

Brothers Trust Grant to Support Warm Heart Foundation Elder Care Program "Access to Care" Mid Term Report, March 1, 2023, through August 31, 2023 Phrao District, Chiang Mai Province, Thailand

2023 Highlights

- With the new grant from Brothers Trust, in April we welcomed Nong Gai, our Assistant Community Care Coordinator. She joins us from the Long Khot Sub-District, the southernmost subdistrict and often left behind by the district head office. She knows our constituents in Long Khot and is a soothing presence. She was quick to pick up the data collection process and got her driver's license (that took determination with the long backlog after the pandemic) so she could drive to visits. Gai has worked in the local public health clinic and as a community health volunteer.
- With the extra driving and caring capacity, Soda, our Community Care Manager, and Nong Gai have been able to add constituents from Mae Wan, Wiang Phrao. and Teung Leung Subdistricts (we are covering a total of 6 out of 11 sub-districts in Phrao). Soda has set up meetings with each of the adjacent sub-district social services leaders to identify people who need the care we can provide. In exchange, the two care providers budgeted by the sub-district coordinate with Soda, providing physical therapy at home.
- Another resource that Soda has nurtured is the physical therapy program at one of the
 public health clinics that has a small centre with basic equipment. Phrao residents can go
 for free; we schedule and drive them there. We're seeing improvements in stroke victims
 and chronic back pain.
- We have been asked for hearing aids and false teeth, both expensive and hard to get in our rural villages. We are testing some over-the-counting hearing amplification devices that seem to work without the tiny batteries that get lost and are hard to replace. Our kind dentist at the Phrao Hospital does cleanings and suggests ways to improve their dental health.
- Thank you for caring for our elders and disabled neighbours! Together, we have provided care for over 100 people in the first half of the year. We've taken 30 new people into the program and are well on our way to making 1,000 visits this program year.

