

Phuket Has Been Good To Us

Foundation

Volume 4, Number 1

August 2009

Changing Childrens' Lives on Phuket Island, Thailand



Our Mission

The Phuket Has Been Good to Us Foundation works to improve the economic opportunities and life chances of young people, funding and implementing high quality, practical English language education on Phuket Island.

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Contribute Today

Give the gift of education by supporting the Phuket Has Been Good to Us Foundation with a contribution of money, an in-kind donation or by volunteering. Details follow in this newsletter or for more information, visit our website at

www.phukethasbeengoodtous.org.

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It has been a very exciting start to our fourth year of operations. We have expanded the 'Coconut Club' programs for residential students to four days a week after school. In addition, we are now doing workshops/ trips every weekend. We are seeing a huge improvement in student's communication skills, self esteem, and critical thinking skills.

A New Coconut Club Tradition: Birthday Parties

On Sunday 2nd August there was a very special birthday party at Coconut Club. Residential students' birthdays often go unrecognized and the teachers at Kamala school decided that that just wouldn't do. At Coconut Club we asked our students "when is your birthday" and we made a birthday list. A couple of the children didn't know when their birthdays were so we told them they could celebrate in July. Every child with a birthday in May, June and July wrote birthday invitations for two of their friends to "come to my party".



On Sunday morning, with children queuing up outside hours before the party was due to start the teachers set up 'Pin the Tail on the Elephant', 'Pass the Parcel' and 'Balloon Game' stations. The children had a fantastic time. We sang Happy Birthday and the birthday children received a small birthday present such as colouring crayons and books for the younger ones and shampoos and soaps or sports T shirts for the older ones. Shafar and Adila donated some amazing birthday cakes which they had bought at The Hilton Hotel. Paul and Bill from 'The Children of Phuket' brought along three bikes for all of the residential children to share.

Swimming Classes

On Saturday the 8th and 15th of August the British International School invited twenty Coconut Club students to practice their swimming skills in their Olympic swimming pool. The children were excited to be driven across the island in mini busses and were amazed when they saw the size of the pool. The students worked really hard at their swimming strokes and had a fun time with huge floats and volleyball afterwards. All of the students and volunteers had a great time. We are now running regular Saturday swim classes at Nakatani pool and are looking forward to improving the swimming abilities of all the students in the Coconut Club.





Silkscreen Workshops

Amazing photographer and artists, Steve Tothill and Khun Wan Pantharat, taught a day long course about silkscreening. Students learned the basics, trying out color mixing, layering, and collaging. Many students made their own football jerseys. Students were encouraged by Steve to let their inner artist go free and everyone agreed the day was very sanuuk (fun). A silkscreen from the workshop is featured on page 5 of this newsletter. Some of the best work will be on sale at a Fundraising Art Exhibition in December at Hung Fat's Restaurant.

Nike Laguna Marathon—Charity 5K Walk

Coconut Club students, staff, board members, and friends of Phuket Has Been Good to Us Foundation joined together in the Charity 5k walk at the Nike Laguna Marathon 2009. Clocking in an early start at 8:00 am, the team rallied themselves with water pistols and cheers. A friend of PHBGU, The Hulk, even joined us! After the scenic walk, the team had an energy boosting snack of fried rice and bananas, did some face painting, and posed for a few snapshots. Everyone received a medal, which many students proudly wore to school on Monday. The team, also, went for a swim on the beach highlighted with a visit from a one year old baby elephant!



Survivor: A Day out with Coral Seekers



16 Coconut Club students and staff from Kamala School went on a trip to an island near Ao Yon, by speedboat. The two teams of students, Lions and Monkeys, engaged in fun games involving leadership and problem solving skills. Stu Clark, manager of Coral Seekers, was amazed by the students' problem solving skills, "They were faster than any team of senior managers," he said. Thanks so much to Coral Seekers for providing the fantastic day out!

Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation's exciting new initiative is to introduce a group of young children from some of Phuket's free education schools to golf. The twenty children of the Phuket Junior Golf Foundation will spend between two to six hours each week learning and practicing golf. Program Director Graham Haslam and other volunteers will work together to teach them about the sport, hoping to produce the next Thongchai Jaidee, a Thai golfer who currently holds the record for career victories on the Asian tour and did not begin playing golf until the age of sixteen.

