

# MARIST ASIA FOUNDATION

## Burmese Migrant Children - Pre School Programme



### Thank You Caritas Verona, Marist Mission Centre, and Lenity for supporting Burmese Migrant Preschool Children in 2015-2016

Your support has encouraged and transformed 75 families and their children to start school.

In 2016 the Marist Asia Foundation has made an intentional effort at understanding the local community and participating in a needs assessment listening process with parents, students, and community leaders.

As the preschool programme began in May 2016 we have been able to encourage several families from the nearby charcoal and fish factories and very poor neighbourhood families to send their children to preschool.

Some of our teachers and online university students have also begun a Saturday School for over 20 children who do not have a school to attend.

#### PRESCHOOL PROGRAMME

6 month report 2016

assisting 75 poor burmese children and parents

protecting children and providing a positive early education experience

Caritas 13,000 Euro

MMC 10,000 Euro

Lenity 5,000 Euro

# BURMESE MIGRANT CHILDREN

## Preschool Programme

Only 20% of children start school.  
90% of the 20% finish school age 12  
Only 15 Burmese Migrants are in a Thai  
Secondary School  
Marist Asia Foundation, Thai / Burma Border

### 1 PROVIDE A SAFE PLACE

The Marist Mission in Ranong built the 'Marist Centre' in 2013 to provide 4 Education Programmes to help Burmese Migrants in Ranong. The Preschool programme provides a positive and child friendly learning environment for up to 75 Burmese Migrant Children aged 4-6.

### 2 PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATORS

Local Teachers are identified and trained to provide an education experience supporting the intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual development of Burmese Migrant children.

### 3 BE IN RELATIONSHIP & KNOW NEEDS OF MIGRANT PARENTS

Parent meetings, home visits and local Burmese Migrant teachers ensures we are in relationship with Migrant Parents and of their needs.

### 4 SUPPORT SAFE TRANSPORT

Safe transport for children and supporting transport costs help overcome two of the biggest obstacles for parents to send their children to school.

### 5 DEVELOP CHILDREN'S DIFFERENT SKILLS & LEARN WITH FUN

Clean classrooms, space for activities, Art, Music, Crafts, Games, Outdoor Activities, Language and Health subjects and community celebrations help students enjoy learning and engage parents in the education process.

### 6 ALLEVIATE MALNUTRITION & ENCOURAGE PERSONAL HEALTH & HYGIENE

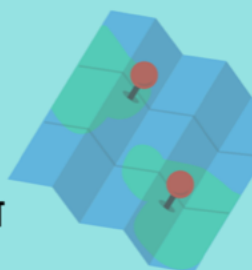
Support basic nutrition, identifying health problems and developing personal hygiene habits develops children's well being

### 7 DEVELOP AN APPROPRIATE CURRICULUM

A developmentally appropriate range of art, language, health, music and cultural subjects allows fun and interest to engage children to want to begin school at age 6.

### 8 DEVELOP STAFF & GROW THEIR SKILLS

Visit other Preschool Programmes and encourage teacher learning through mentoring and teacher training.



## ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016 - 6 MONTHS

**NUMBERS:** 75 students began preschool, 4 students left. Current student number 71

**ATTENDANCE:** Average attendance rate in Nursery A class 87%. Nursery B class is 86%. Kindergarten class is 92% This high rate of attendance shows both parents and students are positive and want their education.

**SAFETY:** There have been no safety incidents with transport or at Marist Centre and parent survey shows parents are very happy with safety of their children with us.

**EDUCATION:** following a teacher training experience visiting another school we have installed wifi and tv to encourage creative use of technology for learning.

**FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS:** Roof repairs, installation of windows to increase air-flow.

**PARENT INVOLVEMENT:** Parent Meeting July shared positive comments about transport, parents enjoy children coming home and teaching them songs and lessons learnt in class. Still request primary school because they don't want to send their children to local learning centres

**ACADEMIC RESULTS:** Our 23 student results for Kindergarten test scores show A= 11, B= 7, C = 3, D= 2. We do not have tests for Nursery A and B students.

## Shwe Zin

### Story about Shwe Zin's family

Shwe Zin (not real name) has three siblings in her family. Her mother passed away with a health disease. Now she is 10 years old.

She lives with her father, a younger sister and a brother. She is the oldest and she works hard for her family.

Her father's work is fishing. In the morning, she sells seafood that her father gets before she goes to school with her younger sister and brother.



All the teachers are proud of herself because she works very hard for her family. Shwe Zin and her younger sister and brother get support from Marist Asia Foundation to attend school.

Every day she comes to school late with her brother and sister because she sells fish, shrimps and other seafood in the community even though it is raining.

