

# OPENMIND PROJECTS FOUNDATION



OPENMIND  
PROJECTS

Annual Report 2020

## CREATING LEARNERS AND TRAINERS IN RURAL SOUTHEAST ASIA



# WHO ARE WE ?

OpenmindProjects is a non-profit NGO, fighting poverty with innovative education and tech that helps village and migrant children in Southeast Asia get out of poverty. Our mission is to help disadvantaged children and villagers in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar. We help them learn how to use technology, learn English and other important 21st century learning and workforce skills.

Our goal is to help them to realize their dreams and give them a better chance to get out of poverty.

## OUR MISSION



# CREATING LIFELONG LEARNERS IN RURAL SE ASIA

A young girl with dark hair is shown from the chest up, wearing a light-colored collared shirt. She has her hands raised to her face, with her fingers spread, covering her eyes. She is looking directly at the camera through the gaps between her fingers. The background is softly blurred, showing other people in a similar setting. The overall lighting is warm and golden, creating a soft, intimate atmosphere.

OUR VISION



**WE BELIEVE IN A FUTURE  
IN WHICH YOUNG PEOPLE  
ARE EMPOWERED TO  
REALIZE THEIR GOALS AS  
MOTIVATED AND  
CONFIDENT LIFELONG  
LEARNERS**

# FOUNDERS'

## MESSAGE

We had great volunteers during the first few months. They had to leave one by one, however. So had our trainees!

The Covid-19 reminded us about the negative effects of globalization. Our work was disrupted, volunteers, trainees, camps, schools.

Read about what happened and how we are adapting to life after Covid. Talented OMP trainee alumni and volunteers from Cisco help us find ways to work at our Center, in camps, and at schools with children and teachers.

One day we hope for a return, of trainees, campers, volunteers, vaccine, and travel rules permitting! Now we prepare to help everyone with online solutions.

Last year's economics Nobel Laureate Esther Duflo advised young students about the best way to learn: *"Go out there find some experience. Work with an NGO, volunteer somewhere."*  
We at OMP liked that!

SVEN MAULEON &  
GAWEECHAT JOOMPAULA



# 2020 THE YEAR THAT WAS. THE YEAR OF THE BLACK SWAN

Stay tuned to learn about our work, about our Cisco OMP Alumni project, about volunteering online.

We had to rethink our work and find new ways to work and help people. Covid disrupted everything, killed people and it could have killed OMP too!

Openmind Projects was conceived in the belief that IT could be the poor man's best friend! Now we also know our task-based learning by doing pedagogy works. Young trainees and campers learn and more importantly, they become motivated, they like to learn!

Now our challenge is to work and help more online. Of course, we look forward to welcoming back volunteers, young trainees, campers, and helping schools and other projects again!

# EARLY 2020

We enjoyed working with great volunteers and trainees, and we planned for village kids to come to our April camps.

In January Cisco Systems staff contacted us. They had learned about Openmind Projects and wanted to volunteer with us. Local Thai education authorities were enthusiastic and offered to host Learning Camps. Then Covid put a stop to that. We hope to welcome Cisco and other volunteers next year!



Our trainees learned and improved. They prepared guided tours around Nong Khai as a way to learn and improve their English. They searched online for facts and then created 'marketing' presentations and guided tours. Enthusiastic volunteers helped and trained to be guides and/or teachers. Our trainees set up an organic garden, and an OMP BBQ shop with the help of energetic volunteers. They accompanied volunteers to Lao projects and produced great videos and leaflets about Openmind Projects. We worked on an Online Charity Shop to help villagers sell their handicrafts to earn extra income.

At our Training Center, we worked to be able to use ads funded by the Google Grants we have been entitled to, and volunteers helped us.

We worked to improve our website and volunteers also helped with online reviews.



As a result, we are now listed on GreatNonprofits,  
**<https://greatnonprofits.org/org/openmind-projects>**

Then Covid interfered, interrupted our work again. We also fundraised and volunteers were a great help, see below. With Covid, this was critical!

