

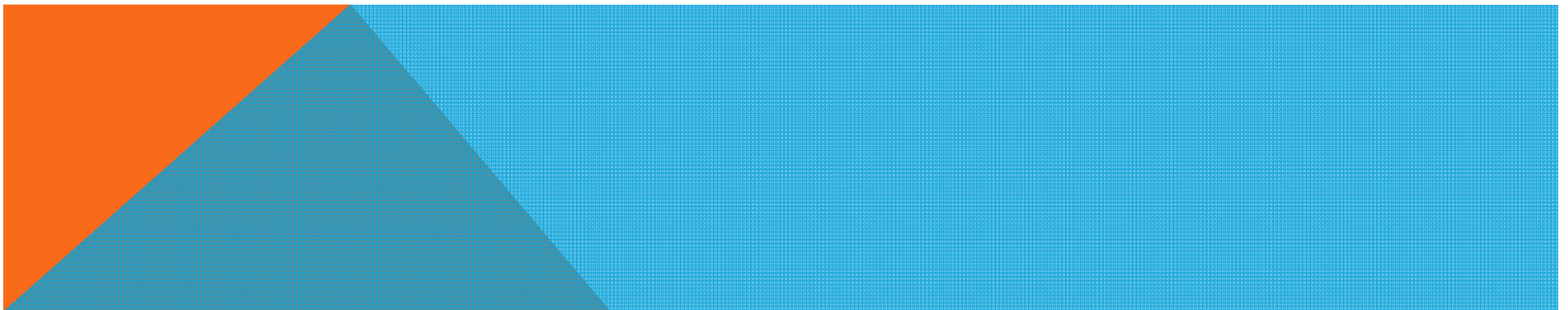
SMILES ON WINGS

NEW BEGINNINGS

DINING FOR WOMEN-DECEMBER 2013



HISTORY – SMILES ON WINGS



❖ October 2003

SOW was founded by Dr. Usa Bunnag, a native Thai dentist living and practicing in Maryland.

During this month, a team of volunteers set out on the first in-country mission in Maesariang, a small town in Northern Thailand.

❖ March 2004

SOW received 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt status as a non-profit organization.

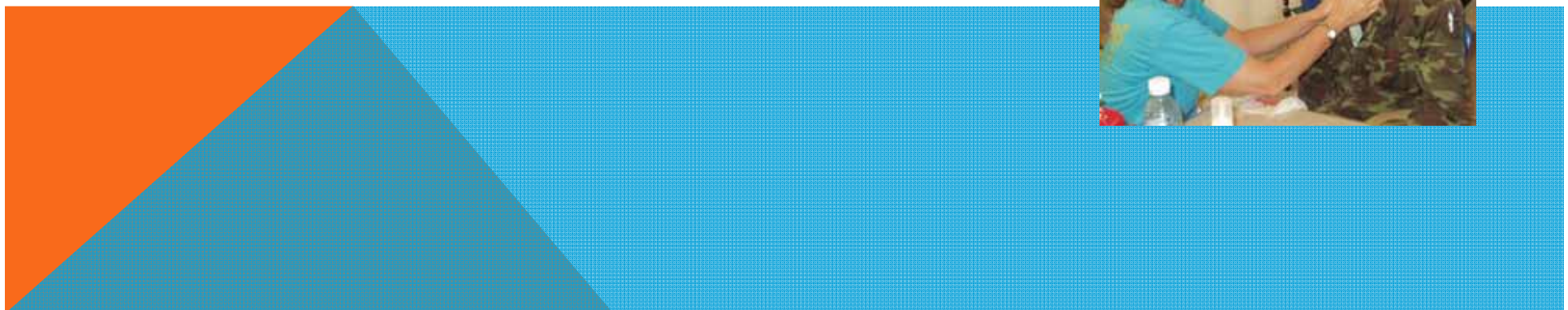


❖ **December 24, 2004**

When a devastating tsunami struck Southeast Asia, SOW arrived in Southern Thailand within two weeks to provide immediate, direct, hands-on relief aid to the victims of the disaster.

