

RADION INTERNATIONAL



All About Lives

At RADION, we believe that every life counts. Thus, we give the best we can to touch as many people as possible. Since 2007, we have indeed managed to benefit thousands of lives despite our size. However as much as we try, the scope of our reach is ultimately limited to the size of the help we get. Hence, we need YOU.

To quote Tom Head, *“Life is meaningless only if we allow it to be. Each of us has the power to give life meaning, to make our time and our bodies and our words into instruments of love and hope.”*

In the context of the above saying, I'd like to urge you to a response - to give of your time, your resources, and even yourself, turning them into instruments of love and hope, so that others may simply live.

With [Project LIVES 2010](#) around the corner, we need all the help and support we can get. This year, beginning 24 July, we are again rallying our friends, associates and members of the public to join us in gathering and sending boxes of blankets, clothes, food and medical supplies to hill tribesmen in Northern Thailand who are bracing themselves for an intense three-month cold spell from October to December.

This is not yet another project or community program; it is a call to action! It is a time when as fellow humans, we make a stand for the weak, to aid the poor, and offer strength and hope to the lives who need them most.

To join us or to find out how you can help, please email projectlives@radion-international.org OR to find out more, please go to www.radion-international.org.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Besides having Thai-Hmong staff run the operations at our ground office in Phetchabun, RADION is also supported by a Management Committee - a team of 6 volunteers in Singapore.

PROJECT LIVES 2010

How You Can Help:

1. **Sign up & be a volunteer**
2. **Spread the word**
3. **Donate!**

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Songkran Splash!

Chen Yining

The Songkran FRT (Fund Raising Trip) 2010 was one trip I was really excited about. I missed the kids terribly, as my last trip to Phetchabun was 1.5 years ago. I was also really eager to meet Mong (see picture on the right), the boy whom I am co-sponsoring with my mother, for the first time.

Prior to the trip, I was nervous about meeting Mong. Would he warm up to me? Would it be awkward meeting him? Thankfully, it wasn't as bad as I had expected it to be. I found Mong a very sweet boy who shares food or toys with the other children and readily lends a helping hand. He seemed quiet and shy at first, playing with other kids unlike the rest who would approach the volunteers to play and talk to them. However, after spending a few days with him, he opened up and came to hold my hand, sit beside me or hug me. Words were few, but those were sweet moments I will remember for a long time to come.

One of the highlights of the trip was the biggest water party in town! It was an eye-opener to see people of different nationalities, armed with buckets or water guns and splashing water at everyone! Fun aside, the water was a huge relief from the sweltering heat.

Swimming was a mandatory activity for the children. Bring them to a river or waterfall, and it will keep 20 children entertained an entire afternoon! Amazing things the children do in the

water -- eating, competing who could swim from end-to-end the fastest, who could hold their breath underwater the longest, even washing their hair with a bottle of shampoo they found in the river! The boys, being gungho and ready to show off, dived to the bottom of the river and found a whole bucket of shellfish! It was funny to see 4 to 5 little ones clinging to us volunteers in the water while playing, even though they are better swimmers than we are.

We also brought the children to the zoo and night safari where they saw, for the very first time, many different animals! To add to the educational experience, the children learnt the English names of the animals from us.

The five days spent with the children reminded me that despite their vices and bad habits, they are not bad kids. All they need is someone to invest in their lives and give them the love and care they need. It made me realise how blessed I am to have a complete family who cares for me.

Goodbyes are never easy. When it was time for Dazzle (one of the volunteers) and I to leave, the scene at the airport was this: kids clinging to the volunteers, hugging them, crying and telling them, "Pe, mai pai Singapore." (Pe, don't go back to Singapore.) Five days might only be a week's leave from work for most, but it means the world to these children, to experience the love and care they usually lack.

A volunteer since 2008, Yining is a recent graduate of Singapore Polytechnic where she majored in Media & Communication. She is currently furthering her studies at Queensland University of Technology





Life Changing.

Charisse Tang

Charisse is currently working as an Interior & Landscape Architect in the private sector. She volunteers with RADION's Management Committee as the Head of Press & Public Relations

I came to know of RADION International in December 2008 when a friend was recruiting volunteers for RADION's Fund Raising Trip (FRT).

It was never in my life's "to-do list" to get involved with humanitarian work. However, that Christmas season I decided to set my regular schedule aside for a change and plunged into being RADION's FRT volunteer without actually knowing what to expect. All I knew about RADION was from a briefing. It is a non-governmental organization, and it provides humanitarian relief to marginalized communities in Thailand -- mainly the Hmong living in Khek Noi, Petchabun.

Despite not knowing much, that trip turned out to be the most meaningful event of my life.

My team organized mass games for the village children and distributed food reliefs through home visits to the destitute in the Khek Noi. Our games, sing-a-long sessions and gifts brought joy to more than 60 children. We also handed out hot noodle soup to more than 100 destitute.

In experiencing and seeing the conditions of people who are in need, my eyes were opened. I discovered a lot about my faith, myself and

working together as a team. I felt God's compassion for people and realized how absorbed I had been in my own world that I forgot how to love and care for others. I saw the beauty of a team, made up of vastly different people setting aside their differences, uniting for a common purpose of loving and helping the needy. Mostly, I learnt that no gesture of love and concern is too small.

Even as a small and young organization, RADION goes the distance to reach out to the marginalised. I came to see that RADION chooses to stop and help those who have been forgotten and are unaccepted by society.

Now, as a volunteer in the management committee in 2010, my understanding of RADION and it's work has grown further as I have the privilege to see the backend work of RADION as well.

I continue to see the heart behind RADION's humanitarian efforts. This had impressed me more than the work itself and had won me over to continue rendering my support to RADION in whatever little ways possible. With that, I do hope that many more lives will be impacted through RADION.

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