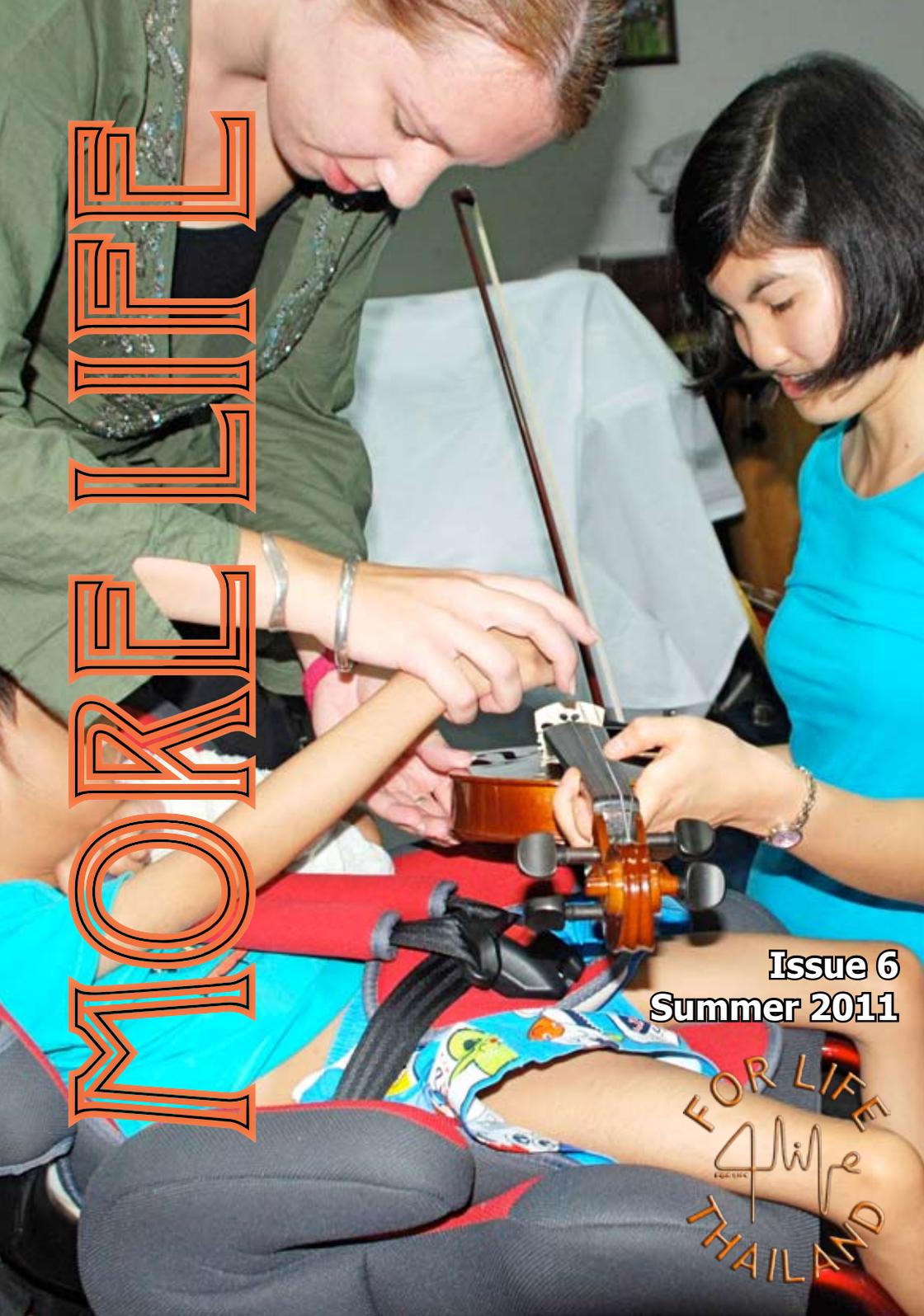


# MORE LIFE



Issue 6  
Summer 2011

FOR LIFE  
4Life  
THAILAND

# Welcome to MORE LIFE Summer 2011!

Summer is here and I find myself writing the next update already.

