
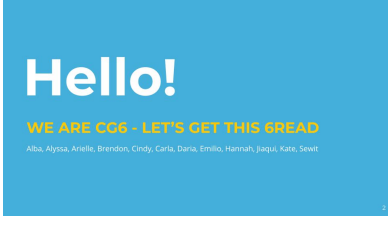


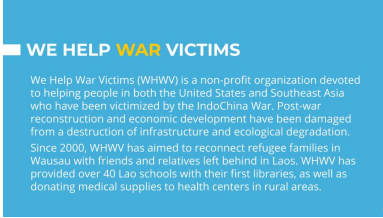







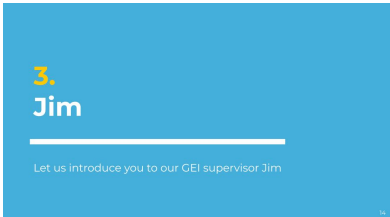
## CG6 - Presentation Transcript

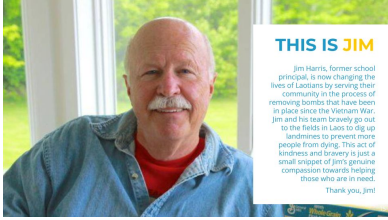
Slide	Who	What (script)
 <p>WE HELP WAR VICTIMS</p>	<p>1 person Brendon</p>	
 <p>Hello!</p> <p>WE ARE CG6 - LET'S GET THIS 6READ</p> <p><small>Alba, Alyssa, Arielle, Brendon, Cindy, Carla, Daria, Emilio, Hannah, Jiaqi, Kate, Sewit</small></p>		<p>Hello everyone and thank you all for joining us for our GEI presentation! We are CG6: Let's get this 6read(bread)! My name is Brendon and I am joined today by Arielle, Cindy, Carla, Emilio, Sewit, Hannah, and Kate. We would also like to thank Alba, Alyssa, Jiaqi, and Daria for their help during the fall semester.</p>
 <p>1. Our GEI</p> <p><small>Let us introduce you to our GEI partner</small></p>		<p>We would like to take the time to introduce everyone to our GEI we've been working with: We Help War Victims, a non-profit organization founded by Jim Harris. For over thirty years Jim and his organization have worked with refugee families in the Wausau, Wisconsin area who moved to the community after being displaced by the Indochina War. They came to know many refugee parents, grandparents and children through their work as public school educators.</p> <p>Through their many trips to Asia, they have collected a wealth of artifacts to help teach others about traditional Lao and Hmong cultures. Their displays have fostered pride among refugees and have helped their community develop a deeper appreciation for diverse cultures and unique historical experiences.</p>
 <p>“ We help refugee families as well as those left behind in Southeast Asia.”</p> <p><small>© 2020 We Help War Victims. Revised April 10, 2020. Form 00220000-000000000000000000000000</small></p>		<p>We Help War Victims mission is to help refugee families as well as those left behind.</p>

	<p>1 person</p> <p>Arielle</p>	<p>The GEI partner organization that we had the privilege of working with is called We Help War Victims. We Help War Victims (WHWV) is a non-profit organization devoted to helping people in both the United States and Southeast Asia who have been victimized by the IndoChina War. Post-war reconstruction and economic development have been damaged from a destruction of infrastructure and ecological degradation.</p> <p>Since 2000, WHWV has aimed to reconnect refugee families in Wausau with friends and relatives left behind in Laos. WHWV has provided over 40 Lao schools with their first libraries, as well as donating medical supplies to health centers in rural areas.</p>
		<p>Since 2006, WHWV has worked with Lao residents to remove or destroy land mines, bombs, rockets, mortars, and other unexploded ordnances. While there is still more to be done, the efforts of WHWV have improved the daily lives of many Lao residents</p>
	<p>1 person</p> <p>Cindy</p>	<p>So what exactly led Jim, a local from Wausau, Wisconsin, create an organization to help Laotians from across the world?</p> <p>On November 28, 1968, an order was given to drop “millions of tonnes of bombs” over the country. The places that were most impacted were the supply lines, Ho Chi Minh Trail, and East Laos. For nine years, Laotians witnessed a “planeload of bombs” being dropped every EIGHT minutes, twenty-four hours a day. You can only imagine that amount of remains that are still left to this day, after 43 years of when the last planeload was dropped. Recent statistics show that approximately 80 MILLION unexploded bombs and air-dropped cluster munitions remain scattered around all of Laos. Unfortunately, data also suggests that “about 75% of injuries from cluster munitions involve children.” Jim knows much more than what I have mentioned due to the amount of research</p>

