

PHUKET HAS BEEN GOOD TO US



Newsletter

December 2024



Tsunami Memorial Kamala, Phuket

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A MESSAGE FROM PHUKET HAS BEEN GOOD TO US (PHBG TU)

This year marks a significant milestone as we reflect on the journey that began two decades ago in the aftermath of the devastating 2004 Tsunami. In this special edition, we commemorate the resilience and progress of the communities we serve, while honoring the memory of those affected.



From the rebuilding of Kalim and Kamala Schools, to providing life-changing English education for underprivileged children, we've come a long way, thanks to the generosity of our donors, volunteers and supporters like you.

Thank you for standing with us as we continue to transform lives. Together, we are building a brighter future for children in Phuket.

With gratitude

The Phuket Has Been Good To Us Team



Vocational Opportunities
Through English



Teacher Pearl

Team changes

At the end of last term, we were sad to say Bon Voyage to our Kalim Kindy Teacher Pearl, who has decided to take some time-out to travel.

We are, delighted to welcome a new member of the teaching team, Teacher Sar, who joined us on 1st November, as our full-time English Teacher for Kindy at Kalim School.



Teacher Sar

HISTORY OF THE FOUNDATION

Phuket Has Been Good To Us (PHBGU)

Foundation was established in 2005 by Mr. Tom McNamara. Tom, the owner of Baan Rim Pa, went to the Director of Kalim School after the 2004 Asian Tsunami, asking how he could help them recuperate from the devastation. The Director wanted their students to learn English from a fluent English-speaking teacher, understanding it was the key to



the children's future success. However, Tom knew that organising English teachers alone would not be enough. The schools that needed help could not afford fluent English-speaking teachers and it soon became clear he needed to create a charity that would make this education available to the children for free.

In 2006, PHBGU became a registered charity in the Kingdom of Thailand. Since then, many local and international supporters have been inspired by this initiative and joined us to enable the provision of free, quality English education in Phuket. The Foundation has grown over the last 20 years and is now a well-established charitable organization which improves the lives of over 700 children in Phuket each year, through the provision of English language education.