In this issue of More Life we focus on Olympic dreams within CCD and the moving story of Chariya Glasse-Davies from Scotland who has just arrived in Thailand to volunteer with CCD over the Summer.

Our volunteer numbers have dropped over this past year, so we have a feature article on volunteering and the ways you could get involved. We need to keep resourcing the projects in Thailand and keep our office in London running smoothly!

We are in the process of becoming a charitable company limited by guarantee and our registration papers are with the charity commission as we speak. We are excited to announce that we are widening our objects to include the whole of Asia to allow for the possibility of future expansion. If you have any questions about this process please do not hesitate to get in touch.

As always we are incredibly grateful for your generosity and support.

With affection,

*Lydia George*

## For Life Vision

Our vision is to bring LIFE to the thousands of abandoned disabled children who lie neglected and unloved in the Government institutions of Nonthaburi, a district just outside Bangkok. We want to see lives transformed and hope restored to the children and teenagers who have been deserted because of their disabilities.

**We are a purely voluntary charity. None of our staff receive a wage so that more of your money goes straight to the children in Thailand.**

We also keep our costs to a bare minimum, with stamps and stationery often being donated.

We work with CCD to reach disabled children in the following ways:

**Daycare Centres** - CCD run four daycare centres inside the Government institutions where the children come for the day to be stimulated, educated and loved.

**Rainbow House** - A specialist residential home for up to 50 children with disabilities. We seek to reunite them with their families and where this is not possible, to help them get adopted so that they can have a second chance to live a happy life.

**Community-Based Rehabilitation** - We work in the poorer provinces of Thailand with families of disabled children. We provide help for parents financially, with education and by creating support groups with other parents in a similar situation.

# Olympic Dreams

## CCD heroes reaching for the stars



With August 2012 fast approaching there is a growing buzz about the Olympics and Paralympics. Rather than being run as a separate set of games after the Olympics, the Paralympics will be fully integrated and run alongside the other events this year. British Airways have launched their multi-million pound sponsorship advertising campaign 'They will fly' featuring some of the most inspiring British Athletes.

Thailand's Disability games took place in February of this year on the eastern coast in Chonburi province. Competitors came from all over the country, including five from CCD, who managed to secure an impressive total of two bronze, two silver and three gold medals.

One of CCD's most promising young men, named Tom (pictured right), is a wheelchair fencing champion as well

as working in CCD's PR team. Tom competed in four disciplines at the games in Chonburi and was responsible for winning the three gold medals.

Not only is this a great success in itself, it gives him a very good chance at making the 2012 Paralympic Games in London. In late June he attended a qualifying tournament in Poland.

As well as being incredibly empowering to the individuals themselves, sporting success such as this serves to raise the profile of people with disabilities in Thailand in line with CCD's vision of changing the way people with disabilities are viewed in Thai society.

**If you would be interested in sponsoring more sports equipment for CCD, please get in touch.**



# Rescued and

## A difficult beginning

One of the saddest realities of the situation in Thailand is that many children in Thailand are abandoned for the most minor of disabilities. Chariya was born with a cleft palate and hair lip and abandoned at birth in hospital. At 6 months old she was transferred to the government institution in Pakkred where her health quickly deteriorated. Lack of funding and staff in the homes meant that Chariya became dangerously thin without specialist attention for her disability.

It was at this desperate point that CCD became involved in Chariya's plight and after some time she moved into Rainbow House. After a series of operations she was able to eat normally. In the loving environment of Rainbow House, Chariya soon began to blossom.

## Adoption to Scotland

Wayne and Vicky Glasse-Davies from Scotland adopted Chariya (who is named after Chariya Saenwian, co-founder of CCD) when she was 3 years old and took her back to their home in Stirlingshire. Chariya slotted into life with her new family, complete with four siblings!

