. (see map of Chiang Mai Province)

The direct beneficiaries of our projects are the poor, women, children, sex workers, drug users and other marginalised groups such as local hill tribe communities. These are



Wi, Arm and Gee preparing the pick-up truck for trip to Fang

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.

#### 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, socioeconomic 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.

### Where we are located

Chiang Mai Province is situated in the upper-northern part of Thailand, about 350 meters above sea level. The province's capital, Chiang Mai City, is around 720 kilometres and one hour by air from

the capital, Bangkok. With a land area of 20,107 square kilometres, Chiang Mai province is the second largest in the country.

About 83% of the land area is covered by mountains and forests, 13% is

cultivated by farmers and 5% is used for residential and other purposes.

The current population of Chiang Mai Province is estimated by the Thai government at around 2.7 mil-

#### Inside this issue:

Dr. Martin Huddart (Rejoice Foundation UK Trustee)	<u>2</u>
Making a Difference through Education	<u>3</u>
Sponsor a Child's Education	<u>3</u>
2011 Achievements	<u>4</u>
Where your donations go	<u>6</u>
Appeal for Donations	<u>7</u>
Helping the Needy	<u>8</u>
Notes for Donors	<u>9</u>

Page 2 Rejoice News

### Where we are located (continued)

lion 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 com-

mon 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.



Lahu girl in traditional dress (Chiang Dao district)

# Dr. Martin Huddart (Rejoice Foundation UK Trustee)

Dr. Martin Huddart, a trustee of Rejoice Foundation UK, makes regular visits to Chiang Mai to give advice and encouragement to the Rejoice team. Doc Martin, as we call him,



Doc Martin and children

being a former captain of Chigwell Golf Club in England, also takes advantage of playing a couple of the wonderful courses in Chiang Mai Province.

The following are Dr. Martins comments on his visit to the clinics in Chiang Dao and Fang;

On the outreach visit to Chiang Dao and Fang, the most impressive clinic was in a village outside Fang, where 30 villagers were eagerly awaiting our arrival, albeit 30 minutes late, as they were keen to remind us. The villagers took squares of card with numbers written on them from a Tupperware container and made an orderly queue to consult Gee about their symptoms, which were mostly, dry cough, itchy skin and muscle aches. Gee advised them and then dispensed various symptomatic treatments, such as Calamine lotion, anti-inflammatory rubs and vitamin C capsules. All left content and appreciative.

As a sideline, Arm was checking blood pressures of those waiting to consult Gee. He checked the village elder's BP and found it to be 220/120. On my advice the elder was told to increase his medication (Losartan) from 50mg to 100mg daily and have



Doc Martin in action

his BP checked the following week. If still high, he should return to his hospital doctor.

This clinic was an exemplar of 'pharmacy first' dispensing and clearly met the needs of the local villagers, who had no access to primary health care. The clinic, in addition to giving symptomatic relief to minor ailments, can detect and diagnose early symptoms of serious disease and monitor chronic conditions.









# Making a Difference through Education



Chiang Dao children who received scholarships from SDL Ltd.

The core of Rejoice's work is the provision of medical services in the form of a mobile clinic, providing weekly visits where medical treatment and care are given. The AIDS epidemic has severely affected many families,

both economically and socially, leaving many orphans and AIDS affected children and families in its wake.

Education while being a basic right for children in many parts of the

world, is a rare privilege for the poor rural children in Chiang Mai Province. While the government provides free tuition, families have to buy school uniforms;- regular uniform, gym and sports uniform, scout or guides uniform. Over and above uniforms and clothing, school bags, books, writing materials etc. have to be bought - without these the children cannot attend school; moreover travel expenses and meal expenses have also to be found. Rejoice encourages potential donors to sponsor a child's education by contributing to these expenses (please see below).

email

contact @rejoicecharity.com

## Sponsor a Child's Education

Rejoice encourages donors to support a child to go to school for one year. We do this by proving a sum of money (currently 5,000 baht) to go towards the cost of sending a child to school. The actual amount required various considerably and depends on level of education – primary, secondary or college. The costs increase with the level, but in all cases will exceed 5,000 baht per year.

