

Dear friends,

Each year, around this time, we write to our members and supporters with an update of our main news of the past 12 months. This year's missive is a little different, in that it commemorates **the 10th anniversary of the founding**, in 2003, of the charitable initiative which was to become *The Mandalay Projects Limited* ("TMPL"). In addition to our regular annual update, we begin this Report with an overview of our journey to date. Although regular readers will already be familiar with much of what follows, reaching our 10th birthday is quite a milestone for us and, we think, a suitable opportunity to gather together some of the highlights to date. I think I speak for all of us in the TMPL team when I say that the past 10 years have absolutely flown by. As our founder Ian Love has noted on many occasions, *"At first we didn't know where to start, so we just started; then we didn't know how to stop . . . so we just keep going!"* While we have been pleased with our progress over the past decade, there is sadly a seemingly endless list of potential projects for us to work on, and we suspect we will be kept busy - and will therefore need your support - for many more years to come. Thanks for all your support so far, and for sharing the journey with us.



Above: residents of the MBOA Boys' Orphanage in Mandalay, TMPL's first project site back in 2003. All of the boys have gone through the TMPL-sponsored computer training facility; several have since graduated from IT colleges and gained good jobs in computing.

Helping children to help themselves

Our overarching mission is **to help prevent the trafficking of children into the worst forms of child labour**. Over the past decade, our carefully-targeted strategic development programmes have all been established and managed with that primary goal in mind.

And we're making great progress. With your help, we have materially and sustainably improved the lives of many orphans and other vulnerable children in Asia. We are reducing their vulnerability and giving them hope of a better life ahead.

Over the past 10 years, we have worked in partnership with **12 different orphanages**, focusing our efforts on Myanmar (Burma) but also completing projects in Nepal and Laos. The number of resident children in these partner institutions is never constant, but we feel comfortable in claiming that our project work has, in some small way, positively touched the lives of **over three thousand boys and girls**. We've watched some of the children growing up, going to high school, graduating from college, and going on to find good jobs in their communities and - in a few, special cases - forging careers overseas with international companies. We've often seen other NGOs following our lead and providing additional support for these orphanages, building on TMPL's initial project work.

Everything we do is **grounded** in our mission to tackle child trafficking, and **guided** by our **Building Blocks of Hope™** operational approach.

Our Building Blocks of Hope



In the 10 years since 2003, we have launched programmes from several different starting points, with the initial *building block* varying with the stage of development, the level of management skill, and the general resourcing of the institution concerned. In several cases we have started almost from scratch, in that the orphanage was so poorly resourced that almost *any* form of support would have made a difference. Basic programmes in food and water resourcing have typically been our starting point in such cases, from which we've

moved on to improving the infrastructure of the orphanage, with a focus on the security of the children. We aim to avoid creating a dependency, so in these most basic support cases, in addition to our immediate support programme, we have also planned a more strategic solution to the problem. For example, a short term food programme at one orphanage near Twante, Burma, was ultimately replaced by a strategic horticulture project, in which the orphanage now plants and grows crops, either for use directly in the orphanage kitchen, or for sale in local markets, with the resultant funds being used to purchase food. By contrast, we have also come across orphanages which have basic infrastructure in place, but which are in need of a step-up in educational support. In such cases we have been able to move more rapidly through the building blocks, to establish educational projects and various types of highly relevant vocational training.

We can point to some great success stories under each of the building block headings:

Food & Water

At Mingalar Parahita, a large orphanage in Phayargyi, Burma, our water supply project has created a sustainable source of clean drinking water. When we designed and built the system in 2007-08, there were around 250 children in the orphanage and, although we anticipated that this number would rise, the subsequent growth in numbers has outstripped all of our estimates. Today, there are over 1,100 resident boys and girls, and our water supply system is providing potable water throughout the orphanage compound. The implications for the health of the children are clear. Less obvious, perhaps, are the security implications - the children no longer need to walk 100 metres to draw water from a well, as they had been doing prior to our involvement.



Dormitory water station at Mingalar Parahita

Shelter & Security

Also at Mingalar Parahita, our dormitory buildings have not only sustainably improved the living standards and security of the children, but have also established a benchmark for construction quality, which has been matched by other donor groups who have followed TMPL's lead in providing support to this orphanage. The transformation of this site over the past 7 years is self-evident:



Security at the Pana Wady Girls' Orphanage in Kyaiklat, Burma, has been transformed by TMPL's construction of a robust perimeter wall. Previously, the orphanage gardens were easily accessible to locals and visitors, including - astonishingly - prostitutes who took clients to the compound. The TMPL gated wall now gives the orphanage management team control over access, the grounds are completely secure overnight, and the girls are able to play freely in the gardens.



