

Voice of



A snapshot of

2012

www.chuaydek.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS



P3 -Highlights from 2012

P4-**Support area:** "Food and comfort"

P5-Toy Library

P6 -**Education** and school infrastructures

P8 -Learning on Business canvas

P9- First-aid short training

P10-More **protection** and comfort to the kids

P11 -**Environment**

P13- Vote of thanks



P.4
FOOD
FOR ALL



P.6
STUDY
TOUR

P.7
PHOTO
TRAINING



P.12
Featured
stories





Highlights from 2012

ChuayDek, the children & the teachers of the BuddhaKasettra School thank you all for the warm support and invaluable contributions provided in 2012. We would not have been able to go so far without you! Read about the smiles, happiness & opportunities you brought to 120 children in the next pages!

ChuayDek becomes ChuayDek – Raising Greener Generations non-profit



Back in September 2010, when we first visited the rural family-school Buddha Kasettra, we were inspired by the hard work of the teachers; we were captured and touched by the level of need, the innocence and the will to improve the quality of life of the 120 children staying there.

We decided to help them, and we promised them food for a semester (November 2010 – March 2011). Thanks to all of you, friends of ChuayDek, a small dream came true.

We haven't stopped since then: with your help, in these last two years the 'ChuayDek group of friends' raised funds to support improved meals for 100-120 kids over 600 days, granted scholarships, contributed to the improvement of education and comfort.

DESTINA IL TUO 5 PER MILLE

A ChuayDek - Raising greener generations

A te non costa nulla, ma porta benefici veri a cento e più bimbi.
CODICE FISCALE: 97697160584



Many efforts, many visits to the School and many laughter with the kids led us to eventually transform the group of friends into the "ChuayDek – Raising greener generations" non-profit organization! The spirit of helping children in need, through voluntary and non-remunerated work is still the same, but there are now more benefits for our supporters (donations are now tax-deductible also in Italy) and new doors have opened for raising funds (e.g. through the Italian 5 per mille)

Read the article on ChuayDek non-profit @ http://www.chuaydek.org/uploads/1/2/5/2/12528280/fao_intouch_article_fao_officer_helps_give_children_brighter_future.pdf

Funds were raised through voluntary donations, projects, Christmas Happy Gifts and Raffles, and Fun&fund raising nights, like the one hosted by the Revolution Radio Band in the Fonclea Estate (Rome). Thanks again to all contributors and donors!

The nature of our actions is fully voluntary, moved by the only purpose of seeing the children in need happier and of giving them more opportunities in the future. We are, therefore, also happy when we "simply" facilitate the arrival of funds to the school – such as in the case of Taya (Singapore) and Area Solidarietà Alitalia. Details on the funds raised are available for all in the 2012 Financial report.

SUPPORT AREA 1: "FOOD & COMFORT"

Funds for one year of improved meals were provided to the School, covering the semesters between November 2011 and September 2012 (at 500 THB/12 € per day). The second term (from November 2012 to March 2013) is being sponsored by a group of Singaporean Friends of ChuayDek and the St John Brigade. In February 2012, Taya, a member of the Singaporean group, learnt about the School through our website and got so interested that she immediately started a Fund-raising campaign! In June 2012 they visited the School with us, met the children, delivered a First-aid training to them, and transferred the funds to secure their meals!



324 days of improved meals

Indoubtly, besides being grateful for the good hearts of Friends around the world , we must also thank the new strength of media, the web and the technology that unite us - no matter how distant we are.

Securing improved meals to the kids of the School was also carried on through the "Birthday programme" and we thank the many of you who chose to celebrate their birthdays by offering the children a special meal in the Buddha Kasettra School.

Find out more: <http://www.chuaydek.org/celebrate-special-occasions.html>





Toy Library

Thanks to the always-wonderful support of LUSH, this time coupled with the Population and Community Development Association (PDA), several toys were collected for the fun and education of the kids at the School. The toys were delivered in March to help them open a "Toy library"! This is a concept, created by the Meechai Foundation and supported by the PDA, through which children in need can enjoy playing while learning to respect the environment and the others (http://villagetoylibrary.org/vtl_about.asp). The next steps will be to set up a Students' committee and to prepare the Library use rules.

