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Burma Children
Medical Fund operating to give
Burma's kids a future



Dear Friends & Supporters of BCMF:

Welcome to the August 2013 edition of the BCMF newsletter! We have several updates to share as we continue to work to provide needed health care to patients from Burma with complex medical conditions.

Evaluation Report

BCMF has completed its latest evaluation report discussing the program's achievements, challenges, and lessons learned. The evaluation report also presents a number of performance indicators BCMF has established in order to track the program's progress and determine the effectiveness of its work. These indicators allow BCMF to provide regular program progress information to donors, to make appropriate program decisions, and to collect sufficient information to enable BCMF to assess and report on project outcomes and impacts. Have a look at the Evaluation Report on our website [here](#).

Patient House

In addition to funding patients' medical treatment and providing support services, BCMF also provides patients with food and accommodation for as long as they are undergoing treatment. In Chiang Mai, BCMF currently partners with the Migration Assistance Program (MAP) Foundation, paying per patient for accommodation and food provided by the MAP safe house. However, given the significant and continuous increase in BCMF's patient caseload in recent years, our needs have expanded beyond what our partnership with the MAP Foundation is able to provide. BCMF has now reached a point where it is essential to establish a house exclusively for BCMF patients, allowing us to better serve our patients' needs and stabilize our costs.



August Patient Spotlight:

Nyein Shin is a little girl from Burma who has been receiving treatment for hydrocephalus and spina bifida. She also has clubbed feet, and because of the nerve and muscle damage caused by the spina bifida, she will never be able to walk on her own. Earlier this month in Chiang Mai, she was given a wheelchair from Wheelchairs for Kids Incorporated. Wheelchairs for Kids was founded in 1993 by the Rotary Club of Scarborough in Western Australia and works to produce and distribute specially designed wheelchairs for children in under-resourced countries. BCMF would like to thank Wheelchairs for Kids and Debbie Singh, the President of Wanneroo Rotary Club, for facilitating the donation and making Nyein Shin's gift possible!

The BCMF patient house will be a key aspect of the services we provide to patients. It is essential that patients and their caregivers have a safe place to stay in Chiang Mai and a social support system while undergoing treatment. Patients undergoing long-term treatment or scheduled for multiple follow-up appointments may need to stay in Chiang Mai for weeks or even months at a time.

We are asking donors if they would consider making a contribution to help cover our start-up costs. Initial work on the house will consist of a clean-up of the identified site, minor renovations, and some small construction projects including building of a bathroom block, shower, and outdoor kitchen. For 250,000 baht (about \$7,800 USD or \$8,700 AUD), these projects will be completed and we will be one step closer to finishing our BCMF patient house. If you are able to make a contribution, please go our [website](#) to make a donation.

On a Final Note...

BCMF would like to say a big thank to our two summer volunteers. Chloe Lanzara is a student from Columbia University in New York that came to work with BCMF as part of her summer internship while she completes her Master's degree in Public Health. Viju Hullur, a business analyst from Chicago, Illinois decided to spend some time volunteering for BCMF while traveling in southeast Asia. They both made an invaluable contribution to our work during their time at BCMF. Because BCMF is such a small organization, we are dependent on volunteers like Viju and Chloe to help with our ever-increasing workload. We will miss them and wish them both the best in their future endeavors.

Don't forget to follow BCMF on Facebook and Twitter for more updates and news from the Thai-Burma border!

Best Wishes,

The BCMF Team



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