

# Impact Report

2022



Creative Life Foundation connects marginalized children and parents in urban and rural Thailand to critical resources, preventing human trafficking through:



Mentorship and  
Holistic Care



Education, Literacy,  
and Scholarships



A Path to Citizenship

Since 2013, we've been breaking cycles of poverty and creating a pathway toward freedom—one child, mother, and family at a time.

### Theory of Change



"With the scholarship that CLF has provided, I have been able to further my studies and I will soon be the first in my family to graduate from university. I couldn't be more thankful for all the opportunities and support I have received from CLF, I have achieved so much academically than I could ever imagined."

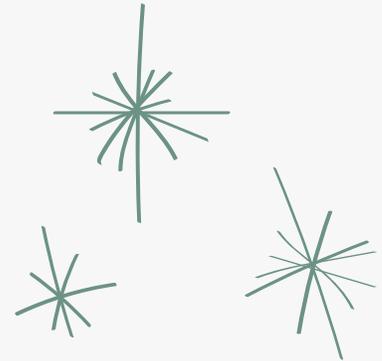
# Meet our Leadership team



Yadfon on the left, Laksana in the middle, Mina on the right

"I love that I am able to help kids who have difficulty with not seeing a way forward or hope with the strength to keep going."

Laksana



"In 2022 I was so happy and excited to watch students reach their dream and begin studying at the university level, some have joined our youth leadership team and are giving back through mentoring our high school students.

We are seeing a change in how parents view education and would like their children to join our program. Thank you to everyone for all the support you give and for allowing our students to dream big!"

Yadfon Bantala

"I love that I get to work with people from different backgrounds and stories; being able to learn about different cultures makes me happy. Without the dedication and commitment of our sponsors and donors, our foundation would not be able to achieve the positive impact it has on the lives of those we serve. Thank you for helping us make a difference."

Mina Thapa

# A note from our director



Breaking generational cycles of poverty and exploitation is no longer a hopeful vision for Creative Life Foundation but rather a reality that we are experiencing every day.

This year we have begun witnessing something exciting as youth complete their studies at university and find jobs they love.

University graduates are accepting the invitation to stay connected to CLF and engage with our current scholarship recipients—offering encouragement and inspiration. Parents are now seeing the fruit of their children's hard work and determination. As a result, more parents are asking if their children can join our program—helping us reduce child marriage and dropout rates.

Beyond our scholarship and mentorship programs, the literacy classes for Hill Tribe women and education support for urban refugees are meeting a critical need in the communities we serve.

Together, we created access to education for 139 children and women in 2022 while increasing our high school graduation rate. On behalf of our CLF team, thank you for your generous support and for being a part of our mission.

Enjoy a look at 2022,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "tim hupe".

Tim Hupe  
Director and Co-founder



# Our year in numbers

139

67

42

children + women receiving access to education

children receiving education scholarships

refugee children receiving education support

30

86%

22

women signed up for literacy classes

graduation rate compared to 85% in 2021

students currently enrolled in university

2687

197

384

mentorship encounters with students

food deliveries for 43 families

hours tutoring students with after-school help

# Meet Joy

Selling flowers at night in Bangkok's red-light district is risky for a child. When Creative Life Foundation (CLF) met Joy he was only seven, and would soon join his siblings on the street to earn income for the family. But then CLF knocked on his parents' door with a game-changing offer.

CLF invited Joy to attend their schooling program. With an individualized approach to caring for children and families, CLF provided a stipend to cover the loss of income he would've earned selling flowers.

Joy could begin a path from illiteracy—a risk for human trafficking—to education and opportunity.

