

Voices OF HOPE

Thai/Burmese border

For 30 years, people of Burma (also known as Myanmar) have fled civil war and gathered in refugee camps and settlements along the border of Thailand. They number in the hundreds of thousands. As the years go by with people not being able to return to Burma, the camps have turned into makeshift homes.

PWRDF has been supporting recovery from substance abuse and addiction in many of these camps through a program called DARE (Drug Addiction Recovery and Education). The program is a holistic drug-free treatment that includes education, exercise, nutrition, psychological counselling and most importantly, love. Many participants have come to DARE with the belief that they were to blame for their addiction and that they could not be helped.

According to DARE statistics, the program has a 61% non-relapse rate, compared to a typical Western addiction recovery program average of 25%. The success of DARE is that it is based in the communities and run by the people of the communities, says Pam Rogers, an addiction counsellor from Canada who founded DARE in 2000. “The people are so happy when they recover, they didn’t know they could.”



The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

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