

A work-in-progress Scholarship Proposal by Living Waters Asia

Title: Scholarship Fund for Refugee Students

Introduction: The ongoing civil war in Myanmar has caused a significant number of young refugees to flee to the Thai border, particularly in towns like Mae Sot and the nine refugee camps. These refugees, including children, youth, and young adults, are primarily escaping the Junta's compulsory military conscription and the collapse of the education system in their home regions. Among these refugees, education remains a critical challenge, with many students unable to afford the fees necessary to continue their studies.



Background: SALC (School for Advanced Learning and Creativity) is an independent college located within the Mae La Refugee Camp. The college provides a vital educational opportunity for 396 students this year, many of whom come from Karen State and surrounding provinces in Myanmar. The college operates solely on student fees, donations, and micro-enterprises run by students. Each student is required to pay an annual fee of THB 4,500 for tuition and THB 4,000 for lodging and meals. However, due to the extreme poverty and difficult circumstances faced by these students, many struggle to pay their fees on time, leading to accumulated debt that burdens both the students and the college.

Purpose of the Scholarship Fund: The Living Waters Ministry has established a scholarship fund to support students at SALC who are struggling to pay their fees. The primary purpose of this fund is to alleviate the financial burden on both the students and the college by reducing accumulated student debt. This initiative is designed as a win-win solution that contributes to the sustainability of the college, yet removes the 'debt' burden off the individual students. To avoid a 'handout' mentality, the scholarship is only open to outstanding debt at the end of the school year. The fund is also open to high school students who have outstanding debt. These are referred to us.

Objectives:

- **Provide Financial Assistance:** Offer scholarships to students in need, covering tuition, lodging, and meal expenses, with a maximum award of THB 10,000 per student.
- **Reduce Student Debt:** Use the collective funds raised to pay off the student debt accumulated by respective colleges, ensuring that they can continue to operate effectively and provide education to refugees.
- **Support Educational Continuity:** Enable students to continue their education without the fear of being forced to drop out due to financial constraints, thereby contributing to their long-term empowerment and independence.

Funding Goal: The scholarship fund aims to raise THB 100,000 for the current year. This amount will be used to support students in need and reduce the overall debt burden on the college.

Distribution Plan:

- **Collective Sponsorship:** The funds raised will be pooled together and distributed to pay off the accumulated college debt by students who are unable to meet their financial obligations.
- **Individual Scholarships:** The fund is also open to students in need, providing one-time scholarships of up to THB 10,000 per student, subject to their financial situation and academic performance.

Eligibility Criteria: A refugee / displaced person, enrolled student. Priority will be given to students who demonstrate financial need due to poverty, displacement, or other life challenges. Applicants must provide evidence of their financial situation and a commitment to their studies.

Evaluation and Reporting: The scholarship fund will be managed by Living Waters Ministry in collaboration with the college / overseer. Regular reports will be provided to donors, detailing the distribution of funds, the number of students supported, and the impact of the scholarships on the students' academic progress and well-being.

Current Status of the Fund (30/Dec/24)

Detail	Amount THB (*no of application received)	Sponsored/Disbursed in THB (*no)	Balance in THB (*no)
Individual High School Student (Mae Sot)	16,000 (2)	8,000 (1)	8,000 (1)*
College Student (SALC)	74,200 (14)	37,200 (7)	37,000 (7)
Contingency Fund	9,800	4,700	5,100
Total Amount	100,000	49,900	50,100

Total Applications	16	8	8
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How to Get Involved - Sponsorship & Adoption!

To start sponsoring a student, please contact Kian Leong via: Whatsapp: +66-81-5688260 or Email: klwong@cmlivingwaters.com . You can also get your community / CG and friends to adopt this project or volunteer to manage this project.

Funding & Remittance

For ease of fund transfer, we prefer Wise to our ID: klwong@cmlivingwaters.com in order to remit directly to the local bank accounts of the college / overseers. Referral Code on Wise: <https://wise.com/invite/ahpc/kianw16>

Commitment

- Ensure all financial assistance is distributed equitably based on need and transparency in the management and distribution. Applications need to be assessed & verified by overseer or college confirmation.
- Regular updates to donors and stakeholders about the impact of the scholarship fund, follow-up and evaluation on the effectiveness of the project.

Nb. * - A new addition as the applicant was asked to return home to Karen State as family is not able to pay her school fees.

Education is a powerful tool for change, especially for refugees who have been uprooted from their homes and are striving to rebuild their lives. By supporting this scholarship fund, donors will be directly contributing to the education and empowerment of young refugees, helping them to overcome the challenges they face and build a brighter future for themselves and their communities.