

Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation Newsletter April 2011

Page 1

Welcome from the Vice Chairman



As we come to the end of the 2010/2011 school year, the thing that stands out most for me about the last twelve months is the huge increase in the number of volunteers working with

Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation. More dedicated volunteers in the classrooms have enabled us to increase the number of reading groups we run providing complementary learning. In Coconut Club, volunteers have initiated weekly cooking classes and exciting curriculum driven projects. Outside the schools, a number of Friends of the Foundation have run fundraising initiatives which have enabled us to expand our teaching to the first and last two years of secondary school.

A huge thank you to everyone involved for the amazing support you are giving to the Foundation and the students we teach. I hope you enjoy reading about the students, volunteers and teachers in the following pages.

We are always looking for new volunteers to ensure we can continue our work; if you would like to help please email: info@phukethasbeengoodtous.org

In This Issue

Page 2 Fundraising

Page 3 A Day in the Life of a Student

Page 4 Coconut Club

Page 5 Having Fun

Page 6 A Volunteer's Day

Page 7 Events

Page 8 Thank you to our Donors

Message from Tina Hall, Director of Operations

Two and a half years ago I read about the work Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation was doing and, liking the idea of offering a brighter future to some of Phuket's children, I walked into the office and asked if I could help. I found a charity which was providing excellent English language education by placing qualified, English-speaking teachers in the classrooms, thereby giving students the language skills they need to secure well paid employment in Phuket's growing tourism industry

For the next six months I helped in the office, at Coconut Club and in the classroom. The students' eagerness to learn and open smiling faces were refreshing after the self indulgence and consumerism of Western countries. My holiday sped by and I was due to return to work. However, the time I had spent with the children and staff of the Foundation had changed my expectations of the

next stage of my life. I grasped the opportunity to help the Foundation change the lives of so many deserving children and took on the role of Director of Operations.

Over the last two years, I have been inspired by the commitment of our teachers and volunteers

and seen the students' English improve no end through hard work on both sides. I have also met so many generous supporters who have helped where they can - be it financially or by giving their time to the charity.



Next year, we are expanding. Fundraising events run by Friends of the Foundation in 2010 have enabled us to employ one more teacher for the 2011-2012 academic year, taking the number of paid teachers to five and students we teach to 760.

On behalf of the children we work with, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped us to offer them a brighter future.

In the 2010-2011 academic year PHBGTO:

- Taught 660 students
- Employed four teachers
- Ran 470 hours of after school activities
- Received >5100 hours in volunteer service
- Received >4800 hours in full time volunteer service



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Fundraising

Page 2

April 2011

Fashion Presentation in Singapore



Left to right: Mrs Genevieve Jeffs; Mrs Betty Chen BBM, President of CWA; HRH Princess Maimunah of Johor, Malaysia and Mrs Luisa Soares.

Genevieve Jeffs, Friend of the Foundation and Executive Committee member of Chinese Women's Association of Singapore, organised a fundraising event on behalf of the CWA and PHBGU last September. A Rococo Inspired Fashion Presentation 'Reach Out to Little Hands'; the event

was held at the Residence of HE Paulo Soares, Ambassador of Brazil and Mrs Luisa Soares. Many of the CWA members have become proud sponsors of students at Kamala School. The event was kindly supported by MAC, The Hair Shop and BLVD Gallery One.

Climbing for a Cause

In April 2010, Friends of the Foundation Roger Best, Martin Hills, Chris Coulcher and Craig Adams completed an 18 day sponsored walk to raise money for PHBGU Foundation.

Battling thinning air, a diet of dal bhat (lentil soup and boiled rice), spartan accommodations and freezing nights the intrepid foursome and their Sherpa trekked up to eight hours per day. After 10 days they

reached Everest Base camp at 5360M and not one of them suffered from altitude sickness!

Read more about their adventures in the news section of our web site.

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7th May 2011, Into the Big Blue

There are just 3 tables left at *Into the Big Blue*, the Foundation's major fundraising event of the year at the Sheraton Grande Laguna. To book call Chantal on 0898742942



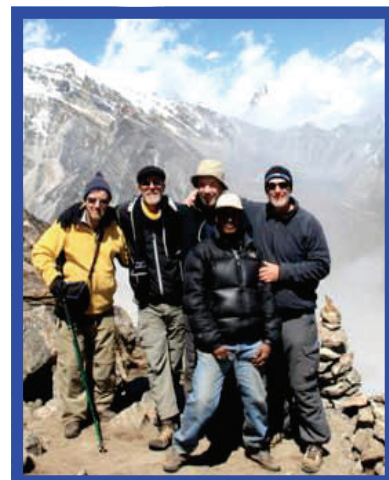
Fashion Presentation in Phuket

Over 250 people were at Silk and Andara Resort and Villas in September for the show where local models debuted Marisa Zeman's resort wear collection *Nude is Rude*. Attendees enjoyed Silk's sumptuous Thai food and amazing views of the Andaman Sea.

