



Phuket Has Been Good To Us 2023 Annual Report

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Vocational Opportunities
Through English

Dear Friends of the Foundation

With the support of kind donors from all over the world as well as successful fundraising events, we have been able to continue to teach English classes to less-privileged students in Phuket. With a basic grounding in English, the children have the building blocks to become confident English speakers. Our teachers also encourage enquiring minds and a love of learning, which will stay with the children throughout their lives.

In 2023, we have been able to provide a wider range of extracurricular activities for the 260 disadvantaged children, who live at school during term time due to their family circumstances. Our teachers consider this a key element of our work as, by engaging in activities outside the classroom, children develop crucial social skills, self-confidence and self-esteem contributing to their personal growth. Our learning has stretched beyond the classroom in many varied ways. We continued to encourage the children's artistic talents with Lego competitions and jewellery-making; the concentration and imagination every student shows is inspiring. Cooking classes are a huge favourite, the children learn to work in small groups, chopping, mixing and, most rewarding, tasting the finished product! The children's IT skills have improved in leaps and bounds thanks to the donated laptops we received last year.

Leaving the school grounds, this year we have had three excursions to the Hyatt Regency Marine Biological Center. The students were amazed by a hands-on experience, examining sea stars and slugs! The students learned about the importance of mangroves to our local environment, the dangers of plastic to marine life and saw how a plastic bag could so easily look like a jellyfish to a turtle.

We have been talking to the students about ways we can all help our planet, and they are excited to play their part by turning down plastic, segregating trash and reducing waste. They've been learning about the importance of these small actions and how they can contribute to a cleaner, healthier world for us all. It's inspiring to see them embrace environmental responsibility and work toward a sustainable future.

Our teachers can only continue these classes and projects with the financial support of our Friends of the Foundation. THANK YOU for enabling us to provide these opportunities for disadvantaged children; you can't imagine how much these experiences mean to them.



Sue Ultmann, Chairman, PHBGTU Board of Managers



MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is 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.

Our goal is to help Thai youth become capable and confident English speakers so they may secure well paid employment and end the cycle of poverty within their family.

2023



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OUR HISTORY

Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation (PHBGU) was pioneered by Tom McNamara in 2005, following the 2004 Asian Tsunami. Mr. McNamara was a caring local restaurateur who went to the Thai community after the tsunami, asking how he could help them recuperate from the devastation. The consensus was that Thai people wanted their children to learn English, as they understood it was the key to their children's future success. Mr. McNamara knew that the schools needing help could not afford fluent English speaking teachers. That is when the idea of a charity, that would make this education available to the children for free, was born.

In 2006, Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation 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.

WHY ENGLISH?

In Phuket, where the economy mainly relies on the tourism sector for generating revenues, the ability to communicate in English is essential. However, many Phuket locals are unable to gain employment in these industries due to lack of English skills.

In 2019, the National Institute of Educational Testing Service (Niets) tested Thai Primary year six students in four subjects: English, Mathematics, Science and Thai. The Thai language was the only subject with an average score above 50% while English, Maths and Science were failed with average percentages of 39.24%, 37.5% and 39.93% respectively. Moreover, in 2019, Thailand was ranked 74 out of 100 countries tested according to the EF English Proficiency Index.

Without the quality English education we provide, the underprivileged children we teach would be doomed to remain unqualified to work in many of the businesses in Phuket. By educating the local community and giving them the means to access better paid jobs and further education, we can give them the chance to break the cycle of poverty in their families and secure a more sustainable future for their community.

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OUR ENGLISH PROGRAMME TIMELINE

The Foundation's pilot programme was introduced at Baan Kalim School in 2006, teaching English to 124 students. Up until March 2020, we continued to have one English Teacher at Baan Kalim School, by then, teaching 135 students in Primary grades and 25 students in Kindergarten.

In 2007, the Foundation expanded to teach English to Primary grade students at the 36th Rachaprachnukroh (RPG) Kamala School.

Alongside providing formal English education at Kamala School, our volunteers and teachers also run an after-school programme called Coconut Club for around 260 students, aged 6 to 18, who have to live in dormitories at school during term time due to their family circumstances.