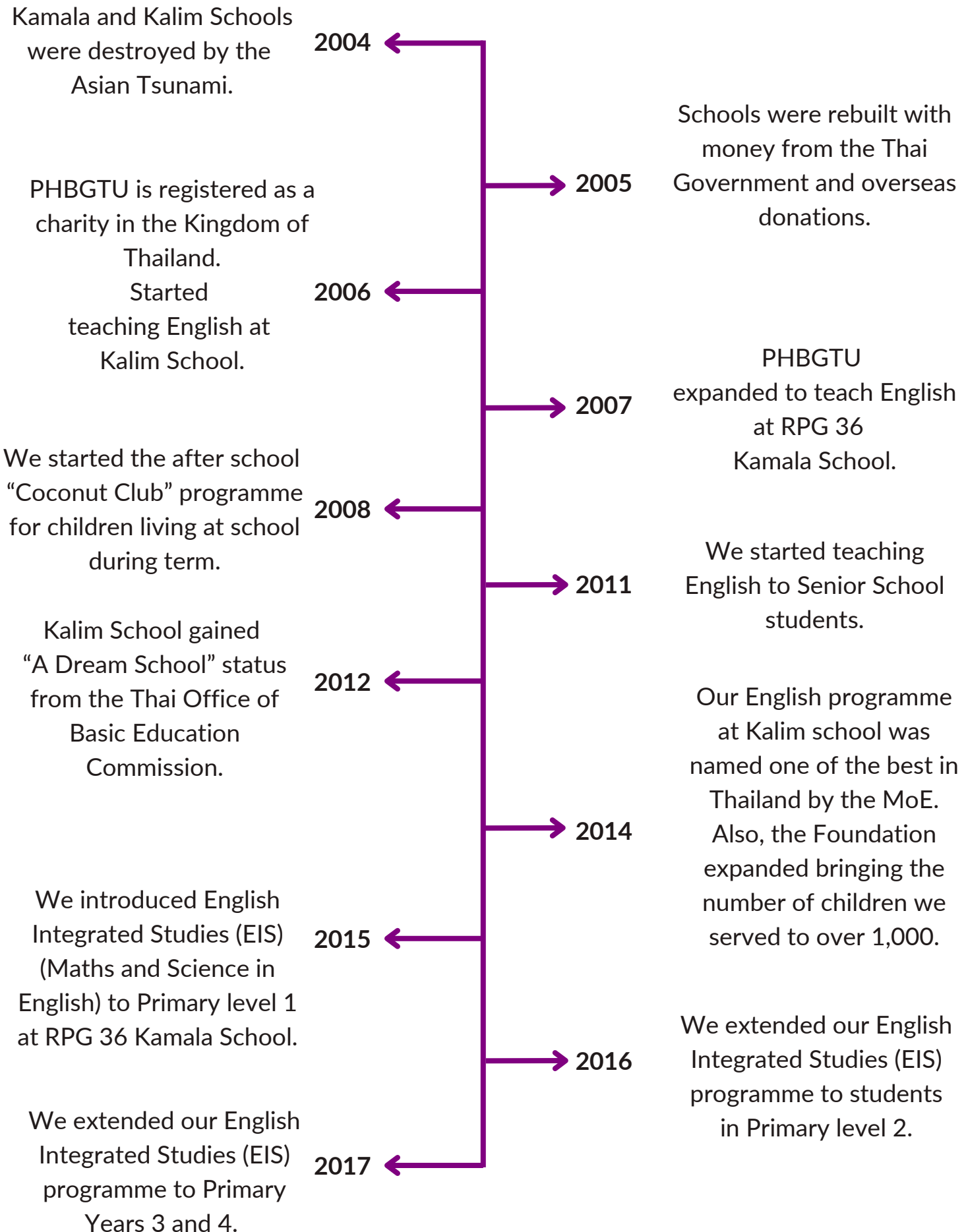
Charity Mission:

The Foundation's objective is to employ fluent English speaking, qualified teachers to provide quality English education to underprivileged children in the Phuket community, in order to:

- Improve the economic opportunities and life chances of young people, by funding and implementing high quality, practical English language education in government schools on Phuket Island.
- Create vocational opportunities, by developing English skills through various methods, including formal education as well as afterschool and noncurricular activities.



MILESTONES IN OUR JOURNEY



We extended our English Integrated Studies (EIS) programme to Primary Years 5 and 6.

As schools closed due to the pandemic, our teachers started the first ever online classes for Primary Year groups 1 to 6 attending RPG 36 Kamala School. We also ran enrichment programme for the children living in lockdown at school.

The Chicoree Foundation renovated Kalim School and sponsored two PHBG TU teachers to teach English to all 300 students aged 2 to 16 at the School.

We were delighted to return to Kalim School where, thanks to the support of Baan Rim Pa Restaurant, PHBG TU taught English from 2005 until the pandemic in 2020.

2019

2021

2023

2020

2022

2024

Due to COVID-19 we lost a number of our long-term sponsors and had to reduce the number of teachers we employed. With limited resources, we made the decision to focus our work on RPG 36 Kamala School.

We taught Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten children aged 2 to 6 in Kamala Child Development Center and Anuban Kamala School.