A huge thank you to Andara, Silk and Marisa Zeman for putting on this incredible event. Also, many thanks for their continued support, to the event's media partner 91.5FM and auction prize donors Art & Culture and Soul of Asia.

October 2010 Charity Lunch in the UK

Supporters of the Foundation, Cherry Wright and Sharon Ellis, organised a lunch in England in support of the Foundation. A huge thank you to them and all of the ladies at the lunch for their generous aid! The money will go towards purchasing reading group books for the classrooms and Coconut Club supplies.



Update on Progress of Teaching Levels

The most significant development with the Foundation this semester (Nov 2010 – Mar 2011) has been the introduction of us teaching English at Mathyom level (high school).

This was a natural progression of our teaching through the age levels to now include Mathyom 1 (age 12), having moved through the levels Prathom 1 to 6. Added to this is the teaching of the

“university entrance” students of Mathyom 5 and 6 (ages 16 – 17). These students will sit the National O-NET Examination.

Every class and age group brings with it its own particular challenges and rewards. Mathyom 1 classes are 40



in number and consist of the complete ability range. Some of these students can not write in Thai but are very aware, that at the very least, an ability in English opens up another world.

The challenge with the “university entrance” students is the very nature of the English language with its many tenses and “exceptions to the rule”. The rewards that come with teaching these students are

immense. Not least is that they know that their future very much depends on their public examination results and are thus very grateful for everything that is done to assist with a successful outcome.

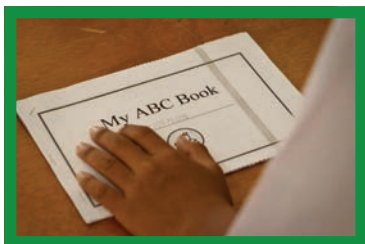
Carl Osmar, Director of Education

A Day in the Life of a Thai Schoolchild

(Kindly translated to English by Khun Pat.)

My name is Jame, I'm in Prathom 5 and I'm 11 years old. I have been living at Rachaprachanukroh School for 1 and half years. I live at school because our village is poor and there is no school. I only see my family once or twice a year. I have 3 best friends and we take care of each other.

Daily life at school begins at 5:00 am when the matron comes into our 32 bunk dorm room to wake us. We go out to the school yard and exercise for 10 minutes then hurry to get washed-up. Breakfast is at 6:00 and we normally eat boiled rice and salted fish. Then we have our “Giving Gratitude to the Teachers” ceremony. We bring all our school books from the dormitory into a classroom and then clean all the garbage around the school. Then we stand in line and sing the national anthem. We end the morning routine by going to the “daily talk” in a teacher’s classroom.



My school schedule goes from 8:30-3:30. Classes include Gym, Thai, Arithmetic, Computer and History. We have English class every other day

that rotates with “Gathering Activities” such as flower arranging and Thai dancing. Lunch is usually noodles or rice with meat, soup or omelet and fruit.

After school we are given one hour and a half for free time to practice our sport before dinner. I go to Coconut Club during this time and cook, draw, skateboard, dance or paint. My favorite thing to do in Coconut Club is cooking.

Then, we eat dinner around 5:00 which is usually chili fish, rice, chicken, vegetable soup or steamed shrimp. After dinner we practice our sports for 30 minutes. Then at 6:00 we are called into our dorm room where we spend 30 minutes doing chores around the school such as, dusting, washing, cleaning, etc. We then wash-up for bed and at 7:00 begin our homework. At 8:00 we do our prayer ceremony, followed by recitation of our multiplication tables. Sometimes if there is time, I will continue my homework until 9:00pm when it's time for lights out.

I wish I could go swimming every day and when I grow up I want to be a policeman and a fireman.



