



Child Rights Protection Centre

(CRPC)

Volunteer Manual



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Introduction: CRPC

Since May 2016, our shelter (known as the Sunflower House, Chiang Khong) has been sponsored by [Friends of Thai Daughters](#).

The organization recognizes education as one of the most fundamental child rights. Sadly, it is all too often the case that poorer, more vulnerable children in rural areas of Thailand, drop out of high-school due to the financial burden of transportation and other related costs. (OECD, 2013)



About CRPC

Situated in the far North of Thailand, on the Mekong river bordering Laos, and home to several ethnic minority groups, Chiang Khong is an area which is particularly vulnerable to human trafficking – a problem which is endemic in Thailand.

CRPC takes a holistic approach to social change, tackling the interrelated problems in the area, and the various risk factors posed to children:

- marginalized ethnic minorities/isolated hill tribes
- statelessness (lacking citizenship documents or birth certificates)
- serious and pervasive poverty
- refugee or undocumented migrant status
- family members with HIV/Aids
- lack of access to health care and education
- drug and alcohol abuse in the family
- physical and sexual abuse
- elderly, ill, or otherwise incapacitated care-givers

These factors often coexist. As well as the immediate effects, these problems can perpetuate one another. Statelessness, poverty, disease, lack of education and lack of economic opportunities decrease the freedom that a person has to improve their situation. Domestic violence and abuse can also have a deep psychological impact on an individual. A combination of these factors put children at high risk of human trafficking and other forms of victimization.

CRPC protect the most vulnerable children by providing them with safe shelter, and help to break the cycle of poverty through formal education and life skills training

CRPC operates in the following ways:

- 1) Providing a safe and supportive shelter for girls
- 2) Sponsorship, home visits and referrals for at-risk youth in the community
- 3) Projects in the local community to address the root causes and build networks to address:
 - a. Human Trafficking and the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
 - b. Violence against women and children
 - c. HIV/Aids prevention and sexual health education

CRPC work closely with two organizations in the region: [CRPC](#) and [Kiang Rim Khong](#). While working with us you will have the opportunity to learn more about, and get involved in these projects.

Shelter for Girls

It is widely acknowledged that education (particularly of girls) is a strong force for positive social change. CRPC provides a stable, secure and supportive shelter. Since 2006 it has been home to more than 50 girls. At the shelter in Chiang Khong our girls receive:

- full time accommodation in a safe, supportive environment
- access to government school education (and hopefully scholarships to further education, too!)
- all living expenses and necessities covered (food, clothing, school supplies, uniforms, transportation etc.)
- opportunities to get involved in special events such as campaign days, trips or outings, additional education on important topics such as human rights, sexual health and human trafficking
- involvement in a wide range of holistic activities designed to improve their quality of life, health, physical, personal and emotional development and opportunities to try their hand at various skills, including vocational training, personal development and life skills activities

Meet the Team

CRPC runs on a very small staff, including long-term volunteers and a handful of local women with invaluable local expertise which helps to keep our operating costs low.

Phuangthong Takan
Founder & Director



Originally from Chiang Khong, Phuangthong Takan (P'Too's) has worked in Child Safety, Human Trafficking Prevention and NGO management for over 20 years. The management and project work of CRPC is informed by her knowledge and experience of living and working in the region.

Malee Kummungkorn
Project Officer



Malee was originally a resident at the shelter herself. She is a live-in member of staff at the Shelter for Girls, taking responsibility for the residents, finances, and general running of the organization. She also carries out project work, including facilitating workshops and life-skills activities.

What we are looking for

We are looking for volunteers to:

- Teach English to staff and residents
- Immerse our ‘daughters’ in English
- Lead activities for fun or vocational training
- Maintain and promote our social media accounts
- Write blog posts, proposals and reports
- Other tasks depending on your skills, talents and ideas

Teaching:

- Most important is a positive, friendly and outgoing personality
- You do not necessarily need teaching experience as training can be provided
- You must be willing to take instruction and to teach in a way which is fun and engaging
- 2 sessions a week you will have a set curriculum
 - For these sessions you must follow the curriculum and training provided
 - For the other sessions, you will plan your own lessons
 - We have many resources to share, but you will also be expected to make your own
- You should be outgoing and feel comfortable enough to initiate conversation with the residents here, using body language and other means of communication to encourage them to speak English with you as often as possible
- It is a requirement that you DO NOT SPEAK THAI whilst you are on site, we would prefer if you stick to speaking ENGLISH only, as your main role will be to immerse the girls in English. *(If you already speak intermediate or fluent Thai we may be able to find an alternative role for you - especially if you can read and write in Thai – please contact us.)*

