



Phuket Has Been Good to Us Foundation

Volume 3, Number 2

December 2008

Changing Children's Lives in Phuket, Thailand

In Memoriam : Thomas Joseph McNamara

We are sad to report the passing of Thomas Joseph McNamara in Bangkok on Sunday, November 24 after a long battle with prostate cancer. Tom is survived by his wife Khun Pensri, daughter Fleur and sons Casey and Pure. Tom McNamara was known to most as a highly successful restaurateur and owner of the Baan Rim Pa group. His bold personality and delightful presence in the restaurants over the years will be sorely missed. His decades of experience in the business

“Education is a gift that stays with you forever. You can't sell it and nobody can take it away from you.”

- Tom McNamara

raised the standard for fine dining on Phuket. He was an inspiring and visionary man to all who knew him.

Having lived and prospered on Phuket Island for 20 years, Tom started the Phuket Has Been Good to Us Foundation in 2005 following the tsunami, as an effort to give something back to the community he loved so much. As he explained, “Education is a gift that stays with you forever. You can't sell it and nobody can take it away from you.” The Phuket Has Been Good to us Foundation is now making an appeal to all for help in carrying on his legacy. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that people please donate to the Foundation, an effort that Tom dedicated the final years of his life to. Thank you for your support.



Kamala's After-School Program: The Coconut Club



Last August, Kamala teacher Caroline Thoys was in her classroom, readying for the next day's lessons when some of the residential students came in to say hello. Caroline gave the students a puzzle to do, but they were literally 'puzzled' at what to do with this toy. Feeling disheartened that the students received so little stimulation that even a popular toy was a problem for them, the teachers discussed how to further help them. After many brain storming sessions, the Foundation embarked upon a new endeavor, offering after school classes to the residential students of Kamala.

The Coconut Club is the Foundation's way of providing the children with the opportunities to benefit from kinesthetic, tactile and interactive experiences, in order to develop their conversational English, understanding of the world and self esteem through play. Attending will allow the children to apply what they are learning in the PHBGTU English classes to their everyday life. The club meets for three hours a week and incorporates arts and crafts, team games, and supervised play into a fun and supportive environment.

About Us

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

Launch of Website in Thai



The Phuket Has Been Good to Us Foundation's website is now available in Thai language, ภาษาไทย. We hope this will prove to be a convenience for the families of the children we serve, our neighbors, government officials and all other Thai citizens that seek to learn about our organization.

At first only the homepage was posted in Thai, but eventually the entire site will be translated and posted online. The initial work was done by a volunteer from Bangkok, Ratirose Supaporn. The Foundation seeks ongoing volunteer assistance to keep the Thai version accurate and up-to-date.

We've Moved! New Office in Kamala

Since its inception in 2005, the Phuket Has Been Good to Us Foundation was housed in the Kalim offices of the Baan Rim Pa restaurant Group. The generosity of the staff of the Baan Rim Pa group cannot be overstated. But as we have grown over time, it has become necessary for us to stake out on our own and establish an independent office. Since at this time we operate in schools in Kamala and Kalim, it made sense to try to locate a suitable building close to our former offices.

In July 2008, we were lucky enough to have been offered a space in Kamala, just around the corner from the Kamala school where we have placed four teachers. We have moved in and are in the process of getting fully set up. We of course welcome any donations of computers, office furniture, equipment and supplies. See our in-kind donation page for more information.



Volunteer Profile: Helen and Norman Dawkins



Norman and Helen are a retired couple from Wales who have been working with the Foundation for the last two and a half years. Norman is passionate about education, his career spans a range of educational spheres, from teacher trainer to educational lecturer. Helen loves working with the students at Kalim School in a knowledge exchange; she helps them with their English and they help her with her Thai.

As well as being very involved in the local Rotary club, Norman is also on our Board of Managers as an educational consultant. Helen has developed very close ties with Prathom 2 and Prathom 3 classes, continually persisting as a friendly face in the classroom, even as teachers have changed.

Snorkel Trip for Kamala Students



Usually at 7 am, the residential students of the Rachaprachanukroh school in Kamala find themselves about to start another day limited to living and attending classes within the confines of their school. But on this particular day, 33 extremely grateful children were about to embark on a day of fun under the sea, compliments of Phuket's *Scandinavian Scuba Doo*.