## Moving the training Center

We have for many years collaborated with local Arun school and were offered space to relocate our Training Center there, still in Nong Khai. It was not sustainable to go on paying rent and other costs for our old Training Center without any trainees or volunteers! The new Center will have a training room and will be ready for online studies with online volunteers, as well as space for a new organic garden and sports.

A volunteer group led by John from Australia has offered to help us build dorms. We actually did already have a great camp, see below, at the school in September! Our little BBQ shop has also moved and is doing very well, managed by Kai and alumni Mina.





## Camps

In July we did arrange camps for the Non-Formal Education Department in Sang Khom for village adults and dropout students. Our trainee alumni, James, Tew, and Namthip, were volunteers! Tew is now an English teacher. James studies international relations at university, back from a Fulbright scholarship in the US. Namthip was on a break from her studies in China! It was very rewarding to see them come back as volunteers!

We had a camp at the Arun School in September. Again, trainees stepped in as volunteers. James with his university friend from Bangladesh, Din, Myna from Laos, Nut, an English teacher student from Udon, and Tew. TT and Kai did a great job preparing the camp. Jim and Sven were the trophy farangs:-). Nice to see all, including the local teachers, so engaged in camp activities! Nice also to see the kids interact and to find some really quick thinkers! Activities not only English but also thinking and other challenges. Campers as usual loved to compete in teams! Camps do serve as an important inspiration to kids. So how to conduct camps with online support? This is one of things we are working on now.



# THE SECOND PART OF 2020

For many years, we have provided free education to the young but poor. Our international volunteers have done a great job! Some OMP trainees have gone on to university or are already teachers, some have tourism or hospitality jobs or are working with IT, media. Covid had forced us to rethink and made further digitization a must. Universities and schools have been increasing their use of digital education. But Edtech for the poor lags behind!

