

MAE SARIENG PEACE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS IN 2005

Below are pictures of the scholarship award ceremony in 2005. Each child wrote a letter and drew a picture for the donors about their life and what the scholarship means to them. These are included in the pages that follow. Also included are a variety of photos taken with disposable cameras by the children in one of the recipient's village to show a typical "day in the life."

Mae Sarieng Peace Scholarship Award Ceremony 2005



From left to right, top row: Miss Jintana Jaima (Teacher), Mr Manus Sompadong (Headmaster), Miss Amorn Rakponpan (Teacher), Laurie Rohrbach (Scholarship Founder), Mrs. Kanchana Kosai (Scholarship Secretary), Mr Tountong Srisawat (District Head), Mrs Jongsiri Wiwatchaowpan (Teacher).

Students, bottom row: Wilaiwan, Ruangtong, Komgrit, and Tidiwan.



From left to right: Tidiwan, Wilaiwan, Ruangtong, and Komgrit

A Day in the Life in Wilaiwan's Village

Photos taken by 5th and 6th grade students



Typical home



Rice paddies and surroundings



Students in Karen outfits for "unmarried" women



Bathing and washing clothes



Elementary and middle school (K-9)



Typical Kitchen



Weaving traditional Karen Hilltribe clothing



Hulling rice



Typical home



The village



Below, carrying wood with head straps



2005 Peace Scholarship Recipient



Wilaiwan (Nick Name: Bee), Grade 6

Overview

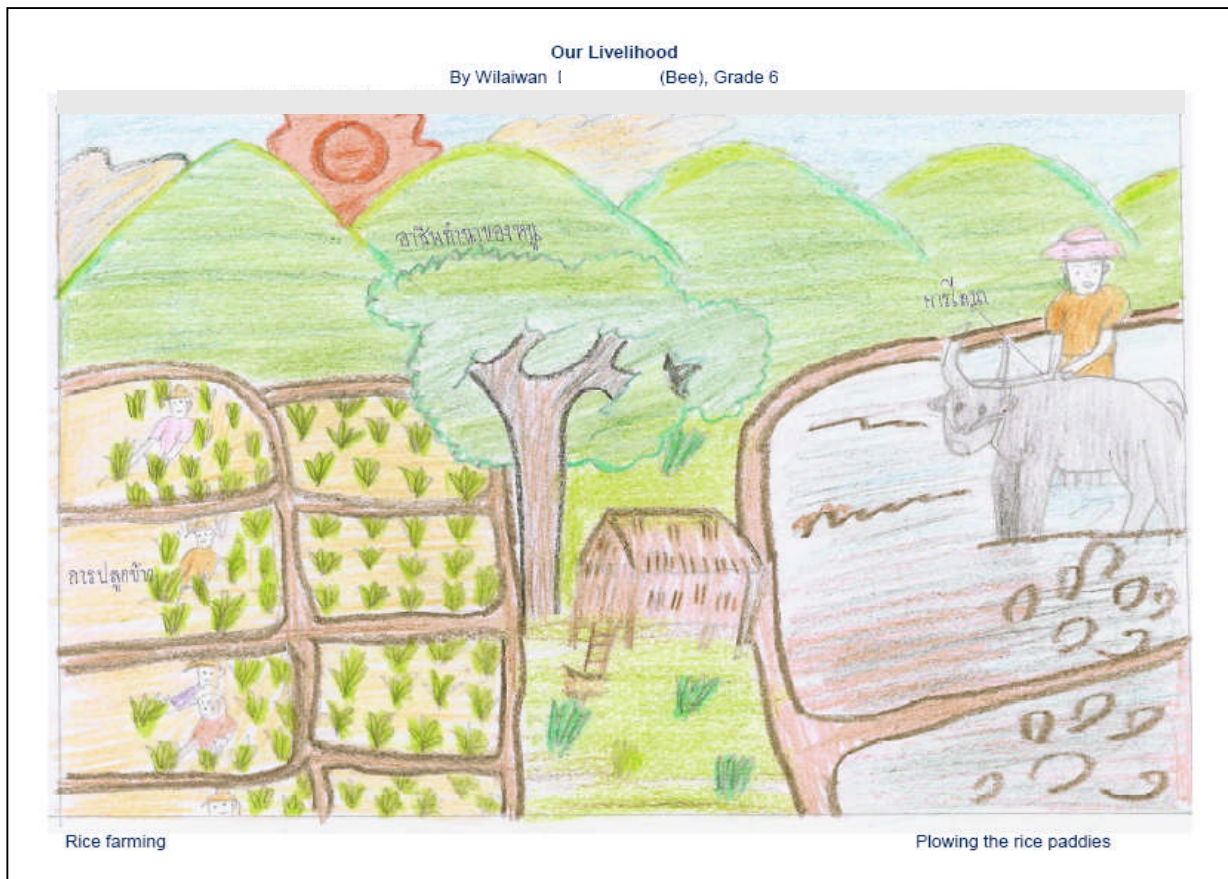
My name is Wilaiwan. I was born December 14, 1993. I live in a Karen Hilltribe village in Mae Sarieng District and Mae Hong Son Province in Thailand. My family has 6 people. I have a mother, father, older sister, older brother and younger brother. My family's occupation is rice farming. In my future I would like to be a teacher so that I can give children knowledge.

