Annual Report 2015

Our income has been down slightly for the last two years, but fortunately the fall in Asian currency values has largely compensated for that shortfall in income. We delivered $311,315 in grants to Burmese refugees in 2015.

We wish to point out that all expenses except for direct grants (auditing and legal fees, office supplies, postage, printing, publications, and bank fees) amounted to $12,430 or 3.8% of Total Expenses. We try hard to keep these administrative funds very small.

### Summary of Income and Expenses 2015 in US Dollars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th></th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual Gifts</td>
<td>$190,987</td>
<td>Grants in Thailand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustee's Gifts</td>
<td>51,848</td>
<td>Univ. &amp; High School Scholarships</td>
<td>$131,367</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants Received</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>86,274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Direct Public Support</strong></td>
<td><strong>$252,835</strong></td>
<td>Grants in India</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td></td>
<td>Univ. Scholarships</td>
<td>18,021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from Endowment</td>
<td>29,385</td>
<td>Project Support (KG thru 12)</td>
<td>20,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (dividends, interest &amp; gains)</td>
<td>8,344</td>
<td>Grants in Bangladesh</td>
<td>55,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>37,729</td>
<td>Total Direct Grants</td>
<td>$311,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td><strong>$290,564</strong></td>
<td>Other Program Costs</td>
<td>5,225</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Management &amp; Fundraising</td>
<td>7,205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$323,745</strong></td>
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### Operating Income for the Last Six Years

- '10: 50,000
- '11: 200,000
- '12: 250,000
- '13: 300,000
- '14: 350,000
- '15: 400,000

### Geographic Distribution of Grants

- Burma: 11%
- Bangladesh: 18%
- India: 59%
- Thailand: 12%
Grants in Thailand

Leader Interns
No discussion of our work granting university scholarships to refugees and oppressed people should proceed without expressing our gratitude to our Trustee Representatives, or TReps. These volunteers travel to Asia at their own expense at least once a year to interview and select students, and nurture them throughout their four-year program. We work in three different areas of Thailand: Northern Thailand, the Mae Sot area, and Southern Thailand including Bangkok. De Forest (Hoppy) and Judy Winfield have, for over ten years, covered Northern Thailand; Alyson Illich, Barbara Rydon, and Janice Santikarn have been in charge of the Mae Sot area for many years and are finishing their work next year; Saw William is working in Mae Sot; and Doug Offenhartz and his Thai friend Daruna work along the border in Kanchanaburi and Sangklaburi, which we call Southern Thailand. Recently we have been pleased to have Alan Cooper, and Julie and Craig Kurtz join us as TReps in Thailand as well. We are deeply indebted to all of these caring volunteers. We chose the name TReps because they actually do represent our trustees when they award scholarships to students.

In 2015 we awarded four-year scholarships to 39 new students and continued scholarships to 119 students; 35 students graduated from university, bringing the total to 352 total university graduates in Thailand. In 2015 we spent $131,367 on these scholarships.

Projects
This year we supported sixteen projects at a total cost of $86,274. Over the years we have encountered refugees in many different circumstances; we’ve met many young leaders with good ideas, and accordingly we have found many different ways to help our refugee friends. As a result our projects are quite diverse, but are generally of the following five types: elementary schools, migrant schools, vocational schools, IDP schools, and boarding houses. These are discussed more fully in our annual report on our website at: http://brackettfund.org/pdfs/annual-report.pdf
One of our new projects in 2015 was the Anglican Language and Computer Center (ALCC), a vocational school located in Mae Hla refugee camp. The ALCC offers a two-year program to students seeking to leave the camp and find work either in Thailand or back in Burma. Most of the students are Karen, but there are about a half dozen Kachin. This program offers English language instruction and computer applications to 60 students. We found on our visit that these young people were enthusiastic and eager to use their English, and to demonstrate the traditional Karen Don dance.

Grants in India
We first visited Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram State, India in 2000 and returned every year until 2014. We were fortunate to meet Melinda Jackson on our final trip, and she worked with us for two weeks. We were delighted when Lindy assumed management of the program that next year.

