



Foundation To Encourage The Potential Of Disabled Persons

December 18, 2016

Dear Foundation Friend and Supporter:

Enclosed please find a sketch as well as construction costs for a small and tidy foundation office which we are currently just beginning to undertake. The construction estimate is **158,750** Thai Baht or roughly **4,425 US dollars**, depending upon exchange rate.

The justification for this project is a critical part of our ongoing **overhead reduction or "sustainability goal"** which began several years ago after we closed our former wheelchair production and dramatically increased our wheelchair distribution via overseas donated wheelchairs. Our new office space will be located on our own land, and although small, will be adequate to our needs bearing in mind that our adjacent home already includes accessible toilets, water, kitchen, workshop, car-parking, and overnight visitor guest rooms only a few meters away...facilities which have already been in regular use by the foundation for several years. The new structure will be constructed from termite-free textured concrete to resemble wood. The building style is what is locally called "Lanna traditional" featuring a double tiered roof capped by a teak "galare", which is a traditional Thai symbol of strength and protection. The office itself will be nestled within our private longan, mango, and banana tree garden and surrounded by greenery and flowers. It will of course be wheelchair accessible as are all our facilities.

As further clarification, our private house is built on a large piece of land that was formerly a rice paddy. It faces a main local access road and is visible to all who pass by. The land (and our house) are surrounded by other rice paddies. Our nearest rice farmer neighbor lives about a block away. The field immediately behind our bedroom is usually occupied by grazing cows during the off-rice season. Because Thai law prohibits non-Thais from owning land unless they operate a business - our property is therefore legally owned by my wife Piranan, and the Foundation is completely comfortable with this arrangement inasmuch as Piranan will succeed me as President upon my death or incapacitation. Piranan has offered to provide the foundation office with a 10 year renewable lease at an annual cost of 100 Thai Baht (roughly 3 US dollars per year). This in itself demonstrates her total commitment to the Foundation..

Ever since the foundation moved out of the "downtown" area of Chiang Mai, our official office has been in a small subdivision about 1 kilometer from our residence. The subdivision includes about 25 neat single story houses with 3 quiet streets, each house facing the street. The location proved to be peaceful but it was within a subdivision off the main road and accessible only via the subdivision entrance. At the time of our move from the city (some 5 years ago), we then employed a disabled staff of 9 people which included providing them with a wheelchair accessible place to live....so our office was literally dual purpose....both an office and a staff residence. Inasmuch as we no longer have resident staff we can no longer justify those premises. Today we officially have only one full time employee, my wife. I have always worked as the unpaid Foundation President. We do however, employ part time help now and again, but primarily only for maintenance and wheelchair assembly. These part time staff personnel do not require housing, they are paid by the hour and they do not receive health insurance perks.

We have conferred with our legal counsel about this proposal and he has given it his thumbs-up. According to the law, our Foundation is required to have an office, an official address, be identified by a recognizable sign, be accessible to the public, provide information on our work and provide an annual audit as well as an annual Board meeting. Our current project fulfills all of these requirements. There is no mention of office size, or office location. After more than 5 years of living and working at this

current location, our work is already well known locally. We have also provided multiple wheelchairs and other services to local disabled residents. At this point of providing background information you should also know that our Foundation and personal life have always remained completely debt free. We do not condone risk-taking with donated disabled funds. My wife and I do not define our work as having a “job”. We are engaged in a life-long commitment.

As you may already know from experience, the subject of “sustainability” has more recently become something akin to a donors “battle cry”. It is a consideration all of us continually and rightly confront, especially in a developing country like Thailand where support funds are in meager supply and public disability awareness is still entirely minimum. Sufficient to say that we have accepted “sustainability” as a major focus and have already implemented many positive overhead changes without sacrificing the quality or outreach of our services.

