In the village of Ban Nong Luang in Mae Ramard, Thailand, Pearl S. Buck Foundation undertook an ambitious clean water project to benefit 32 sponsored children and more than 300 of their family and community members, thanks to the generous support of a Pearl S. Buck International donor. The goal of this project was to provide clean water for drinking and other uses, such as cooking and bathing, for a whole year—access to clean water is instrumental to the villagers leading healthier lives and living in better conditions. The project also promoted using the water to grow organic vegetables, leading to more nutritious food, better overall health, and a better quality of life for all the beneficiaries.

The project consisted of building one drinking water well and two using water wells at three different points throughout the village for a total of nine wells. Village representatives participated in all aspects of the project, including submitting project proposals, needed materials, preparing a budget, and getting quotes from construction companies. Once a plan was approved, villagers including sponsored children and youths, helped to prepare for the wells by cutting grass and making concrete, and then helped to actually dig the wells.

This project was a huge success. Although the weather was very hot, everyone involved in the construction of the wells, including the children, were patient, and cooperated with and helped each other. This project was important to everyone in the village – they knew easy access to clean drinking and using water would help improve their health, hygiene, and living conditions. Now they have less worry that they will suffer from a lack of water in drought season, or that they will fall ill from water-borne illnesses. They also no longer have to walk long distances in rough terrain to get their water since the wells are in their community.

Thank you to the generous donor of this life-changing project, and to everyone who has supported our sponsored children, their families, and communities by funding our many projects. Your kindness keeps children in school, improves their health, and truly changes lives.

To serve is beautiful, but only if it is done with joy and a whole heart and a free mind.

PEARL S. BUCK
Pearl S. Buck International is so grateful for the generous support of all our child sponsors and donors in helping and developing special relationships with specific children and families in our program. Another way our supporters and their friends and family can help sponsored children break the cycle of poverty is by supporting a specific need. Supporting a specific need can be a one-time commitment and does not go toward a specific child—but can be a simple yet instrumental way to provide life-changing nutritional, educational, medical, and psycho-social aid to these children. A child who is happy, healthy, and educated has the tools to begin building a successful future for themselves and their families.

Specific educational support you can provide includes giving a child a school uniform and shoes, school supplies, and tutorial support to ease the financial burden on families and raise the odds of them being able to afford to keep their children in school.

You can help keep kids healthy by providing the means for them to attend an HIV prevention class, get vaccinated, have regular health check-ups, and have their own personal hygiene kits. You can make sure children and their families have fresh, nutritious meals, including learning to grow their own gardens and care for livestock.

Psychological and social well-being also ensures that these families stay together, care for each other, and allows these children a chance to enjoy their childhoods — you can buy a child a jump rope, send a kid to camp, or support a community or school outing.

There are so many ways to give children living in poverty and facing discrimination the gift of a healthy life, enough food to eat, fun with family and friends, and an education. We are so thankful for your generosity and support. To find out more, go to https://pearlsbuck.org/support-a-specific-need.