



Q3 Visit to Thailand

On Thursday 17th October 2012 eleven Sixth Form students and two members of staff departed from

Birmingham airport for a week long trip to Pakkred, Bangkok, Thailand to visit the Christian Care Foundation for Children with Disabilities.

CCD is a non-profit public charity organisation with the aim to serve disabled children and their families.

In 1986 CCD's work was started by Christian Outreach for Relief & Development (CORD). With help from CORD, Wasan and Chariya Saenwian opened their first Rainbow House home for disabled children.

CCD operate and support four different projects:

- Rainbow Rehabilitation Centre - which is a residential home currently supporting 15 children
- Day Care Centre - which assists orphaned children with disabilities living at the social welfare homes
- Community Based Rehabilitation - which educates the caregivers about caring for their children and supports and empowers parents enabling children to stay with their families
- The House of Love - is a group home allowing groups of children with disabilities to live in the community outside of the social welfare homes

During our time in Thailand we stayed at Rainbow House and had the opportunity to work with the resident children and the children who come to Rainbow House from government homes for day care support. Part of this work involved face painting, playing games, singing, dancing and playing football with many of the

children. We were also fortunate to visit two of the government homes which have links with CCD to spend time and play with the children.

On one of the days we were asked to get involved in a community based project that involved painting the exterior and interior walls of Lydia Garden. This project was originally set up by a previous volunteer after she was successful on the television quiz show, 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire.' She donated her winnings to set the project up.

The students worked very effectively together as a team in extremely high temperatures and gave the garden area a fantastic new look.

We were also extremely lucky to visit the island of Ko Kret and Bangkok market which is one of the largest weekend markets in the world, comprising over 15,000 stalls. Here we witnessed many sights, sounds and smells that were part of the Thai society and culture.

The whole trip was an amazing experience and certainly has inspired us all to do more for CCD. In fact some of our Sixth Form students are planning to spend a gap year undertaking voluntary work for CCD.

Report by Q3 students who made the trip (First appeared in Q3 News - December 2012)