Vocational Opportunities
Through English

www.phukethasbeengoodtous.org

Coconut Club

Page 4

April 2011



For the second time this year *Melchers & Hinrichs (HK) Ltd* sent 5 boxes of donations for [Coconut Club](#). The children were excited to find knights and dragons to play with. There were baseball caps which they painted with their own designs and lots of school bags which they will be given at their next birthday party. A huge thank you to *Absolute World Group* for organising these donations and *Melchers & Hinrichs* for sending their boxes.



Day at the Beach

Often, when asked what would they like to do if they had a holiday, the children from the Coconut Club say that they would like to spend a day on the beach right outside the school gates! As often as possible, teachers and volunteers gather the children together armed with buckets, spades, inflatable fish, boogie boards, etc. for a "mini-holiday" on Kamala Beach. Due to the regular swimming lessons provided through the Coconut Club at various establishments on the island (most notably PIA, Kamala Dreams and The Palms on Kamala Beach) the children have grown into confident and capable swimmers and have a great time dashing in and out of the water and building sandcastles.

New Trampoline for School

On, aged 16 said "a very good heart gives this gift. I love it" . Oom, aged 10 said "it is much fun to play gymnastics" (written in Thai and translated to English).



When the trampoline arrived at Kamala School all of the children who live there full time, as they are orphans or their families are not able to look after them, could not believe their luck. They kept asking me when it was going to be taken away again and were just

so delighted when they were told it was theirs to play on any time. A huge thank you to **Springfree** for donating the trampoline to Kamala School.

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The 12 Days of Christmas Thai Style

Kamala School put on a Christmas Show with a little help from PHBGU English teachers and students. In Coconut Club we made props for the song and then the teachers and 20 students sang The 12 Days of Christmas whilst holding up the gifts given. The song received a huge round of applause from the entire school



Support the Underwater Calendar

20 PHUKET GAZETTE November 13 - 19, 2010

Photographer makes a splash for charity

ADRIANO Trapani and his mermaid model partner Kaye Smith made a splash with local children last week with a special underwater photo shoot in Kamala.

The couple's Kampan Thailand company along with Siam Diving Enterprises are joining hands (and fins) for the launch of a children's calendar 2011, to be distributed throughout the country.

The young underwater models are children from the Phuket Has Been Good To Us educational foundation based in Kamala.

Eight students showed their newly donated rash vests, masks and snorkels on November 6 in a swimming pool at The Palms resort in Kamala.

The foundation's Finance & Relationship Manager Arati Suzuki and the children had an incredible day courtesy of the sponsors and took to the water like stars.

"This was an amazing opportunity for the foundation and we are incredibly thankful to all the sponsors without whom this would not have been possible," she said.

Buy the Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation Calendar 2011. It is AWESOME! only 250THB or 5 pounds + delivery. 2011 has started but there is still time left to enjoy this calendar.

There are only a few copies left for this year so best put in an order for next year's too...

Contact
arati@phukethasbeengoodtous.org



A Day in the Life of a Volunteer

Page 6

April 2011



Coconut Club

Shopping List



The children who come to the Coconut Club live full time in the school as they are either orphans or their families are not able to look after them.

They live in basic accommodation and do their own washing and cleaning from an early age with no protest. They have few clothes or toys, so donations are welcome.

On our website you will find a comprehensive list of the basic items we require to keep our support going - from pens and pencils to computers. Any and all contributions are much appreciated!

My name is Ryanne Rothenberg and I'm a full-time volunteer. I work part-time teaching in Kamala and Kalim and part-time coordinating Coconut Club and volunteers. The job demands that I be flexible, work weekends, and be quick on my feet as plans are always changing.

A typical day begins around 8:30 at my desk checking my email. There are always interested volunteers needing a reply, permission slips to be written, and logistics to sort for upcoming weekend activities. Almost everyday I hop on my motorbike and drive down to Kalim to teach one or two classes. Some days require I teach a class in Kamala as well. Between or after teaching there may be an hour or so to grab lunch and check my email. Often my phone will ring several times, from a volunteer interested in coming to Coconut Club or needing to change their schedule that week for helping in the classroom.

At 2:45 I return to the school grounds in Kamala and go to Coconut Club, which is the highlight of my day. I begin getting ready by setting up the day's activities, checking in with the volunteers and teachers who are helping that day and starting a sign-up sheet for the children. I organize cooking classes, art projects, badminton and skateboarding during the week. On the weekends I organize swimming, birthday parties, cooking

classes, dance classes and art workshops.

