

## Chiang Mai ToyRide: Event Number Three on May 18th!

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**Toy feeding frenzy at Vieng Ping orphanage on National Children's Day in Chiang Mai, Thailand!**



**The spirited Thumb Wrestling Tournament**



**Happy little winners with their new big buddies!**

On 6 January, the first Chiang Mai ToyRide leapt into the world with a couple hundred bikes, a few hundred people, several hundred toys and at least a hundred happy kids and orphans who got food, music, entertainment, new toys and a festive experience under their belt. And after expenses for that day, we raised an additional \$150,000 baht.

On 12 January, National Children's Day, ToyRide Event Number Two gave the rest of the toys donated the week before and 200 newly purchased stuffed animals, Jokerman the Clown, plus ice cream and sodas for a few hundred more kids at Vieng Ping orphanage in Chiang Mai. An exact count was impossible since they ran around here and there, came and went with foster families and crowded around the clown, the ice cream, the toys and the Thumb Wrestling Tournament to win the five major stuffed animals that were bigger than the littlest kids. Unless you were present to witness the toy feeding frenzy, it's hard to imagine the excitement on the faces of the crush of kids as their eyes feasted on the mound of toys while impatiently waiting to dive in and snatch their own. Just visualize two hundred American stockbrokers sitting around a huge pile of dollar bills. (Unlike this scenario where several people would have died in the foray, all of our children joyfully survived.) This event cost about 23,000 baht, not including the several thousand baht worth of toys leftover from 6 January, nor the days of work repairing the orphanage's playground equipment: pick up merry-go-rounds and swing sets, sandblast at Richco MotorSports, deliver and paint at another location, and finally return shiny, like-new equipment that won't abuse the orphans. Hats off to ToyRide founders Richy Wilson and Robert Straghan for hours and hours of their time, energy and TLC!

On Sunday, 18 May, you're invited to be a part of ToyRide Event Number Three: ride around the mountain to the playground of the Samoeng school to help present toys, warm blankets, athletic equipment and food to local kids and sixty children with family members from Mai Lan Kham, a poor Karen village about 30 miles beyond in the mountains. We'll probably leave around 10 a.m. from Chiang Mai, but check out our new website for more info, photos, other events in the works and a detailed account of our fundraising and donations: [www.chiangmaitoyride.com](http://www.chiangmaitoyride.com). Join us on 18 May!

All funds raised will be distributed by the ToyRide committee through the nonprofit Give and Live at other events throughout the year at these tentative venues: 1) children's cancer, HIV and acute care wards at Chiang Mai's Maharaj Government Hospital with exceptional facilities for low income or impoverished families; 2) less-fortunate children near the city of Chiang Dao; and 3) a poor Lisu or Lahu village in the north near Sappong. We're trying to focus on needy children who are "under the radar" because of their remote locations – folks that haven't been helped by other charitable organizations.

We're already planning next year's bigger and better Chiang Mai ToyRide. Mark your calendar today for future fun and giving on Sunday, 4 Jan 2009!