In Phuket, from 2020 to 2022, the COVID-19 pandemic led to school closures. During this time, PHBG TU teachers taught online English classes for primary year children registered at Kamala School. Our teachers also ran enrichment classes for those children who remained living at the school throughout the school closures.

It was with sadness that in 2020, due to COVID-driven financial constraints, we were forced to suspend our teaching programme at Kalim School.

In 2023, following the end of the pandemic, our teachers at Kamala School were able to resume full in-classroom-learning, teaching English as well as Mathematics and Science in English for FREE to Primary year students in years 1 to 6. Furthermore, in the academic year May 2023-April 2024, our teaching programme broadened its reach to include seven additional English classes covering all primary school children.

From November 2022 to March 2023, working with Kamala Orbortor, we taught English to children aged 2 to 6 at Kamala Child Development Center and Anuban Kamala School. From May 2023 to September 2023 we taught Kindy in Kamala School.

Thanks to sponsorship from The Chicorée Foundation, in November 2023 we returned to Baan Kalim School to teach English to all the children at that school. Teaching Kindergarten 1 - 3 and Primary Years 1 - 6.

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RAJAPRACHANUKROH 36 SCHOOL KAMALA

PHBGU teachers provide English education for FREE to underprivileged Thai children in primary years at Kamala School. We employ three fluent English speaking, qualified teachers and a Thai teaching assistant.

In 2023

350

Underprivileged
students reached



In 2023, a total of 350 primary-level children aged 7 to 12 received FREE English education from our qualified, fluent English-speaking teachers. Teacher Mint teaching English classes, Teacher Jerlin integrating science into English classes and Teacher Jes integrating mathematics in English, all supported by Assistant Teacher Da.



We also continued to run the Coconut Club after-school programme for those children who are unable to live at home or do not have a place to call home. Assistant Teacher Da co-ordinates the Club. Our teachers and volunteers run fun and educational sessions for the children. They enjoy arts and crafts, board games, cooking, outdoor games and computer lessons as well as birthday parties and incentive trips.

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THE CHICOREE FOUNDATION KALIM SCHOOL

Founded in Switzerland by Mr Jörg Weber and his family, The Chicorée Foundation funded extensive renovations and refurbishment of the Baan Kalim School, which was completed in October 2023.



Since November 2023
over 300
Underprivileged
students reached

Thanks to the support of Baan Rim Pa, PHBG TU had previously taught English at Kalim School from 2005 until the pandemic in 2020 - when severe financial constraints prevented our continued work there.

With sponsorship from The Chicorée Foundation, in November 2023 we returned to Kalim School. We employ two teachers to teach English to all the children at the school, from Kindergarten 1 - 3 and Primary Years 1 - 6.



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A MESSAGE FROM SENIOR TEACHER JERLIN

It's incredible that I'm composing this reflection in February [2024], the very month I joined the Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation back in 2015 - almost a decade ago! As I reflect, I feel overwhelmed with mixed emotions, mainly immense gratefulness for being part of my students' lives and a small team that diligently works to make everything possible for the children in the schools we help.

There's a lot happening behind the scenes that most people don't know about: numerous meetings, brainstorming sessions, idea sharing, networking, sleepless nights, and weekends dedicated to finding solutions - all contributed by every single person in the team. The fact that our programmes survived the height of the pandemic and continue to this day is nothing short of a miracle, but it's also a result of the courageous and passionate work of everyone in the team. We also recognize that we wouldn't be here without the ongoing support of the people who assist our foundation in various ways.

Post-pandemic, what have I learned from my experiences? So much - but my greatest takeaway would be "Kindness goes a long way." It may sound like a cliché, but survival and making a difference to the lives of the children (and to our own lives) starts with kindness: something we also teach our students in class through a safe and nurturing learning environment. Thinking of someone other than ourselves, being kind enough to care and listen to others' dreams, and wanting to be a part of their success...to continue to hope, to share, to empathize, and to wake up inspired every day - it all begins with kindness. It is through kindness that we are still here today, and I just want to take this opportunity to thank you all for being kind to us.



**Jerlin Balais,
Senior Teacher**

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Senior Teacher
Jerraleen Balais



Teacher
Jesylnn Loo



OUR TEAM

Our teaching team is employed according to the Thai Academic Year from May to March. Our teachers are fluent English speaking and fully qualified.