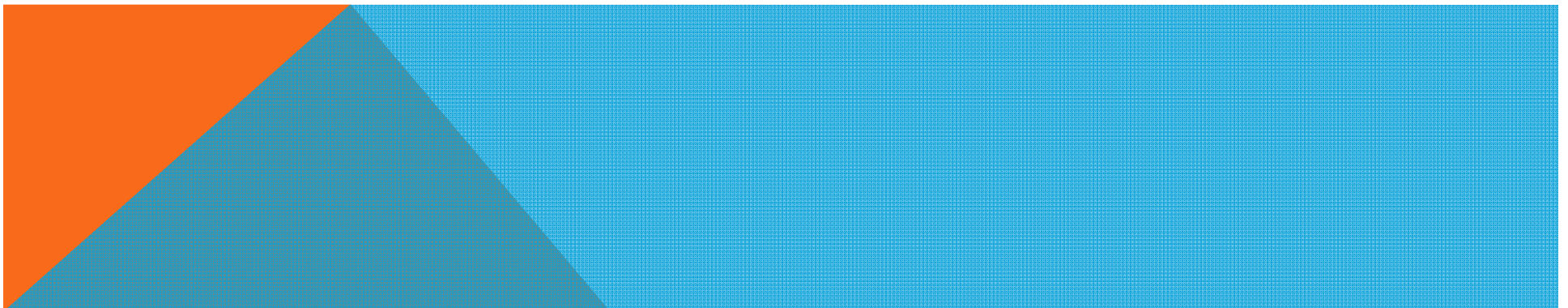
❖ **Winter 2011**

SOW conducted a Flood Relief Program to aid those devastated by the floods rampant in Thailand. SOW provided essentials, such as food, water, medicine, baby formula, and even dog food to animal shelters.

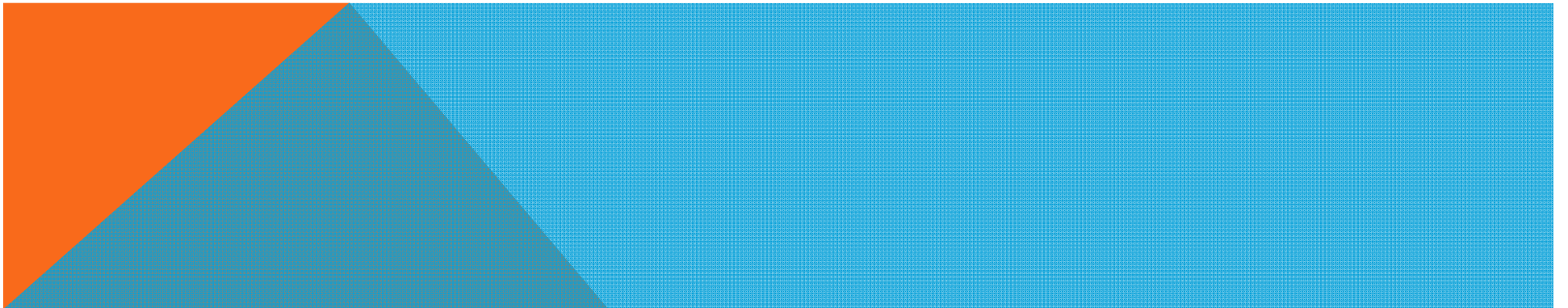


❖ October 2003 – Present Day

SOW conducts two to three missions a year in northern and southern Thailand. School lunch programs, scholarship funding for young women, water filtration programs, and other humanitarian initiatives have been implemented by SOW. These year round programs ensure the communities are thriving even when SOW is not in town.