The students at the Golf Foundation will learn how to play golf along with gaining many other valuable life skills. The program will improve their English and allow them to attain greater self esteem. We will teach them discipline, responsibility and commitment by asking them to commit to a nine month program. Due to the nature of golf with its complicated scoring systems, yardage and distances to be evaluated the students' maths will also improve. At the end of the year, the young golfers will compete to win the end of year Golf Foundation Tournament. We hope to start the program in November.



Charity Golf Day

Tuesday 18th August saw PJGF host the inaugural Charity Golf Day. 40 guests played in glorious sunshine at the Phuket Country Club for amazing prizes and all agreed it was a great day and a very successful event. The Phuket Junior Golf Foundation would like to thank everyone who attended as well as all the generous people who donated the great raffle prizes. Thank you to the following organizations for donating the auction and raffle prizes: Callaway Golf, Banyan Tree, Kata Beach Resort, Laguna Golf Club, Absolute,

Baan Rim Pa Restaurant Group, DaVinci Restaurant, Phuket Country Club, Diavolo Restaurant, Yorkshire Hotel, Sunseeker, Royal Eastern Beverage Company, Niche Wines and Phuket Palms.

How Can I Help the Golf Foundation?

Come down and help out with the Foundation's training sessions. You don't need to speak a word of Thai as we have Thai golf enthusiasts who are assisting every week, nor do you have to be a golf Pro. The program that the Golf Foundation is following is designed to be taught by non professionals and takes the students through the basics week by week until they are excellent golfers. We always need monetary donations which can be used to cover our general costs or sponsorship of a specific trip or activity. We also need donations of golf balls, t-shirts and golf shoes for the students to wear on the golf course .

www.phukethasbeengoodtous.org



Screen-print, By Ten, Age 12

When I Grow Up

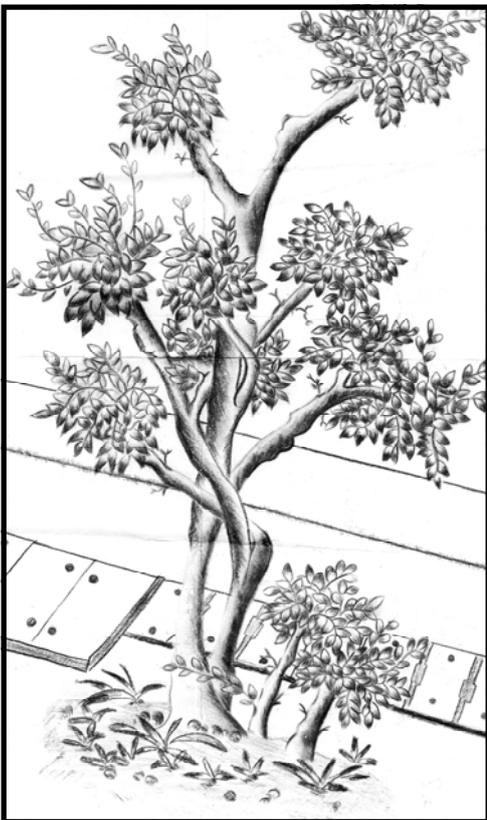
By Beer, Age 12

When I grow up, I want to be an air hostess. I can travel to many countries. I can help my family and make them proud of me. I want to learn English so that I can be an air hostess and meet people from England.

About Me

By Am, Age 10

I was born in Bangkok. When I grow up, I want to be a doctor. I am happy when I do a good job. I feel sad when my family is broken. My favorite subject in school is English. I like Coconut Club, because the teachers are kind. I want to learn English so that I can talk with foreigners. If I was the prime minister of Thailand, I would help orphan children. I would like to make my family proud by studying. If I had a holiday, I would like to go to the sea in Patong.