Top Photo: Chariya in 1995 with her brothers and sisters at the beach. Bottom Photo: The whole family in 2007



She continued to flourish in their loving care and became accomplished in many things

## First visit back to CCD

At the age of 12 Chariya made her first trip back to CCD to see the other children and reconnect with her roots. She was so moved by the experience that she inspired a collection to be made from the audience after she performed in the chorus of the musical 'Annie'. The money she raised for CCD has helped children like herself get the best possible chance in life.

# Restored

Below: Chariya showing a CCD child her violin

## Giving something back

In June of this year 19-year-old Chariya arrived back in Rainbow House, but this time she is not a resident there, or even visiting, but she is volunteering for 2 months to help run the projects.



She joins the international line up of volunteers with her skills as a violinist and is able to play on the government wards and in the day care centres to bring joy and music to the children who need it. What an incredibly moving story and what an amazing young woman who is now giving her time and energy back to the organisation that transformed her life.

When asked how it felt to be back at Rainbow House as a volunteer, Chariya said this, "coming back to Rainbow House is a feeling I cannot explain. So many emotions go through my head at once; excitement, a dream come true and also nervousness!! Being at Rainbow House is very rewarding. It feels like I am giving something back after so many fantastic people have helped me get this far in life. Meeting people who were involved with me during my time in Thailand at an early age is amazing! I will admit that it has been a bit emotional too. I have enjoyed getting to know everyone again as I cannot remember much of Rainbow House. Seeing the children of all ages really makes me happy and think how lucky I am to have the life I have and able to come back and make a difference. Being the first adopted child to come back and work as a volunteering gives hope to other people and I enjoy sharing my story with them".

**Please help children like Chariya. You can donate using the form attached.**

# Stuck in the mud?

Are you looking for a change? Have you ever wondered if there are other ways to give to For Life instead of money? A wonderful thing you can give is your time! With grey clouds looming over the economy, this could be the perfect opportunity to volunteer with For Life.

Many people are currently being made redundant while others are struggling to find a job after graduating. If that's you, doing some voluntary work could be just what you need to learn new skills and bolster your CV.

In the voluntary sector, there is a general consensus that volunteering is beneficial not only to the organisation and its beneficiaries, but also to the volunteers themselves. Volunteering will increase your skill set and give you confidence in the tasks you undertake, whether they are things you have been doing for years or brand new challenges.

Volunteering is a brilliant way to make new friends and as if that wasn't enough, it can even benefit your physical and mental health.

There are 3 main ways in which you can volunteer with For Life:

1. Volunteering overseas with CCD
2. Fundraising here in the UK
3. Helping out at the office

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## Volunteering in Thailand



Above: Paula McCreight from Northern Ireland who volunteered for CCD, and then raised £10,000 with a team who ran the Belfast marathon!

An adventure of a life time! You will be a part of the team that is providing front line care to disabled children that have been abandoned. By seeing the work overseas, your heart will break for the children and for the amazing work of CCD. You will see how much CCD has grown and have firsthand experience of the Community Based Rehabilitation projects in rural parts of Thailand.

If you are worried about the finances for flights and accommodation, it is cheaper than you think. You could easily fundraise the necessary £1500 needed for a 3 month trip.

# Need a change?

## 2 Fundraising in the UK

What about fundraising? Putting on events in aid of For Life will raise awareness of the situation in Thailand and will also provide much needed funds for the work of CCD. Fundraising events are also fun and a nice change to your normal routine. Planning your event allows you to be really imaginative and creative; we have seen all sorts endeavours from hair dyeing, quiz nights, running and even singing down a drain pipe! In putting on events, you will inevitably be talking about For Life and it is a great opportunity to encourage others to learn what it is all about. Turn to page 10 to see how our For Life supporters have been courageous and adventurous in their fundraising.

Below: David Rodgers raised over £2200 back in 2008 by dying his hair blonde. What bravery!



## 3 Helping out in London

Do you live in London? We need dedicated and reliable individuals who can give a day a week to help out with the day to day running of For Life. If you are unable to give regular time, but you are skilled in accountancy, law, databases, websites, creative writing or photography, you could help with one-off documents, writing policies, mail outs or newsletters. Perhaps you might consider training the current For Life staff in your area of expertise?