The girls of Pana Wady

Health & Hygiene

Our health education programmes cover the basics, from brushing teeth to dietary advice, but we have also introduced permanent health clinics, such as the TMPL Clinic at the Kin Ywa Orphanage in Mawlamyine, Burma. In most cases, the children of Kin Ywa and the surrounding village community had never previously received even the most basic of health checks. At the Metta Geha orphanage in Kampelet, Chin State, we have created a partnership with the local hospital, whereby the senior doctor and his staff will provide systematic health checks, health education and dietary advice to the orphanage, with TMPL's Health Fund providing financial support to supply relevant drugs and equipment, including inoculation programmes. Again, this is the first time the residents of the orphanage have received any form of programmed health screening and, combined with our other project initiatives to create a sustainable improvement in food supply and water quality, this programme is expected to result in a material improvement in the health of the children.

Education

Highlights of our education projects over the past decade have included English language teaching, and seminars in basic computer use. Libraries, such as the one at the Witharkar orphanage in Dagon Seikkan, north of Yangon, are an increasingly important element of our educational support. In Luang Prabang, Laos, we added a school for young children at the Deak Kum Pa orphanage. This TMPL project has resulted in 35 vulnerable children aged 5-7 being given a safe home and a proper education at a much earlier stage of their lives than would otherwise have been possible. The photo (right) shows some of the residents of DKP outside the TMPL school.



Vocational training

Although each of our building blocks is important, it is undoubtedly in our vocational training programmes that we have seen the greatest potential to reduce children's vulnerability to exploitation. By giving them skills in relevant crafts or trades, we have increased the likelihood that these children will find good jobs, either in their local community or further afield. Over the past 10 years, our training projects have covered computing, sewing & embroidery, horticulture and light engineering, all of which are highly relevant to the rural communities in which the orphanages are typically located. Our light engineering facility at the Kani boys' orphanage has given a group of students some highly relevant skills, which are being put to good use in the agricultural economy of the Irrawaddy Delta region of Burma. The services of the Kani workshop are in great demand in the rice harvesting season, when farmers bring equipment for maintenance or repair.



TMPL vocational training in action - light engineering, computing and tailoring

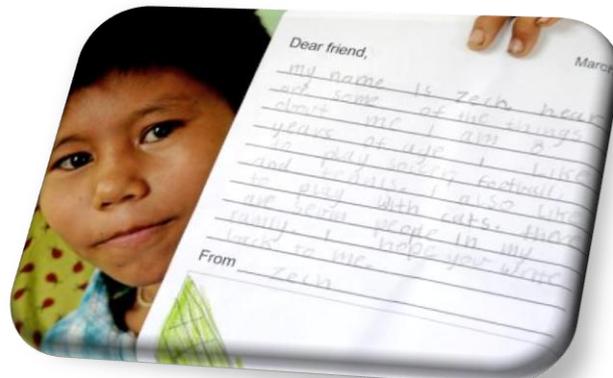
The tailoring workshop at the Pana Wady girls' orphanage in Kyaiklat, Burma, provides a great example of what we aim for in the self-sustainability of our project work. Having built the workshop and a related retail shop-front on the edge of the orphanage, and having provided basic training and materials, we have been able to step back and watch with great satisfaction as the workshop has developed. The "train the trainer" concept is working well here, with the older students passing on skills to the younger girls, with very little additional input from outside trainers. The profit from the workshop not only provides sufficient cash flow to reinvest in sewing materials, but in addition the orphanage has been able to channel some of the revenue into the purchase of bicycles, which the older girls now use to travel to and from college, thereby avoiding the need to pay for transport.

The year in review

It perhaps goes without saying that we've had another busy year in 2013 . . .

Project site visits

As always, various groups of TMPL directors, members and supporters visited our project sites during the year. In April, a group of new supporters and fund-raisers from Perth, WA, visited the orphanages at Phayargyi, Kyaiklat, Kani and Twante in Burma, and provided support for our project work as well as interacting with the children. Of particular note was the pen-pal programme designed by Perth schoolteacher Liz Lofthouse, which has resulted in direct links being forged between pupils at St. Dominic's School in Perth and the residents of the Pana Wady orphanage in Kyaiklat.