"Comfort" for the kids, as we like to understand it, goes beyond bringing them funds, clothes and toys. Our aim is to show them that people love them, support them and

wish them the best that life has to offer. We try to visit the School* as much as we can, and also try travel to some of the kids' villages to learn more about their roots and situation. Thus, 2012 is full of amazing memories... From the days spent with the children during the Study tour in February, to the ones spent in Suchart's and Nacha's village (Tak, Trang Province) – a 7 hours drive away from the school –, to the visit to Pang Ung in September – where ChuayDek Friends from Area Solidarietà Alitalia also experienced strong and intense emotions –, the November visit for the Buddhist blessing of the perimeter wall protection and, more recently, the wonderful count-down party to 2013 at the School... This was really a remarkable party for the kids... special meals, presents exchange, flying lanterns, fireworks and lots of fun - also thanks to ChuayDek!

Find out more at <https://picasaweb.google.com/helpchuaydek> ;
& at https://www.facebook.com/Chuaydek.HelpKids/photos_albums

Important note: whenever visiting the school and/or villages each ChuayDek member covers his/her own travel and stay costs. Donations are not used for this kind of activities, unless otherwise indicated by the donor.

SUPPORT AREA 2: EDUCATION & SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

February

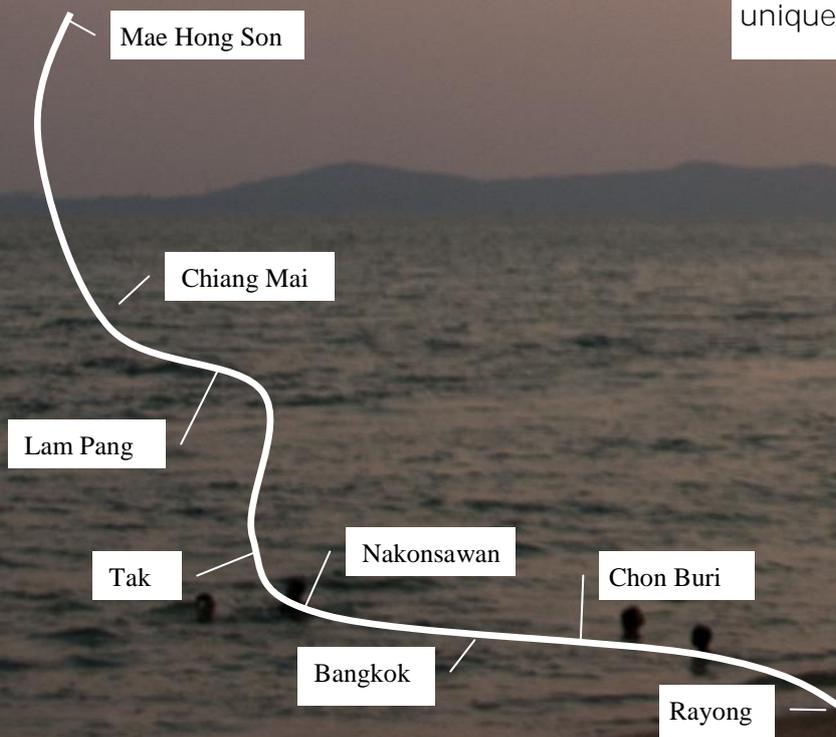


ChuayDek is not an assistance organization. We do bring funds to respond to the most urgent needs, but we believe knowledge is the key for self-sufficiency



Exploring the world with the Study tour **"From mountain to Ocean"** – A lifetime experience for 30 kids of the School who participated in a Study tour in February. The tour

lasted seven days and brought them from Mae Hong Sorn (school's location) through Chiang Mai, Bangkok, NakornSawan, and LamPang, all the way to the Rayong beaches, 2000 km away. A dream come true and a trip they will never forget! The children were selected by the teachers, based on their school behaviour and merits, also keeping in mind children with very complicated and poor backgrounds. The Study tour is quite expensive but we hope that, with your contributions, we will be able to gather the necessary funds to take another 30 children to live this unique experience!



Pics @ <https://picasaweb.google.com/helpchuaydek/FromMountainToOceanStudyTour2012PhotoGallery>



Chuyaydek and friends organized a welcome dinner and party for the group of children, BKK.

MARCH

Photo lovers... and maybe future photographers?

Whenever we visit them, all the kids in Buddha Kasattrasart are fascinated by our cameras and gears. They enjoy trying to use them with us and loved it when we offered some cameras to the school. We thought of helping them follow their passion by delivering a short session on image capturing and, when visiting them in March, we taught them some basic features on image capturing and editing. Who knows... Maybe one day some of these children will become renowned photographers?





