

## ***Fr. Giovanni and His Children in Thailand:***

*20 years dedicated to the eradicate the HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination. (year 2011)*

**In 1992 Father Giovanni Contarin, an Italian Priest in Thailand since 1985, opened a Relief Center for HIV/AIDS people in the Bangkok. Three years later, because of violent attacks, the centre was closed and moved to a new Centre called Camillian Social Center Rayong. ([www.camillian-rayong.org](http://www.camillian-rayong.org))**

**In the beginning there were only a dozen beds, where poor and abandoned HIV/AIDS infected patients could find an accommodation in a “Family”-Institution where they were treated with respect and love and accompanied to the last destination with dignity and warmth.**

**Today the CSC Rayong looks very different from the one in 1995.**

**There are four institutions in the Rayong Province with seven different projects. It is an integration of activities to fight the HIV/AIDS problem in our Thai society.**

**More than 100 persons are employed.**

- 1. Education and awareness to prevention and protection**
- 2. Cure and Care of orphan children living with HIV/AIDS from 0 to 14 years old**
- 3. Independent Living Center for teenagers living with the virus, to help them to get education and able to be rehabilitated to society.**
- 4. Scholarships for children affected by the virus**
- 5. Support networking among the 86 associations with more than 14.000 people living with HIV/AIDS in the South East region of Thailand.**
- 6. Special care to poor and abandoned dying patients in the Palliative Care Unit (PCU).**
- 7. Rehabilitation center for people without family and accommodation. The Garden of Eden.**
- 8. Opportunity for jobless people living with the virus. An organic fertilizer plant was built in the Garden of Eden area.**

**One of the main tasks of Fr Giovanni has been the care of the children and the struggle to get ARV and educational opportunities.**

**Since the beginning of the epidemic in Thailand he could shelter 135 children, all orphan and in the ARC(AIDS related complex) or AIDS stage. He smuggled tons of medicine for many years!!**

**Now the orphan and HIV/AIDS infected have access to care and the right to a place in the society like a human beings getting treatment and care with dignity. Access to essential drugs in Thailand is part of the government programme.**

**Most of the teenagers, now adults too, can start to have a family on their own and look forward to a good future.**

**Eight of them are also disabled and facing more problems of integration into the Society.**

**They were able to “force” Fr. Giovanni to begin a new adventure and open Camillian Home. ([www.camillianhomelatkrabang.org](http://www.camillianhomelatkrabang.org)).**

**The children are hosted in 3 different Institutions, where they live as in a normal family.**

**Almost all of them attend regular schools. They enjoy a good quality of life and are happy.**

**Camillian Social Centre Rayong from 1995 to 2011 Total number of children accommodated is 135**

**At the moment 61 children are living at CSC Rayong:**

	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total Center</b>
<b>for small children</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Independent Living Centre</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Garden of Eden</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>

**Disabled moved to Camillian Home Lat Krabang**

	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>
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**Rehabilitated back to society**

	<b>25</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>52</b>
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**(35 Back to the extended family and 17 Reintegrated in the society and working) Departed (passed away)**

	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>
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<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>135</b>
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**Provinces of provenience Rayong 50 Chonburi 17 Chantaburi 13 Bangkok 6**

**Others 49**