In 2023 we continued to employ Senior Teacher Jerraleen Balais (Jerlin), Teachers Jesylnn Loo (Jes), Patsara Choochart (Mint) and Assistant Teacher Saniya Somboon (Da) to teach Primary Years 1-6 at Kamala School.

Teacher
Patsara Choochart



Teacher
Melody Ybanez



From November 2022 to March 2023, working with Kamala Orbortor, we employed a fifth teacher, Melody Ybanez, to teach English to children aged 2 to 6 at Kamala Child Development Center and Anuban Kamala School.

Teaching Assistant
Saniya Somboon



Trainee Kindy Teacher
Panisara Phongjarus



From May 2023 to September 2023 Melody joined the teaching team in Kamala School teaching Kindy and Primary Year 1. Thanks to sponsorship from The Chicorée Foundation, since November 2023 Melody has taught Primary Years 1-6 and Trainee Kindy Teacher Panisara Phongjarus (Pearl) has taught Kindy 1 – Kindy 3 at The Chicorée Foundation Kalim School.

Khun Arporn Nortip entered her seventh year as Office Manager and Tina Hall her fourteenth as Director of Operations. Graham Haslam continued to volunteer with fundraising events and Helen Rashid Alexander volunteered at the after-school Coconut Club from November 2022 to April 2023.

Office Manager
Arporn Nortip



Director of Operations
Tina Hall



Volunteer
Graham Haslam



Coconut Club Volunteer
Helen Rashid Alexander



2023 ACHIEVEMENTS

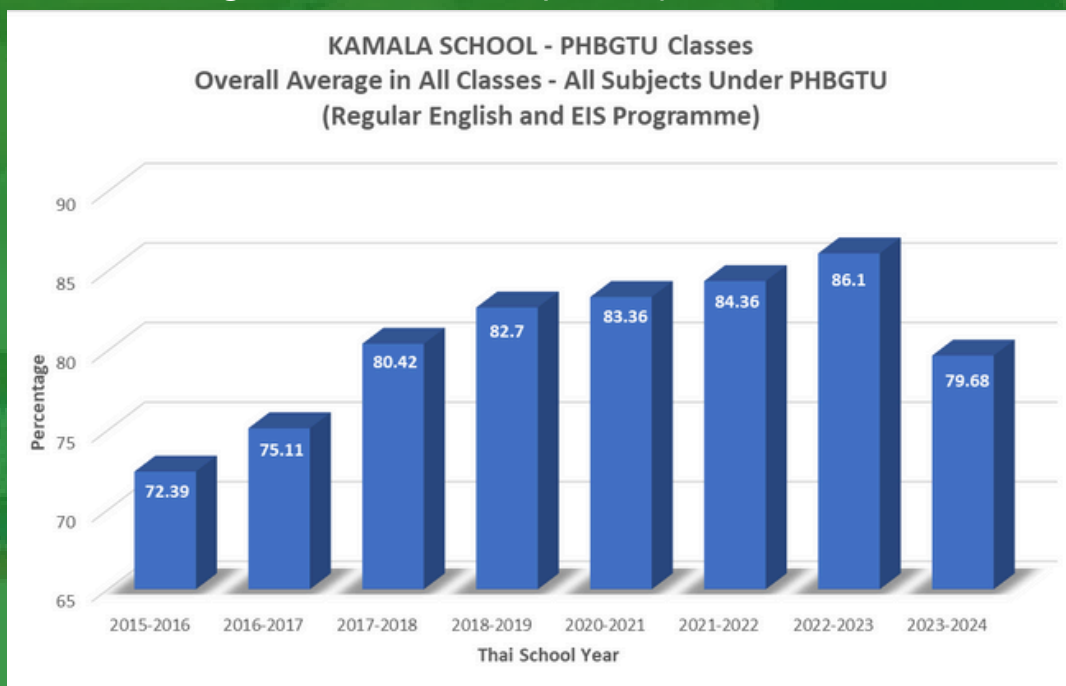
79.68%

OVERALL ENGLISH EXAMS AVERAGE

The return to in-person learning marked a positive shift in 2023. Noteworthy was the display of enthusiasm and intrinsic motivation among all students, particularly those who had irregular attendance during the previous two years of the pandemic. Although PHBG TU teachers were sometimes absent due to COVID-19, they utilized online teaching, which the students in the classrooms took in their stride.