Updating the website and social media:

- You need to be good with computers: capable of using Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, etc.), Social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram) and able to use (or willing to learn) how to manage a website using WordPress
- An added plus would be skills in Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, and photography, videography and editing. But this is not a requirement.
- Part of your responsibility as a volunteer will be to maintain our social media presence with regular, appropriate and on topic posts (We can train you on how to promote social media, using sites like Crowd fire to increase post reach)
- In the future we would like volunteers to schedule posts in advance, and keep track of our social media data, so this is another area you could work on

If you have other experience, passions or talents, let us know! We would love to hear your ideas and invite you to share your skills with the CRPC family!

Logistics

Upon Arrival

If possible, we will collect you from Chiang Rai. However, this completely depends on the availability of staff. You may have to get a bus to Chiang Khong (a 60 Baht, 2-hour journey from Chiang Rai), in which case we will collect you from where the bus drops you off. Upon arrival at CRPC, we will register you with the local immigration office as mentioned in the Visa Information section above. You will also sign the Volunteer Service Agreement.

Visa Information

CRPC is not able to pay for or provide volunteer visas. We can provide you with the necessary letter of recommendation in order to get a Non-O Volunteering Visa. It is your personal responsibility to ensure you have the appropriate documentation for the time you are in Thailand. Please check the visa requirements with your home country or local embassy before arrival.

Upon arrival, CRPC will register you with the local immigration office. This is to ensure that you are volunteering “legally” and requires nothing more from you than that you have appropriate documentation in your passport to be in Thailand. If you plan to stay for more than one month, please try to have the appropriate Volunteer Visa. If you do not have a Visa, but have the Visa Exempt Stamp in your passport that is valid for 30 days, you can either extend it at the local immigration office in Chiang Khong one time, or cross the border into Laos and return with a new stamp for 30 more days.

Health Insurance

CRPC is not able to cover the costs of health insurance for volunteers. When travelling abroad it is always a good idea to take out travel insurance. Volunteers will be expected to cover their own insurance and medical costs. Previous volunteers have used [World Nomads](#) travel insurance.

Accommodation

CRPC will provide you with free accommodation for the duration of your stay as a volunteer. You will have a private room, with mosquito net, draws and space to hang your clothes. As a volunteer you are expected to keep your room clean and tidy yourself. There is also a laundry machine at the house, and although accommodation is simple and basic, the shelter is equipped with all the necessities, so your living expenses should not be too high. Meals are also included, however, if you go out for fun you will be expected to cover your own food and drinks expenses. At the shelter, we cook together and eat family style at the house. For obvious reasons, there is no drinking and smoking allowed at the shelter, no loud noises after 10pm.

Transportation

CRPC does not have dedicated transportation. Staff use their own transportation. If you wish to rent a motorbike, we can help to arrange that for you, the cost is usually around ฿2,500 THB per month. Usually, if staff are travelling somewhere, you will be driven with them. You will need to be comfortable riding on the back of a motorbike. There are bicycles available to borrow.

Working Time

As a volunteer, you should expect to work 6 days per week, with one day off during the week. Though some days will be more relaxed than others. CRPC's shelter is open around the clock. Work here is exciting and varied, and no two days are exactly the same. On weekdays the girls from the shelter attend a government school. So from 7am to 5pm they will be away at school. As we need to work around the girls formal schooling time table, you will be expected to teach English both in the evenings.

On Saturdays and Sundays, the girls engage in all kinds of fun extra-curricular activities here on site. We hope you will have some skills, talents or hobbies that you can share with the girls.

Occasionally, you might also teach the staff, though it is quite likely that on some days staff will be too busy or not available to learn English.

Though we stress that you must NOT SPEAK THAI while you are on site/around the girls. If you wish, may learn some Thai at a local language exchange - which is held in a very beautiful and relaxed environment, at a local eco-school.

Aside from the time spent actually teaching English, it will be up to you how you manage your workload (planning lessons, updating social media etc.) and breaks.