Fund-raising events

The international reach of The Mandalay Projects is perhaps best illustrated by a quick review of just some of the fund-raising events which took place this year in support of our project work.

- In January, in **Perth WA**, **Liz Lofthouse** organised an evening of music and fun in aid of TMPL and, such was the success of the event, Liz has already planned a similar evening for 2014.
- In March, in **Hong Kong**, TMPL co-founder **David Gibson** was the guest speaker at the annual Asia Asset Management Awards Dinner. David had a 20 minute slot to talk about the work of The Mandalay Projects, following which the event organiser, announced a generous donation to the work of TMPL.
- In June, in **China**, after 46 hours of endurance racing, across 227 km of often inhospitable terrain, through rain, hail and snow, our friends **Janine Canham** and **Alison Cooke** completed the *Gobi March 2013*. In the process, they kept us enthralled and amused with their daily blogs, and raised a significant sum on behalf of TMPL. Great stuff!
- In September, in **Hong Kong**, at the *Odd-Shaped Ball*, friends and supporters of **Sai Kung Stingrays Rugby Club** raised a substantial sum on behalf of The Mandalay Projects. Special thanks again to Janine Canham for introducing the Club to TMPL.
- In October, the **Nedlands Book Club in WA** had a special evening to mark its donation to TMPL's project work.
- In November, in Singapore, the **Quiz Night & Auction at the British Club** was a celebration of TMPL's 10th anniversary. Thanks in particular to the quiz masters Mark Barton and Tom Sanchez, and to organiser-in-chief Fiona Barton and loyal band of TMPL supporters who made sure that everyone had such a great evening.
- In December, again in **Perth WA**, **Deryck Graham** hosted a film night in support of TMPL, the second such event he had hosted in 2013.

Thanks again to all involved in these events, and to others I haven't mentioned, and also to everyone else out there who has made a personal or group donation in the past year, including those of you who have requested anonymity. Your support is absolutely invaluable, and it enables us to keep working on the development of a pipeline of projects over multi-year periods.

TMPL Projects

Our main project work this year focused on three orphanages in particular - two with which we had already established partnerships and one which we came across this year for the first time. At the **Witharkar** orphanage, north of Yangon, we completed work on our new library and computer training centre, both of which are now fully operational. At the **Dharmalinkara** boys' orphanage in Twante, we completed phase 1 of a multi-year programme which will result in a significant improvement in the security and living conditions of the resident boys. Our new dormitory (pictured below), housing over 100 boys, was completed mid-year and, in early 2014, will be extended further, doubling its capacity.



In April, we discovered the **Metta Geha** orphanage in Kampelet, in the Chin Hills region of western Burma, and immediately started planning a strategic support programme which is likely to extend well into the future. Following subsequent site visits in September and November, we have launched a series of mini-projects to kick-start our programme, with further, more substantial, project work to be finalised in the coming weeks. This is typical of our approach. Before we launch into project work, it is very important for us to familiarise ourselves fully with the conditions at the orphanage, the style of the local management team and the potential challenges we will face in providing support. We must take our time and ensure that our supporters' money is spent wisely and productively. Any project work we embark upon must fit well with our overarching anti-trafficking mission, and projects which provide a tactical improvement in the conditions at the orphanage must have a link to a more sustainable long term solution. As we work through this planning process, we will have lots more news about Metta Geha in the first half of next year.

Other business

As we continue to seek ways to maintain and enhance TMPL's high standards of governance, I am pleased to announce that **Lucy Henry** has been elected to TMPL's governing Board, joining Ian Love, Rob Nash and David Gibson. Lucy is a marketing consultant with over 20 years experience in the corporate, government and not-for-profit sectors. She has been a strong supporter of TMPL and has visited our project sites, and we welcome her on board.

Finally, to end on a sadder note, this year saw the death of our old friend Nurse Thwe, the lady who provided the original inspiration for TMPL's work in Burma. Nurse Thwe devoted her life to the care of others, and worked tirelessly to ensure that the lives of those under her care were as comfortable and safe as possible. We won't forget her, as we push on with our own mission of care.

As we look forward to 2014, we can already see a pretty full agenda for TMPL. Developing a full strategic plan for Metta Geha continues to be our immediate priority, but phase 2 of our work at Dharmalinkara will also kick off in the next few months. To our growing band of followers around the world, we send our sincere thanks for all your continued interest in, and support for, the work of TMPL.

Best wishes for a happy festive season and a great start to 2014.

David

David Gibson

Co-founder & CEO

The Mandalay Projects Limited

18th December 2013