In the first school term, from May 2023 - Sept 2023, our English programme broadened its reach to include seven additional beginner-level English classes covering all primary levels. The seven extra classes were made up of a second class of students in years 1 to 5 and two extra classes in Primary 6. Despite a modest dip in the overall average mark to 79.68%, as a result of many students being new to our classes, we celebrate the exceptional performance of our absolute beginners, led by our devoted teaching team. In the face of various challenges, including the effects of the latest COVID-19 wave leading to student and teacher absences by Term 1's conclusion in September 2023, our academic community demonstrated unwavering resilience and adaptability.



CHILDREN LIVING AT KAMALA SCHOOL

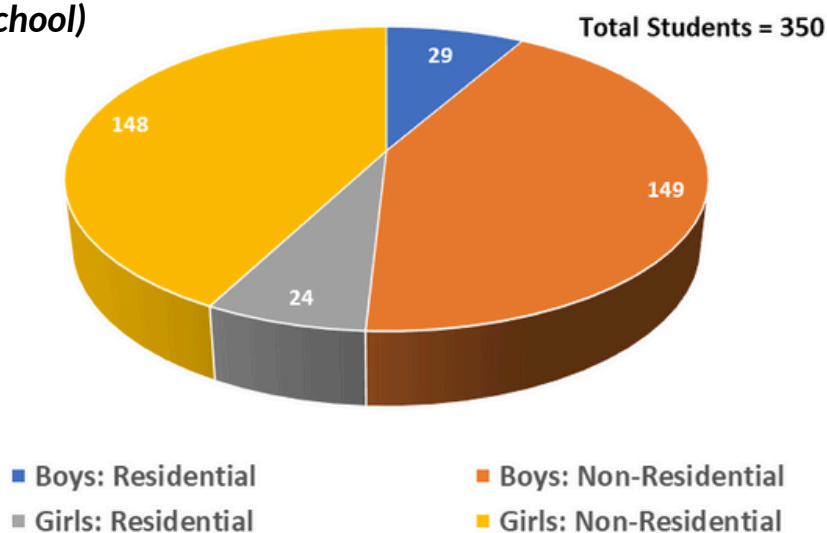
257
Residential
Students

In 2023, over 250 children from underprivileged backgrounds have been living at Kamala School during term time.

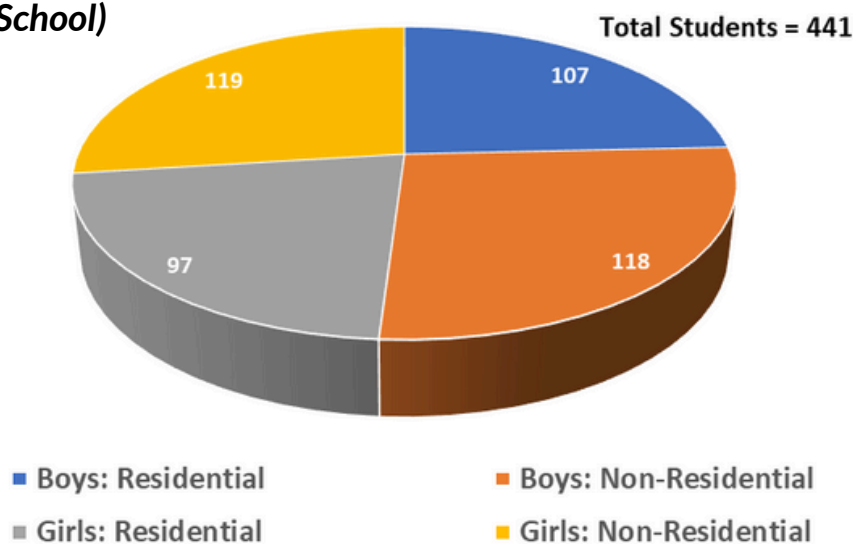
The King's Fund Foundation provides accommodation, school uniforms and 3 meals a day for these students. PHBG TU runs after-school Coconut Club (see next page) for these children.