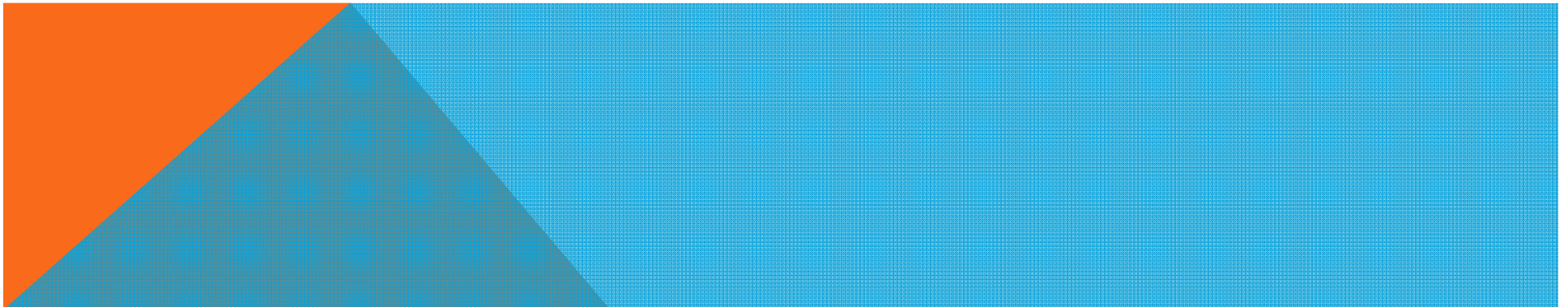


SMILES ON WINGS' MISSION

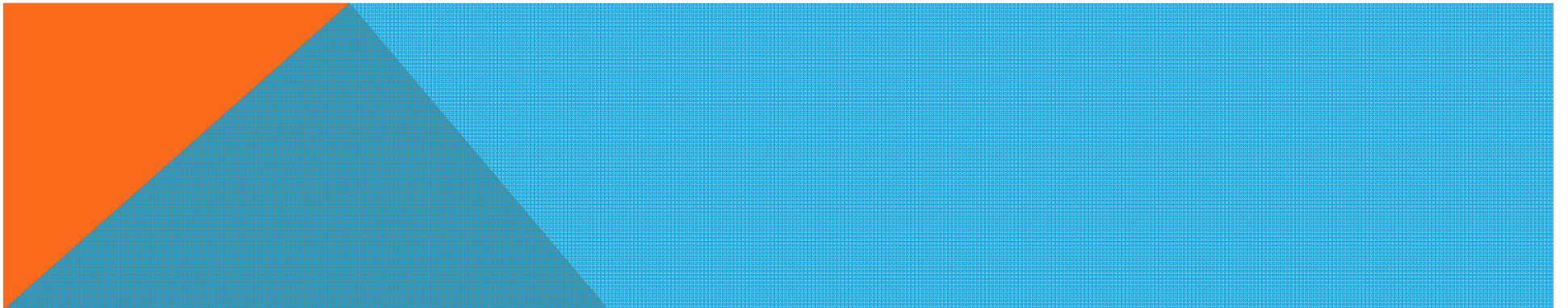




Smiles on Wings strives to improve the health and well-being of underserved communities in Thailand by delivering dental care, humanitarian aid, and providing education and training for rural communities in Thailand. Smiles on Wings provides emergency dental treatment as well as preventive care, dental education to communities to encourage long term self-reliance, and scholarships for higher education.