		<p>he has put in as well as interacting with Laotians who tell him their experiences, which makes me believe are some of the reasons that keeps Jim motivated to make a difference in these people's lives.</p> <p>Where Jim is at now, was not always the case. By this, I mean, Jim faced several challenges over the past years, ranging from receiving criticism from close friends, to even facing problems with the Laotian officers. Yet, that never stopped Jim from doing what he wanted to do, and is currently thriving making a difference in the world.</p>
 <p>HOW WE HELP</p> <p>Let us introduce you to different ways WHWV is helping</p>	<p>1 person</p> <p><b>Carla</b></p>	<p>Now let's move on and talk about all the different ways We Help War Victims is using to help others.</p>
 <p>THIS IS HOW WE HELP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We reconnect refugees with missing relatives.</li> <li>We help refugees combat loneliness and depression.</li> <li>We help youths develop pride in their family history and ethnic heritage.</li> <li>We promote respect for the refugee experience.</li> <li>We help educators teach about the impact of war.</li> <li>We help preserve traditional culture.</li> <li>We provide libraries to Lao schools.</li> <li>We help Lao villagers receive medical care.</li> <li>We provide hospitals with medical supplies.</li> <li>We help villages remove unexploded ordnance.</li> </ul>		<p>There are a number of different things WHWV does to help others.</p> <p>One major part of their work is reconnecting refugees with missing relatives and helping them to combat loneliness and depression. I can only try to imagine how hard it must be to come to a foreign country all alone, fleeing from war and other terrible situations. If I was in that situation I think I'd be so grateful to receive some help.</p> <p>Furthermore, WHWV helps youths to develop pride in their family history and ethnic heritage and promotes respect for the refugee experience.</p> <p>Education is important which is why WHWV helps educators to teach about the impact of war and provides libraries to Laotian schools. Additionally, WHWV helps preserve traditional culture.</p> <p>Some other things WHWV does is to help Laotian villagers to receive medical care and provide hospitals with medical supplies. Last but not least, WHWV helps villages to remove unexploded bombs from the Vietnam War. We were all very impressed when we learned that our supervisor Jim helps and removes these bombs with his team by himself!</p>

<p><b>2.</b> <b>What CG6 did</b></p> <hr/> <p>Let's talk about what we did during our internship</p>	<p>1 person <b>Sewit</b></p>	<p>We had the pleasure of meeting Jim in person in October, and during this meeting, he clarified what specific projects he would like us to do throughout the year.</p> <p>He named three topics for us to focus on. One group worked to transcribe interviews for his museum, the outreach group helped spread the word about the organization and even worked on organizing a speaking tour, and the third group was designated to help advertise and sell Laotian coffee.</p>
<p><b>MUSEUM</b></p> <p>To increase awareness of the Hmong community, WHWV opened a museum to display aspects of their everyday life and culture. To that end, they recorded some interviews with members of the Hmong community in Wausau. While transcribing 5+ hours of interviews, we learned about their childhoods, their journeys to a new life and their hopes for the future.</p> 		<p>Throughout his trips in Laos and time in Wausau, Jim has been interviewing Hmong individuals about their experiences as refugees and their journeys to a new life. We have been transcribing these interviews word for word, so the museum can have a way to keep these stories on record, and the Hmong people can save these records for posterity. We have meticulously transcribed over 5 hours of interviews this semester- my personal favorite was a story about one Hmong man who immigrated to Wausau. He talked about how his family tried to escape the war and get to a refugee camp, but it took four tries! Through these little windows to the past, his, and the other stories transported us to a different world. These first- hand accounts taught us so much about the Indochina War, the lasting effects that war has on communities and the resilience of the Hmong and their families.</p>
<p><b>COFFEE</b></p> <p>WHWV is also supporting Laotian farmers by selling their coffee in the United States. Once the beans arrive in the states, they are roasted and supplied to restaurants in Wausau, our goal was to spread that business to Michigan. We got the chance to work on some ideas to better advertise their coffee and reach out to some coffee shops and cafes in Ann Arbor to sell Jim's coffee beans. We planned to distribute roasted beans as well as supply unroasted beans for local coffee shops in Ann Arbor.</p> 	<p>1 person <b>Emilio</b></p>	<p>Among all the other great things that Jim has been doing in Laos, we learned he was also providing business for Laotian farmers. Jim informed us that he would receive coffee beans from Laos and sell that coffee both in his museum and at local restaurants in Wausau. After talking with Jim and each receiving a bag of his Laotian coffee, we wanted to create a way to bring that business to the Ann Arbor area. We formed our coffee team and began brainstorming different methods to advertise and sell the Laotian "Dreams Come True" coffee. We researched local coffee shops all over Ann Arbor, specifically those that prided themselves</p>

