

Metta In Action Update (2)
July, 2017

Gifts of Knowledge and Hope

Support for Monastic Schools



“WOW!” Such Wonderful Progress...

...In the schools your donations support! All have made significant (and sometimes astounding) improvements to their buildings and facilities – while MIA continues to support operating expenses. This year your donations supported 8 monastic schools, educating a total of 2714 students, providing a livelihood for 105 teachers, and untold benefits to all their families and communities! So, we are happy to share some images and brief highlights of where your dana for schools went this year.



Paññasinghi



Whit Kweye Daw Pyit



Appamada



Zalon Parahita



Ananda Metta

Purification through Tireless Work

The name of Whit Kwey Daw Pyit monastery and school roughly translates as ‘the exhaustion of previous bad kamma’—which is the pure intention of these U Vepola and his brother who work tirelessly for the sake of the kids in their community. Before, they lived very worldly lives, but now intend to dedicate their remaining years to help poor students succeed in their studies. U Vepolla told us that as long as he has breath, he wants to continue this work. We met three of these kids, the brightest 9th standard students: Ma Aye Mya Kyaw, Ma Thaw Do Htwe, and Ma Ba Kyet Sone Khine (below, L). All of them want to become doctors, and are working very hard to achieve their aspirations.



Working for the Safety of the Most Vulnerable

The need for education and places of refuge for poor girls and boys is only increasing as the gap between rich and poor widens here in Burma. Widespread poverty is the soil in which all forms of exploitation grow – and education is the best defense anyone could offer vulnerable children. Both U Indaka at Ananda Mettā School and Daw Yuzana at Kaikalo School know this very well. So even though they have to struggle to keep their schools running, they are determined to continue (and expand!) their offerings. They both told us that their deepest wish is that children in their care and in the wider community are protected, and provided with the tools for independence when they grow up. Until then, school is a safe place where all the students can learn, play, and just be kids.





Essential Community Resources

More and more, when we ask the abbesses of nunneries we support where they send their kids to school, they tell us either Appamada School and Zaloon Parahita School. These two schools have become essential resources in their communities, offering free education for all. Both have been offered large multi-story classroom buildings by Japanese and Korean donors, but they still have to pay their teachers, each month, year-round. It is a burden that we are happy to relieve with your donations – and while we cannot completely cover the costs of all of the salaries at all the schools, what we *can* offer is a significant encouragement and support.



Teachers are the heart of every good school

Far Away – but Still Supported

Aung Yedanar Shwe Oh School and the rural school near U Suvira’s monastery outside of the village of Htantabin are both ‘out in the sticks’ – there is only a long sand track between Aung Yedanar Shwe Oh school and the nearest road. The kids attending these schools have the same dreams and aspirations as kids in town, but many fewer resources. So we were happy to give uniforms for the kids at Htantabin, and to offer support for a multi-story classroom building for Aung Yedanar Shwe Oh.



Dreams of Becoming a Doctor Coming True

Each year we offer tuition assistance to deserving students who stay at U Sujana's monastery outside of Mandalay. In addition to general support for 6 kids in secondary school, this year we sponsored two students taking medical science degrees: Ko Wint Htet Zayar Lwin (who is from a small village in Sagaing division), in his first year of medical school; and Aung Thun Htun (from the Kachin State in the far North-east of Myanmar) who is studying medical technology.



Wint Htet Zayar Lwin and Aung Thun Htun

Fruits of Past Mettā in Action

It is very gratifying when we see students we have previously supported, as they move ahead with their lives: Ma Khin Thant Nwe has finished with her university studies and plans a career in fashion design; Htoo Ko Ko passed his University Chemistry degree several years ago and is now successful contacting foreman.

Your donations have opened doors to them and to so many others! So there is boundless thanks coming your way! We see it in people's faces when we offer, and sometimes only hear years later what a big effect your donations have had. There are *so* many blessings.

With heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your support,
Virañani



Ma Khin Thant Nwe



Ko Htoo Ko Ko