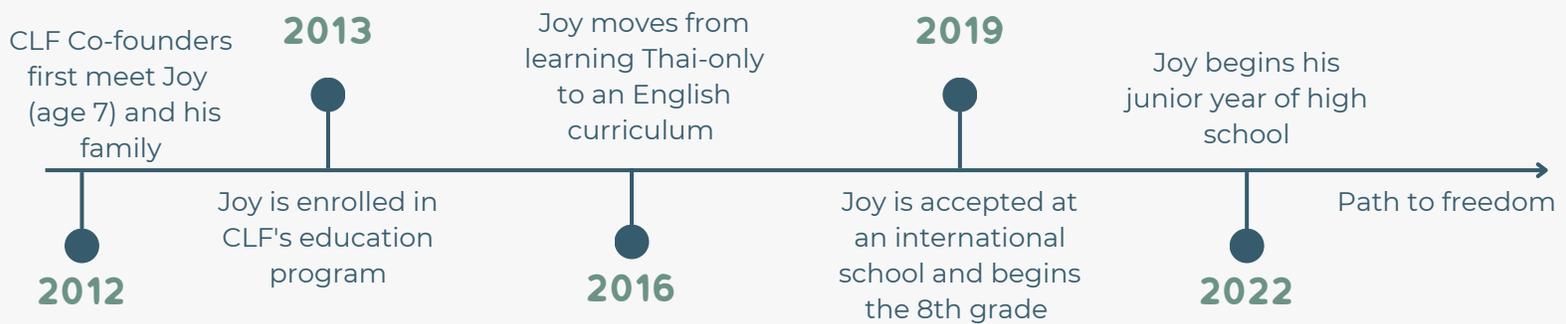
A Cambodian native, he quickly grasped the Thai language through play-based learning and games, and developed grit by wrestling with English and math. He exhibited curiosity and an innate ability to fix things.



After Joy completed 7th grade, his mentors worked with him to plan his future path for education. An elite English-Speaking international school in Bangkok agreed to a discount and CLF provided a scholarship to cover the rest.

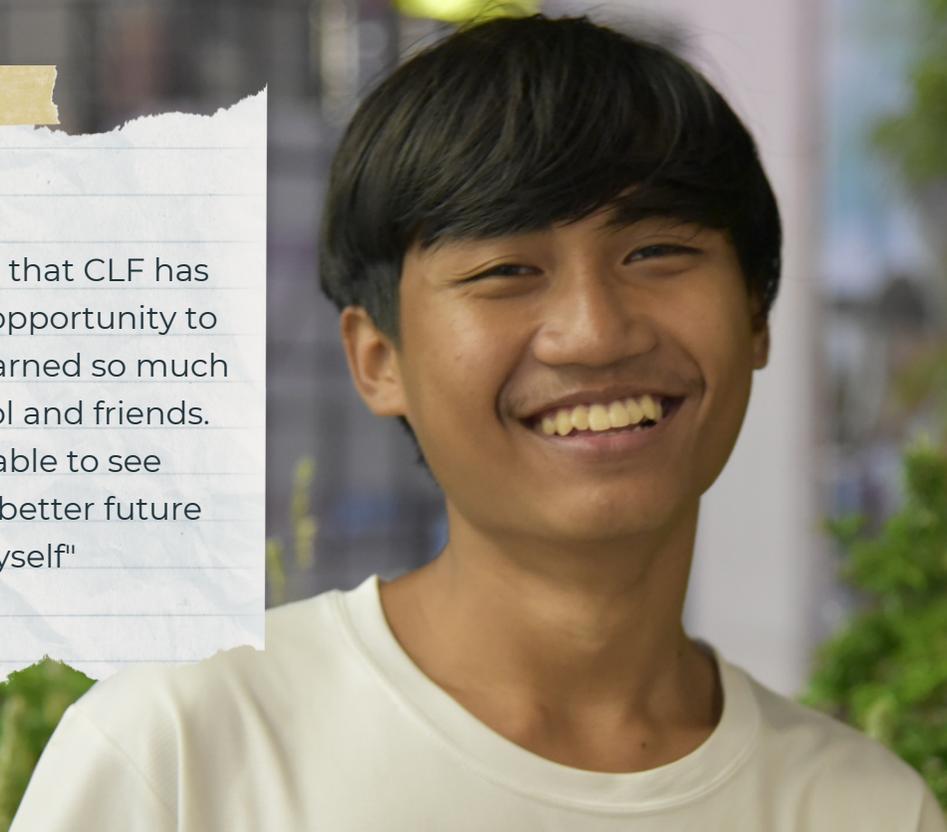
When lack of legal documentation threatened his acceptance, CLF staff navigated the bureaucratic hoops and helped his family obtain ID cards, passports, and legal status in Thailand.

Initially overwhelmed by language immersion at school, Joy now speaks English—his third language—fluently. He had witnessed his parents struggle due to illiteracy, and was determined to succeed. Joy has shared countless meals and holidays with his CLF family for over a decade. Through caring relationships, scholarships, mentorship, and advocacy, he found support throughout his winding, uphill journey. Today, he is educated, self-sufficient, and on a path to freedom.