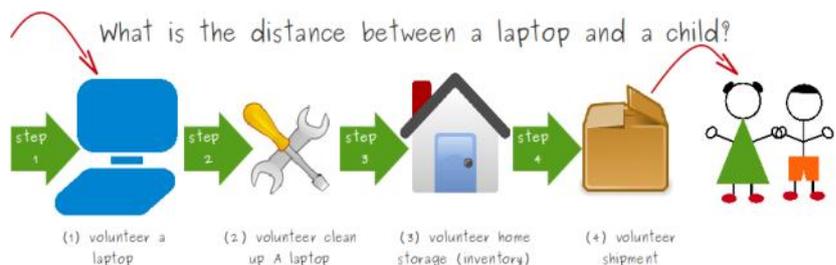
Learning on Business canvas.. to enhance self sufficiency

The Buddha Kasettra School - among various topics - teaches organic farming, and practice it to produce healthy food for its children while reducing their expenses. They want to learn more, they want to start selling products outside the school to gather additional funds for their self-sufficiency. We want to help them in that and to get to a green and sustainable living! Thanks to the financial contribution of the Fasting For Food group (FFF) Rome (www.chuaydek.org/our-supporters.html), to the help & knowledge of Raitong Organics Farm and Panyawitee Institute, the learning has started! A business canvas, marketing & planning learning session tailored for organic farming was delivered to teachers and some farmers in April. Practical sessions on biochar production were also held. The project will carry on in 2013 with study tours to successful organic farms, more learning sessions and the preparation of a business canvas for the School. By increasing the knowledge of teachers and farmers and offering them opportunities to raise a profit from their farms, we hope that the School will eventually be independent from donations and that its children will have enough food to grow and study. An enormous thank to Bryan Hugill & Lalana Srikrum (Raitong Organics Farm) for having run the workshop and explored potential markets opportunities, and to Arunee Wiangsaeng (Panyawitee Institute & ChuayDek member and advisor) for her support! Thanks to Kru Anchalee, Kru Wanlop and all the other teachers and the farmers for having been so active and interested! Looking forward for the next steps!



Computer laboratory completed

By September 2012, 16 laptops were donated to the school and the Computer laboratory is now complete! The laptops are used for several purposes, from computer classes to showing movies or documentaries or even to playing music on sports day! Computer literacy can give the children and teachers of the School extra opportunities for interactive education and fund raising. Thank you to Labdoo.org and all the dootrippers and hubs around the world!





The children of the School are now more ready to help each other in moments of need. We virtually "met" Khun Taya on St Valentine day, 2012. After reading about the story of the School in our website, she got so touched that decided to raise funds for them in Singapore (see pg xx - PHIWI, please instead of the "xx" enter the page number of when we first mention Taya, I think is page 2?). After only four months,