Travel is not easy in Mizoram so we have acquired a number of Chin people to help us select students and distribute funds to them or their families in: Aizawl, Champhai, Lawngtlai, Lunglei and Saiha (all major towns in Mizoram), and in numerous small villages. Meeting and receiving reports from all of these people is an important part of the India trip as well as interviewing the university scholarship applicants. Lindy was unable to make that trip in 2015 and Dianne Becker stepped in and with her friend Jami Goetz traveled to Aizawl and evaluated this program. It consisted of 47 grants for university study; a program to support 62 students at university preparatory level (classes 11 and 12); five high school student support programs helping 115 students; and six elementary student support programs to help 175 students. The high school students included one we recently supported to receive a prosthetic leg after coming into remission from cancer. Rejoining her classes, she proudly achieved first division on her high school finishing examinations. University students included an array of budding doctors, nurses, engineers, teachers, and business people, and among this year’s graduates, we had a cancer researcher, a computer technician, and a pharmacist. The total cost for this program in 2015 was $38,674.

In April 2016, India Program Director Melinda Jackson, her husband Kyle, and son Rowan went to India for the 2016 trip. Lindy reports that the program received high marks and that 4 month old Rowan is a good traveler.
Grants in Bangladesh

The Rohingya are a Muslim ethnic group who live in Rakhine State in Burma. As Muslims in a predominantly Buddhist country, they suffer discrimination and terrible oppression from the government and its people. They have been described by the United Nations as “one of the world’s most persecuted minorities”. Many have left Burma to find a better life in Bangladesh, a neighboring Muslim country, but they have been rejected there and most live in squalid refugee camps with no protection or services.

Because the Rohingyas have been denied access to school in Burma, it is very difficult to find good teachers in Kutupalong. But Children on the Edge (COTE), a British NGO using teacher training and methods of BRAC (a Bangladeshi NGO dedicated to working with the poor and illiterate), has been able to start 45 primary schools educating 2,700 children in Kutupalong. Given the difficulties of finding good ways of supporting the Rohingya people, and the excellence of this program, we are very pleased to be able to contribute a substantial amount of $55,000 to COTE.

A note from Liz Brackett: These one room schools in Camp Kutupalong are incredible places. I stand in awe of these teachers and the great job they are doing. When we visit, I am struck by how these school rooms, filled with books, alert children, and smiles, contrast so sharply with the camp outside of the classroom.

Footprints

When I was young, my favorite parable was, “Footprints in the Sand”, where a man, thinking he has been left alone when his life was most difficult, realizes that God has carried him through those times. The footprints he had thought were his were God’s footprints.

I know, in my life, I have always walked with a large crowd. A crowd of family, teachers, friends and colleagues have been there for me to get through various trials. I also know there are so many people in the world less fortunate. Leaving a bequest for BREF in your will is a wonderful way to put your “footprints in sand.” The people you carry will most likely never know your name but they will know you care. The footprints you leave will run deep and leave a trail for others to follow.

Ted Brackett
The Brackett Refugee Education Fund, established in April 1997, is a small not-for-profit foundation organized to help educate refugees. Currently the Fund is concentrating its efforts on refugees from Burma in India, Thailand and Bangladesh. Our trustees are Dianne Becker (Chair of the Board), DeForest Winfield, Theodore Brackett, Sally Brackett, Mark Sommer, Russell Brackett, Doug Offenhartz, Melinda Jackson, and Elizabeth Brackett. The Fund has received 501C3 tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service. It is identified by EIN number 16-1523586, and it seeks support from friends, family and foundations. In order to make most efficient use of the money it receives, the Fund has adopted the following policies:

- All administrative and communication costs will be supported by the Trustees;
- Living and travel expenses of trustees and volunteers, while on business for the Fund, will be donated by themselves;
- The Fund will not sell or give away the names and addresses of any of its contributors;
- Although the Fund is happy to receive contributions at any time, only one fundraising campaign will be made each year;
- The Fund has no paid employees, so administrative and fundraising expenses are very low, typically less than 4% of total expenditures;
- Because the trustees donate far more than required for administrative purposes, every dollar donated will go towards helping people receive an education.