"I am thankful that CLF has given me the opportunity to study, I have learned so much from my school and friends.

Now, I am able to see a clearer and better future for myself"



# Scholarship + Mentorship

In theory, Thailand offers free education through 12th grade. For families living in poverty, however, the costs of transportation with the mandatory fees for uniforms, meals, and extracurricular activities, prevent children from either going to school or dropping out after the 9th grade (compulsory education in Thailand) when they can apply for low-paying jobs. Children who do not receive a high school diploma grow up having little opportunity for success and are left more vulnerable to exploitation. Migrant families who live in Thailand face additional barriers, leaving children even more at risk of exploitation.

Among the hill tribes, early marriage and early pregnancy are seen as economically beneficial since the children can help with farm work.[1]

Girls who are better educated are less likely to be married off as children and are more likely to have opportunities to build healthier and more prosperous life for themselves and their families.[2]

With a diverse group of students, obstacles can vary. Mentoring, at its core, lets them know that there is someone who cares about them, assures them they are not alone in dealing with day-to-day challenges and makes them feel like they matter.

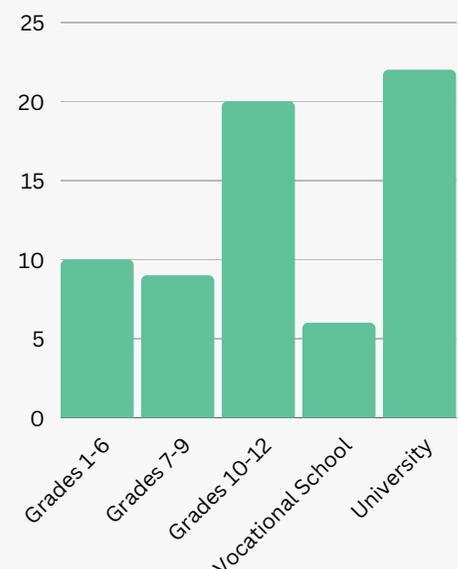
In addition to mentorship, students in our program also receive tutoring and homework help; we connect youth to opportunities, like internships and supplemental scholarships; we meet with teachers to make sure our students do well in school and give college advice to our youth.

1 Walk Free Foundation. "The Global Slavery Index 2018."

2 UNHCR. 2019. Results of the High-Level Segment on Statelessness; 2019.



## Current grade levels of students:



# Women's Literacy Program

While Creative Life Foundation's education program continues to be necessary for breaking cycles of poverty and exploitation, we realize our students don't live in a vacuum. If their mothers remain at risk, so do they. To undergird our ongoing scholarship and mentorship program, we seek to eliminate maternal risk by providing a program focused on Thai literacy.

The challenges of illiteracy are compounded for hill tribe women, most of whom speak only their local language. Limited Thai language for most indigenous women means the inability to maneuver through the process of applying for and obtaining Thai citizenship. Lack of citizenship is the major risk factor for hill tribe women and girls in Thailand for being trafficked and otherwise exploited.

Our literacy program helps build their confidence, status, and access to information. Literacy will help women better prepare their children for school, engage with their teachers, and supplement their education with at-home support.



# Urban Refugee Support

CLF strives for a future where every child has the freedom to attend school; but for some, their refugee status hinders their ability to enroll.

An estimated 8,000 refugees are living in Bangkok, representing countries such as Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Uganda, Somalia, etc. Because Thailand has not ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention, the government considers asylum seekers and refugees as undocumented migrants, which means families are either living quietly on overstayed visas or detained until they are either returned to their home country or resettled. Without the ability to work, living day-to-day is an incredible challenge.

It can often take time for these families to resettle into more permanent living situations, and during this time, children

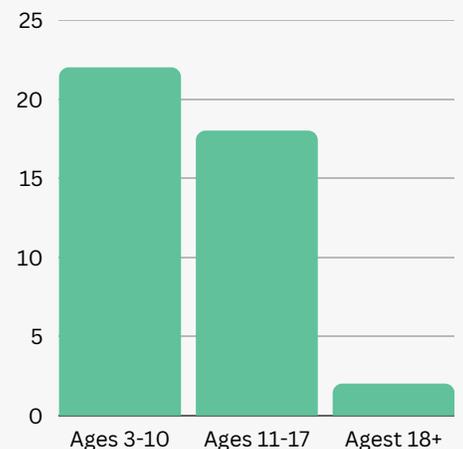
are at risk of encountering learning deficits. Refugee children who fall drastically behind are likely to struggle when they do return to a school environment, placing them at heightened risk of abandoning their education altogether and increasing the likelihood of exploitation.

