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# **NEWSLETTER 2024**

# Swiss Foundation +



1 yea supp USD **150** fo 1 y





USD 15<sup>00</sup> 1 year support for 1 student



We currently support 7 schools in Thailand and 2 in Laos, from the youngest to high school students. The schools are no more than 100 kms apart, which facilitates contact. We are assessing needs on an individual basis.

#### Dear friends of HopeHouse,

In talking to our loyal donors, I notice that giving and sharing is a matter of personal attitude. Most people realize that in Europe, and especially in Switzerland, we have enjoyed the most prosperous period of the last 70 years, especially in material terms. While others have not had the same opportunities, whatever the reasons.

Some, like you, are prepared to share with the less fortunate, to give them a chance to build their own lives. And you may ask yourself, who will receive my donation, where will my money go?

I think the answer can only be : **Trust** 

Fortunately for HopeHouse, you do have confidence in our foundation and our projects. Once again, I'd like to extend my warmest gratitude. It is particularly important to us to use your donation and your trust in a targeted, results-oriented way. And that is what we have been doing for many years, in Thailand and Laos. Gilles Bernard and his wife Lamphun are doing a remarkable job on the ground. They encourage young people from poor families, giving them prospects for their future.

Starting next year, we plan to somewhat expand our geographical field of action. The limitation to Southeast Asia seems a bit arbitrary to us. There is so much to do in other parts of the world as well, always keeping in mind that we are a very small foundation. However, there are some, also small but important and exciting projects run by people we know personally, and who deserve our support. We will always commit ourselves exclusively to small, manageable projects, without major administrative expenditure, that primarily benefit the development of children and young people.

We look forward to keeping you informed. Be assured that your trust in us is an honor that commits us to living up to it.

The HopeHouse Committee wishes you a very happy New Year. Trusting that we can continue counting you among the HopeHouse Foundation's supporters and friends. Thank you again.

Ernest Z'Graggen Président Claude Delachaux Président d'honneur



## ...from a five-year-old in the first grade to the 22-year-old university student, HopeHouse supports those who really need it. Lamphun Bernard, herself a language teacher, takes care of the individual assessment of families in need. This may involve direct support to families so that they can send their children to school, or assistance to the school itself, from the first school supplies to the installation of a computer room or a chemistry and physics laboratory, from which 300 pupils benefit, as in Laos, where HopeHouse has been involved in a number of projects.

One of the most important aids is providing parallel teaching of English and, more recently, also Chinese, which has become essential in South-East Asia. Thanks to those foreign languages, our protégés find good jobs. Above all, the number of girls and young women benefiting from HopeHouse for life is growing all the time.

A maximum of 5 students, often HPIs, receive university scholarships for 4 to 6 years.

### The results and our main objective:

The much-desired job, with a good income, that will make young men, but especially many young women, independent and financially self-sufficient.

This is our ultimate goal: that one day they will no longer need HopeHouse, on the contrary: some of them will in turn become teachers and pass on their enthusiasm and gratitude.

And isn't that the greatest reward of all : for you and for us!

#### Dear HopeHouse friends,

Another year has come to an end, and a new one lies ahead with the challenges we anticipate. The year 2025 will mark an important moment for me, as I celebrate with joy and serenity my 15 years with the Hopehouse Foundation in Thailand and Laos.

In 15 years, thanks to your support, we have considerably increased the number of schools and students that the Foundation supports in one way or another in these two countries. Indeed, we have gone from one school in 2010 to seven schools in 2024, and from 20 students in 2010 to over 200 today. The same applies to university students: whereas we had just one in 2010, we will have five by 2025. There has been a notable change in our strategy for supporting university students: between 2010 and 2017, we mainly supported science and IT students, while from 2017 onwards, the medical professions have taken over. As a result, we count several nurses and pharmacists among our scholarship recipients. Education is a long-term investment! It takes four years to train a nurse and six years for a pharmacist. My personal dream is a physician trained through HopeHouse, and I think it's going to happen soon. Thailand is sorely lacking in medical personnel. It's not uncommon for specialists to work in both the public and private sectors, while practicing in clinics on Saturdays - and that includes nurses too. Salaries are therefore on the rise. We're delighted to see them becoming financially independent and, in turn, contributing to a profession that's crucial to any civil society.

At the dawn of 2025, it's essential to remember that without you, none of this would be possible. Your donations are precious and transform lives!

Gilles Bernard

pour votre don:

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