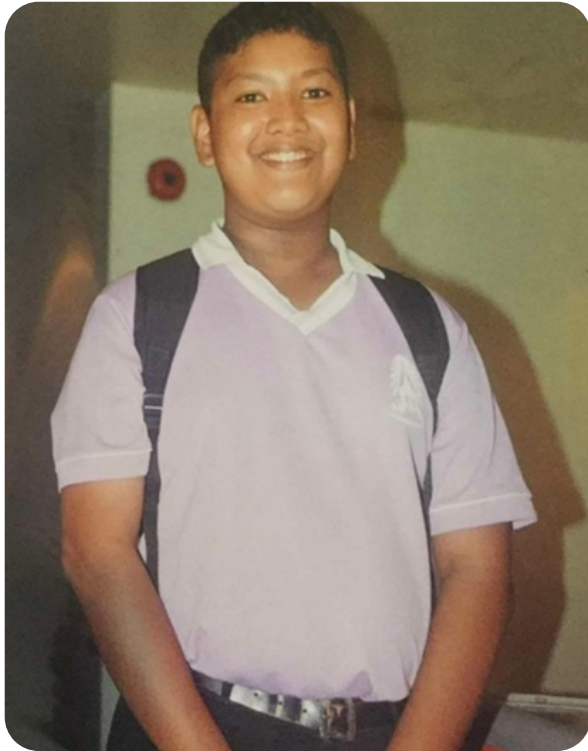
We now teach English to 700 Kindy and Primary Year students and provide afterschool activities for 260 children.

A huge "THANK YOU" to everyone who has joined us so far on this incredible journey



STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

SONGGLOD RATTANA



Songglod, (nickname Amas), is a former student at RPG Kamala School. In 2004, Amas was in Primary Year 1. It was a Sunday when the Asian tsunami struck, so he was safe at home when the school was destroyed. Once the school was rebuilt, Amas continued to study at Kamala School until 2015 when, aged eighteen, he was awarded a prestigious scholarship from the King's Fund Foundation (only 20 are given nationwide each year). This enabled him to pursue a bachelor's degree in Tourism and Hospitality at Rangsit University in Bangkok. He graduated in 2019 with top honors, earning a First-Class Gold Medal Grade of 4.00.

Amas's career is equally impressive; his first role was at Club Med Phuket, where he worked for two years, followed by a year at Club Med Ria Bintan in Indonesia. He has just moved to Japan to work at Club Med Tomamu in Hokkaido.

Amas attributes his love for the English language, and his confidence in speaking with foreigners, to his time studying English with PHBGU's dedicated teachers, especially Teacher Shah. He fondly recalls the English lessons that helped shape his successful career and he is happy to know that the charity and our teachers are still here for the students.



We are immensely proud of Amas and his remarkable achievements. His story inspires us all, and we look forward to following his continued success in the future!



STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

SARAWUT MEECHAN



Sarawut (nickname Ack) lived and studied at RPG 36 Kamala School from Senior Year 1 to 6. He joined our after-school Coconut Club and learned English with Phuket Has Been Good To Us teachers. Through these fun sessions and engaging lessons, he discovered his passion for the English language and was inspired by his PHBGTO Teachers to become an English teacher.

Past student, Amas, was his peer mentor and he encouraged Ack to apply for a scholarship from the King's Fund Foundation. Ack's hard work paid off and he was awarded one of the rare scholarships, enabling him to pursue a teaching degree at Rajabhat

University in Phuket. Ack continued to excel academically, graduating with a First-Class Honors degree in Teaching English.

Today, Ack is living his dream, teaching English to Primary Year students at Anubaan Phuket School and inspiring the next generation of learners. Ack's journey from student to teacher is a wonderful example of how education and mentorship can change lives.



We are so proud of everything Ack has accomplished and can not wait to see the difference he will make in his students' lives!

PRESENT DAY KAMALA SCHOOL



Now that we have stepped into Term 2 at RPG 36 Kamala School, we would like to recognize some outstanding achievements from Term 1! Congratulations to our top 10 achievers of each class! Their hard work and dedication have truly shone through, and we are so proud of them!



But let's remember, this recognition is just a part of our journey together. We want to congratulate ALL of our students for their incredible efforts last term. Their persistence and commitment lay the foundation for success and their PHBGU Teachers are here to ensure they have the support they need to thrive this term.



We would also like to celebrate our Star Student Awards, for those who embraced participation in class and courageously practiced their English. Each student is awarded a Certificate of Accomplishment - their enthusiasm inspires us all!

Let's keep the momentum going and make Term 2 even more amazing.
Onwards and upwards!

