

Thank you OOCL!

In times of difficulty and catastrophe, the one thing that is valued above all else is having a friend who is willing to do what it takes to help you in your time of need and difficulty. When the 2011 floods hit Thailand, more than 600 people were killed, and 850000 were made homeless by the destructive waters.

All of us at iCare Thailand, a small Thailand based NGO, were overwhelmed by the scope and scale of the catastrophe, as our center in the north of Bangkok was also submerged under 2 meters of water. As we continued our work of helping bring food, clothing, and medicine to those that had lost everything in the floods, what stood out to us was the kindness and generosity of our friends who from every corner of the globe, did everything they could, both big and small, to in some way help to alleviate the suffering of the Thai people.

OOCL Thailand first initiated a fund raising drive first within their Thailand office, enabling us to double the amount of hot daily meals that we were able to deliver by boat to households that were cut off from the outside world. OOCL then stepped in on a global scale, with employees worldwide joining forces to make a meaningful difference, raising a total of 630,000 Baht towards those who had lost everything. Because of everyone at OOCL, we at iCare Thailand will be able to continue to help with the repair and reconstruction of over 100 homes for lower income families in the Klong Sam Wa district, one of the hardest hit areas in Bangkok, as well as provide, food, clothing and other essentials to those made homeless.

We would like to thank everyone at OOCL who through their kindness and generosity has made a substantial difference in the lives of countless individuals that we have assisted, both during the flooding, and in our regular work of reaching out to the underprivileged for the last 20 years. Our involvement with OOCL has gone back more than 15 years, when Tony Tong initiated a project through iCare Thailand to provide educational equipment to needy schools in the rural areas of Thailand.

Since then, we have had the opportunity and privilege to work with a number of OOCL staff and management, including Leo Teng, PC Wu, and most recently, Kenneth Chen. Each one of these individuals, along with the staff that we have encountered have indeed been a friend in deed, making it possible for us to continue to reach out to the needy and under-privileged of Thailand.

For more information about iCare Thailand, and to see how you too can be a part of our activities, please visit www.icarethailand.com. Thanking you OOCL for making it possible for us to help those in need!

Michael Andreassen iCare, Thailand