Senior teacher and English program coordinator Laura Gray, had arranged for Scuba Doo director Hakan (Hogge) Larsson to provide the all expenses-paid trip, including transportation for two groups to and from the school in Kamala to the Chalong pier, from where the children were transported by boat to

Coral Island. Scuba Doo provided four dive masters led by Khun Tad, who spoke to the children about water safety and environmental issues.

"While our mission is primarily to provide English language education, we also work to give students a sense of hope, self-esteem and to connect them with their community," noted Ms. Gray, who was joined by another of the Foundation's teachers, Jonathan Higgins. Two Thai teachers from Kamala school were also on hand. Following their approximately 90- minute swim and a free lunch, the students enjoyed a boat ride around the waters of Phuket and were given Scuba Doo t-shirts, before heading back home. Some very happy children made beautiful cards for the Scuba Doo staff expressing their gratitude for their special day.

The Foundation is interested in engaging in further such collaborations with local business in order to improve the lives of Phuket's children.

"...we also work to give students a sense of hope, self-esteem, and to connect them with their community."

- Laura Gray

Thanks:

- ◆ To our Volunteers for making the Volunteer Appreciation Tea on November 28th a success.
- ◆ To our friends at the Phuket Stunt Show for welcoming 30 residential students from Kamala School to the show on May 27th.

Student Profile: Not

Samrit Tongyenruan, nickname Not, age 7, studies in Prathom 1 at Kamala School. Not says, "I love coming to English class, because its fun and I like learning with my teacher, Caroline." He has only been studying English for one semester, but scored an incredible 97 percent on the oral examination. He can count to ten, identify colors, and answer yes or no questions. Not, who lives in Kamala, would like to be a soldier one day, but now is happy to spend time with his family, watch cartoons, and play football. Congratulations on your fantastic marks, Not!



Board of Directors

Dr. Sriyada Palimapun,
Chair

Fleur Birch-Atkinson,
Co - Founder

Michael Chugg

Kathy Davies

Peter Hamilton

K. Netipong Wichitwechkarn

Arnaud C.M. Verstraete

K. Sutat Worasri

Norman Dawkins

Michael Weinstein

Donor Profile: The Denker Family



While on vacation in Kamala, Magdalena and Herik Denker from Sweden, with their two children Ludvig and Estelle, visited Kamala School with goodies for the residential children. Their generous contributions included thirty five bags of clothing, games and toiletries. In addition to supplies for our students, the Denkers brought many items from the Foundation's in-kind donation list. This included a laminating machine, which is needed to make our learning materials more durable for long-term use. Thanks so much to the Denker family for their thoughtful contributions to Phuket's children.

Staff

Tom Doherty,
Managing Director

Sarah Foster- Gross,
Communications & Finance
Coordinator

Ashley Nelson,
Opportunity Coordinator

Laura Gray,
Senior Teacher & English
Program Coordinator

Caroline Thoyts,
English Teacher

Jonathan Higgins,
English Teacher

Tammy McCray,
English Teacher

Katharyn Henderson,
English Teacher

K. Kongsak Khoburi,
Educational Assistant

Welcome to New Teachers!

Tammy McCray
Katharyn Henderson

Welcome to New Board Members!

Michael Weinstein,
Fundraising & Networking

Norman Dawkins,
Educational Consulting & Rotary Int. Liaison

Help We Need

Donations:

Craft Supplies/ Toys/ English Language Books
Classroom & Office Equipment
Educational Supplies & Teaching Aids
Computer Equipment & Supplies
Construction Upgrades

Volunteers:

Teaching Assistants
Translation
IT support
Graphic Design
Construction/Plumbing

Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation

80/14 Moo 3, T. Kamala, A. Kathu, Phuket 83150

Tel: (0) 76- 278- 146 , Fax: (0) 76- 278 -146

www.phukethasbeengoodtous.org info@phukethasbeengoodtous.org

Registered Kingdom of Thailand Charity Organization # 3 - 0321 - 0444 - 9

Founded in 2005

