



HMONG VILLAGERS FROM THAILAND DONATE HANDMADE DRESSES TO HOPE CONNECTIONS

Isan is the name commonly associated with the northeastern region of Thailand. It is one of the poorest regions of southeast Asia and poverty in the villages is extreme.

Fresh water is a luxury in this area where unemployment and disease run rampant. In recent years HIV and AIDS has resulted in many deaths of the young adults in the villages, leaving their children to be brought up by grandparents or moved to orphanages.

There is very little work in the villages.

When young women and men leave the villages to find work in the big cities they are often placed in dangerous and degrading situations.

In 1981 the Good Shepherd Sisters came to Nongkhai and began developing vocational training programs for the people of the villages. Weaving is a traditional craft in the villages and the sisters helped set up a program where the women created bags, clothing and accessories.

Twenty-five of these beautiful

children's dresses were given to Hopeconnections to give to needy children in our



area. "What really touches my heart is that these people do not have the basic necessities themselves and yet they are reaching out and giving to others who are struggling. They truly understand the meaning of sacrificial giving," said Hopeconnections director, Linda Rodrigues

Special points of interest:

- *Need continues to grow as economy worsens*
- *Student club grows to 150 students who are committed to help*
- *Students make 200 hygiene baskets for the homeless*
- *Clubs, classes and individuals adopt a needy Hopeconnections family*
- *Escrip helps us buy our food certificates*

LARGE PART OF HOMELESS-KIDS

In the area we serve, 28.2% of the homeless population are children and 70.5% are female. We have only one family shelter provider in Alameda County and the waiting list has gone from 10 to 102 families.

These families don't want to be in this situation. Many of

them are in this situation due to unemployment, family illness and lack of child support.

Roxana, a twenty-nine year old single mother with five children is among the 6,215 homeless people in Alameda County. Her children attend

our schools and they are presently living in a motel. Roxana is trying to keep her family together, but every day she is loosing ground.

Hopeconnections will provide her family with a \$100 food certificate and clothing for the children.

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Shepherd's Care now serves six shelters

Twice a year, volunteers make over 500 hygiene baskets to give to residents of transitional housing projects in Berkeley and Oakland.

Inside the garage of one of the volunteers, students and adults



put together towel baskets containing shampoo, toothpaste, soap and a toothbrush. The baskets are then delivered to Harrison, Dellums, and Oaks hotels in Oakland and Harris, Martin Luther King and UA in Berkeley.

The supplies are bought with the donations sent to Shepherd's Care Ministries from individuals who support the ministry.

When the baskets are delivered, Hopeconnections volunteers



spend time encouraging and listening to the people. Each basket has a personal greeting; Jeremiah 29:11-13.

STUDENTS CREATE HOPECONNECTIONS CLUB WEBSITE

To communicate better with the community and student population at the high school, Hopeconnections Club students developed a web site. The site gives information to the students about events, fundraisers, scholarships, and ways they can help the club

serve the community.

The web site is found at www.everyschool.org/u/logan/hopeconnections

The students are responsible for updating the site and



maintaining it. Students also provide a contact link for people to email them with questions or donations. The club meets at James Logan high School in room 527 the second Thursday of every month.

Escrip helps students buy food certificates

Here is a way you can help us provide for our families that is simple and easy. It is called escrip. When you register your Safeway card with escrip, Safeway will send Hopeconnections a check each month. **IT COST YOU NOTHING AND HELPS US FEED THE POOR.**

Click on escrip.com. Go to sign up. Type in Hope Connections (space between hope and connections). Click on our organization and type in your Safeway



club card number. Every time you shop at Safeway, Safeway will send us money.

The more people registered with escrip, the more money is sent to Hope Connections and the more people we can help.



IT COSTS YOU NOTHING TO REGISTER



Hopeconnections Club expands as students learn to give without expecting in return

At James Logan High School in Union City, California, students are walking the talk. They do not just want to talk about helping the needy, they want to actively do something about it. One hundred and fifty students are members of the Hopeconnections Club on campus. Together with their advisor, they gather donations, organize canned food drives, sort and box food and help Hopeconnections volunteers deliver to the families.