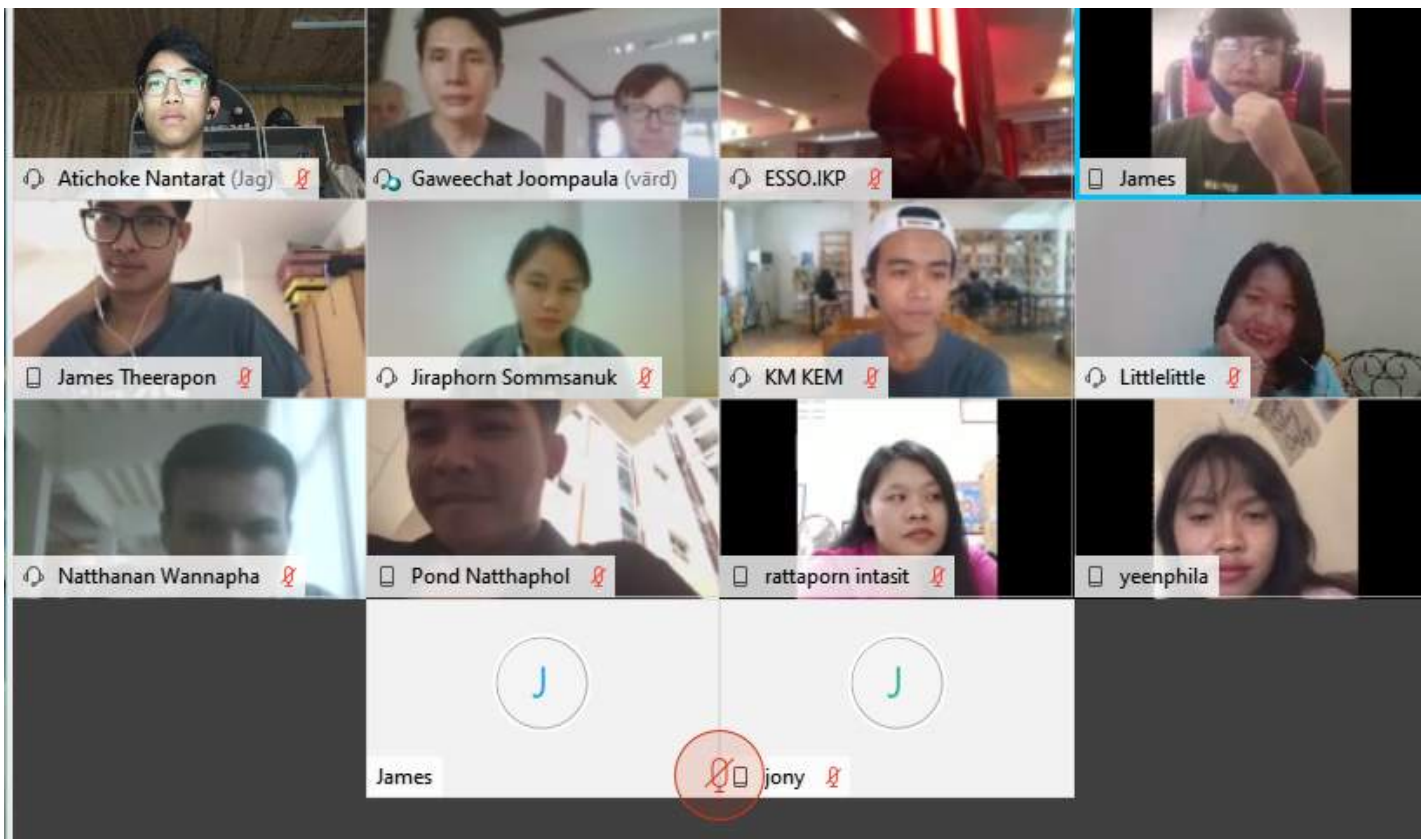
## Collaboration with Cisco Systems

Cisco Systems contacted us again in August! This time it was volunteers from Taiwan, India, and Australia.



## THE SECOND PART OF 2020


Fifteen OMP alumni are now stepping up to work with Cisco volunteers to help OMP adapt to after Covid work and to serve as a model for local NGOs and schools. How can digital education contribute to more equal and better education opportunities for the poor? We're working to develop, test and implement digital solutions, and adapt our successful learning methods with the help of online volunteers.