Currently our wheelchair storage facility (which we own mortgage free) houses an inventory of more than 900 knock down chairs including multiple sizes and designs compared to our former maximum ability to produce only about 75 chairs per year via a costly salaried staff of 9 persons. Another major area of downsizing (which was very painful for us) involved the closing our former 24 hour a day care facility for dependent & severely disabled children. We sadly closed that facility in the name of “sustainability” and because I made the mistake of naively assuming that “John Public” would support severely disabled kids. All together we cared for 14 children who we accepted as part of our family and who we grew to love as our own. These children could not help themselves in any way and had been “written off” as unresponsive and a stigmatic burden to society. They were not the typical poster children which are often flogged by mega foundations in their “romantic” fund raising promotion. Our kids spoke to us with their eyes, squeaks, and facial expressions, and we cared for them with great affection. Several were a part of our daily life for 7 years. Piranan ran that facility with one staff caregiver plus massive doses of human compassion. It was a challenging but wonderful experience,

Piranan has also been the key to the heart and core of our ability to access the Thai government bureaucracy which we are obliged to work with. Formerly without her, we were politely “tolerated”, but with her input we have become active and successful partners in navigating our way through the maze – so much so that only last week we were presented with a special northern Thailand award for outstanding contributions to senior disabled citizens. I must also fairly credit Piranan for initiating many of our overhead reducing improvements.

As a bit of background about Piranan, she grew up in a very rural and mountainous part of Lamphun Province about 3 plus hours south of Chiang Mai where, at the time of her childhood, they had no electricity and water had to be carried home in containers from a community well located at a considerable distance. As she reached adulthood she was trained and certified as a practical nurse and later completed training in physical therapy.

Fifteen years ago while working for the Phuket Bangkok Hospital she was involved in a traffic accident that left her totally blind for 7 months. Slowly (over time) much of her vision has returned incrementally although she is still unable to read small print or operate any kind of motor vehicle on a highway. Over time, thanks to technology, we have together pretty well managed to resolve her vision limitations with various forms of magnification. Today she is completely computer competent and handles all of our considerable Thai language communication with government officials including the logistics of processing all of our continuing wheelchair requests.

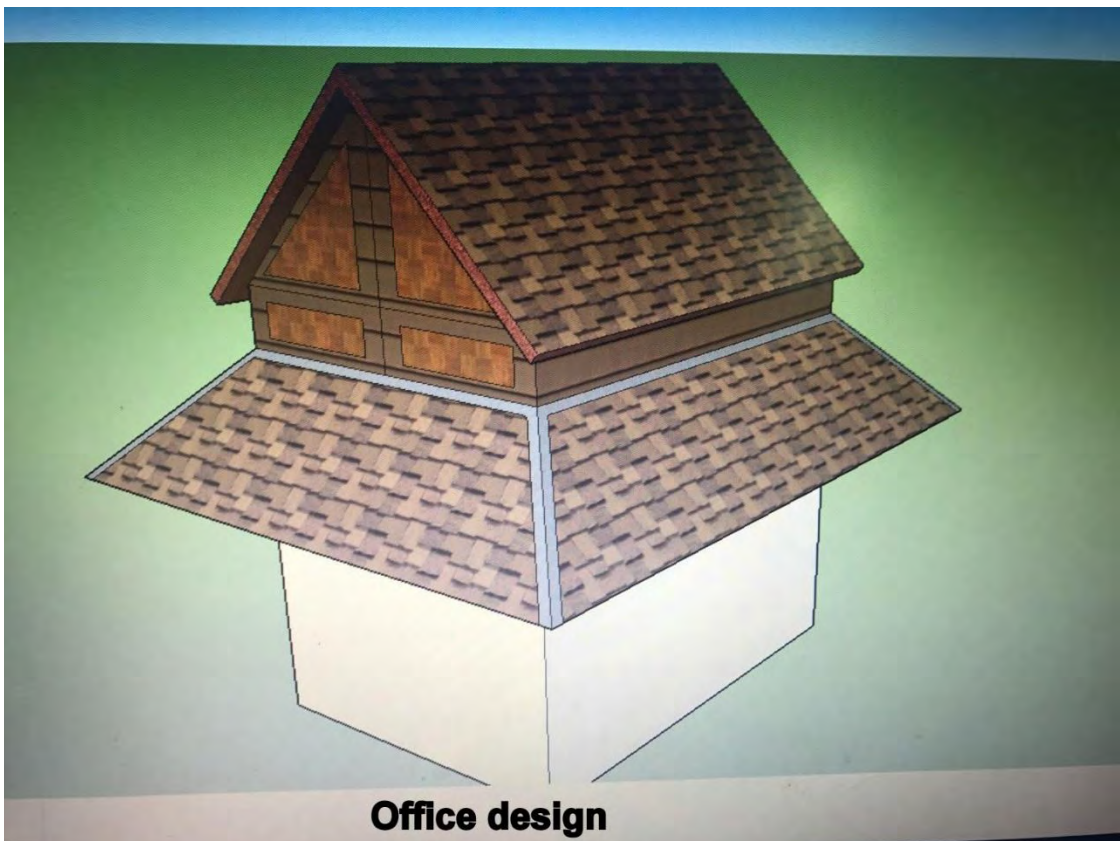
Thankfully and once completed, our new office will eliminate many of our current duplicate overhead expenses such as internet connection expense, utility bills, insurance, maintenance, termite control not to mention the distance and inconvenient reality of getting from our residence to our former office - sometimes several times a day. It will now be all in one place and only a few steps away.

