



## *Inside*

First goes to college

Living with visual impairment

Man U update - walking & more



# WELCOME

## SPRING 2018



Welcome to our Spring Newsletter! Celebrating Easter is a wonderful reminder of hope and new life against all the odds - it is that kind of hope and LIFE we are seeking to bring to the children in Thailand. Your support makes this happen – thank you!

As many of you will know, one of our annual events for the children in Thailand is Rainbow Camp, when we take a large group of the children and their families to the beach for a rather exhausting, but enormously fun, three day camp. It is that time of year again and towards the end of April I will be joining the staff, children and their families in Thailand as we head off on this year's adventure. As always, I have no idea which beach we go to, but it is very beautiful and is somewhere, unsurprisingly, south of Bangkok. It's a fantastic opportunity for the children to have fun, to grow in confidence and for their families to spend time with others in a similar situation. For some of the children, this is the only time in the year when they leave the government orphanages. Do pray for us as we go, that everyone would be safe, but most importantly that everyone would have lots of fun.

Our other work continues and we are particularly excited to see the Community Based Rehabilitation projects developing so well - families, who would otherwise be struggling, are being helped to access the support they need to care for their children with special needs at home.

Thank you again for your generosity, your prayers and your support in so many ways.

With best wishes,

**Andrew Cooper**  
Managing Director

## For Life Vision

**Our vision is to bring LIFE and lasting change to the thousands of abandoned disabled children living in the government institutions in Nonthaburi, a district just outside Bangkok.**

We are working against a tide of cultural discrimination and poverty to see lives transformed and hope restored to the children and teenagers who have been deserted because of their disabilities.

As much as possible, we use passionate volunteers to keep For Life running, so that more of your money goes straight to the children in Thailand. We also do our utmost to keep our costs to a bare minimum, with stamps, equipment and stationery often being donated.

We work in partnership with the Christian Care Foundation (CCF) to reach disabled children and young people in the following ways:

**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.

**Day Care Centres:** Four day care centres inside the government orphanage homes where the children come for the day to be stimulated, educated and loved.

**Community-Based Rehabilitation:** We work in the poorer provinces of Thailand with families of disabled children. We provide educational support, day care and empower parents through training workshops.

**Group Homes and Vocational Skills:** Two houses where disabled teenagers live; experiencing family, gaining independence and learning valuable skills to help them find employment.

# First to College



**With YOUR SUPPORT, First is reaching her potential.**

**Jirawan Khoryoon (nick name 'First') was born on 9th September 2000 with mild cerebral palsy in her legs and in her arms. She was raised by her grandmother, who she calls mum, and went to primary school until the age of eleven.**

After that she struggled to progress to secondary school due to her learning difficulties and physical challenges. She eventually dropped out and began informal education with the local government.

First found out about our new Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) project at Pathum Thani when the manager of that project knocked on her door. She began going to the CBR Pathum Thani day care centre regularly in February 2017 for 6 months, and then her grandmother asked if she could move into Rainbow House for vocational training and development.

Staff were willing to have First at Rainbow House and so she moved in on 1st August 2017. We started her helping out in the office straight away. In the mornings she would clean donation boxes, photocopy and do other administrative tasks, and in the afternoon she began practicing typing.

We began looking for development opportunities for First - staff felt First should improve her computer skills. As such, she was enrolled in a computer course at a foundation for vocational training and development for the disabled. Her course began on 9th October 2017 and she is dropped off and picked up each morning by our bus.

The hope is that First will stay for a whole year, improving her skills and acquiring a certificate, which will help with her employability.

She visits her grandmother at the weekends and has been settling in nicely to Rainbow House. She helps look after some of the younger Rainbow House residents like Man U (see p6) and Nuah.



# Living with Visual Impairment



**We were delighted to welcome two new children to our Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Nonthaburi project. Namon and Namu are quite an unusual case, being twins who were both born almost completely blind. They both also have development delay, partly due to lack of input and appropriate therapy. They are now attending our CBR Nonthaburi day care centre three days per week and making dramatic improvement.**

Namu and Namon are two years old, and were unable to move independently when they first came to the centre. Both had muscular weakness and have been receiving intensive physio whenever they come to our centre (photos right hand page). At this early age, physiotherapy can make a big difference, before children's limbs become stiff or experience muscle wasting. Sure enough, they are both showing remarkable

progress, and Namu is now able to sit unaided. With the help of a physiotherapist, he can hold himself in a standing position using walking bars or holding the window ledge. His brother Namon has also been developing rapidly. Namon could already sit independently when he arrived, but he can now walk with the help of our physios. It is so amazing watching these precious young boys flourishing and growing in confidence.