It is a fantastic way to see what running a charity looks like. Having personally worked with For Life now for nearly 3 years I can guarantee it's wonderful to be involved and I have helped out in so many ways I never thought possible. I have gained knowledge and skills not only within an office environment but also a greater understanding of Thailand and its culture. Volunteering at For Life has opened more doors in my life than I could ever have imagined.

**Don't let this opportunity pass you by! Give us a call or drop us an email, we'd love to hear from you!**

ARTICLE BY KATY  
LLOYD JONES  
(pictured right)



# A Big Thank You to...



Dr & Mrs Baxter for their continued financial generosity to the work of CCD.

Sarah Reeve for running another half marathon in aid of For Life. She raised over £550 and this is the FOURTH year in a row that she has run a marathon or half marathon for us. Keep going Sarah, you are inspiring!

Anna Drew and her team from Jim and Pips running club who organised and ran a 10K run in aid of For Life on 4th June 2011. They have raised £1860 so far. Anna Drew is part of a team going out to CCD with Matt and Louise Gates in July this year.

Astrid Omell and her house mates who put on a successful Chilli for Charity evening in March raising £215.

Valerie Whatnall who gave a donation in memory of her husband Tony, a devout For Life fundraiser and incredibly generous man.

Veronica Hanbury for her generous donation which will make a big difference to the projects in Thailand.

The Abbey School, Reading, for donating the proceeds of their quiz night to For Life. They raised an astounding £1,331.03!

Mary McDonald who inspired her computer class to donate to For Life.

**AND FINALLY: to all our wonderful and generous supporters, we are so grateful for your sacrificial giving, however big or small.**



# Wasan conquers the UK!

There is nothing quite like hearing a story first hand.

When Wasan Saenwian, the director and founder of CCD, speaks about his work with abandoned disabled children in Thailand you don't get a slick well-managed presentation designed to impress you; you are hearing from a man who has poured out his life for the abandoned disabled children of Thailand. Even though CCD is now bigger than ever, with over 70 members of staff in projects that are steadily spreading across the country, there is still an incredibly personal and fatherly side to the work that Wasan and Chariya do to love the unloved and to seek justice for the needy in Thailand.



Wasan arrived in the UK with his daughter Tarn on the 20th June for a two week trip to visit friends, and also update supporters across the UK on the latest news from CCD. Many people were moved by the stories of children whose lives have been utterly transformed by the work of CCD. There was a wonderful lunchtime gathering of long-term supporters of CCD and ex-volunteers who are back in the UK now.

From there Wasan flew to Northern Ireland to visit some of the children who have been adopted from Rainbow House. Again, this was a deeply moving and inspiring time.



## Planning for more!

Wasan's trip was very brief this time and he was therefore very limited with where he could speak.

However, we are currently planning for Wasan to come back to the UK for another tour in March 2012.

**Could Wasan come and speak at your school, church or workplace during his next UK Tour? If so, please get in touch: [lydia@4lifethailand.org](mailto:lydia@4lifethailand.org)**

# Chilli Chilli Chilli!

Sarah Clarke describes planning her Chilli for Charity party in her own words...

I decided to hold a chilli for charity dinner party after having read about it in the last newsletter. My 50th birthday was coming up and I thought it would be a nice way to combine the two. So word was spread far and wide, numbers went up and down and eventually settled at 76 attendees on the night in early April.

I spent most evenings in the month before the party concocting various parts of the meal which I was then able to store in a friend's freezer. I got to know the people in our local Oriental shop rather well making frequent visits to buy coconut milk, coriander and lemon grass!

The menu was deliberately kept simple - Tom Yam soup (using paste bought at the Oriental shop), Thai Green Curry with chicken and peas and Jasmine Rice (I made the curry paste from fresh ingredients and then froze it) and Coconut Ice Cream with Lime Syrup. We borrowed 6 rice cookers for the evening!