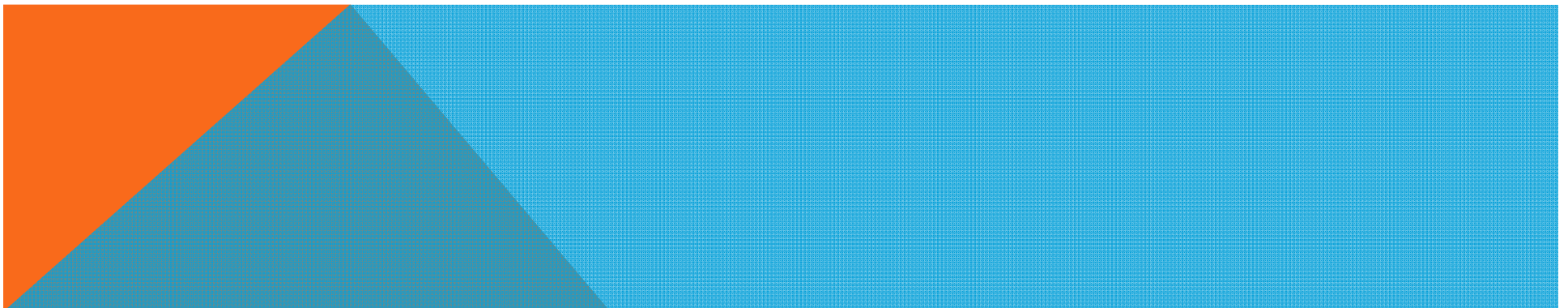
NEW BEGINNINGS PROGRAM



OBJECTIVES

New Beginnings will provide:

- ❖ Full scholarships
- ❖ Mentoring support
- ❖ Room and board to five Karen women for 2-4 years of education at a University or College in or around Chiang Mai in the fields of healthcare and education



POPULATION SERVED

- ❖ Hill tribe regions of Thailand – more than one million ethnic minority people living in mountainous areas of northern Thailand.
- ❖ The Karen Tribe – one of the largest ethnic groups in northern Thailand; approximately 280,000 Karen



LANGUAGE AND RELIGIONS

❖ The Karen Languages are divided into three main branches:

❖ Sgaw

❖ Pwo

❖ Pa'o

❖ These languages are spoken almost solely by the three million Karen people in Thailand and Burma.

❖ The majority of Karen are Buddhists who also practice Animism, which is a belief that natural beings possess spiritual presences.

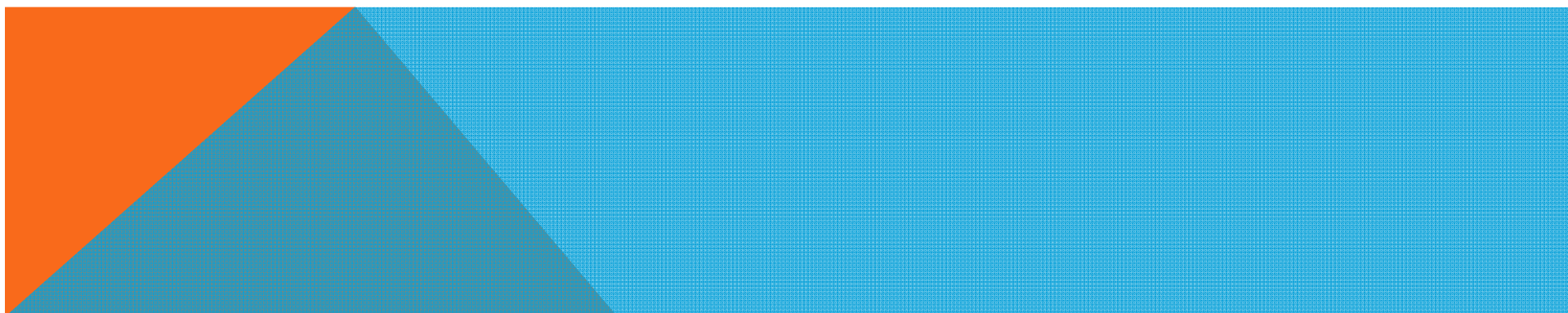
❖ 25% of the Karen people are practicing Christians.



