

# New Beginnings

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Empowerment of Indigenous Karen Tribal Girls  
through College Education and Leadership  
Mentoring



## **November 2015 Interim Progress Report**

**Dining for Women Grant: \$36,867**

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### **1. Recap briefly what outcomes the program was designed to achieve.**

Through the Smiles on Wings (SOW) New Beginnings Scholarship Program, five qualified young Karen tribal women from impoverished villages in rural northern Thailand (including the Maesariang District, Maehongsorn Province, and the villages of Maelid, Sobmauy, and Huysingh) are receiving a college education. SOW's objective is to provide training, education, and scholarships for young women studying in the fields of education and healthcare.

As these young women are committed to returning to their families and villages upon completing their education, SOW aims to empower these women to return as locally trained providers in their home villages. The program benefits the women and provides hope to their communities as a deterrent to trafficking. When they graduate, they will return to their villages to assume leadership roles, serve as role models to other young women, and provide essential healthcare and education in their villages.

### **2. Has funding changed for this program? For example, have you received unexpected funding from another source?**

There are no additional sources of funding at this time. However, the extension in the Bachelor of Education program to include a yearlong internship for four of our five scholarship recipients requires that we fundraise an additional \$10,000 [see changes in project budget explained in 4]. In addition, monthly expenses for some of the young women exceeds our estimated budget. SOW will cover any additional expenses to ensure the young women continue education and graduate as planned per the DFW grant.

### **3. Is your organization or program situation different than presented in the approved proposal? For example, new executive director, significant program staffing changes or NGO affiliation, loss of large funding, or other significant changes?**

There have been no significant changes to Smiles on Wings operations.

### **4. What challenges are you facing as you move forward with this project? How are you approaching these challenges?**

The major challenge that SOW is facing is due to the recent decision by the Thai Ministry of Education to extend the Bachelor of Education degree from four years to five to include a required year-long internship. The change requires four of our five scholarship recipients to commit five years instead of four years to their respective education programs and the Dining for Women grant does not cover their fifth year. To approach this challenge, SOW will commit its current fundraising efforts to cover the cost of the additional year of education.

Furthermore, the Thai Ministry of Education has decided to change the academic calendar for all Thai public universities. Originally, the first semester at Thai public universities ran from June to September

and the second semester ran from November to March. However, Thai public universities have recently realigned their academic calendars to match with the calendars of the universities in United States and other countries to promote internationalization in higher education. Due to these changes and the extensions in the Bachelor of Education Program, our schedule for awarding scholarships is now projected to end in July 2019.

Since this change was announced last fall, the Smiles on Wings team has increased its fundraising efforts and anticipates no problems to raise the additional funds required.

**6. Have you revised your original objectives since the project began? If so, why? What are your new objectives?**

The objectives since the initiation of the project remain the same.

**7. What progress have you made toward achieving your objectives? Please address each stated objective.**

First, SOW aims to provide access to education and to train the young women to become future teachers and healthcare providers. Our five scholarship recipients are now almost complete with their first year of education.

- Sangthong Sodaichampa and Chuleeporn Srisophawiman both attend Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Chiangmai Campus and are working towards their Bachelor of Education in Social Studies.
- Sriprai Yongsakunnuansri attends Phayoa University and is working towards her Bachelor of Education in Chemistry.
- Janjira Thoedmapai attends Chiangmai Rajabhat University, Maehongson Campus and is working towards her Bachelor of Science in Public Health.
- Muthita Sermpraiwal attends Lampang Rajabhat University and is working towards her Bachelor of Education in English.

Second, SOW will provide mentorship and support through leadership training. Founder Dr. Usa Bunnag had the opportunity to meet with our scholarship recipients in January 2015 to check on their progress and they are doing well. We are currently planning a one-day leadership training session for our scholarship recipients in January 2016. Dr. Usa Bunnag, a graduate of the Leadership Montgomery program will travel to Thailand to host a leadership reception for the scholarship recipients to learn from her experiences as a healthcare provider and mentor. The leadership reception will also give the young women chances to present on their educational experiences and plans to return to their villages to serve as role models for other young women seeking opportunities in higher education.

## **8. Do you anticipate any difficulties in completing your project in the timeframe outlined in your proposal?**

Due to the change in the academic calendar schedules for all Thai public universities, our scholarship recipients will not graduate in four years as originally planned. Instead, the project will take five years and our projected end date has been extended from May 2018 to July 2019.

## **Any message you would like us to convey to our membership and donors about the impact our grant is having on those being served and/or your organization and its mission.**

Smiles on Wings would like to thank Dining for Women for helping us provide training, education, and scholarships for young Karen tribal women from impoverished villages in rural northern Thailand. Dining for Women has allowed us to send five deserving women to achieve their dreams of college degrees in education and healthcare. These girls aspire to return to their villages to assume leadership roles, serve as role models to other young women, and provide essential healthcare and education.