To ensure refugee students have the opportunity to access education, develop critical learning skills, and meet learning benchmarks; CLF provides children and youth with individualized education packages and will continue providing supplemental educational materials as needed.



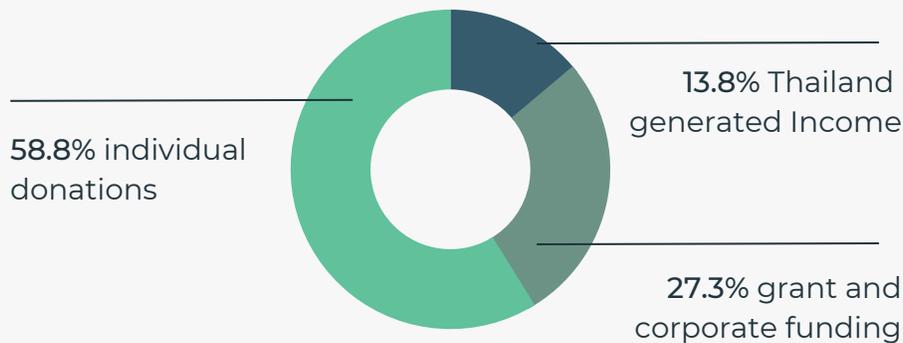
Families we support come from: Somalia 45.1%, Afghanistan 39.2%, and Sri Lanka, 15.7%

## Ages of children we provide education support:

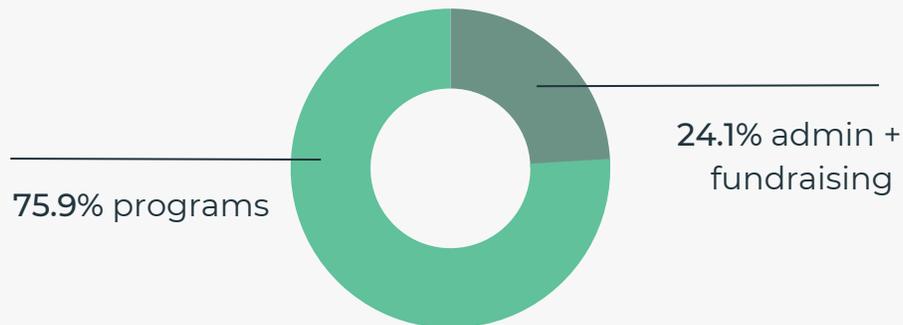


# Our financials

Together we raised  
**\$136,992.20**



## Expenses



A special thanks to



# Thank you!

We are very grateful to everyone who gave in 2022—your generosity is incredible and much appreciated. We received over 200 individual donations—62% of which are made from recurring donors.

We are truly blessed for each and every one of you. We consider you as part of our community and are excited to see how we can increase our impact in the future—creating more pathways toward freedom!

A special thanks to our US and Thai board of directors, for the countless hours you give toward making us a better organization—we couldn't do this without your support.

"Most hill tribe girls who are getting married at a young age have parents who don't have money to send them to school. They miss out on many things, especially an education, and a good future. For me, Creative Life Foundation is very involved in my life, and helps my family so that I can go to school—helping me have an education and a future" —scholarship student



Creative Life Foundation  
250 Northern Avenue, Suite 400  
Boston, MA 02110  
[www.creativelifefoundation.com](http://www.creativelifefoundation.com)

Creative Life Foundation  
174 Sukhumvit 97/1 Alley  
Bang Chak, Phra Khanong  
Bangkok, Thailand 20260



**CREATIVE LIFE FOUNDATION**

มูลนิธิสร้างสรรค์ชีวิต

Creative Life Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization registered in the State of Massachusetts and is a registered foundation in Thailand. Creative Life Foundation was registered in Thailand in 2013 and registered in the U.S. in 20118.

All donations made in the U.S. are tax-deductible EIN: 82-2926467