The residential students are living at school due to their family backgrounds. Some are orphaned. Some come from single parent families who might not be able to take care of the child and go to work. Or home life may not be ideal for young girls and boys to grow up in. By choosing to send their children to live at Kamala School, these families give them the chance to have the safe environment and education they deserve.

Prathom (Primary School)



Mathayom (Senior School)



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COCONUT CLUB

Our after-school programme, Coconut Club, stimulates the residential students' imagination, strengthens their independent thinking abilities and enhances English language skills. Assistant Teacher Da ensures a safe and creative environment, where the students can grow in confidence and practice their spoken English.



Additionally, it is an opportunity to interact with visitors and sponsors from all over the world, engage in new activities and discover new talents. Each of our teachers organises at least one afterschool activity a week for the students, ensuring all areas of interest are covered; from arts and crafts, to cooking, dancing, board games and computer lessons. We also plan quarterly joint birthday parties and educational excursions such as trips to the Hyatt Regency Marine Biological Center.



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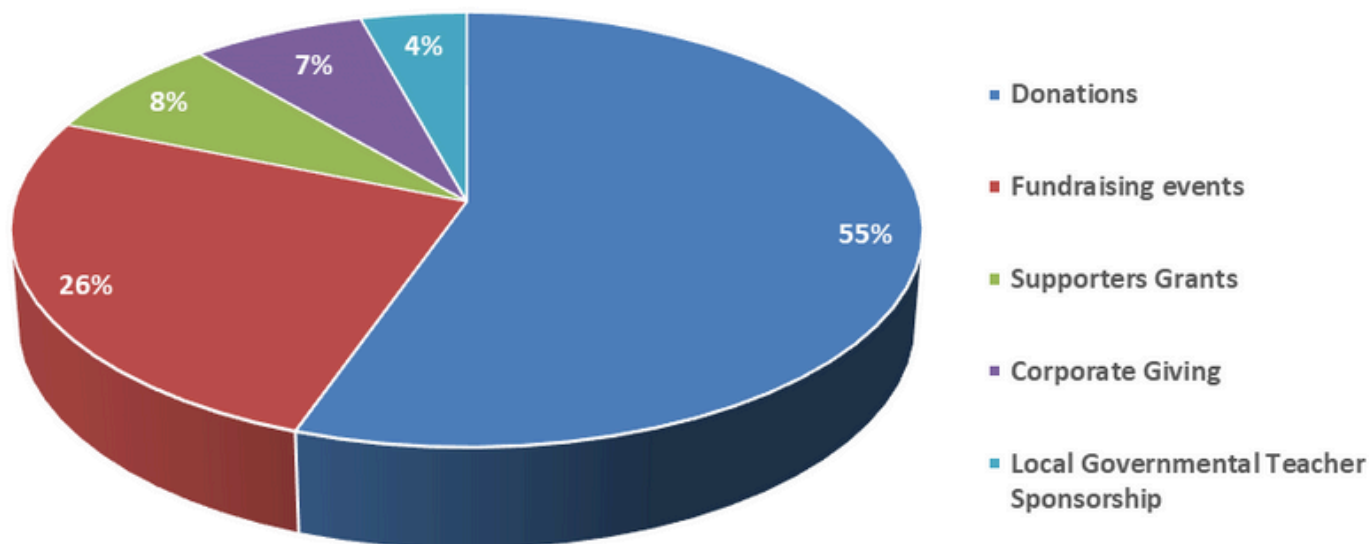
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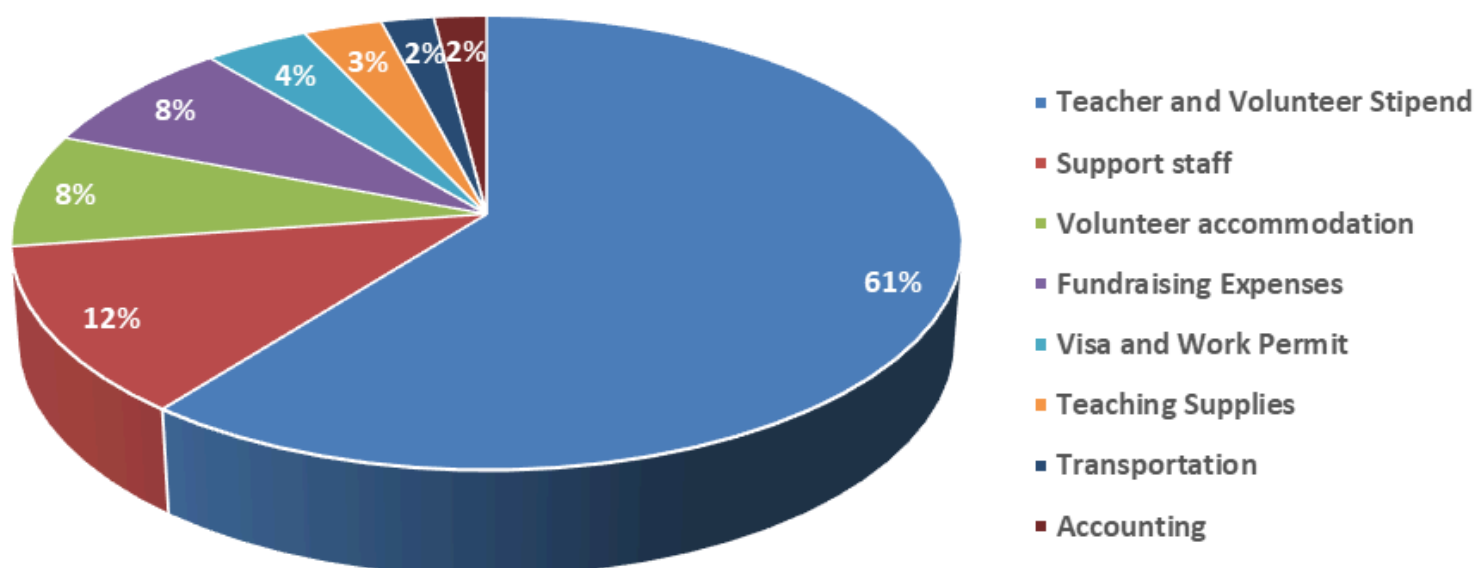
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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

