

## ABOUT US

In 1981 the Good Shepherd Sisters came to Nongkhai, in the northeast of Thailand. Having worked in Bangkok since 1965 with women who had migrated to the city from the rural areas, they understood the pressures on village families in trying to satisfy their most basic needs. It was clear to the Sisters that these people, disadvantaged in so many ways, had no choices available to them. Lacking an education or training of any sort, employment opportunities were limited. Working at first in the border camps in Nongkhai, the Sisters had a good understanding of the local people and after the closure of the camps, began implementing development projects. To this day, these have been a source of empowerment, improving the quality of life for all involved.



At the heart of the projects, is a commitment to foster the dignity of the individual and a sense of belonging to communities where people experience respect, acceptance, love and hope.

Through the 5 major project areas, the Good Shepherd Sisters and their compassionate and committed mission partners, have a presence in **179** villages, across **3** provinces.

### *Our Mission*

*With love, compassion and a holistic approach, our skilled and highly experienced mission partners, work to provide skills and opportunities, thereby developing self-sufficiency and meaningful lives among disadvantaged rural people.*

#### **1.Support services and welfare assistance**

1. Village Outreach Programme
2. Child Sponsorship Programme

#### **2 - Self-reliance of target groups through income generation**

3. Village Vocational Training Centre  
+ Isan Pottery/Jewellery/Fertilizer
4. Regina Women's Self Help Centre  
+ Isan Weaving
5. Hands of Hope Project

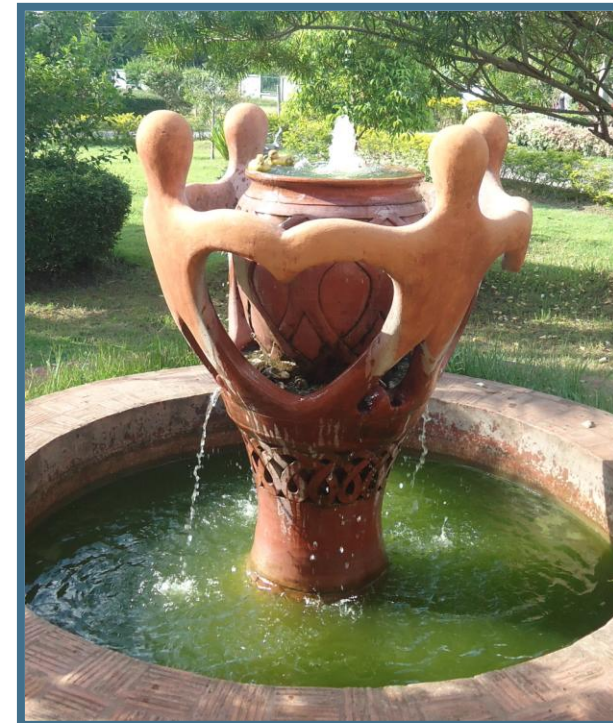
**Become a Good Shepherd project partner**

Should you wish to learn more about a particular project area or support our work financially, please contact us.

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## **GOOD SHEPHERD SISTERS' Development Projects NONGKHAJ, THAILAND**



*“ Using our hands to shape our future.”*

**Priorities: To accompany, support and nurture the vulnerable poor, through provision of services which give life. To educate, enable and empower rural populations to create their own future.**

**Support services and welfare assistance**  
Provision of holistic care and support services by a multi-disciplinary Outreach Team

**1. Village Outreach Programme**  
Visitation by our Outreach Team, of the many sick, isolated, aged and disabled people in the villages, is a priority, where social, medical, nutritional, educational, occupational and financial assistance is provided. Regular transportation to hospital and clinics is arranged. The Friendship Centre, was built in 2001 as a community centre for those living with HIV/AIDS.



The **Garden of Friendship** offers long term accommodation to families, as well as a fourteen bed nursing care facility- an additional 16 bed extension is currently being built - providing short to long term care. The land is also used for rice cultivation and growing vegetables and fruit trees. It is also home to our international volunteers.

**Education and vocational training opportunities**

**2. Children's Sponsorship Programme**  
Currently assisting over 500 students to attend school and pursue further studies. Support enables students to purchase books, uniform, daily food and transportation, otherwise crippling expenses for poor families.

**Self-reliance of target groups through income generation**

**Education, skills training, micro credit support in agricultural practices**

**3. Village Vocational Training Centre**  
Training is provided through residential seminars, teaching alternative methods of agriculture :- mushroom cultivation, fish farming, growing organic vegetables and breeding cows, as well as leadership training. Use is made of the centre's demonstration farm and follow-up services are provided to the seminar participants with the implementation of course content in their villages through micro-credit loans.



The V.V.T.C. facilities are also available to other local groups, NGO and GO, for training purposes, with an average of 5,000 participants annually. It is also home to **Isan Pottery and Jewellery** and **bio-fertilizer** production.



**Employment and preservation of traditional artistic skills, by engaging in handicraft production**

**4. Regina Women's Self Help Centre**  
Two centres provide training and employment to women learning handwork and sewing in Nongkhai town and in the village of Huai Sai. The women have opportunities to provide for their families and further their own education. Others, caring for young children, are offered work to do in their homes. Sales of the finished items are made locally and overseas. Cotton fabric used in the sewing centres is hand woven by the participants.



The **Isan Garden Restaurant** which draws a local clientele for lunch, is run in conjunction with the centre.

**5. Hands of Hope** [www.handsofhopenongkhai.com](http://www.handsofhopenongkhai.com)  
Begun as an income-generation project for those *living* with HIV/AIDS, the producers in Hands of Hope, make a vast range of attractive and unique designs using Thailand's saa paper. Apart from providing employment, it is a project which offers services, dignity, companionship and hope. The producers' children are able to join the project during the semester breaks and earn money to help with their educational expenses.