First-aid short training

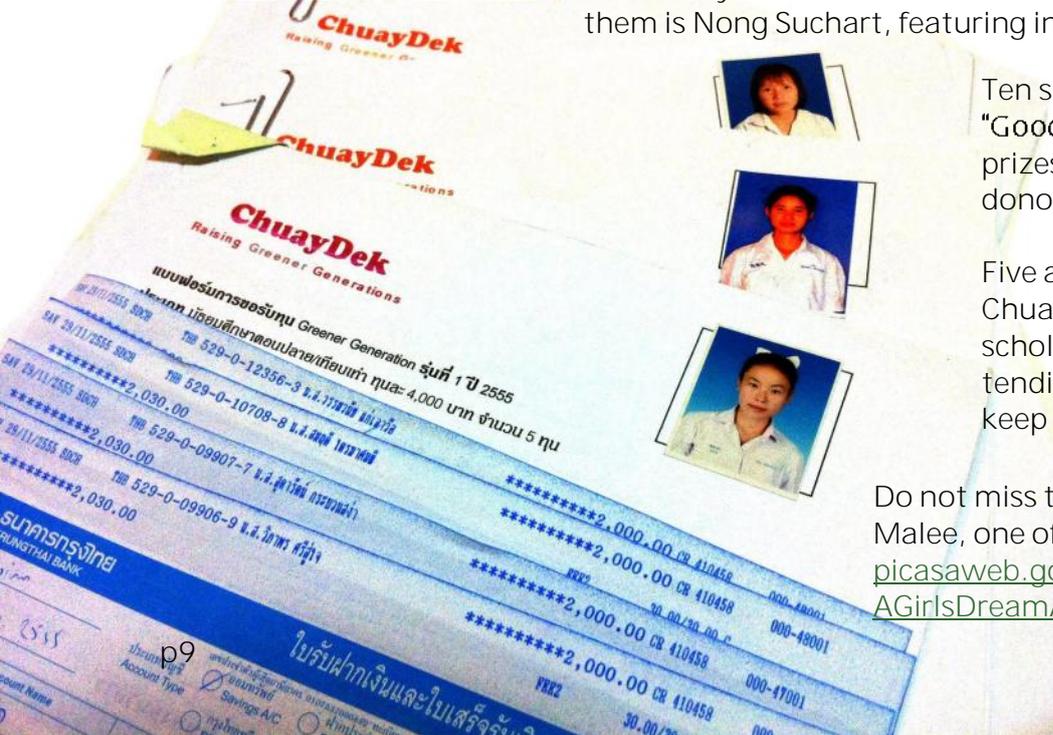
Khun Taya her family and friends from the St John Ambulance brigade (Singapore) visited the school with us, gave a First Aid Training to the children and handed over their donation, thanks to which the kids will receive improved meals for two more semesters, support for water storage at the school, and other things. During our joint visit we all agreed that "Giving is receiving" and that helping others is helping ourselves getting more love into our hearts and lives! We wish, once again, to thank all the Friends from Singapore for their kindness and support, and we hope that we continue collaborating together in the future!



... Studying hard for a brighter FUTURE...

We all need to be encouraged and rewarded for our performance or good behaviour, it would help build our self-esteem and continue improving. For this:

ChuayDek made available a special set of scholarships to allow five very poor orphans from Tak, a Province 7 hours drive away from the School, to attend the School. One of them is Nong Suchart, featuring in page 12

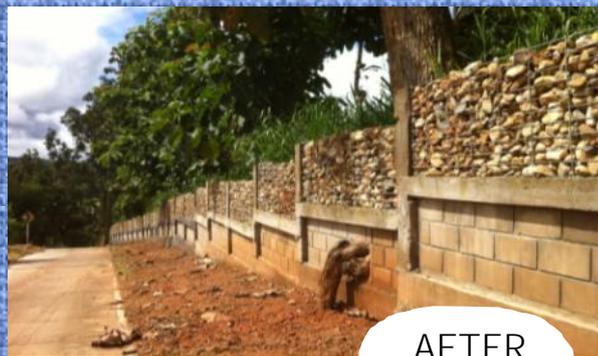
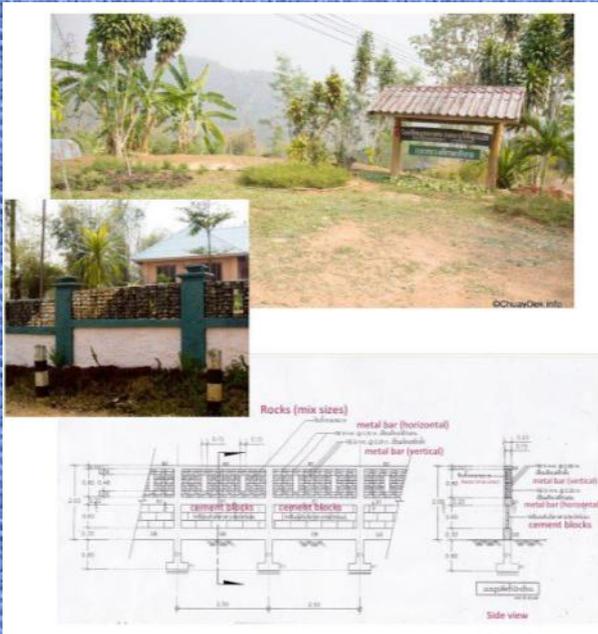


Ten students received the "Goodbehaviour & marks" prizes (thanks to our annual donor!)

Five alumni received the ChuayDek "Green generation scholarship" to help them attending highschool classes and keep on dreaming and building

Do not miss the short photo-story of Malee, one of the granted fellow @ <https://picasaweb.google.com/helpchuaydek/AGirlsDreamAndHopeForABrighterFuture#>

More protection and comfort to the kids



Although our main areas of support are in food, education and environment, we believe that students need comfortable and safe school premises to live in and study at ease. Under this perspective, 2012 was a splendid year!

