

RICE Returns Invested in Children and Education

December 2006

RICE was launched in May at the Masters of Hedge Awards Dinner in Singapore as a pan-Asian, industry-wide philanthropic initiative for the Alternative Investment Industry. RICE's aim is to improve the quality of life of the children it reaches, to give them access to the fundamentals for living: shelter, healthcare, education and opportunity. 100% of donations are invested in children.

Fund Raising

Singapore

The Masters of Hedge Awards raised USD70,000 (including some founding contributor pledges). Thanks to EurekaHedge for sharing the event with us, to all who donated money and prizes - in particular, Comada, Michael Nock and Paul Smith.

AIMA Singapore shared their Christmas lunch with us, allowing us to draw two ipod shuffles donated by Artradis. This event raised S\$1,709.

Tokyo

AIMA Tokyo organised a charity blues night featuring the band Rollercoaster at the bar Somewhere. The event raised S\$12,759. A great thank you to AIMA Tokyo, and to Chris Wells and Anna Sils in particular.

Hong Kong

Kirby Daley and Kate Colchester organised the first RICE event in Hong Kong. The evening at MINT was a great success, not only for RICE, but for the people who attended it. We are still counting the funds raised, but estimate it to be approximately USD90,000. Thank you to all the sponsors, and in particular to Kirby for his significant personal sponsorship.

Founding Contributor Program

Not only did several major funds join RICE as founding contributors, but also a number of individuals donated one day's salary. This program will be run again next year.

The total raised by the end of December, is approximately USD204,000

Investment

So far, RICE has allocated USD \$35,000, with a further commitment of USD40,000 over the next four years. We have proposals for a further \$40,000 before the allocation committee which will meet again in mid January.

Charles Foundation



RICE provided USD17,000 for building a school at Red Star Village in Sichuan. The school compound, which includes a library and accommodation for two teachers, replaces the open walled classroom which was insufficient for the one hundred children who wanted to go to class. With the exception of the concrete for the playground, which has been delayed because it is now too cold for the concrete to set, the school has been finished, and in mid December, the children started lessons in their warm, dry classroom with desks and books.



RICE also invested US\$2,500 with the Charles Foundation to pay for the care of children at Lou Gu Po primary school who for various reasons - orphans, street kids and children with handicapped parents are living at the school. The Charles Foundation provides bedding, food, clothing and school books and funds a carer who will look after the children's emotional and physical wellbeing. US\$2,500 per annum. This helps 12 children.

Finally, RICE invested a further USD1,500 similarly at Si He primary school, where similarly disadvantaged children are provided with food, clothing and school books. These children still live at home. This helps 15 children.

Through the Charles Foundation, RICE has materially and directly improved the lives of 127 children.

In October, prior to RICE disbursing money to The Charles Foundation, Nancy Liu went to visit the Charles Foundation in Sichuan on behalf of RICE, including the site of the Red Star Village School. She was overwhelmed by the need of the children in the region, and confirmed our opinion of the capability of the Charles Foundation to meet at least some of this need.

The Tsunami Education Fund (TEF)

RICE has undertaken to invest USD10,000 per annum in TEF over the next five years. The Tsunami Education Fund was established in Banda Aceh in the wake of the 2004 Tsunami by a group of teachers from United World College in Singapore. RICE's investment will meet the costs of schooling children orphaned by the tsunami.



What is exceptional about this particular project is the structure of the scholarship payment, and the level of oversight and connection between the management of the TEF and the school system in Banda Aceh.

Scholarships are awarded to children who can demonstrate that they are orphans in the Western sense – that is both parents have died. The scholarship recipient must be living with extended family or in foster care, not in an orphanage environment. TEF has a relationship with a local bank, and each child is taken to the bank to have an account opened in their name. S\$20 is paid into their bank account each month. Copies of attendance records and school reports are sent to TEF. Representatives of TEF visit Banda Aceh three or four times each year.

And TEF has no administrative costs – all this administration, due diligence and reporting is done by volunteers, as part of an overall school commitment to social service in general, and Banda Aceh in particular.

As part of our commitment, RICE is welcome to join any visit to Banda Aceh that the TEF makes. Please let us know if you would like to visit Banda Aceh on behalf of RICE. The next visit will be in Chinese New Year 2007.

Through the Tsunami Education Fund, RICE has materially and directly improved the lives of 67 children.

Sok Sabay

RICE has bought rice for the next year for this shelter in Phnom Penh. This investment was USD4,000. Sok Sabay rescues children living on the streets who have no other means of living securely. These children have been rescued from trafficking, abandonment and abuse. The children are given a safe place to live At Sok Sabay, they receive permanent accommodation, clothing, food, health care and medicine, social and psychological care, schooling and vocational training.

Sok Sabay also has a Center for Education where older children are fully trained for three years and be equipped with job skills in various sectors (hotel management, secretary roles, accounting). Graduates from this program will be placed in jobs or may be send abroad on Sok

Sabay's Overseas Development Program, which is a university sponsorship program.



Through Sok Sabay, RICE has materially and directly improved the lives of 62 children.

Looking Forward

On the administrative side, RICE is redesigning its website, by the end of January the new user-friendly website should be up and running.

RICE (HK) Limited, our Hong Kong registered charity will be in place early next year. Our paperwork, thanks to Deacons, is ready to go, we are just putting the final touches on the management and organization to support this key element in the RICE corporate structure.

The next major fund raising event will be during the Hedge Funds World Conference in Singapore in May.

We have some in-kind projects we are currently organising which have been initiated by members of the industry. These include discussions about the specifications for second hand technology to be installed in new school projects across the region; arranging a second hand clothing drop in Hong Kong for children in Sichuan, and arranging subsidised flights with a regional carrier not only for RICE travel, but also for social workers with a street children project we are hoping to support financially next year.

Future Investments:

With the investments we have already made, RICE has materially and directly improved the lives of 256 children.

The investment proposals totalling USD40,000 to be decided at the allocation committee in January directly benefit 66 further children in Northern Thailand and Cambodia, and assist in the outreach to 2,000 street children. Our proposal for investment in an outstanding street children project in Phnom Penh is, at this stage only modest in comparison with their overall need. I hope that by this time next year that I can write that we have materially and directly benefited these 2,000 (or, sadly, more) children living and working on the streets in Cambodia.

The investment of the remaining money we have raised in Hong Kong and Singapore in the last few months of the year will, hopefully benefit directly a further 600 children through school building, education sponsorship and projects which provide security, support and a future for these children who are so desperately in need.



Our Goals for 2007

Fund Raising

To more than double the amount of money we raised this year, to a total of \$500,000.

Investment

To directly and materially improve the lives of a further 1,000 children.

Thankyou

To all our sponsors, committee members, decision makers and volunteers. We have begun to truly make a difference.

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