



## Children of the Forest (COF) Foundation 2018

Established in 2005 as a school and protection centre for at-risk migrant children on the Thai-Myanmar border, Thailand. In 2018 COF is supporting more than 600 mainly stateless children and 35 single mothers.

COF has steadily developed over the last 13 years to include:

- **Education** – elementary school, specialized preparation classes, youth education programs, kindergarten, support to students in higher education and support to remote jungle schools
- **Child Protection** – residential centre, mother and child protection, vocational training, sports and arts programs
- **Healthcare** – medical clinic, maternal healthcare, counselling, crisis management, hospital referrals

### Results

- 5,500 children have graduated from COF's elementary school and residential protection centre over the last 12 years
- Since 2012, 25 former students from COF's Child Protection Centre and free school have gone on to higher education (university or tech). 4 have graduated with full degrees and 3 with trade certificates
- **Recognition** by Thai Ministry of Education as first successful government satellite school for migrant children in Thailand
- **643 children, teens and mothers supported daily** by COF's education, protection and healthcare work

### COF's national and international profile

- 2006, Bangkok Post front page feature article on COF's role in education for migrant Karen and Mon children
- 2010-11, COF awarded two \$US 15,000 grants from the UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery
- March 2012, COF awarded £8000 grant after invitation to and successful presentation at the London Funding Network
- Oct 2014, 7 children from COF speak at meeting on Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) at Rayong, Thailand)
- Nov 2014, 2 children from COF speak at the CRC final national meeting, Bangkok, Thailand
- Nov 2014, Video about COF's education and protection work screened on Thai TV Channel 3 News
- Jan 2015, Bangkok post feature article and video documentary on COF's education and child protection work
- July 2015, COF speaks at UN conference on child rights in New York, introduced by founder of Amnesty International
- Nov 2015, COF speaks to CORAM conference on child rights chaired by a professor from Harvard Law School
- 2017 COF identified by Thai Department of Social Welfare as best practice model of child protection in Sangkhlaburi
- 2018 COF invited to present on education for stateless children to 'The conference on Democracy', San Francisco, USA

In 2018 COF administers a *yearly budget* of \$US 316,088 down from 360,000 in 2017

**Regular Donors to COF Core Programs 2018 :** (USD) – Kelly Family Foundation through Amicus Thailand (75,000), Mission Bambini Italy (43,000), EMA Foundation (33,161), Child's Dream (33,159), COFA Zurich (31,500), Zanzetti Foundation (29,000), Eva Trige Andersen (26,300), Lee & Thelma Bortolotti (15,500), Danish Women's Network (9,500), Patana International School Bangkok (7,700) Bhip 7,650, New International School of Thailand (7,000), Just Trust Fund UK (5,300)

- 46% of full annual budget spent on education, 36% child protection, 10% children's health care and 8% administration
- Accounts are audited each month by Accord International Law Office Co. Ltd. 61/27 Soi Rama9 Soi7yek4, Rama9 Road, HuayKhwang, Bangkok 10310, 66-(0)2-2488488/ Mobile: 66-(0)8-19377108/ e-mail [accord9@account-legal.com](mailto:accord9@account-legal.com)

### Governance

- **Board of Trustees** (8) includes human rights expert, education specialist, medical specialist, and protection expert
- COF registration as **Thai Foundation** KAN 87/2552, **UK Charity** 1109763, **USA Charity** (501c3) 36-4758269
- **COF School Registered** since 2008 as a Thai government satellite school
- COF School and home operate under a strict **Child Protection Policy** based on **UN standards** (updated in 2014)
- COF has a supervisory **Child Protection Committee** elected annually
- **COF child protection officer** is currently a member of the **provincial child protection multi-disciplinary team** and is regularly requested to attend government-level national meetings on child protection issues

### Staff

- COF School has 8 qualified and experienced teachers with both Thai and local ethnic language skills
- Qualified and experienced child protection officer, social worker, and experienced counselor (UK qualification)
- All key staff have received child protection training from Stairway Foundation ([www.stairwayfoundation.org](http://www.stairwayfoundation.org))
- All staff have training in child rights and family reintegration via Charlotte Rousseau, and the Residential Care Network

### Sustainability

- Strong established relationships with local migrant communities, partner organizations and Thai government agencies
- Development of COF farm and produce (supplementary income)
- National and international attention for COF's work and potential to attract future donors