After Coconut Club, I return to the office and continue on the many miscellaneous tasks that need constant updating. I may need to clock hours of the volunteers that week, schedule volunteers for the following week, write-up the weekly Coconut Club newsletter, update wishlists, sort incoming donations, or update information on the Coconut Club master list of residential students. My day will normally end around 6:00.

If I ever feel caught-up, I spend free moments at school with the children trying to fill in missing information such as birthdays, Thai names, a photo and learning their favourite activity. The most successful outings at Coconut Club are when I have a group of children who are best friends and love that activity. This is why it's so important that I spend time getting to know them. These children are amazing to work with and I'm happy to have had an opportunity to have them teach me about life while I teach them English.



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Events

Volunteers Party September 2010

In September, volunteers and supporters of the Foundation came together to celebrate a hugely successful first half term at Kamala and Kalim Schools. We had a brunch with an array of delicious food and sparkling wine all donated by local businesses. A huge thank you to all who sponsored the brunch: *Rockfish Restau-*

rant, Paresa Resort, Ambrose Wine Limited, Farm Bread Company, Kamala Bakery, Kamala Dreams, Andaman Wine Club By BB&B and Khun Pensri (from Baan Rim Pa and Foundation Board Member). We could not have planned such a wonderful send-off to our volunteers without all of their support!



Nai is 12 and when he grows up he wants to be a rescue officer



Pai is 15 and she wants to be an air hostess



Nan is 10 and he wants to be a doctor

Phuket Property Dot Com Pro Am Invitational



On November 5th, the inaugural Phuket Property Dot Com Pro Am Invitational teed off at the Blue Canyon Country Club. Played on the Canyon Course the organizers brought together 30 golf Pros, many of them top players on the Asian Tour, and 90 amateurs to raise money for Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation. The first charity golf Pro Am ever on

Phuket Island was deemed a huge success by all. One of the prizes for the winning team were three pictures painted by children from Coconut Club at Kamala School. The students had been asked to draw a picture of their favorite sport. The winning pictures are shown at left.

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September 2010 to April 2011
Thank you to all of our supporters, without you,
none of this would be possible!

April 2011

Thank you and Goodbye
Teachers & Full Time

Volunteers

Cris Torrecampo
Sayaka Yamaguchi
Will Perkins
Ryenne Rothenberg
Daniel Canuti

Friends of the
Foundation

Andara Resort and Villas
Baan Rim Pa Group
Chinese Women's
Association in Singapore
Kate & Philip Spanton
Everest Team: Roger Best,
Martin Hills, Chris Coulcher
and Craig Adams.
The Yamu Phuket

Platinum Partners
Desmond Hughes

Joe Mahler, Kenth Fredin and
Per Hausvik of Inzentive
Technologies (Thailand) Ltd.

Sponsor a Teacher
Alan Cooke MBE

Professional Golfers

Bruce Whitehead
Kenny Walker
Lindsay Reynolds
Blake Ellison
Jorgen Peterson
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Andy Combes
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CJ Gatto
Udorn Duangdecha
Keith Horne
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Ma Toom
Kurika Jung
Kevin Chen
Darren Robson
Chan Song
Kitt Thabungkan

Mitchell Slorach
Mark Duangpichakul
Justin Han
Uhno Park
Simon Yates
Jason Knutzon

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Cherry Wright
Chris Coulcher
Coral Seekers
Craig Adams
Dana Crevling
Daniel McDaniel
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Deborah Dietsch
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perthwaite
JabuDays
Jean & Roger Goodwin
Jeanette Skelton
John Gray
JW Marriot
Kamala Bakery
Kamala Dreams

Karen Ellison
Kaye Smith
Kompas Thailand
Kookaburra's
Le Meridien Phuket
Limcharoen, Hughes & Glan-
ville

Lisa Bentinck
Loudmouth
Mares
Marie Lavoie
Mark Beetlestone
Marlee Welsh
Martin Hills
Maurizio Mercurio
Michel Erb
Mo & Noel Stephens
Nathalie Stoltman
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Phuket Gazette
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Phuket Property Dot Com
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Springfree
Sue Ultmann
Thai Country Club
ThaiSarco
The 9th Floor
The Middleton family
The Paton family
The Palms on Kamala Beach
The Pavilions
The Village Coconut Island
Tommy the Tank
Total Integration Resources
Val Mallia

Van Wagner family
WhiteBox
yooPhuket

Sponsor a Child

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Alice Bentinck
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Children of Phuket (part of
the Yorkshire Hotel Group)
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Denise & Grahame Thomas
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Genevieve and Tony Jeffs
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