Letter (translated from Thai to English)

I am very happy that I was selected for the Mae Sarieng Peace Scholarship. I am the only child in my family to ever receive a scholarship. I am very proud.

I study very hard. I do the best that I can. For my future I would like to be a teacher to give children knowledge and help my village develop. If I want to be a teacher I need to study now. It's never too late to study. If we study today and get good grades we will be able to get a job. If we do not get good grades we cannot get a job. It is better to study hard today for the future. We have to listen to our teacher. We cannot play in class. We have to come to school every day. We have to be hard working and diligent to do well on our tests.

I would like to receive higher education in my future. I will not be discouraged so that I can rise as far as I can.



2005 Mae Sarieng Peace Scholarship Recipient



Ruangtong (Nick Name: May), Grade 6

Overview

My name is Ruangtong. I was born January 8, 1992. I am the child of Mr. Gliykoy and Mrs. Meu. I have 2 sisters and 1 bother. My family is very poor. Their occupation is day laborers. My parents live in Chiang Mai. I live with my grandparents who are very old and poor.

Letter (translated from Thai to English)

There are many children in the rural areas that do not have education because their families are poor and do not have enough money to send their children to secondary school. These children are diligent students. Education in this area is very important. Our hope is to have higher education. If we have more education we can have better jobs and we will be good people for our community and our country.

My name is Ruangtong. I was so happy when I found out from my teacher that I was selected to receive the Mae Sarieng Peace Scholarship. My teacher told me to write about my background and a letter and draw a picture about my life. My teacher opened a bank account for me so that I can deposit the scholarship money into the account. I am very excited and pleased because this is the first time in my life to receive a scholarship. I will make this scholarship worthwhile and make the best of the fund. I will think before I spend this money. I will spend it only for my education supplies, uniform and PE clothes and other education costs. I would like to help my parents pay for my education because there are many people in my family and my parents earn very little money. My parents have to take care of all of my brothers and sisters. I am the first daughter so I have to help my parents earn money. During the weekends and holidays I work as a maid for other people. My parents cannot pay for secondary school because they have to pay to support my siblings. Secondary school is more expensive than primary school.

This scholarship gives me hope for my future. I promise to study hard and to be a good person to my family and teacher. I would like to thank the donors of the Mae Sarieng Peace Scholarship for giving me this opportunity.

Life in My Village



By Ruangton

(May), Grade 6.

