

PORTRAITS OF **PROMISE**



Phai's Faithfulness

by Ellery Sadler
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Faithfulness comes in many forms. For Phai, a 61-year-old grandmother in Thailand, it looks like raising her two young granddaughters. Children learn and grow best in a family setting, and there is no better place for them to experience healthy, compassionate family dynamics than in their own family. Because you play such a huge role at Orphan's Promise, it's our joy to share the story of how you're helping support grandparents like Phai so they can keep their family together.

These are the stories.
These are the souls.
These are the portraits of the lives we're changing.







Phai lives in Thailand with her two granddaughters, 12-year-old Ploy and 6-year-old Prow. She took her grandchildren in when their mother remarried. **The girls' mother was concerned that their new stepfather would not accept them, so she made the decision that they would be raised by their grandparents.**

But three years ago their grandfather passed away, so now Phai is raising the girls on her own. She supports her family by working hard as a seamstress for an organization in her community. At night and during the holidays when she isn't working her full-time job, she



takes clients of her own and helps supplement her income with the extra projects. Phai spends most of her days repairing zippers, sewing pants, and cutting fabric. She has many regular customers who come to her because of her skill and good prices. Yet, despite her excellent reputation and her neighbors' business, she still struggles to make ends meet and provide what Ploy and Prow need.

In Thailand, 22% of children live in multidimensional poverty.¹

¹ <https://www.unicef.org/thailand/press-releases/thailand-among-first-countries-develop-child-multidimensional-poverty-index-launched>



When the Orphan's Promise team heard Phai's story and met her, we wanted to help her continue taking care of Ploy and Prow. Our Keeping Families Together (KFT) initiative is an intensive program to help support at-risk families so that children can stay with their family when poverty threatens to break them up. Many of the millions of orphans around the world have at least one living parent or relative.² Challenges like alcoholism, violence, natural disasters, and financial hardship all wreak havoc on families, placing children in at-risk situations. But they don't have to remain there.

The Orphan's Promise KFT team in Thailand was able to help Phai expand her business with the purchase of two new sewing machines. Each comes with a 14-year warranty, so if either of the machines needs repairs, Phai won't have to worry about that expense coming

² <https://www.orphanspromise.org/what-we-do/strong-families/>



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out of her pocket. The sewing machine she had been using was old and required constant repair. These new machines run smoothly and will help Phai work more efficiently so that she can continue providing for her granddaughters.

We were also able to help the family by providing Ploy and Prow with school uniforms, shoes, and school supplies, so that the income from Phai's sewing business could cover other necessities like food, water, and electricity. When Phai's business slowed due to a new wave of COVID-19 striking their community, we were able to bring the family groceries to help

COVID-19 has wreaked havoc in Thailand. Poverty rose to 6.4% in 2020, representing an additional 200,000 people falling into poverty.³

³ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/thailand/overview#1>



them get by. **In Thailand, the two biggest areas of deprivation for children growing up in poverty are lack of education and good nutrition.**⁴ Phai's faithfulness in caring for her grandchildren is ensuring that Ploy and Prow don't become part of that dilemma. It's a joy and privilege to be able to offer a helping hand and bolster Phai's spirits as she continues to stand in as the mother figure for her grandkids.

This precious family has experienced a lot of hardship over the years—from the trauma of the 2004 tsunami and the anxiety around COVID to the financial struggles of making ends meet. But when our team on the ground comes for weekly KFT visits, we are encouraged

⁴ <https://www.unicef.org/thailand/press-releases/thailand-among-first-countries-develop-child-multidimensional-poverty-index-launched>

by Phai's positive attitude and her steadfastness in keeping her family together. She provides a safe, stable home for Ploy and Prow and creates the environment of love and compassion they need to grow and thrive. Even in the midst of uncertainty and struggle, Phai is giving her granddaughters the building blocks for a bright future.

Without the support of KFT, many families like Phai's would struggle to put food on the table or provide the supplies their children need to attend school. Education is critical to breaking the cycle of poverty, and the KFT program also helps families with training in budgeting and saving as well as positive, healthy parenting. Our prayer is that constantly seeing God's love in action through our team's efforts will touch the hearts of Phai and her two young girls.



“Thank God for helping my family. It has been a great opportunity to be a part of this program,” Phai shared. “It’s amazing that supporters have helped make a difference in my family’s life. Usually our family is not able to spend very much time together, so we are thankful that we have been able to do activities together and spend more time with each other.”

It is through the compassionate, faithful support of our partners like you that we’re able to lift up parents and grandparents in difficult situations so that they are able to provide a better future for the next generation. With their grandmother’s care day in and day out, Ploy and Prow have access to education and are able to get healthy meals and grow up in a stable environment. Thank you for coming alongside and honoring the faithfulness of grandmothers like Phai—and creating strong families around the world.





give us a call: 1-800-818-4016

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