On October 9th, students converged on the campus SPOT and worked together to make 200 hygiene baskets for the six homeless shelters Hopeconnections serves.

Stu-



dents serving lunch at Sunrise Shelter “Students want to help, but many times they do not have the financial ability to buy all the supplies, but they are great workers”, according to their club advisor.

Although the students organize fundraisers, the club relies mainly on private donations to purchase the hygiene supplies and the food certificates for the families.

All donations are tax deductible. Please help these students continue to serve their community by making a financial donation for supplies.

CLUBS, CLASSES AND GROUPS ADOPT FAMILIES

Something great is happening this year in the New Haven Unified School District. Student clubs, sport teams, individual classes, principals, secretaries, classified employees and even food services are

reaching out to help the students provide for the community.

Every group that commits to adopt

a New haven needy family, raises one hundred dollars to provide a food certificate for the family. They also purchase an educational book for each one of the children in the family.

This new program helps unify the schools in the district. If everyone just helps a little, we can provide for our two hundred families.

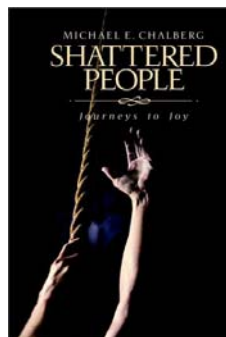
“Teaching civic responsibility to our children will return a multitude of dividends.”

When the food and books are delivered, the families are told which club or group sponsored them. It lets the families know that the students in our community care about their neighborhood.

If you would like to adopt one of our families, please email Hopeconnections staff at hopeconnections@earthlink.net.

Book can now be purchased through Shepherd’s Care Ministries

The first of the three book trilogy by Pastor Michael Chalberg is now available for purchase through www.shepherdscareministries.org



Book two will be released in summer 2004. For more information and reviews on the book, click on the Shepherd’s Care Ministries website.

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AN ISAIAH 61 MINISTRY

We need your help. Each year the need in this poor community grows. We try to provide a \$100 food certificate for each of our families so they can buy fresh milk and meat for the children. We also try to provide hygiene baskets to transitional housing residents in six shelters.

We need the financial support from friends like you who are called by the Holy Spirit to support this Isaiah 61 outreach ministry. AS always, your donation is tax deductible.

Thank you for your prayers and support. May God richly bless you.

If everyone just gave a little

Last week as Logan High math teacher, Linda Rodrigues, was preparing to pass around the jar for the family that her class adopted, one of her students yelled out to the class "We can all give up our soda to help." She was delighted and shocked to hear his comments.

She had been spending several weeks teaching civic responsibility and the meaning of giving without expecting in return. Although pleased that the message was being heard, she was shocked because this student was one of her poorest students. For him to give lunch money to help someone else was truly a sacrifice..

Part of her job as their teacher is to help the students get out of their own situations and try to look at the world through different colored glasses. She wants them to realize how blessed they are just in having a warm bed, food and a family. Even her migrant students from war torn countries realize how fortunate they are to have the freedom and safety in America.

"When I start to become self centered

or begin to take the blessings I have received for granted, I reflect on the families that I help serve through Hopeconnections. I think it brings me back to a reality check about why I am here and my purpose in life" said Ms. Rodrigues .

"To show Jesus' love in action is to be a servant to his children. I can not teach love to hurting people. I need to show it. People's basic needs must be fulfilled before they can hear any message. Jesus knew this and that is why he met the physical need of people like in the story of feeding the 5000" she continued.

Hopeconnections has been operating now for five years. We have served hundreds of very needy families. We have brought hope and love to many who have given up. Students are learning about sacrificial giving and about the meaning of love.

Yet the need continues to grow and without outside help, we will not be able to provide the basic needs for these families.

The students need to see that adults support what they are doing. Students complain all the time that the adult gen-

eration is quick to place all teenagers in the same basket and look upon them as unruly and lazy. Supporting what the students are trying to accomplish will have a great impact on these teenagers lives.

There are many ways to help.

1. Praying for wisdom for the students
2. Registering with escrip.com
3. Making a financial tax deductible donation to help the students raise the money to buy food certificates
4. Helping sort and box food on December 13-14
5. Helping deliver food on December 20

If everyone just gave a little....