



Newsletter Fall 2014

Cetana Educational Foundation cetana.org
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Kyaing Tong Launches Program for Village Children



During the rainy season, villages scattered around Kyaing Tong are aglow with the rich hues of green and gold in the thriving rice paddies.

The paddies are so ubiquitous that the long distances between villages are measured in the number of paddies that must be crossed.

Government schools in these villages offer instruction up to Grade 5. Schooling after that - high school - is only available

for these children in Eastern Shan State's principal city of Kyaing Tong which is too far and too expensive for their families to afford.

But now, new education opportunities for village kids are being offered in a pilot program for five students, starting in March 2015.

Teachers in the village schools will identify promising students and Cetana's Kyaing Tong Learning Center director Cynthia Paul together with staff teachers, will choose the students.

They will live in the learning center and attend the local high school. A house mother will supervise the students' activities and a tutor will help them with their studies. They will also participate in the English language classes taught at the center.

Students will be fully supported with clothing, school fees, supplies and other needs for children growing up in Kyaing Tong. The cost per student for the year is \$2,000. Instead of tuition, the families give what they have - rice for the children's meals. By attending the government school and the learning center students will be socially integrated in the community. In five years, when they finish high school and are fluent in English, they will have traveled many rice paddies distant from the limited possibilities in their villages and be prepared for a life that they would not have imagined.



Kin Ywar and Taung Zun Village Libraries



The Mon State villages of Kin Ywar and Taung Zun are not many paddies apart. Village elders there have organized libraries with special emphasis on books for children. The shelves are well stocked with books in Myanmar and the donation from Centre College Danville, Kentucky helps to fulfill their dream of having books in English for these children. Cetana alumni Kyaw Oo is a friend of the libraries near his home village who arranged for the selection and donation of the books.

Centre College Book Donation



Arrival from the dock



The last ten meters



Serious Research



Reading alone



Sharing with a friend

Last spring, the One School organization at **Centre College** in Danville Kentucky and the Governor's Scholars International Relations students, conducted an impressive book drive that brought much needed books around the world to Cetana's learning centers. The complicated shipping arrangements were greatly aided by **Myanmar Book Center** that provided transport for the 2,500 books from New York to Yangon.