Drawing, By Orr, Age 13



Photo, By King, Age 10

Contributors: May 2009-August 2009

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**A sincere thank you to all of our supporters, without you,
none of this would be possible!**

The Big Picture

On Thursday 28 May over 100 art lovers gathered at Hung Fat's restaurant in Kalim for 'The Big Picture', an inspirational photography exhibition with works on show by students and friends of the Phuket Has Been Good to Us Foundation. The evening was a tremendous success; 20 photographs by Coconut Club students and over 40 by professional photographers and friends of the Foundation were on sale. A huge thank you to the artists who donated their work; Paul Roubicek, Daniel Wolf, Cameron Hansen (who also printed our students' photographs), Wayne Maule, Michael Weinstein, Tommy Karlsson, Pim Taecharachkij, Khun Nok, Khun Soong, Jason Lang, Marsha Lutz and Kareem.



Some amazing prizes were also for the taking at the evening's auction and raffle. Over 100,000 baht worth of prizes were donated by Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket, Nine Bar and Lounge, The Chedi Phuket & The Chedi Chiang Mai, The Village Coconut Island, Les Anges, Angsana Spa, Laguna Phuket Golf Club and Twin Palms Phuket, Siam Supper Club, Lemongrass House and Catch Beach Club. Thank you to all our donors. And the evening wouldn't have been complete without the wine donation from BB&B and the beverages kindly provided by Royal Eastern Beverage Company.

Sponsor A Child

Help us continue our work by sponsoring a residential student at the Kamala school, many of whom are orphans from the Tsunami. The cost of our normal English classroom training plus extra-curricular programs (the Coconut Club) for these disadvantaged children is approximately 10,000 baht a child, or about 300 dollars a year. In return for your donation, we will send you a bio, photos, updates on your student's academic achievements, and an invitation to visit the school. For more information on sponsorship please visit our website.

One Click Away

It is now easier than ever to donate to Phuket Has Been Good to Us Foundation.

There are three ways to contribute:

- 1) Go to <http://www.phukethasbeengoodtous.org/donate.html> and click on the Donate Today button, to contribute using your credit card via Pay Pal.
- 2) Send a cheque (Thai baht preferred) to our office at Phuket Has Been Good to Us Foundation, 80/14 Moo 3, T. Kamala, A. Kathu, Phuket, 83150, Thailand
- 3) Make a bank transfer to our Thai baht account on Phuket Island:

Bank Name: Siam Commercial Bank- Patong Branch

SWIFT Code: SICOTHBK

Savings A/C Name: Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation

Savings A/C #: 601-2-71944-7

**If you make a donation via bank transfer to this account, please contact us and let us know the amount and the date of your transfer.

We thank you for your generosity.

www.phukethasbeengoodtous.org

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A Fellow's Experience

I've been the "first" in a number of jobs: first woman non-architect managing construction grants; first finance director in a new state agency; first Caucasian hired in an inner city African American arts organization; first development director



in three different non-profit organizations - so I am not new to jumping right in without the way being paved. If you had told me two years ago that I would be teaching in Thailand, I would not have believed it. But life is delightfully unpredictable, and a trip to Thailand resulted in my coming back to a country I experienced as vibrant, good-hearted and spiritual.

Here on Phuket, I have met teachers who work 20-30 hour weeks, leaving plenty of time for all the fun things that bring millions here for holidays every year. Teaching for this Foundation is not that job. This work must be a labor of love. There are the needs of the Foundation's afterschool program, invitations to assist with weekend activities with the children, and Foundation fundraising support. But for me, it is worth every minute for the children's smiles and what they have given me: the paper hearts, the love notes, the hand-made gifts, the calling out of my name as I shop at the market or walk down the street, the high fives and the hugs.

On the Queen's birthday, celebrated as Mother's Day in Thailand, I was asked to receive flowers from the children whose mothers were absent for the school-sponsored ceremony. I felt honored and privileged to be there for my students that day. There were tears shed - including my own - as the children kneeled before us, flowers in hand. In my role as a Fellow, I have gained many new perspectives, including how much I "have" as a Westerner. I have also seen the amazing qualities of ingenuity, creativity, respect and love of those who materially have little. I am grateful to the Foundation for this opportunity to serve, and to the Kamala community and these extraordinary loving children who teach me and give me so much. I hope that I have given back just a fraction of what has been given to me.

Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation

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