UPDATE FROM KAMALA SCHOOL

Helping Hands

During the half-term holidays, the amazing "IHG Giving For Good" team from the **InterContinental Phuket Resort** visited Kamala School. THANK YOU for painting our classrooms! You have provided a much-improved learning environment for the children.



Birthday Party

At the end of the last term we had a fabulous, fun birthday party for the 60 primary years students who live at Kamala School. Huge thanks to the super team from the **Hyatt Regency Phuket Resort** who helped our teachers to run fun games and give delicious burgers, cakes, gifts and treats to the children.

VIP Visitors

This term, we had the honor of welcoming distinguished guests Dr Angela Macdonald PSM, Australian Ambassador to Thailand, Kirsten Fletcher, Consul-General in Phuket, and their team. The children were thrilled by their visit, and their excitement reached new heights when their Australian visitors surprised them by speaking Thai!



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Australian Consulate-General for their generous donation of a high-tech TV with video capabilities for one of our English classrooms. This incredible contribution will significantly enhance student engagement and create new opportunities for interactive learning.

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Kata Rocks Inspires

On 14 September, **Kata Rocks** kindly hosted Baan Kalim School students. They immersed themselves in luxury hospitality through engaging workshops, gaining valuable insights and hands-on experience. Their enthusiasm was truly inspiring! A huge thank you to the incredible team at Kata Rocks for again generously giving their time to our students.



Sports Day Fun

What an exciting day it was on 21st November, which kicked off with a lively parade and even the drizzle couldn't dampen our enthusiasm! The students were filled with excitement and joy, especially with our amazing teachers there to cheer them on. From Kindy kids racing 50m to Seniors tackling the 400m, the sportsmanship was inspiring! We enjoyed 'cheer competitions', thrilling relays and intense football finals. Congratulations to the Blue Team, our champions!

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Happy Anniversary

On 30th November, **The Hyatt Regency Phuket Resort** celebrated the first anniversary of the Marine Biological Center by inviting 20 of our students for a day of learning and fun! The students eagerly participated in a beach cleanup, helping to make the environment safer for marine life as they learned about the dangers of plastic bags floating in the ocean.



If you'd like to help in any way

PLEASE contact Tina Hall at: tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org



COCONUT CLUB

The teachers, with tremendous support from our volunteers, continue to run the after-school Coconut Club for children aged 6 to 18 who have to live at school during term time due to their family circumstances. Coconut Club underscores the Foundation's language programme by offering a safe space with additional opportunities for the children to practice their conversational English. The Club also helps to build students' self-esteem and challenges their perceptions of what they are capable of as they learn through play; such a powerful way to grow!

During the second School Term of 2024-25, our residential children enjoyed Computer Lab, where play combined effortlessly with learning.



Coconut Club Cooking continued to be a firm favourite, with the eager children demonstrating their culinary skills, followed by the fun of eating their creations.



The children also enjoyed developing their creative side, for example, by designing their own jewellery which they were delighted to wear afterwards.



Creativity is the free-ist form of self-expression. There is nothing more satisfying and fulfilling for children than to be able to express themselves openly and without judgment.



FUNDRAISING

Play and Treat Halloween Family Fun - 26th October 2024



Frightful fun was had by all; there was a Spooky Costume Parade, play and treat games, a spooktacular lunch and amazing live & silent auctions and raffle prizes.

Huge thanks to all the businesses, individuals and schools who donated, volunteered and joined us, helping us to raise **฿350,000**, to equally benefit **Phuket Has Been Good To Us** and **Good Shepherd**

Phuket Town. This fabulous donation of **฿175,000** for PHBGTU will help us to continue to change the lives of disadvantaged children in Phuket. For the fundraiser, live auction prizes were kindly donated by **5 Star Marine** & **Paradise Koh Yao** and other kind people and businesses who donated auction and raffle prizes, are listed below:

Auction Prizes	
Donor	Prize
5 Star Marine	VIP private speedboat day tour & stunning print
Paradise Koh Yao	2 Nights stay in Deluxe Studio
9th Degree Restaurant	A 3,000 baht dinner voucher
Aja Bistro & Bar	Dinner for 2
Andara	Couples Massage for 2
Baan Rim Pa	A 2,500 baht voucher
Billie Hunt	Bag from Camille & Dalaya
Cassia Phuket	2 Nights stay in Suite & Buffet for 4
CHOW Pet Foods	2 vouchers for 1,000 baht & 2 vouchers for treats
Courtyard by Marriott	2 Nights stay for 2
Endless Summer by Mona	A handmade Lana Jumpsuit
Four Points	2 Nights stay for 2
Island Magic	A 1,000 baht voucher
Kat Jones	Acrylic and gold leaf on canvas
Kata Sea Breeze Resort	2 Nights stay for 4
Kirsten Fletcher	Homemade chocolate cake
LaGreen Hotel and Residence	2 Nights stay for 2
Live More Medical Clinic	2 x Myer's Cocktail IV Therapy
Mermaid Couple Tribe	2 x Mermaid Trial Sessions
Mrs B Bar & Table	2 x 1,000 baht dining vouchers
Optimize	5 class sessions
Outrigger Khao Lak	2 Nights stay in a Deluxe Room
Paresa	1 Night stay in Ocean Pool Suite
Patong Lodge Hotel	2 Nights stay in a Suite for 4 & 2 Nights stay in a Quadruple Room
Pullman Phuket Arcadia	2 Nights stay in a Grand Deluxe Room
Roost Glamping	1 Night stay in a Private Sonder Tent
Seeds of Change	Creatures made from donated fabrics
Siam Sports Pro Tennis Academy	2 x 12 Month Memberships & x3 private lessons with Coach
The Pavilions Phuket	1 Night stay in Suite for 2
The Slate	1 Night stay in Suite for 2

Raffle Prizes	
Donor	Prize
Auntie's Cookies	A box of cookies
Bangkok Hospital Phuket	LipiView Test for Dry Eye Screening
Bartels	A 600 baht voucher for 5 guests
Billie Hunt	Bottle of wine for 3 guests & a Lemongrass House gift basket & a bag from Camille & Dalaya
Bollywood Phuket Restaurant	A 1,000 baht voucher for 2 guests
Cassia Phuket	A 1,000 baht voucher for Open Kitchen
Chem Hairdresser	Hair treatment/style for 10 guests
Courtside Cafe & Sports Bar	A 1,000 baht voucher for 5 guests
Gelatissimo	A 250 baht ice cream voucher for 2 guests
Go Fresh	A 300 baht food voucher & a 300 baht microgreen voucher for 2 guests
Good Drop Water	A paperback plus a Kat Jones bookmark & a mini bottle of spirits for 10 guests
Good Shepherd	Assorted products for 60 guests
Kat Jones	Bookmark for 10 guests
Katie Hudson	A sour dough loaf
Khem Go Natural	A scented candle & wax sachet workshop
Live More Medical Clinic	Lifestyle Consultation for 2 guests
Lucky 13 & Friends	A 500 baht voucher for 4 guests
Michelle Clowes	Home baked cookies for 10 guests
Mid Air Circus Arts	Double Flying Trapeze voucher for 5 guests
Millionaire Burgers	A 500 baht voucher for 2 guests
Palms and Pineapples	Thai-themed gifts
Really Good Deli	A 1,000 baht voucher for 2 guests
Seeds of Change	Animal keyring for 4 guests
Some Day Café	Acrylic paint pour of piggy bear & cookie decorating for 2 guests
Sunup Café	Breakfast gift voucher for 2 guests
Tonic Fit	One free Pilates Class with Tonic Fit
Vegan Table	A 1,000 baht voucher for 2 guests
Wokstar Express	A 1,000 baht voucher for 2 guests
Woo Phuket Restaurant	Organic Cold-Pressed Juices for 2 guests

Massive thanks to **NH Boat Lagoon Phuket Resort** for their spooky venue and **Good Drop Water** for sponsoring the treats.