Please see the scholarship recipient biographies in the appendix to read more about their college experience.

## **10. Detailed list of all expenses incurred during the reporting period which have been paid for with the Dining for Women grant.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Remaining Balance</b>
4/14/14	Funding received from DFW	<b>+ \$18,433.50</b>	<b>\$18,433.50</b>
8/7/14	Initial	\$1,892.89	\$16,540.61
	August 2014	\$584.80	\$15,955.81
	September 2014	\$584.80	\$15,371.02
	October 2014	\$758.43	\$14,612.59
	November 2014	\$662.17	\$13,950.42
	December 2014	\$1,129.00	\$12,821.42
	January 2015	\$749.14	\$12,072.28
	February 2015	\$1,632.92	\$10,439.36
	March 2015	\$723.10	\$9,716.26
4/2/15	Funding received from DFW	<b>+ \$18,433.50</b>	<b>\$28,149.76</b>
	April 2015	\$414.62	\$27,735.14
	May 2015	\$532.00	\$27,203.14
	June 2015	\$513.00	\$26,690.14
	July 2015	\$513.00	\$26,177.14
	August 2015	\$513.00	\$25,664.14

	September 2015	\$513.00	\$25,151.14
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$25,151.14</b>

The students and their parents are responsible for the remainder of expenses that is not covered by the SOW Scholarship. However, as SOW reevaluates the budget and expenses after the first year, we will make any necessary adjustment of the budget and stipend to prevent any hardship for the students and their families. (See itemized list of expenses by scholarship recipient).

**APPENDIX 1: ITEMIZED LIST OF EXPENSES**

**APRIL 2015**

Students	Tuition	Room	Utilities	Uniform	Meals	Books	School Fee	Activity Fee	Transportation	Tutoring	Personal Spending	Total	SOW Scholarship	Remainder paid by Student
Sangthong		\$30.91			\$7.50						\$5.10	\$43.51	\$43.51	
Chuleeporn		\$30.91			\$7.28						\$3.64	\$41.83	\$41.83	
Sripai					\$72.80	\$2.80		\$5.60			\$2.80	\$84.00	\$84.00	
Muthita		\$7.00			\$35.28						\$7.00	\$49.28	\$49.28	
Janjira		\$2.80	\$2.80		\$42.00	\$5.60		\$2.80	\$14.00		\$14.00	\$84.00	\$84.00	
Personnel	\$112.00											\$112.00	\$112.00	
<b>Total</b>												\$414.62	\$414.62	\$0.00

**MAY 2015**

Students	Tuition	Room	Utilities	Uniform	Meals	Books	School Fee	Activity Fee	Transportation	Tutoring	Personal Spending	Total	SOW Scholarship	Remainder paid by Student
Sangthong		\$31.58	\$6.52		\$63.39				\$5.04		\$3.08	\$109.62	\$84.00	-\$25.62
Chuleeporn		\$31.58	\$3.78		\$65.24				\$5.04		\$2.94	\$108.58	\$84.00	-\$24.58
Sripai					\$72.80	\$4.20		\$2.80			\$2.80	\$82.60	\$84.00	
Muthita					\$9.52				\$8.40			\$17.92	\$84.00	
Janjira		\$2.80		\$14.00	\$28.00	\$2.80		\$2.80	\$28.00		\$8.40	\$86.80	\$84.00	-\$2.80
Personnel	\$112.00											\$112.00	\$112.00	
<b>Total</b>												\$532.00	\$532.00	-\$53.00

**JUNE 2015**

Students	Tuition	Room	Utilities	Uniform	Meals	Books	School Fee	Activity Fee	Transportation	Tutoring	Personal Spending	Total	SOW Scholarship	Remainder paid by Student
Sangthong		\$31.86			\$65.83	\$132.62			\$3.24		\$4.56	\$238.11	\$81.00	-\$157.11
Chuleeporn		\$31.86			\$54.00	\$135.05			\$2.70		\$4.59	\$228.20	\$81.00	-\$147.20
Sripai		\$34.83			\$40.50	\$2.97					\$2.70	\$81.00	\$81.00	
Muthita					\$40.50				\$18.63		\$7.56	\$59.40	\$81.00	\$21.60
Janjira		\$13.50			\$27.00						\$18.90	\$108.00	\$81.00	-\$27.00
Personnel	\$108.00											\$108.00	\$108.00	
<b>Total</b>												\$513.00	\$513.00	-\$309.72

**JULY 2015**

Students	Tuition	Room	Utilities	Uniform	Meals	Books	School Fee	Activity Fee	Transportation	Tutoring	Personal Spending	Total	SOW Scholarship	Remainder paid by Student
Sangthong	\$121.50	\$31.75	\$13.74		\$44.77				\$2.16		\$9.15	\$223.07	\$81.00	-\$142.07
Chuleeporn	\$121.50	\$31.75	\$12.42		\$50.22						\$8.91	\$224.80	\$81.00	-\$143.80
Sripai	\$486.00	\$40.50			\$32.40			\$8.10				\$567.00	\$81.00	-\$486.00
Muthita	\$175.50		\$9.45		\$40.50						\$18.63	\$244.08	\$81.00	-\$163.08
Janjira		\$60.21			\$27.00			\$13.50			\$13.50	\$114.21	\$81.00	-\$33.21
Personnel	\$108.00											\$108.00	\$108.00	
<b>Total</b>												\$513.00	\$513.00	-\$968.17

