



BORDER CROSSINGS

A Newsletter of the Brackett Refugee Education Fund (BREF)

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Rosie's Story



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**Rosie; Administrator
of BNSCLC**

Rosie was born in 1989 in Northwestern Thailand. Her father is Karen and mother Karenni, both Burmese minorities that fled into Thailand early on in the crisis, before refugee camps or refugee status was given to their people. They lived in a small village called Ban Nai Soy while Rosie attended school. Rosie grew up learning 5 languages; English, Thai, Burmese, Karenni and Shan and speaks all of them to this day. In 2004, after years of building relationships with the local community, her father started the Ban Nai Soy Community Learning Center (BNSCLC) starting his journey to fulfill a long-time dream of educating ethnic minorities, refugees and disadvantaged youths. Rosie finished high school at BNSCLC and went on to study Early Childhood Teaching Education at Mae Hong Song Community College and later, with help from a BREF scholarship, received her Master's in Educational Administration at The University of Chiang Mai.

Unfortunately, in 2007, Rosie's father had a motorcycle accident and was unable to continue building his dream at the community learning center. At only 17 years old, Rosie, with the help of her mother, decided that they would continue their father's dream and started running BNSCLC by themselves; managing 10 teachers and more than 80 students in the community.

At BNSCLC, students have a variety of programs and options to further their education. There's a 2 year basic Thai Language course to help integrate ethnic minorities into Thai culture, weekend classes for student's to finish their high school education while continuing to work, and countless informal education courses with workshops, speeches and short courses to build community, peace and improve the society where they live. In 2018, BNSCLC won the UNESCO Wenhui Award for Educational Innovation in Asia and the Pacific, becoming the first learning center in Thailand to win this award.

**BREF is one of two main sponsors that supports
BNSCLC's yearly budget**



Almost 20 years after her father's dream began, BNSCLC is still the only government recognized learning center in the Mae Hong Song region of Thailand and has changed the lives of thousands of people over the years. Rose told me she wasn't sure she wanted to be a teacher/school administrator when she took over, but now, she couldn't imagine her life being anything else. She told me that she has learned what it means to be human; to help your community and inspire young people to strive for a better, more educated life. She has dedicated her life to providing the love, warmth, and comfortable place for disadvantaged youth to thrive in their community and make the world a better place.

She has accomplished this with overwhelming success. Alumni of BNSCLC have gone on to great things, such as returning to start schools in Myanmar, teaching at BNSCLC or other schools, teaching at learning centers in Thailand, working in Karenni TV, and working at the International Rescue Committee.

Rosie is one of BREF's biggest success stories. We have a feeling she would have done great things in her life without BREF's scholarship help, but nonetheless, we are so proud of her accomplishments. Rosie and her never-ending efforts reminds us every year of why we do what we do. Why we believe that education is the only way forward. Why we believe that no one should be deprived of educational opportunities due to their ethnicity or status in the country they live in.

Thank you Rosie, for everything you do, and thank you to our donors, for making dreams like these come true.



The Brackett Refugee Education Fund

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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 Russell Brackett (Interim Chair of the Board and Executive Director), Brian Brackett, Penelope Brackett, Paulo Flor, Melinda Jackson, Jenny Jones, John Littleton, and Kathy Sabino. The Fund has 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, EIN 16-1523586. 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;
- Because the trustees and funders donate far more than required for administrative purposes, every dollar you donate will go towards helping people receive an education.