Finally as a lovely addendum to this new office plan, we have received the wonderful news that our 22 year old daughter (who plans to follow in her mother’s footsteps) has just been offered an

apprenticeship position with Free Wheelchair Mission in Irvine, California as she completes her undergraduate university degree early in 2018. Free Wheelchair Mission President Don Schoendorfer has offered to provide her free housing and the use of one of their vehicles. So for both of us this is a giant measure of heart-warming news which will directly impact the foundation's future and stability. Our daughter's apprenticeship in the USA will help provide her with critical management skills and expose her to the extraordinary dedication of the FWM professional staff in their support of disabled mobility.

Your support has always been of utmost importance to our work. Once again we call upon you for support to help cover the cost of constructing this office. It is a very cost conscious project which by comparable overseas construction costs seems very reasonable. Thank you for reading this very long explanation. We send our warm holiday wishes. Our account is in the Siam Commercial Bank, Borsang-Doi Sakhet Road, Chiang Mai 50130, account number 844-206940-6, Foundation To Encourage The Potential Of Disabled Persons, Swift Code SICOTHBK.

Sincerely yours, Don and Piranan



เหล็กโครงสร้าง Building cost

เหล็กเส้น $\varnothing 6 \text{ mm} = 50 \text{ เส้น} \times 52 = 2,600 \text{ บาท}$

เหล็กเส้น $\varnothing 12 \text{ mm} = 30 \text{ เส้น} \times 165 = 4,950 \text{ บาท}$

คอนกรีต $5 \text{ ม}^3 \times 1,880 = 9,400 \text{ บาท}$

ซีเมนต์ก่อ + ฉาบ = 55 ถุง $\times 122 = 6,710 \text{ บาท}$

เหล็กตัว E $100 \times 50 \times 20 \times 2.3 \text{ mm} = 19,250 \text{ บาท}$

เหล็กตัว C $75 \times 50 \times 20 \times 2.3 \text{ mm} = 11,520 \text{ บาท}$

กระเบื้องลอนสูงหลังคา $182 \text{ แผ่น} \times 65 = 11,830 \text{ บาท}$

กรอบบันได $34 \text{ แผ่น} \times 65 = 2,210 \text{ บาท}$

ไม้เชิงชาย $8" \times 1" = 10 \text{ แผ่น} \times 272 = 2,720 \text{ บาท}$

ไม้เชิงชาย $6" \times 1" = 10 \text{ แผ่น} \times 172 = 1,720 \text{ บาท}$

ช่องระบายอากาศ 2 ชุด ชุดละ $2,500 = 5,000 \text{ บาท}$

อิฐมวลเบา $4,500 \text{ ก้อน} \times 1.20 = 5,400 \text{ บาท}$

ฝ้าเพดาน $48 \text{ ม}^2 \times 280 = 13,440 \text{ บาท}$

ไฟฟ้า 4,000 บาท

สีทาอาคาร 8,000 บาท

รวมค่าวัสดุ = 108,750 บาท

ค่าแรง = 50,000 บาท

รวมค่าก่อสร้าง = 158,750 บาท

158,750 Bht

**Business card of Contractor
who we have used many times**



สุรินทร์ก่อสร้าง

รับเหมาก่อสร้างทุกชนิด

Mobile : 081-9809695

Office : 053-840078

14 ม.4 ต.แม่คือ อ.คอขงระยอง จ.เชียงใหม่ 50220



Office location within garden



Beginning Construction in garden