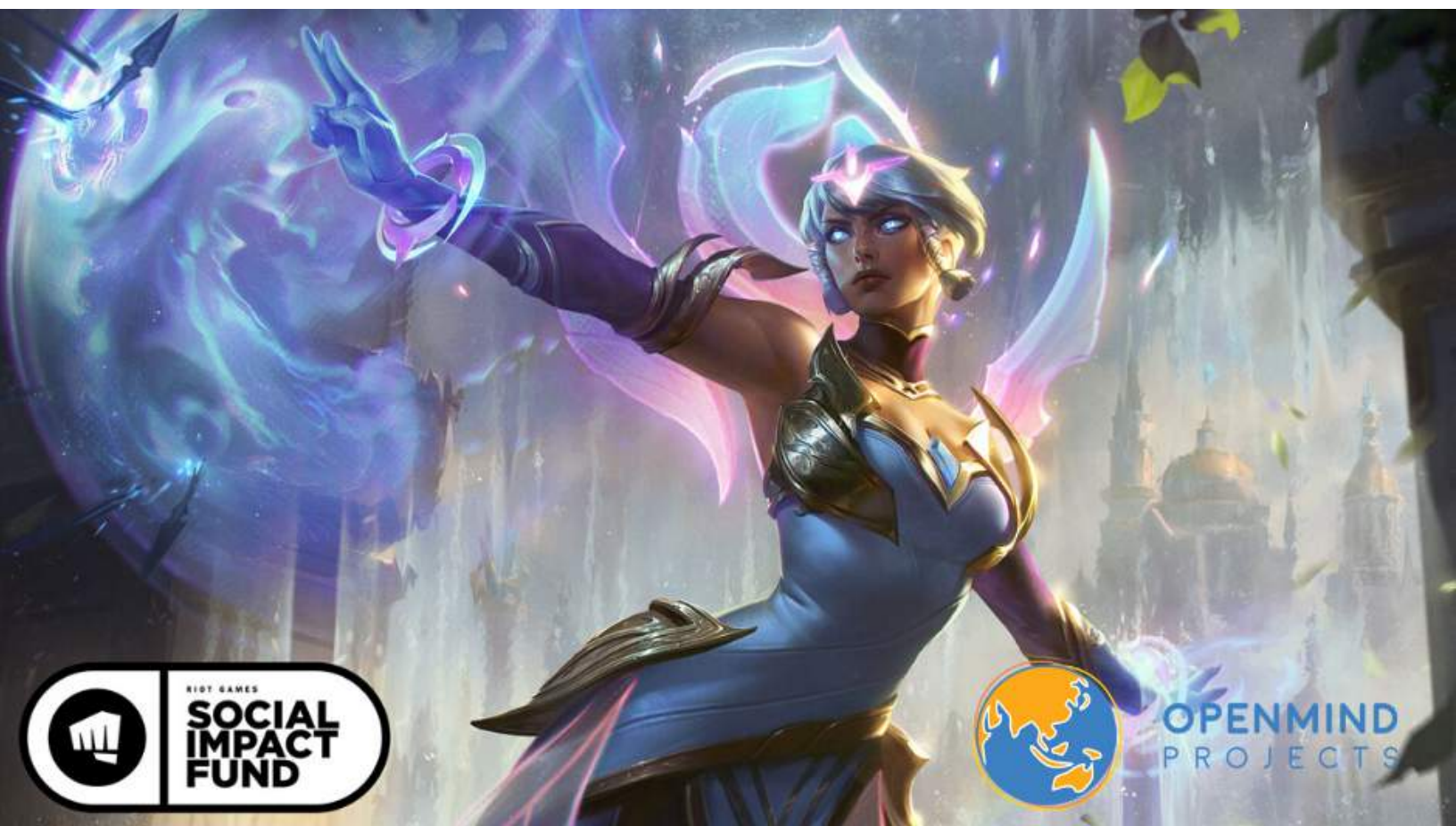


# FUNDRAISING **GAVE** OMP A **NEW LEASE ON LIFE**

## Big thanks and congratulations to our volunteers and trainees!

We were invited by Riot Games to a global campaign. Impact Assets and GlobalGiving, major organizations that work to bring corporations and NGOs together, had recommended us. OMP was one of three NGOs nominated in Southeast Asia!

 **Riot Games** players around the world fundraised and were to vote for their favorite NGOs in each region.



## FUNDRAISING GAVE OMP A NEW LEASE ON LIFE

[GlobalGiving](#) helped us fundraise. Volunteer veterans Shireen and Arif/Kausar were great fundraisers too. Young volunteers Jessica, Alice, and Christian arranged special and successful fundraising in Switzerland! We really want to thank everyone, our generous donors, and volunteers! Thanks to you friends and supporters we are now able to adapt and prepare for A.C. After Covid! We hope to see many backs next year!

## Creating Learners, Trainers and Leaders in SE Asia

by **OpenMind Projects Foundation**



**\$16,855** raised of \$55,

*You last donated to this project on 06/*

167 donations

**DONATE NOW**

Donate once

**\$30**  
USD

provides one-month In  
access to our trainees,  
campers at our Trainin  
in Thailand

# **MANY THANKS DONORS, HERO FUNDRAISERS, VOLUNTEERS, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS!**

With your help, OpenmindProjects will take off after the COVID-19.