2005 Mae Sarieng Peace Scholarship Recipient



Tidiwan (Nick Name: Fern), Grade 6

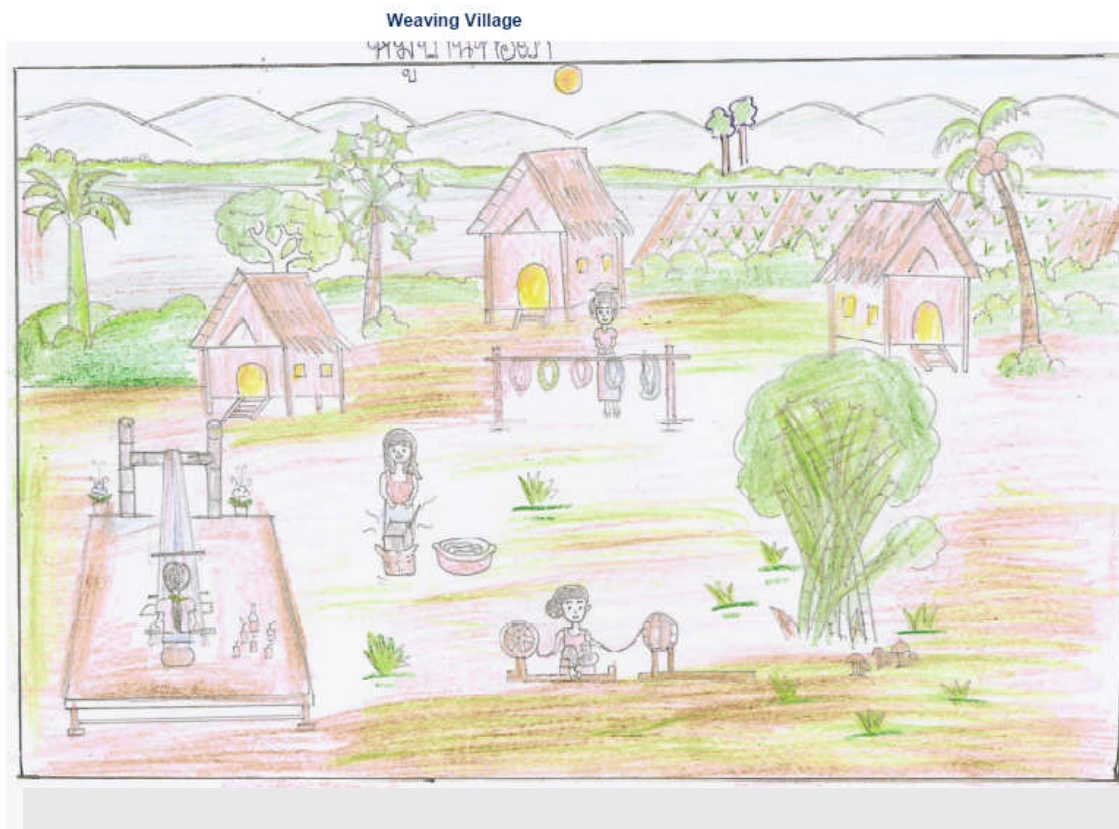
Overview

My name is Tidiwan. I am 11 years old. I was born on February 8, 1994. I study in grade 6 Mae Sarieng District, Mae Hong Son Province. My father's name is Mr. Niwat. He is 35 years old. My mother's name is Mrs. Supin. She is 30 years old. My parents are day laborers.

Letter *(translated from Thai to English)*

I live with my grandmother because my parents are divorced. I do not know where my father is. My mother works in Chiang Mai and sends us money. I have lived with my grandmother since I was 1 month old. My grandmother is very old, unhealthy and unable to work. My mother earns about 3000 Baht per month (\$73.00 US). It is not enough to support my grandmother and me because my mother has to also pay for renting her house, her water, and electricity in Chiang Mai. I cannot pay for school supplies but some of my friends can pay for their supplies. I want to get a higher education. Before the Peace Scholarship I did not think that I would be able to go to secondary school. I will use the money wisely and think before I spend it. I will only use the money for things that are absolutely necessary for my studies.

My dream is to be a teacher. If I get a teaching job I can take care of my grandmother. I wish that my grandmother was healthy. If I am a teacher I can teach people to be better people. If my dream comes true I hope that I will have a good life and be happy.



By Tidiwan

(Fern), Grade 6

2005 Mae Sarieng Peace Scholarship Recipient



Komgrit (Nick Name: Bank), Grade 6

Overview

My name is Komgrit. I am 12 years old. My father's name was Mr. Drygot and my mother's name is Mrs. Saipin. My father died when I was young. My mother works to support me so I have to live with my grandparents.

Letter *(translated from Thai to English)*

Education gives children knowledge. If we have knowledge we can help ourselves to get a better life. The Mae Sarieng Peace Scholarship is a treasure for children without opportunity. This scholarship gives us hope that we can have more education.

With education we can see a clear future. I will use the Peace Scholarship money for my education so that I can finish secondary school. Part of the money I will use to buy my school uniform and education supplies. I will make sure to save the money so that I can finish secondary school. I will work herding buffalo to support my grand parents so that I will only need to use the scholarship for my education. I will not get discouraged. The Peace Scholarship helps me receive more education like the other students. This scholarship gives me a chance like the other kids whose families do have money to go to school. I will only use the scholarship for things that are absolutely necessary for my studies. I will not waste it. This scholarship gives me a special chance that most people do not get.

I will make sure to learn a lot for my future. Now people with more education are the people with jobs. If you do not have education you cannot get a job. The Peace Scholarship is very helpful for students with no chance. It gives us hope that we can have a good future.

Working to Rid Poverty



By Komgrit

(Bank)