Our local church hall was the setting and some good friends did sterling work in the kitchen keeping the show going. We had live music entertainment between courses, a fantastic birthday cake shaped in a Thai temple, and watched the DVD over coffee.

Some people, who had given money beforehand, were so moved by the DVD that they wanted to give more!

It was a wonderful evening - so many people expressed how much they enjoyed it and really appreciated the work that Wasan and Chariya are doing. We raised £1105 plus gift aid. It was a great way to celebrate my birthday too!!

# Fund



# Raising Heroes

## More than a Summer Holiday

This Summer sees the third Leeds University Raise and Give (RAG) team going out to spend 6 weeks working in the projects in Thailand. Every Summer for the past three years 20 students from Leeds University have been selected to go and work in Rainbow House and the CCD community projects.



Part of the idea with RAG teams is that the students also spend around three months fundraising, and each student is challenged to raise £600. With 20 students going out there, this is a considerable sum of money for CCD. This year the team exceeded expectations by raising a grand total of £13,837. Much of this was achieved by bucket shaking, baking cakes and begging friends and family, but a special mention must go to Katherine Horseman who climbed Mount Snowdon with her dad John (pictured above) and together they managed to raise £1940 including a cheque from John's work to match their fundraising.

Thank you so much to everyone in this years RAG team for being willing to give up their Summer holiday and for raising such a staggering amount of money.

**Would you cycle or run to raise money? Would you take up the challenge of running the Edinburgh marathon 2012?**



**Make a difference**

# RESPONSE SLIP

We know that many of you are already giving regularly and sacrificially, but if you would like to make a special one off donation, or get involved in another way please fill in your details clearly, and choose from the options below:

**Give a one-off gift today**

Please note: do not send cash in the post, please only give cash if you are handing this slip to a member of the For Life team in person. Thank you.

**PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY IN CAPITAL LETTERS, SIGNING AND TICKING ONLY IF YOU WANT US TO CLAIM GIFTAID.**

Title     First Name            This gift is:  Cash  Cheque

Surname                 Amount £

Address

Post Code

(Please tick) I am a **UK tax payer** and I would like For Life to treat this gift and all donations I make from the date of this declaration, as a **Gift Aid** Donation, until I notify you otherwise. To qualify for Gift Aid, what you pay in income tax or capital gains tax must at least equal the amount we will claim in the tax year.

Signed..... Date.....

**Sign up to be a regular giver**

Regular givers are a real blessing because they enable us to plan for the future. You can give regularly whether it is yearly or monthly, whether it is £2 per month or £200 per month!

**Get your *Chilli for Charity* Pack**

You can order your FREE fundraising pack which includes a recipe booklet, posters, invites and even napkins.

**Request a copy of our Alternative Gift List *Make a Wish!***

Please tick here if you would prefer to receive our newsletters by email. Print your email address clearly below. Alternatively, you can email [lydia@4lifethailand.org](mailto:lydia@4lifethailand.org)

**For Life**

Oasis Centre, 75 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7HS  
020 7921 4249, [www.4lifethailand.org](http://www.4lifethailand.org), [info@4lifethailand.org](mailto:info@4lifethailand.org)

# GET INVOLVED!

## Everyone has something to give

- Do a sponsored event such as a cycle ride, a marathon, a sponsored silence or even a fast! Everyone has something they can do!
- Hold a *Chilli for Charity* meal in aid of For Life.
- Give regularly by standing order.
- Volunteer to work with the children in Thailand.
- Nominate For Life as a charity in your school, church or work place.
- Give some time to help with admin at the For Life London office.

## T Shirts and Bags



As part of our 'Do something different for CCD' campaign we have produced these stylish T shirts and eco-friendly jute bags which are great for shopping! The T shirts come in three colours and M - XL sizes. To order bags or T shirts please visit our website or phone the office.



# For Life

Registered Charity Number 1104291  
Oasis Centre  
75 Westminster Bridge Road  
London, SE1 7HS



020 7921 4249  
[www.4lifethailand.org](http://www.4lifethailand.org)  
[info@4lifethailand.org](mailto:info@4lifethailand.org)