She always helps her friends in the class and she is very interested in education. She is very good in drawing and also a good student.

She works hard for her life and her family. She loves and takes care of her younger sister and brother. She works and shares money with her younger sister and brother and lives together with her family.

*Marist Asia Foundation has supported this family when Mum was dying and uncertain of the future for her children. We seek to help broken and struggling families. Many parents are desperately poor and simply cannot afford the monthly education fees and cost of a uniform. It is sad that our children at such a young age of 10 are working desperately to support their families.*

*Marist Asia Foundation has worked hard in 2016 to find and support a number of preschool age children in nearby charcoal and fish factories to begin and continue their education*



## Reporting on Programme Objectives

### 1. Positive Learning

**Environment:** We have made a special effort to develop the creativity of the children with weekly arts, crafts, and music activities. Parents share the children teach them and their brothers and sisters their songs from school. Child Development booklet for each child shared with parents and asks for parent feedback and comments.



### 2. Alleviate malnutrition and

**encourage personal health and hygiene:** Daily washing, cleaning teeth and hygiene habits are practiced. Needy students are identified and lunch boxes checked. Weight and height measurements of children have identified 50% of our children are underweight. We are seeking to respond with nutrition and advice for parents

### 3. Provide safe and comfortable transport:

57% of preschool students use school transport to arrive safely to school. Zero incidents reported and very positive feedback from parents about care of drivers and staff accompaniment and helping with umbrellas etc in rain to keep children dry.

### 4. Provide quality teachers and educators:

We seek to develop Thai and Burmese language resources in 2016-2017. From visit of another Thai Preschool, staff commit to story telling with use of internet resources and more use of visual aids for teaching of children.

### 5. Keep staff motivated and improve their skills:

teacher survey recognised need to learn new Myanmar Early Childhood Curriculum. 2 Staff are being supported through [epopasia.org](http://epopasia.org) partnership to learn English.

### 6. Keep in touch with the real situation of parents and families:

Preschool staff visited 25 homes of the most in need families. This has helped us identify and understand parents and their financial challenges and reasons why they do not send their children to school.

### 7. Strengthen relationships with parents and the community:

Parent meeting attendance 65% and special mothers day activity 91% shows active parent involvement

**“We are so thankful to Marist Asia Foundation when we don’t have enough money for some months we can still send our children to school”**

Migrant Parent - Home visiting

## Nan Lin

Nan Lin (not real name) is known as golden hair girl or foreign kid because she has golden hair color like a foreigner with white skin.

This year she began studying in Nursery-A. She is four years old. She is a little girl and has many difficulties in her life.

She lives near the Marist Centre. She lives in a small house in a nearby charcoal factory. She is very active and is interested to learn new things.



She comes to school with her neighbour's sister. She really likes to come with her. Without her she doesn't come to school. There are 8 members in her family. Her mother is 47 years old. Nan Lin has four older sisters and two older brothers. Sadly two months ago one of her sister's died because of health problems and seizures.

Her father and mother do not live together. Her father is always drunk and hits her mother therefore her mother ran away from home in Myanmar and now stays in Ranong Thailand.

Her father died last year because he was drunk and hit other people and other people killed him. It is not easy and a big struggle to stand by themselves without their father.

Her mother has no work because she has work-permit problems. It is very difficult and very expensive to get proper migrant documents and work permit documents. Also her Mother does not have good health. In her family only their older sister at the age of 21 is working for the whole family. She works at nearby fish factory. Her older brother at the age of 16 years old also cannot work because he does not have any documents.

Her mother shares that she has many difficulties and financial problems. It is difficult to take care of her kids and her health problems.

Every month she needs to pay the household fee which includes water supply, electricity supply and school fees for her three youngest children to go to school. She does not have enough money. She needs to borrow from other people every month to pay the school fee for her kids. If she does not do this her kids cannot study anymore

***“Nan Lin is 1 of 24 children in the Burmese Migrant Preschool Programme that is supported with Tuition and Transport fees to lift up the lives of our poor Burmese Migrant Families in Ranong”***



**Learning:** Children learn their first language, Burmese, but also learn Thai and English alphabets and songs



**Hygiene:** children learn healthy living skills with daily washing, cleaning teeth and personal hygiene practises.



**Nutrition:** Teachers take special care to identify hungry students and everyone eats and shares food together in small groups.



**Creativity:** Story telling, arts and crafts, music and games help students to enjoy the start of their education journey.



**Home visits:** help teachers see their students in their home environment and frequently understand the struggles particular families are having.



**Teacher Training:** visiting other Learning Centres and Schools provides our teachers with experiences to apply to their own teaching styles. New experiences brings new resources and new teaching ideas

Summary 6 month financial report attached May - October 2016