**This map represents Maesariang, which is the region where SOW Scholarship recipients reside.*

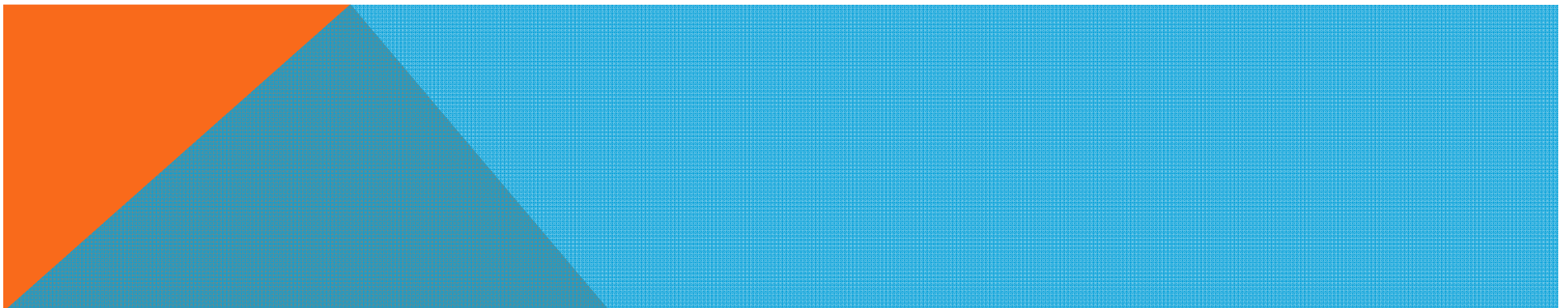
CHALLENGES FACED BY THE POPULATIONS

- ❖ Nearly half of them do not possess Thai citizenship → lacking Thai citizenship prevents many villagers from receiving healthcare and other subsidies by the Thai government.
- ❖ Girls in this northern region, aged 12-16, are at risk for human trafficking according to the Coalition Against Trafficking Women.
- ❖ Education is lacking and most schools in remote villages often do not go beyond the fourth grade.



THE KAREN TRIBE

- ❖ Smiles on Wings has conducted dental and humanitarian missions to the Karen hill tribes for over eight years – for many, this has been their first exposure to the healthcare world
- ❖ Smiles on Wings wants to provide training through mentoring, support, and scholarships for young women in education and healthcare to enable long term continuation of services by locally trained providers in their home villages



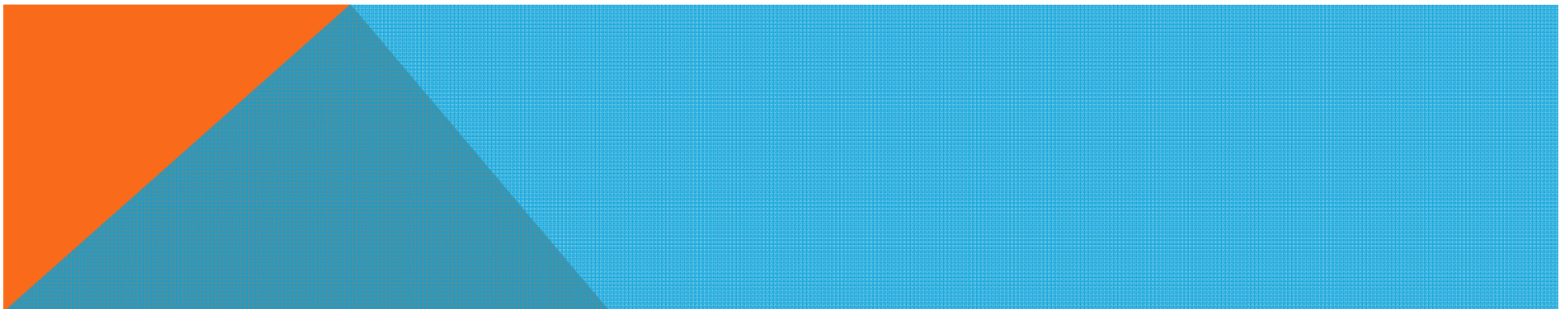
UN MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

MDG #2 – Achieve Universal Primary Education

- ❖ New Beginnings Scholarship Program provides education for high-risk students in Maesariang and other Karen villages

MDG #3 – Promote Gender Equality

- ❖ New Beginnings Scholarship Program empowers women through higher education leadership opportunities in their villages.



UN MILENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- ❖ Our current graduates are already working in their villages to focus on the UN Millennium Development Goals with awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria; maternal and child health; vaccinations. A current SOW graduate works as a Health Officer, administering vaccination for children, and providing pre- and post- natal care for mother and child. Our graduate is also providing a smoking cessation program for women in the village, as well as cervical and breast cancer screening.

