

Self Help & Empower

A Programme Funding Proposal

Increased Vocational Training programme.
Phuket, Thailand

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Submitted by:
Mark Biddell
SHE, Phuket, Thailand
Email: mark.biddell@yahoo.co.uk
Telephone: +66 (0)87 2653280

info@shethailand.org

www.phuketchristiancentre.com/en/she/index.htm

www.shethailand.org



Summary

‘See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.’ *Isaiah 43:19*



SHE (Self Help and Empowerment) was started in 2006 by co-founders Mark and Sharon Biddell. SHE works with women and children marginalized and at risk with the majority working in the bars and commercial sex industry of Patong. Many of these young women travel to Patong from the poorer rural areas of Thailand to seek employment to provide income for their families. SHE is presently helping women at risk by operating a centre which offers a safe environment, vocational training in Jewellery making and education programmes, counselling, rehabilitation and sustainable employment opportunities.

SHE wants to share God’s love and hope with the lost and lonely in practical and ongoing ways. We will meet the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of the people we work with and endeavour to bring about transformational development. Whether it is addressing material, social or spiritual deprivation; transformational development is essentially a faith-based activity and we believe the work of the Holy Spirit is central both in preparing those to be helped and in motivating and guiding the helpers.

“Many of the girls we met during our visits to the busy bar section of town were looking for a way out but have no other choices”
Co-founder Mark Biddell

“We never turn women away and as the number of women who look to us for help increases so we need grow also. I hope that we will shortly be able to train more girls to make other products as well as the Jewelry to meet this need”.

Co-founder Sharon Biddell

SHE is part of the New Life Foundation which is a registered Thai foundation. SHE is staffed by dedicated volunteers who are responsible for meeting all of their own costs whilst working in Thailand. No deductions are made from any donations for overheads, 100% of every donation received goes directly to the SHE programme.

‘Preach the gospel always, and when necessary use words’

St. Francis of Assisi

This proposal aims to raise the necessary funding to be able to assist more women by offering additional skills training. By adding to the success of the jewellery programme we will make a lasting change to the lives of many more women who are trapped by their present circumstances. The total requested for this programme to be fully funded is estimated at 242,500 Thai Baht (equivalent to £ 4,000 or \$7,400USD).

Need Assessment



Patong Beach, situated on Phuket's west coast, is the main tourist resort in Phuket. It is an important centre of Phuket's nightlife and is one of the main locations in Thailand for the commercial sex trade.

Many of the girls we speak to are trapped by poverty, they have no options at home and travel south to Phuket to work the streets as their only chance of earning money to support themselves and their families.

The majority of these girls are not paid a salary for working in the bars, they receive room and board by the bar and they survive and provide for their families from earning tips and selling themselves to male tourists. Many are in the situation of wanting to leave the bars but lack the funds to rent a room because property owners require a minimum of 1 months rent as deposit and 1 months rent in advance add to this the fact that the property market in Patong is driven by the influx of tourists and the girls are therefore trapped.

During our time in Patong's red light district we have counted in just one street, Bangla road, over 200 open bars, 8 large night clubs and numerous massage parlors and private clubs. We have counted an average of six girls working at each of the open bars that means every night there are approximately 1200 girls working just in the open bars in this one street alone and there are a number of similar streets in Patong. The need is huge and we are unaware of any other organization within Phuket who is trying to help release these girls.

A girl's story: One lady "P" was married with a young son and was working as a hairdresser; her husband bought and sold cars for a living. The husband left his wife but he not only moved on, he also left her with a huge mounting debt from his failed car business. Her only option was to leave her family and work the streets of Patong. "P" is not paid a salary by the bar where she works but gets free room and board and survives on tips and selling herself to male customers. She has been working here for 2 years now and does not see an end in sight because she feels she has no way out. She desperately wants to live with her son and start a normal life again. "P's" story is typical of the girls we meet. All the girls we talk to would grasp the opportunity to escape the lives they lead.

Project Objectives



Since the *SHE* ministry in Phuket began, it has been a God-given vision that we establish a centre in Phuket to provide a safe and approachable place for the women working in the red light district of Patong. A place to learn new skills, form relationships and experience the grace of God through this practical and inspiring project. It is our passion to become a beacon of God's light and love in this dark and desperate place.

Having spent time in Patong, forming relationships with the girls and seeing the need and success of our first centre we have relocated to a much larger building to meet this growing need. We can now build on the success of the jewellery project and increase our effectiveness by starting new handicraft projects that will in turn enable us to employ more girls. These projects would include making wooden pens, manufacturing hand made glass beads, soap leaves, etc.



SHE provides dedicated full-time trained staff. This staff is a mixture of long and short term volunteers together with visiting short term teams. We have a vision to share the love of God by being available to women and girls who need love, counselling, friendship help or advice

The SHE Centre meets many of its operational costs through selling products made in the vocational training programmes. We will continue to market our products through a network of partners mainly in the UK and US and on the internet at www.shethailand.org to help raise awareness of the issues and support for our work here but all of our training programmes are selected because the materials we use are locally available and there is a local market for the products to both the people of Thailand and visiting tourists. These factors are obviously very important to us as it is our intention that the girls will be eventually be able to return home and use these new skills in supporting their families and not be dependant upon SHE or overseas markets for their long term income.



We know that to see the situation in Patong and not respond, is not an option. We know that God sees the loss and brokenness and longs to heal His daughters. We believe that there is a hope to be found, a hope that restores and renews. The *SHE* centre will continue to be an oasis for women who have nowhere else to turn. A place where, by the grace of God, they will find community, friendship, rest and above all, a realization of their own worth and value.

Budget Summary

New Projects Budget				
item	Description			Total Thai Baht
1	Training programmes			
	b Pen making Tools and equipment, lathe, drill, table saw, sundries components , materials			19500 96000
	c. Glass beads Tools and equipment glass rods and sundries			5000 31000
	d Leaf soap materials			31000
2	General overhead, sundry expences	12 months	5000	60000
Total		Thai Baht		242500

Budget Narrative

- The budget includes for all major items needed to commence the new projects.
- We have not included the salaries that will be paid to the new girls working on these projects as we feel we can recover this cost through sales.
- General overhead and sundries; this has been included for marketing, electricity, gas, office expenses, postage, rent, etc.
- We have not included income generated from the sales as this will be reinvested back into the programme for materials, consumables and wages for the girls.
- All management, supervision and sales will be completed by SHE volunteer staff and as such this will be our contribution to the programme.

Project Timeline

It is hoped that we will initiate these projects as soon as funding is available. We have completed all the necessary research, located local suppliers for the tools and materials and have a wonderful new centre with space to carry out these programmes and also house the girls if needed.

After an initial training period of 1 month from commencement it is our intention to include these new items to our existing online store at www.shethailand and also start to market the goods locally in Phuket.