		<p>on carrying beans from all over the globe. Jim was more than happy to support our business project and sent us a few pounds of both roasted and unroasted beans - in case any shops would like to roast them in house. Our goal was to visit these various coffee shops and present them not only with our Laotian beans, but also the story of where the coffee came from and what it meant to support the farmers in Laos. If we could, we wanted to sell these shops our coffee beans by the pound, and hopefully become their coffee supplier to create a consistent source of business for We Help War Victims and the farmers in Laos.</p>
 <p><b>OUTREACH</b></p> <p>The main objective of outreach was to broaden awareness of the mission and accomplishments of WHWV with the broader Ann Arbor community.</p> <p>After learning about the goals and accomplishments of WHWV, we felt the desire to share them with the broader community in order to increase awareness. We researched student organizations at U of M which focus on similar topics to WHWV's focus. We then reached out to the U of M organizations and expressed how much the organization has inspired us and how they would benefit from being involved. This was done with the goal of collaborating with at least one of the student orgs to organize a speaking tour for Jim Harris.</p>	<p>1 person <b>Hannah</b></p>	<p>The main objective of outreach was to broaden awareness of the mission and accomplishments of WHWV with the broader Ann Arbor community.</p> <p>After learning about the goals and accomplishments of WHWV as mentioned earlier, we felt the desire to share them with the broader community in order to increase awareness. We researched student organizations at U of M which focus on similar topics to WHWV's focus such as Human Rights Advocates and Call for Humanity. Then we reached out these orgs and expressed how much WHWV has inspired us and how they would benefit from being involved. This was done with the goal of collaborating with at least one of the student orgs to organize a speaking tour for Jim Harris.</p>
 <p><b>3. Jim</b></p> <p>Let us introduce you to our GEI supervisor Jim</p>	<p>1 Person <b>Kate</b></p>	<p>Jim Harris is a former school principal and educator who founded We Help War Victims after becoming involved with the large Laoatian refugee population in Wisconsin through teaching. The We Help War Victims museum in Wisconsin is dedicated to preserving Laoatian culture and everyday life of both Laoatians in Lao and in the United States. This is achieved with artifacts, photos, and recordings and Jim does much, if not all, of the curation himself. Jim has been traveling to Lao as an educator and advocate since 2000. And starting in 2006, Jim</p>



**THIS IS JIM**  
 Jim Harris, former school principal, is now changing the lives of Laotians by serving their community in the process of removing landmines that have been in place since the Vietnam War. Jim and his team bravely go out to the fields in Laos to dig up landmines to prevent more people from dying. This act of kindness and bravery is just a small snippet of Jim's genuine compassion towards helping those who are in need.  
 Thank you, Jim!

began to work on clearing landmines, explosives, and other remnants that were left by various imperial wars. The villages Jim goes to need help removing land mines for quality of life and specifically so that it can be safe to dig for irrigation systems. He also works to get villagers to large hospitals that can help them with explosive or pollution related conditions which are also consequences of these wars. Jim's passion and dedication is clear throughout his career and life.



**THANKS!**  
 We're thankful for all the experiences we were able to make during this year. We wish Jim & WHVW all the best!

Everyone

*Write/say one sentence about what you learned/liked the most*

**Arielle:** My favorite part of our GEI project has been meeting Jim. Listening to his stories about how he became apart of this organization and the experiences he has gained from it has been inspiring. His passion to make a change fueled me to put my best foot forward into doing what I could to help with this project.

**Carla:** I can only agree with what Arielle said earlier. My favorite part of our internship experience was to meet Jim and see what big of an impact a "normal" person can have in other peoples' lives.

**Sewit:** To echo my peers, it was such a treat to meet Jim and listen to his many stories. It was obvious that his infectious energy and passion had a positive impact on the members of the group and our work. I also enjoyed listening to the stories of Hmong people and their experiences as refugees. I felt honored to be privy to these stories and in a small way, help them gain more recognition in the greater community.

**Hannah:** It has been an absolute delight to work with someone as compassionate and inspiring as Jim. His passion for helping others is contagious and has motivated me to put in my best effort for this project.

**Kate:** It should come as no surprise that I agree

with the rest of my CG. Jim is a professional, thorough, thoughtful, and passionate person who truly aims to make life better for the people of Lao. He expects nothing in return and is vigilant in making sure the organizations he works with don't either. Jim, even though he is just one person, is helping to end a paternalistic legacy of intervention by honestly respecting and listening to Laotian people.

**Cindy:** There was never not a learning moment when speaking with Jim. From our first meeting with him giving us a brief but detailed background history of WHWV to our last facetime telling us stories about his recent trip to Laos. Jim never failed to keep us informed. I cannot think of someone better being the organizer of this organization and hope that the next first years of GSP will be just as moved and impacted like we were.

**Emilio:** The highlight of my GEI experience was without question having such an amazing supervisor - Jim Harris. His passion and desire to help those in Laos was clear to see from the first day we met Jim. The story he told of the history of Laos and his personal experiences traveling there for the past 20 years gave us the drive to produce the highest quality work that we could. I greatly appreciate having the opportunity to work with such a great individual like Jim.

**Brendon:** Jim was an absolute delight to work with and the highlight of my GEI experience. It was very inspiring to speak with him and listen to his stories of the people of Laos and what his organization means to them. He is absolutely the heart and soul of We Help War Victims.