FUNDRAISING

The Melbourne Cup Brunch - 5th November



There were live auction prizes kindly donated by **5 Star Marine, Iniala Beach House and The Siam, Bangkok**, as well as silent auction and raffle prizes from our kind donors, which are shown here:

Raffle Prizes

Avista Grande Phuket Karon	3 course dinner at CHARD Grill with a glass of wine, beer or cocktail
Avista Hideaway Phuket Patong	3 course dinner at Tambu with a glass of wine, beer or cocktail
Bangkok Hospital Phuket	3 X a 2,000 baht voucher for a LipiView Test for dry eye screening
Bartels	8 lucky guests each receive a 600 baht voucher for Bartels
Billie Hunt	A bottle of wine, Eleph tote bag & gift basket from Lemongrass House
Bollywood	A 1,000 baht gift voucher
Chem Hair Stylist	10 x a hair cut or treatment
Courtside Cafe & Sports Bar	Three lucky guests receive a 1,000 baht voucher
Gelatissimo	A 250 baht voucher
Go Fresh Chermgatalay	4 lucky guests win a 300 baht voucher
Good Drop Water	Good Drop Water goody bags
Good Drop Water	A selection of Good Shepherd soaps
Kenny Rogers Roasters	2 guests receive a 1,000 baht voucher
Khem Go Natural	2 guests receive a scented wax sachet workshop
Khem Go Natural	One scented wax candle
Lucky 13 Sandwich & Friends	Four lucky guests receive a 500 baht voucher
Mid-Air Circus Arts	3 X a 2,300 baht voucher for a Flying Trapeze group lesson for 2
Millionaire Burgers	2 lucky guests receive either a 500 baht or 1000 baht voucher
Really Good Deli	2 guests receive a 1,000 baht voucher
Seeds of Change	2 guests receive a cute animal and a key chain
Sunup Cafe	A voucher for breakfast for 2
Live More	A free Lifestyle Consultation valued at 2,500 baht
The Vegan Table	A 1,000 baht voucher
Tonic Fit	A free pilates class
Woo Phuket Restaurant	3 guests win a voucher for two organic cold-pressed juices

What an incredible day for a great cause! The Melbourne Cup Brunch at the stunning **Casa Boho Phuket** was a sell-out success! Guests arrived dressed to impress, bringing fierce competition to the Fashions on the Field nominations.

Casa Boho Fashions on the Field

Best Hat - A 2,000 baht Spa voucher for Hyatt Regency Phuket Resort
Best Dressed Lady - A 2,500 baht voucher for Baan Rim Pa Restaurant
Best Suited Gentleman - A 2,000 baht voucher for Casa Boho
Best Dressed Couple - A Sunset tour for 2 with La Moet & Phuket Champagne Cruises

Silent Auction Prizes

Andara Resort & Villas	1 night in a 2 bedroom Terrace Suite for 4 inc breakfast
Billie Hunt	A Wicker Bag from Camille & Dalaya
Cape Siena	1 night in a Seaview Deluxe Room, including breakfast for 2
Endless Summer by Mona	A handmade cotton Lana Jumpsuit
Hyatt Regency Phuket Resort	1 night in ocean view room inc breakfast for 2
Hyatt Regency Phuket Resort	Sunday brunch for 2 at Pool House
Hyatt Regency Phuket Resort	Dinner for 2 in Mizu
InterContinental Hotel Phuket	1 night in a Classic Room for 2 inc breakfast
InterContinental Hotel Phuket	Sunday Brunch for 4 including free flow wine
La Moet & Phuket Champagne Cruises	2 guests enjoy The Cruise tour
Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort	3 days 2 nights in a Deluxe Ocean View Room for 2 inc breakfast
Millennium Hilton Bangkok	2 nights in an Executive Room with lounge access for 2
Novotel Phuket Kata Avista Resort & Spa	2 nights in a Superior Room with Pool View including breakfast
Patong Lodge Hotel	2 nights in a Quadruple Room inc breakfast for 4
Pullman Phuket Arcada Karon Beach	2 nights in a Delux Room for 2 inc breakfast
Seeds of Change	An extra large elephant made from recycled materials
Sole Mio Boutique Hotel & Wellness	2 nights in a Deluxe room with breakfast for 2 adults
Sole Mio Clinic	A 5,000 baht voucher for all available services
The Kee Resort & Spa	1 night in a Seaview Suite for 2 incl breakfast
The Slate	2 nights in a Pearl Bed Suite inc breakfast & dinner at Black Ginger

