

As Christina talks about the team, it is clear that she has deep respect for the people who are involved in the project: "Last year we supplied the schools with materials for activities and English books. I feel that there is a lot of qualified personnel around me, to help out in the best possible way."

#### Few funds

Little Hands Foundation is clearly making a difference, but its financial set-up is very simple. The project has no governmental support, and is only financed through donations from Ragnars Care Foundation and other small organizations in different countries. A pick-up truck was donated from England, and most of the daily-basis needs are supported by Ragnars Care Foundation. There are also private persons who donate to the project but since it only lives on through donations, it is very fragile.

#### Jotun donates paint for art classes

Christina is always trying to raise funds for The Little Hands Foundation and since Jotun has its origin in Norway, she contacted them to ask for donations. Until recently, Ms Kruakaew did not have any donations of paint from manufacturers, and used her own money to buy materials that she used to teach the children art. This resulted in a lack of teaching materials, and more than once she had no money for paint. But then Christina established the connection to Jotun.

"I took contact to the managing director of Jotun, Thailand, and he was more than happy to help me out with the project. It did not take long before Ms. Kruakaew had enough pain to teach all the children in the 48 schools, thanks to Jotun. The company sends paint to The Little Hands as often as needed so their involvement is quite important. Without their help I think Ms. Kruakaew would have problems to keep doing her good work since painting is



*Thanks to Little Hands Foundation the children now have a great place to play and have fun.*



central in her classes. I am most grateful to be supported by Jotun Thailand. They help me out as often as I need, and feel privileged to cooperate with them", Christina says of her collaboration with Jotun.

#### Little Hands Foundation for life

Little Hands Foundation started right after the tsunami, and will continue as long there is a need. The children love that Ms. Kruakaew comes to teach them, and she does not plan to stop. It is not just tsunami children who need this, but also children who live in poverty, who lost their parents to HIV/AIDS, and regular school children who like to express themselves in a creative way. Christina is also in the project for the long run:

"For my part, I would love to work with this project as long as needed. I love doing this, because I feel that I can make a difference. I can already see the progress that has been done since Ms. Kruakaew started in 2004."

When asked about her reasons for travelling from Norway to Thailand

to support an art project in Phang Nga, one of the worst affected areas of the tsunami in Thailand, her answer falls promptly:

"I feel highly motivated to do the best I can to help these people the best possible way. After the tsunami, my family and I got a lot of help and support from the Thai people. This is a way for me to give back to them and their society, and I will engage myself 100 per cent as long as it is needed," she says.

#### For more information:

##### [www.cmitp.org](http://www.cmitp.org)

Christina's own website where she describes the charity projects that she is involved in. Lots of pictures and information about how to donate.

##### [www.ragnarscarefoundation.org](http://www.ragnarscarefoundation.org)

The foundation that supports The Little Hands Art Project. It was started by a Norwegian couple who lost their son during the tsunami, and mainly supports small independent development projects in the Phang Nga area in Thailand.