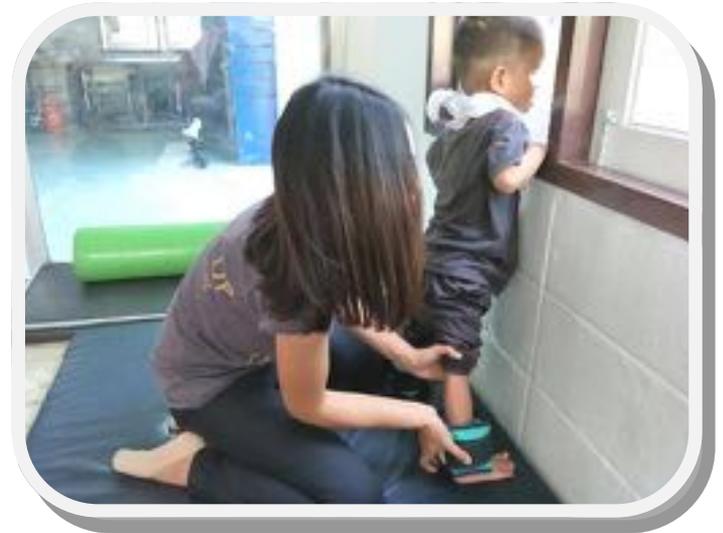


Above: Namu with his grandmother at home.

# ... meet Namon and Namon

The aim of our Community Based Rehabilitation projects (CBR) is to empower communities and families to raise children with special needs at home in a safe and loving environment, and receive the care and therapy they need to flourish. We focus on early intervention and parental support which includes home visiting and follow up, often taking families to medical appointments and wheelchair fittings. We also run a day care centre four days per week where our children can come to receive physiotherapy, do music, arts and crafts and be developed whilst their carers either take some much needed respite, or work to support the family.

**For Life continues to help many children like Namon and Namon. If you are able to give monthly to For Life it will change lives. Please email [info@4lifethailand.org](mailto:info@4lifethailand.org) for more information about setting up a monthly donation.**



**An inspiring Example:** Namon with Alyas Omeed, a visually impaired volunteer from Canada who spent two weeks working with us. Alyas has a teaching degree and has worked for various Human Rights organisations. He is fluent in English, Farsi and Braille, and has excellent computer and organisational skills. He is a good example for our children with visual impairment.



# “Man, U” are rocking it!

Some of you may remember BenAek Jambahiang (nick name ‘Man U’) from our Christmas 2016 edition. We announced his arrival at Rainbow House on 2nd November 2016, but now he has been living with us for over one year, here is an update on his progress...

When Man U arrived to live at Rainbow House, he was just over two years old, and still could not walk or even stand up without help. As such, he was classed by the doctor as officially having development delay and muscular weakness, and he was referred from another residential home to Rainbow House where he could receive the physiotherapy and specialist care that he clearly needed.

Man U has been having regular physiotherapy for over a year now, as well as lots of exposure to new things, and lots of love and care. His progress is totally remarkable, and he is now not only able to stand up unaided, but he can walk, run and even jump (with occasional falling over!!). Having just turned three years old, his life is now totally transformed. He can now feed himself, speak short sentences and remember up to ten names of his friends in Rainbow Day Care. The next steps are to consolidate walking longer distances and teach him colours... keep going “Man, U are rocking it!”

## A Typical Day in the Life of ... Man U



**Physiotherapy in the mornings** - here Man U is walking with weighted sand bags for muscle strengthening.



**Arts and Crafts** - here Man U is making paper bunting using a potato stamp and paint! Lots of fun!



**Hydrotherapy in the afternoons** - sometimes Man U will have hydrotherapy as well as physiotherapy.

[www.4lifethailand.org](http://www.4lifethailand.org)

# Community

**THANK YOU**

to our monthly supporters!

**Would you like to be one of our monthly supporters?**

Monthly supporters giving by standing order are essential to our work.

Email us or complete and return a ***Get Involved*** form.

## *Other Ways to FUNDRAISE*

**Could you help keep our LIFE changing work going?**

*Here are a few suggestions...*

- ★ Do a **SPONSORED SOMETHING** (cycle, night walk, silence or... ).
- ★ Use the link on our Website to buy items through **AMAZON.CO.UK** (For Life gets a small percentage of the purchase price and it costs you no extra).
- ★ Invite one of our team to speak at **YOUR CHURCH**.

*Get in touch with us:* [info@4lifethailand.org](mailto:info@4lifethailand.org)



**For Life exists to bring life and lasting change to the thousands of abandoned disabled children in Thailand. We work with the Christian Care Foundation for Children with Disabilities (CCD) to transform the lives of these children from one of despair and anguish to hope and opportunity.**

**With your help, we seek to change this situation FOR LIFE!**

**For Life, Langdale House, 11 Marshalsea Road, London SE1 1EN  
02031765254 | [www.4lifethailand.org](http://www.4lifethailand.org) | [info@4lifethailand.org](mailto:info@4lifethailand.org)**

Registered Charity Number 1143950