**AUGUST 2015**

Students	Tuition	Room	Utilities	Uniform	Meals	Books	School Fee	Activity Fee	Transportation	Tutoring	Personal Spending	Total	SOW Scholarship	Remainder paid by Student
Sangthong		\$32.94	\$13.04		\$49.38						\$6.97	\$102.33	\$81.00	-\$21.33
Chuleeporn		\$32.94	\$5.40		\$45.90						\$8.10	\$92.34	\$81.00	-\$11.34
Sripai		\$40.50			\$32.40	\$8.10						\$81.00	\$81.00	\$0.00
Muthita		\$5.40	\$12.15	\$46.17	\$8.10	\$5.40					\$2.16	\$79.38	\$81.00	\$1.62
Janjira			\$5.40	\$8.10	\$40.50	\$13.50		\$21.60			\$2.70	\$91.80	\$81.00	-\$10.80
Personnel	\$108.00											\$108.00	\$108.00	
<b>Total</b>												\$513.00	\$513.00	-\$41.85

**SEPTEMBER 2015**

Students	Tuition	Room	Utilities	Uniform	Meals	Books	School Fee	Activity Fee	Transportation	Tutoring	Personal Spending	Total	SOW Scholarship	Remainder paid by Student
Sangthong		\$32.94	\$7.37		\$69.20				\$0.54		\$7.78	\$117.83	\$81.00	-\$36.83
Chuleeporn		\$32.94	\$6.75		\$70.20				\$0.54		\$10.67	\$121.10	\$81.00	-\$40.10
Sripai		\$40.50	\$4.05		\$32.40	\$4.05						\$81.00	\$81.00	\$0.00
Muthita		\$5.67	\$6.75	\$18.90	\$40.50							\$71.82	\$81.00	\$9.18
Janjira				\$13.50	\$40.50	\$5.40		\$14.85				\$74.25	\$81.00	\$6.75
Personnel	\$108.00											\$108.00	\$108.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>												\$513.00	\$513.00	-\$60.99

## APPENDIX 2: New Beginnings Scholarship Biographies

### *Sangthong Sodsachampa*



Sangthong is from the Sop Moei District of the Mae Hong Son Province in Northern Thailand. She is currently participating in a 5-year program at the Mahachulalong-kornrajavidalaya University Chiang Mai Campus, where she will earn a Bachelor of Education in Social Studies. Sangthong's favorite classes are Social Studies and Thai.

In her free time, she participates in many extracurricular activities such as working for the school radio, organizing activities for Children's Day and Dhamma. After graduating, Sangthong would like to become a teacher and hopefully return to her hometown to help develop and improve education in the community.

### **Janjira Thoednaphai**



Janjira's hometown is Mae Sariang, in the Mae Hong Son Province. She is studying at Chiang Mai Rajabhat University Mae Hong Son Campus. In four years, she will earn a Bachelor of Science in Public Health. Her favorite classes are Science and Thai. In her free time, Janjira takes part in Student Club and sport activities; she is even working to build a nursing clinic! After completing her degree, Janjira hopes to go into nursing and return to Mae Sariang to improve development in the community.

### **Sriprai Yongsakunnuansri**



Sriprai is also from Mae Sariang District in the Mae Hong Son Province. Sriprai is completing her Bachelor of Education in Chemistry, at Phayoa University. Her favorite class is chemistry because it can be applied to everyday life. Sriprai is very involved in the University; she is the head of sports for the UP Freshman Games and runs the University's First-Step Camp for freshmen. After graduation, Sriprai plans to apply her education to her occupation and work to improve the financial situation for working-class families.



***Chuleeporn Sisophawiman***

Chuleeporn is from Sop Moei District, near the Sop Moei River. She is attending Mahachulalong-kornrajavidalaya University Chiang Mai Campus to earn a Bachelor of Education in Social Studies. Chuleeporn's favorite class is general law because it is useful on a daily basis. Outside of school, she volunteers to clean the university campus and helps out at Children's Day. After graduation, Chuleeporn wants to become a teacher in her hometown.



***Muthita Sremphaiwan***

Muthita lives in Ban Mae Kong in the Mae Sariang District. She studies English at Lampang Rajabhat University, on an Education track. Muthita and her friends participate in freshman sports at their University. Muthita's favorite class is English because it is interesting and challenging. She would like to speak English fluently so she can eventually teach English to the children in her hometown. Muthita hopes to get a chance to travel abroad to practice English.