Please also be aware that plans here can change at a minute's notice. Try to embrace this and go with the flow - sometimes it is fun to be surprised by what the day brings you! Some days you will be expected to work in the office, other days you may be invited to a training event, or to visit a local village or family. Other days you might be invited to travel to a nearby city to meet donors, or attend a party or social gathering with other members of our network. Life here is wonderfully varied and never boring.

General Information on Volunteering

CRPC has several ongoing projects and happily welcomes long-term volunteers to help with our work. We ask that, like CRPC employees, you take your responsibilities seriously and work to the best of your ability while you are here. That said, we also want you to enjoy Chiang Khong and all that Chiang Rai province has to offer and hope you'll explore while you are here. Below you'll find information related to volunteer responsibilities and expectations.

Though many people have a well-intended desire to give back to the communities they visit, volunteering in developing communities can be complicated than it seems. This is especially true when working in cultures different from your own. It's important to consider some important factors before beginning a serious volunteer project.

- 1. Stay a while.** We ask volunteers to commit to a minimum of three months, because it could be harmful for the girls under our care to form attachments to many people who come and go and who they may never see again. We also want you to have time to really get to know the family, and to learn enough that you can be your most useful.
- 2. Do Some Research.** Spend time getting to know the community you're going to serve before you interact with it. It can take years to understand a community and build rapport and trust, but some prior knowledge can go a long way. A good place to start would be our website: www.childrightsprotectioncentre.wordpress.com
- 3. Be Culturally Considerate.** Cultural competency is critical to all community development work. For example, Thai culture is very non-confrontational. Approaching someone in an aggressive way about an issue could potentially make that person very uncomfortable and damage your relationship. While representing CRPC we expect you to avoid any inappropriate behavior which could adversely affect the reputation and relationships the organization has taken a long time to build.
- 4. Don't Rescue, Empower.** True community development success happens when the community you serve attains complete self-determination. The idea of 'helping', while well intended, ultimately serves volunteers better than the communities in which they work. Local people themselves are aware of what is best for them, their families, and their communities. They're not innately incapable of making good decisions or providing for themselves, but rather are facing systemic barriers to their success. We hope you will leave any be open minded in dealing with people from different backgrounds.
- 5. Use Your Strengths.** Offer skills and expertise in a way that contributes positively. We appreciate the contribution of a skill we don't currently have much more than something we know how to do. And of course, teaching us the skill is always the most ideal. Empowering a community to do something on their own is the best way to make a good impact. We are happy to share our skills with you, too.

Cultural Etiquette

It is extremely important that CRPC maintain the respect of the local community. At times, you may become frustrated with the pace of things or how work is conducted, but be patient and remember that you are a guest in someone's home and someone's country. Something that may be considered normal behavior back home may be inappropriate here. The consequences of such an action may not reveal themselves until after you have left. Please be aware that your conduct leaves an impression of your culture. Make a positive one!

Dos and Don'ts:

- Do not engage in any activity that is illegal in the Kingdom of Thailand. If you are found to do so, it will result in immediate termination of your stay and may even result in prosecution out of our hands.
- Avoid altercations at all times with staff members or members of the local community. Calling someone out in front of others causes them to lose face and is not an effective way to work.
- With this in mind, approaching issues with a 'pushy' Western attitude is not conducive to getting things done in Thailand. RESPECT is incredibly important in Thai culture.
- Please dress appropriately, especially when visiting a temple or a local village.
- Appropriate swimming attire in Thailand for men and women is shorts and a top.
- Act deferentially towards elders.
- Do not touch local people on the head.
- Do not touch local people or things with your shoes or feet, or point your feet at them
- Do NOT SPEAK THAI around the daughters. Your main role is to immerse them in English and give them as many opportunities as possible to learn, and figure out how to communicate in English.

Fun Stuff

As a volunteer, we want you to work hard, but also to have fun! Life at the shelter is full of smiles, music, dance, laughter, and everything that you would hope for from a group of girls. You will have days and are free to travel 2 hours to Chiang Rai to see the sites there or you can stay in Chiang Khong and swim in the Mekong River (depending on the season), hang out at our partner organization's office (where drinking is allowed!) get a massage at a local salon, (only 150THB), or eat at any of the various restaurants in town. Depending on the schedule, there are sometimes trips and off-site activities to do on the weekends which you will be welcome to join.

Thank you for your interest in volunteering your time with CRPC, we look forward to working with you and welcoming you into our family!

Contact Information

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