We must emphasise that this is not the primary activity of Rejoice. Its success depends on field visits to villages and communities and is secondary to the formula milk, medicines and care given on the weekly



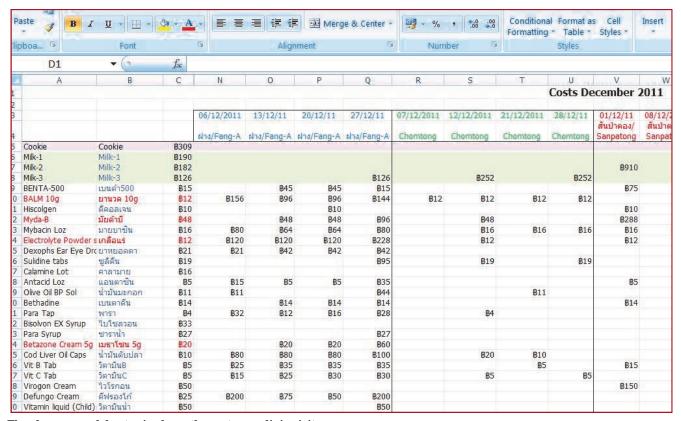
visits of our mobile clinic. Because of this we ask potential donors to inform us if they would like to contribute 5,000 baht of their donation to sponsor a child for a year. In this case we would select a child for you from our ranking of most needy.

If, however, you would prefer to

choose a child from our data base, we have put a scheme in place where we send you spreadsheet file (XLS) with all the children, including children asking for sponsorship, giving all details of all children. From this master file it is possible to link to a PDF file (one for each child) which gives photos, correspondence and other details particular to that child. This will enable potential sponsors to select their preferred child. This is further explained on page 5. These details (with information on their use) will only be sent to donors who specifically request them.

### 2011 Achievements

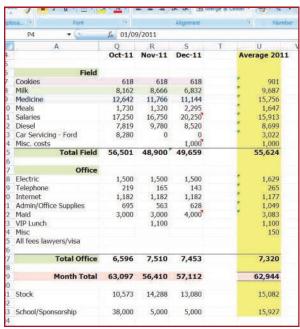
2011 has been a year of consolidation for Rejoice. At the beginning of the year it was uncertain as to whether Rejoice could survive without Steve Hallam - however, Gee wanted to try. Together with encouragement from Aree and Lloyd it was decided to continue. Rejoice is very fortunate to have the stalwart support of Winston Wong, the Thailand country manager of <u>SDL Language Services</u> (headquarters in Maidenhead, UK). Winston put forward Rejoice as a recipient of part SDL Foundation's annual donation to needy communities worldwide.



The above spreadsheet snip shows the costs per clinic visit.

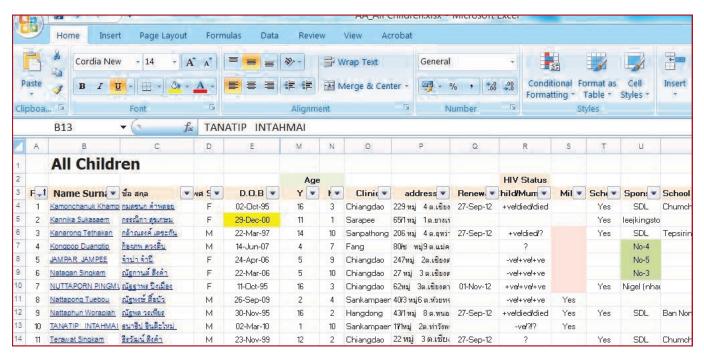
This contribution from Winston and SDL allowed Rejoice to continue the work started by Steve Hallam with much more confidence. Our initial objective was to computerise all the data and information which previously was done on paper. To this end extensive use of spreadsheets has been developed to show all facets of the operation:-

- Registration of patients and medicines and formula milk each receive
- Costs of all such medicines and formula milk
- Cost per clinic per visit
- Monthly summary of costs per clinic
- Expenditures for office and field presented on a monthly basis
- All children on milk and educational sponsorship (and potential scholars) are documented on a separate PDF file.
   These files are hyper-linked to a master spreadsheet.