A heartfelt thank you to all of our generous guests and the amazing businesses who donated these prizes and more. Thanks to your support, we raised over **฿300,000!**

A special shoutout to the dedicated team at the **Hyatt Regency Phuket** for their invaluable support in making this fundraiser such a memorable one.

PLEASE HELP US HELP THE CHILDREN - MAKE A DONATION

Phuket Has Been Good To Us receives no government funding and relies solely on the generosity of businesses and kind individuals. To continue providing quality English education for FREE to orphans and children from low-income families, we need your help.



It is now easier than ever to donate to PHBGTO Foundation.
There are four ways to contribute:

1) Scan the QR code

2) Go to our website page:

<https://phukethasbeengoodtous.org/monetary-donations/>
and donate via WISE

3) Send a cheque (Thai baht only) to our office at Phuket
Has Been Good to Us Foundation, 80/14 Moo 3, T. Kamala,
A. Kathu, Phuket, 83150, Thailand

4) Make a bank transfer to our Thai baht account:

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 kindly make a donation via scan or bank transfer, please
contact Tina and let us know the amount and the date of your
transfer Tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org



รับเงินได้จากทุกธนาคาร



If you'd like to help in any way
PLEASE contact Tina Hall at: tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org

DONATIONS



Yummy Treats

This term, students Anya, Shira, Mila & Eva, from **HeadStart International School, Phuket** baked yummy treats and sold them at the school market. They collected over **฿5,000** and kindly donated these proceeds to Phuket Has Been Good To Us.

Bocconcino Cares

A huge thank you to everyone who enjoyed **Bocconcino Restaurant Phuket's** delicious Orecchiette al Salame Piccante e Mascarpone. Your support of their wonderful 'Donate to Charity Weekend' raised **฿9,750**. Special thanks to Khun Pim and Monica from **Ladict** for supporting the project.



Continuing Kindness

We are once again hugely grateful to Anna Sadykova from **Global Property Success Co. Ltd.** for kindly donating **฿15,000** to fund English education at Kamala School. Thank you, Anna, for your continued pledge to donate to PHBGU from your property sales.



Your contributions are making a world of difference in our students' education and future.

DONATIONS



Amazing Association

We are hugely grateful to the **Austrian Asian African Association** for their wonderful donation of **฿184,500** (€5,000) towards teaching and after-school club supplies. A heartfelt thank you to the Association for their generous support, enabling us to purchase numerous teaching supplies and to Geraldine, Alex and Daniel for their visit to Coconut Club. Our teaching team

has been able to purchase English phonics workbooks, model clocks, LCD marker boards, stationery, a laminator, standing fans, world globes, an oven and cupboards & tables for Coconut Club. We are immensely grateful to receive these valuable resources to enhance the children's learning journey, making it more effective, fun and engaging!

A FESTIVE MESSAGE

It is drawing close to Christmas - where does the time go!

Although we work through this time and school remains open, we at the Foundation would like to wish all of our supporters a happy and safe holiday season. Thank you all for your support this past year, and we look forward to a hugely successful year ahead with each and every one of you.



FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION

We send our heart-felt "THANK YOU" to all who continue to support us, whether through sponsorship, donations, volunteering, or in any other way.



Your acts of generosity fuel our teachers, office staff and full-time volunteers to continue their hard work - it shows them that you believe in this as much as they do.



So, a big thank you to each of you for working with us and for believing in our mission and our students. The children make us proud, and the role you're playing in their lives is instrumental in determining their futures.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



If you would like to find out how you can help
PLEASE contact Tina Hall at: tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org