



Vaccinating Hill Tribe Children in Thailand

In Thailand, generous child sponsors and donors helped provide vaccines to young Karen hill tribe children served by Pearl S. Buck Foundation Thailand. The goal of this project, which was featured on the Pearl S. Buck International website, was to facilitate vaccinations to these impoverished and marginalized ethnic minority children in the northwest province of Tak to help them enjoy healthier and happier lives.

Sixty-six children between the ages of 7 months and 7 years benefitted from this project, receiving the flu vaccine. Because of this, they will hopefully have better immunity and a reduction in their risk of getting sick. This led to them being able to stay in school and not miss out on any part of their education, and also lessened the burden and expense on their parents, who would not have to seek medical treatment for a very ill child.



In addition to actually providing the vaccines to young children, this project included meeting with community leaders, village leaders, and parents along with public health officials to educate everyone on the importance of vaccination against the flu for their children. Before providing the vaccine to target children each month the doctors reiterated to the parents about how the vaccine will prevent their children from severe illness, how to keep an eye out for side effects, and how to take care of their children if they develop side effects. Thankfully, none of the children who received the vaccination experienced side effects or allergic reactions. Pearl S. Buck Foundation Thailand staff visited the children at home to monitor symptoms and provide advice on basic health care. It was found that after vaccination, all the children were healthy and strong, and experienced no worrisome symptoms or fever.

The project was a success, not just in the number of children who were vaccinated but in educating parents and the community on why and how these vaccines will help their children. The community and village leaders, along with the parents, thought it was a timely and appropriate plan to help cut down on health problems in pre-school aged children. Those who received the vaccine are healthy and strong, have better immunity for their age, and because they don't get as sick as easily, they can enjoy playing with their friends and families and be healthy enough to stay in school. Parents also now do not have to worry about paying the cost of children's medical treatments, allowing them to direct more of their income to school expenditures and family needs.

We are so grateful to every donor and child sponsor who helped fund this project, and for everyone who gives a little extra to support all the Pearl S. Buck International projects that benefit the healthcare, nutritional, educational, psycho-social and livelihood needs of all the children, families, and communities served by our International Programs. These services could not be provided without your generosity and kindness.



Give the Gift of Hope this Holiday Season

The holidays are once again upon us, a time of gathering with loved ones, giving thanks, looking back on a year of finally starting to return to normal, and looking forward to new beginnings, happiness and hope. Thanks to all our generous child sponsors and donors, the children served by our international programs made it through another year of Covid-related struggles and difficulties related to poverty and discrimination. At a time when we are giving thanks for all we have and thinking of gifts to give each other, please consider giving the gift of hope to a child, a family, even a community in need served by Pearl S. Buck International.

For just \$25, you can provide diapers to orphans with physical and developmental disabilities. The orphanages operated by Pearl S. Buck International Vietnam serve children who have been abandoned, children whose parents cannot afford to raise them, children living with HIV/AIDS, and children living with disabilities. They are cared for with love and compassion by the housemothers, but meager government support, made worse by a year in which Vietnam continued to struggle with the impact of Covid, must cover the costs of food, clothing, shelter—leaving little left over to buy enough diapers (more than one a day per child) for these children in need.



For just \$11, you can provide a family in the Philippines the seeds and soil needed to start their own backyard garden, providing twofold support—alleviating hunger and providing a source of fresh, nutritious food as well as providing a potential source of additional income for families who grow enough to feed themselves and have extra left over to sell. Having both a source of fresh food and the ability to supplement income can provide an entire family with hope this holiday season.



These gifts and more can be found in the Gift Catalog at www.pearlsbuck.org/help-children-in-need/gift-catalog/



Project funding can provide hope to not just children and families, but entire communities. In Thailand, you can help provide chickens to families. By helping these families raise more chickens, a type of work they are familiar with, it will teach them self-reliance, provide them with a reliable and nutritious food source and allow them to sell their extra chickens for added income.

This project and others like it can be found on our website at www.pearlsbuck.org/help-children-in-need/fund-a-project/

We are so grateful for everything you already do year-round for your sponsored children and all the children and families served by Pearl S. Buck International. You give hope to these children and families every day and this holiday season, we are so thankful for that—and for you!