



# The Brackett Refugee Education Fund

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

This year has seen increased pressure from the Tatmadaw Junta on the communities we serve. Early in the year, we had a significant increase in demand for funding primary school students as their families were pressed into Mizoram State (easternmost India).

As the education system in Burma collapsed further, we had a rush of university applicants from northern Thailand and from inside Burma. Physical access to communities inside Burma has been heavily restricted and is increasingly dangerous. Hill tribe communities and the schools we support have been shelled and the people again displaced, or worse. Most recently, we learned of an air attack on refugee camps near Laiza in Kachin State where we fund several Early Childhood Development Centers operated by our partners at COTE. Among the 60 victims were two children from one of our centers. The junta has said these types of war crimes will continue.

Over the past three years in northern Thailand, we have moved our entire process for student applications online. Driven by Jenny and Josh, we revamped the process, reworked the application to include video presentations, and broadcast the availability of scholarships to a wider audience of prospective candidates. Last season things worked smoothly but we were inundated with applications from candidates who did not meet qualifications and we are left less than certain that we are effectively reaching the community we target. This year we will merge our online process with our existing network to help prospective students better understand the qualifications and acceptance criteria. In this effort, we expect to hire an individual in northern Thailand to act as local coordinator for this activity. This person will work with board members Jenny and Kathy stateside, and bridge with our network of relationships in the region including Naw Tamla, Eh Thwa, Sha Bwe Moo, Pawmoo, Hayso, and Rosie, to name but a few. From an administrative standpoint, the effect of hiring an individual on point in Thailand will be offset by a reduced need for TReps traveling to Asia and in any event will be covered by board contributions. We maintain our commitment that all contributions from donors go directly to support the education of young people.

I'm conflicted soliciting from all of you when there is so much in the news about people being displaced due to aggression in Ukraine and now in Israel. I am compelled by the notion that these people are worthy of your attention in large part because they are not in the news. In the face of a horrifying increase in hostility, these people are increasingly marginalized. Sadly, they are not even pawns on the global chessboard. But you, through your persistent efforts to support education over the years, help these people gain agency on the international stage. You give them voice.

Thank you,

Russell Brackett, Executive Director



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