## **OUR 2020 HERO FUNDRAISERS AND DONORS**

- Christian Heyer, Jessica Heinzmann, Alice Schnyder, and the Rotaract Club Baden Switzerland
- Terry Friar and Michael Matson,
- Christian and the Grönvall family
- Kauser and Arif Essaji and friends
- Shireen Weston and friends
- Mike Fulton and the San Jose Rotary Club, California
- Emilie and the Lacoste family
- Kevin Mc Cormack
- Richard Brownsdon
- Michael and Agneta Sutton
- Alessandro Balzi
- Anna Mauleon
- Bruce
- Therese Falk
- Michael Schyngs
- Peter Stolp
- Pradip Patel
- Olivier Vilayphiou
- Lyell Seton-Wilkinson
- Marja Schilstra
- Ulf Mikaelsson
- Janne Häljebo and Elvy Westlund
- Paddy Sutton
- Ram Herkanaidu
- Michael Logan
- Ian Bowman
- Anna Jorysz
- Cordelia McKenna
- Katie Connolly
- Fran Rota and family
- Daniel Larsson

## OUR 2020 HERO FUNDRAISERS AND DONORS

- Dasha Kouznetsova
- Rinat Bagoutdinov
- Hiroko Kusuda
- Elise Flynn
- Philippe Desmet
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- René Ehrhardt
- Grace Miner
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- Shakuntla Mayor
- Taybi Mohamedbhai
- E J Matsunaga
- Salma Adamjee
- Ali Shamshudin
- Kubra Shamshudin
- Onali Shamshudin
- Zahra Adamjee
- Jim Brown
- Atichoke Nantararat
- Jackie Giles
- Zsuzsa Nemeth
- Gustav Toresson
- Valerie K SEEDS
- Finally, many thanks to all our anonymous donors!
- Jan Schöndell
- Hans Thornell
- Annika Larsson Mauleon
- Tom Walker
- Dieter Van Itterbeeck

## OUR 2020 HERO FUNDRAISERS AND DONORS

Thanks also to our local volunteers and supporters who helped us during the campaigns: Ana, Bruna, Giorgos, Wojtek, Goran, Jim, Julian, and to our Kai who took care of them!

Thanks also to Khem and Lao Esport Fed, Thai Esport Club Assoc, League of Update TH, WHATPHONE Magazine, M Vision Corp.

And thanks also to GlobalGiving, Rotaract Zurich and the Riot Games LoL players who raised money and voted for their favorite NGOs around the world!





# OUR 2021 AMBITION

We like so many others had to put our activities on hold, awaiting the Covid effects and still waiting. We do not know when our trainees can return from their villages, or when we can start to arrange our successful autumn/fall Learning Camps for village and migrant children. We do not think it will be possible for many, if any, overseas volunteers to travel to Southeast Asia this year. We will however initiate online learning and volunteering soonest, hopefully with the help of a major IT company this autumn!

- With the funds raised, we now prepare for a restart after Covid! We will work on a lean budget and must rely on future fundraising and local support since it will be difficult and expensive for volunteers to travel for a long while we believe.
- We will partner with a local school, relocate our Training Center there, That will be a win, win! More space for training, a special Virtual Training Room, an English Library, organic gardening and sports and dorms. Our trainees and future volunteers will be able to teach and socialize with the schoolchildren during and after school. Openmind Projects presence will help the school to continue get government support and allow them to receive orphan and migrant schoolchildren from Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar.
- We are looking for support from overseas Ed and Tech companies, from local education institutions. We will invite virtual volunteers to help trainees, campers and local students. We will train our trainees to teach English and IT to local students, to become camp leaders, teacher assistants and to act as digital ambassadors to local small business, street vendors and villagers.
- We will be seeking partners overseas, to share and scale up our learning and camp concepts and offer to train other NGOs, schools, teachers.
- To sustain and scale up our work long term we will look for volunteer fundraisers and for support from IT, EdTech and corporations, educational and other institutions.



**OPENMIND**  
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