The snip above shows expenditures of Office and Field each month

# 2011 Achievements (continued)

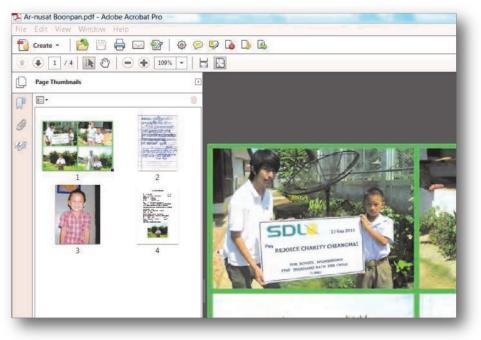


The above screen-snip is a part of the Master file which shows all the Rejoice children—from infants to college students. Also shown (shaded green) are potential scholarship children. The headings are self explanatory although of note is the child's age which is automatically calculated on a daily basis from the date of birth. Also a column showing HIV status of child/mum/dad. Each column can be filtered enabling specific attributes to be selected. By clicking on the child's name, a PDF file will open for that child, showing further information such as photos, letters with translation, school reports etc.

The screen-snip below is a portion of a PDF for one child. Photos and correspondence can be added to show the child's progress.

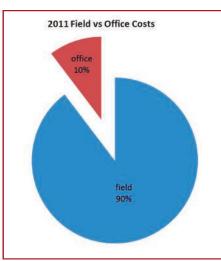
This can be very useful for potential sponsors, rather than Rejoice selecting a child on their behalf it will be possible for the sponsor to choose for themselves.

It is proposed to send these files, on request only, to donors who also which to sponsor a child for one year. This can be done by using a programme "WeTransfer" which is an easy way of sending large amounts of files and data over the internet.



# Where your donations go

The year 2011 has been quite a difficult year, not least because of the loss of Steve Hallam but also because of the severe world economic downturn. Although the focus and cause of the downturn has been in the West, the poor and vulnerable worldwide are always amongst the first to feel its effects. Thailand, particularly in the border areas with Burma, has been very severely affected by the major charities either pulling out or drastically reducing the amount of aid previously given; OXFAM (NOVIB) has withdrawn aid to the Migrants Assistance Programme (MAP) after 15 years of support, Mdecins Sans Frontires (MSF) has withdrawn from Thailand after 35 years under pressure from the Thai Government, the Geneva based Global Fund for Aids, TB and Malaria has had to seriously reduce funding leaving many migrant workers previously receiving ARV



Field Costs 2011

Diesel 14%

Formula Milk 17%

Medicine 25%

Scholarships 1.2%

therapy without access to funds and support.

One of Rejoices main attractions has been ability to show how efficiently donors' contributions are utilised.

Today, with a reduced outreach staff (2 full time and one par time) and computerising of all facets of the work, makes it even more apparent that the funds are being used effectively.

The small pie charts to the left shows the distribution of funds between field and office.

The larger pie chart above shows the percentile distribution of expenditure within the field.







Young and Old benefit from the Outreach clinics

# Appeal for Donations

Rejoice relies on donations for its existence. Corporate donation from SDL Language Services has allowed Rejoice to continue in a stable but limited capacity. There are many poor, underprivileged families who require help in Chiang Mai Province especially in the border areas. With additional funding Rejoice could expand its services into these areas, but this must be done in a responsible way.

There are several ways in which donations could be made:-

- Corporate sponsorship; many companies set aside a portion of their profit to donate to charity. Encourage your company to sponsor Rejoice.
- Individual donations, either directly to Rejoice in Thailand or to Rejoice Foundation UK, can be made directly by Bank Transfer.
- Standing Order is a great way to donate small sums on a regular basis.
- Use of credit card by means of PayPal
- By introducing friends and relatives to Rejoice.
- By creating a group on social networks such as FaceBook.
- For UK tax payers Gift Aid is a great way to get tax relief so Rejoice can benefit.



A few of the children who benefit from Rejoice

### Helping the Needy

#### By direct bank transfer;

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

Thailand Account		
Account:	Alan Wheeler (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:	ВККВТНВК	

London Acco	unt
Account:	Rejoice Foundation UK
Bank Name:	HSBC Ltd
Branch:	Canary Wharf
Bank Address:	London El4
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 <u>PDF form</u>, 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 childs 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 files (XLS file and PDF files) to you via "WeTransfer" with further information.

#### Thank you all for your generous support.

Please visit our website; <u>www.rejoicecharity.com</u> 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, a retired petroleum petrophysical engineer who now lives in Chiang Mai



Alan Wheeler January 2012