The Buddhasil building, with extra classrooms for the children and rooms for the resident or visiting monks, was completed and painted.

Even more importantly, and thanks to the Area Solidarietà Alitalia (ASA) non-profit organization, the School's safety was enhanced by building a perimeter wall protection – previously completely lacking. The wall will help reduce the risk of strangers entering the school premises to harass girls or steal the few possessions the School or the kids have. It might sound incredible, but this problem was becoming serious threat to the School. The construction started in May 2012, received its Buddhist blessing in November, and has now been completed.

ASA also approved the renovation of two of the girls' dormitories to further increase their safety and comfort. The works for the renovation will start in April 2013, we hope to inaugurate the wall and the dormitories in October.



Buddhasil building completed and painted!



September 2010



November 2012

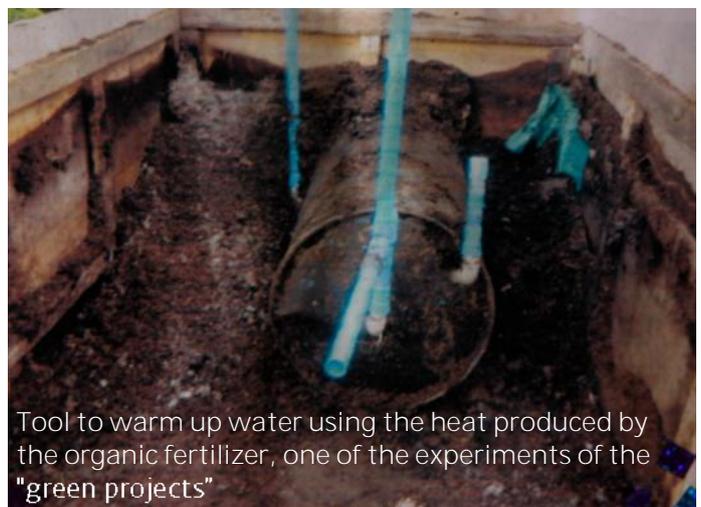
SUPPORT AREA 3: ENVIRONMENT



Protection of the environment is very close to our heart and is a cross-cutting theme of all the activities we do, mainly from the educational and awareness raising perspective. Environmental responsible tasks and duties, for instance, are also part of the selection criteria of the “ChuayDek – Raising Greener Generations” scholarship recipients.

In 2012, the financial contribution of Arunee Weingsang (Panyawithi Institute, and ChuayDek member and advisor) helped us support five “Green Projects”. The activities undertaken aimed at teaching that environment and its sustainable use are important and that working together as a team and respecting each other is beneficial for everybody.

During the “From Mountain to Ocean Study tour”, ChuayDek transmitted basic knowledge on coastal ecosystems to the children.



Tool to warm up water using the heat produced by the organic fertilizer, one of the experiments of the “green projects”



Featured stories

>>> Journey to the border: visiting kids' home in Tak province

Nong Suchart was abandoned since he was born, he was left by his mum on the dirty ground of the village. He was found, raised and taken care of by an old and poor Hmong lady. He is 10 years old, but still with no citizenship. Without the Buddha Kasettra School, he would not eat or study properly, and would risk falling into human trafficking. Suchart goes back to his village (in the Province of Tak) twice a year for school break; during the April break we travelled to visit him to know more about his life and the place he calls home.

Suchart showed us how he lives and where he sleeps (four kids sharing this tiny wooden "bed"). He told us he finally found out his mum lives in China, but that she said (as a joke... or maybe not...) that she would come back to pick him up and sell him over there. During our visit we got the sad news he might not have been able to resume School...not enough money for the bus ride to get to the Buddha Kasettra and not enough interest for his tutor to send him out to the School, "better" for him to stay in Tak and work in the fields... But there is an happy ending! After long talks with his tutor and with the teachers, ChuayDek assigned a special scholarship to allow him to carry on studying! He is now attending courses and learning with the other children, adding bit by bit new possibilities in his life.



>>> Communication at the service of the others...

