



## CHRISTMAS 2013

Very dear Sponsors and Friends,

Fifteen years ago, we rented our first house to welcome twenty-five children, to offer them a scholarship, to provide them with a home and a family atmosphere. The first sponsorships, the first donations encourage us very quickly to overcome the obstacles and to persevere in our intentions. Very quickly, our first nest becomes too small and a second house is necessary to accommodate our small world.

Our project receives a very positive response thanks to the "sponsorships" and "donations" programs that allow us to acquire the piece of land where the foyer is now situated: at about 30 km of Chiang Rai, a little set back, on a desert and vague ground, surrounded by small woody hills, a "terre promise" (promised land) where all is to be done!

Our accommodation capacity allows us then to host eighty children. A first big construction serves as dining hall, dormitory and place to do the school homework. Our whole life takes place there. Nearby, a small kitchen with a wood fire is installed, following the example of the boy scouts, whose movement is well implanted in Thailand.

Thanks to the loyalty of our sponsors, hundreds of children have spent time at Le Sourire. Some very small children remain little time cause the separation of the family and the village is too difficult for them. However most of the children go through the whole scholarship with success. Afterwards some do not wish to continue their studies. These are mostly girls belonging to ethnic groups within which the ancestral traditions are still very present. The parents, often illiterate, do not understand the utility of a prolonged schooling and fear not to be able to marry their daughters! It is however heartening to know that more and more of our young ones express the wish to continue their education and successes in apprenticeships or inscriptions at the university do not cease to increase.

In parallel to this scholarship work, we were able to develop our infrastructure and give a solid life base to our young ones. The "agriculture" project, entirely approved by the parents and the families allows them to keep close to their initial existence. And, despite the modernity of the actual society, growing up so close to nature helps them to be solid, resistant and stable.



The accommodation capacity of the Foyer increased to one hundred and fifty children, thanks to the dormitory houses constructed. The last one to date, named "Jan & Oscar" reminds us of two young boys from Lausanne (Switzerland) who were tragically killed during the 2004 tsunami.

Sanitary buildings and cloakrooms were built. A few small houses host the staff members. Whilst developing the agricultural and breeding domains, we constructed shelters for the animals (cows, buffalos, pigs) and sheds to store the harvests and put the vehicles, agricultural machines and tools.

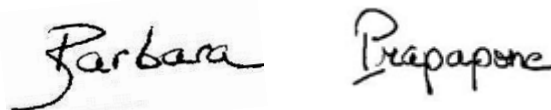
Let us not forget that apart from the Foyer, we take care of the scholarship of more than one hundred and sixty children who, because they have a minimum of family structure, stay in their village. We will tell you about this initiative at another opportunity.

Over the years, our dream has become reality, shared that it is by a large number of our donors and sponsors. Furthermore, Le Sourire benefits from the confidence and the help of numerous foundations, associations, corporations and businesses, without forgetting the Canton, the municipalities and the Town of Geneva.

How to thank you better than to dedicate you the beautiful celebration of the Lights «Loy Krathong», day of action of grace in Thailand. Indeed, during the full moon of the 12th month of the thai calendar, usually end of November, a coat of stars seems to wrap the earth and the oceans, from south to north, from west to east. We wish to add to this magical moment our most sincere and deep gratitude towards you.

Our young ones are very conscious of the present that they receive through Le Sourire and they develop a large sense of sharing. They have received, they give back and they give. This is one of the treasures that they take with in their life's luggage! Dear Sponsors and dear Friends, this is the way your generosity bears fruit.

To you all our warmest wishes for Christmas and for the New Year 2014.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Barbara Prapapone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**"LES ENFANTS SONT LE TRÉSOR LE PLUS PRÉCIEUX DE LA SOCIÉTÉ,  
SON PLUS GRAND ESPOIR POUR L'AVENIR." JOHN F. KENNEDY**