This is the amazing story, started in July 2012, of 6 students and 2 teachers from IED (Istituto Europeo di Design, Rome <http://www.ied.edu/rome/home>) who are making a ChuayDek dream come true... It is an initiative motivated by their desire to contribute to improving this world while doing their work, designing and creating with spirit, enthusiasm and joy not only because of their passion for work but also for their big heart and their willingness to help people in need. And.. ohh well.. communication in our era is essential, and the result of this incredible story will give all of us amazing tools to go out and spread the news about the Buddha Kasettra School, the children's wonderful strengths and all their needs. It will give us the tools to raise more funds and increase the opportunities for a brighter future! Barbara, Francesco, Alessandro, Claudia, Daiana, Pamela,

Pamela and Sefora, we already thanked you in different occasions, but... it is never enough, living this adventure with you simply fills our hearts with joy and we hope to have you soon with us so that you can finally see the reason for all this... the children and the teachers of the Buddha Kasettra School. Grazie di cuore!



SPECIAL THANKS FOR 2012

All that you have read until now would not have been possible without the help of many person with a big heart who dedicated their time, energy, and skills for the well-being of children in need. We truly believe that we are only a link, for many people to reach children in need, only a bridge connecting people from all over the world and whose only interest is to see it become a better place to live in... one kid at time... one tree at time.

We cannot close this newsletter without thanking:

All the ChuayDek non-profit (ChuayDek ONLUS) founding members; our members d-honorem, P Ooy (Arunee), Graciela A., *Andrea B. and the V consulting, without whom we would've been lost* in the labyrinth of Italian bureaucracy .

Our monthly (Anna P.) and yearly donors (Igor M., Dino T. among others); the Area Solidarietà Alitalia charity; the Thai Restaurant Sukhothai, Rome; the Resilience AG investment management company; the Fasting For Food group (Rome); Taya and the St John Brigade for their amazing fund raising and support; the Labdoo organization non-profit organization, who made it possible to deliver a computer laboratory to the School; Raitong Organics Farm, and Bryan and Tui for their friendship, skills and help; Robin Travels – socially responsible tourism, who support us and constantly promotes our activities to all their clients.

Our Friends James E., for all the help in the design and donation of the new website www.chuaydek.org; Paul A. for having prepared a touching article on our activities – we are deeply honoured; Vanda B. for her skills and help with the Happy Gifts Xmas edition 2012; Barbara B., Francesco G. and the Spring Design group (IED students) for all the work they have done with us and the emotions they made us live; Januaria S. for the editing of this newsletter and the translation to Italian; Rachele S. and Massimo, for their help with the Happy Gift cards. "

We also thanks the enormous support from friends from Mahidol University, from our friends and colleagues of the Bangkok offices of IUCN, UNDP and UNEP (helping us in their personal capacities) *and all support from Thai's friends who spread the words of ChuayDek and made it possible* to raise funds to support the study tour in February.

Last but not least, we wish to thank all the teachers, monks of the Buddha Kasettra School, who devotedly and lovingly keep on helping children in need since the 1990s, and who make us feel part of the family whenever we stay there with them.





“ChuayDek - Raising greener generations” is a small nonprofit organization that aims to improve the lives, level of education and environmental knowledge of children in selected schools in Thailand.

Our aim is that underprivileged children have access to **nutritious food**, appropriate for them to study and grow, to **education** for a better-off present and a future in which they can sustain themselves in a **healthy environment**. We hope to contribute to a stronger and greener generation, a generation of kids who will become responsible adults, respecting each other and protecting the environment, using its resources in a sustainable way.

ChuayDek means "help the kids" in Thai. As it is suggested also by its simple straight-forward name, ChuayDek is a very transparent association; it is a **voluntary** contribution from people who care about children and their improved conditions, their access to food and education, people who care about the environment. **All the work undertaken is fully and only on a voluntary basis**. Funds are collected through a collaborative effort and fully assigned to respond to the needs of the identified school and kids.

ChuayDek supports only one school at time, to maximize the efforts and resources and to be able to bring not only financial support and knowledge, but also care and affection to the children. Working with only one school at time also allow us to properly monitor the progress of the work and the use of donations, to plan activities with them and helping them become self-sufficient. Selected schools respond to the criteria of **transparency and pro-activity**, with kids coming from low-income families, lacking of opportunities or with difficult access to education facilities, children at potential risk of falling into the trap of drugs, prostitution or begging.

www.chuaydek.org

Keep in touch