2023 Revenue % of Total



2023 Expenses % of Total



A copy of our audited 2023 accounts is available upon request.

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DONATIONS

Crucial for our financial stability, we continued to receive donations throughout the year from Teacher, Class and Child sponsors, local supporters, and holiday makers. Thanks to the generosity of all these friends of the Foundation, we are able to continue our work. In-kind donations are essential to support our teaching - including back-to-school supplies for children whose families can't afford to purchase them, essential teaching aids such as books and science equipment, as well as birthday gifts and arts & crafts items for Coconut Club. We also received outstanding donations from local businesses and organizations.

#Coins2Charity

This campaign urges Friends of the Foundation to donate their small change. These coins have added up! We have been able to purchase a number of teaching supplies including dictionaries, printer refill ink and a mouse for all 15 Coconut Club Computer Lab laptops.



Hotel Christmas Campaigns

We are hugely grateful to the staff at the Burasari Phuket and The Slate, Phuket for running Christmas fundraising drives. During this time of giving, they asked their guests to kindly make a donation towards disadvantaged children's education.

Burasari
PHUKET

THE SLATE
A PHUKET PEARL RESORT

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FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Fundraising events are one of our major sources of income. In 2023 three successful fundraising events helped to raise over one million baht in donations.

International Women's Day Luncheon

Over THB 350,000 raised

A hugely inspirational and successful fundraising event, hosted by Four Points by Sheraton Phuket Patong Beach Resort and supported by the Australian Consulate General Phuket and Marriott Worldwide Business Councils. Attended by over 180 guests who enjoyed the presentations immensely. There were fabulous live auction prizes and many marvelous Mystery Table Prizes thanks to our kind supporters.



Melbourne Cup

Over THB 440,000 raised

A fabulous fundraiser hosted by The Hyatt Regency at Casa Boho and attended by 50 guests who enjoyed an amazing brunch and fashion show for Melbourne Cup 2023. There were also Live & Silent Auction prizes to bid on and raffle prizes to win thanks to all our incredibly kind donors.



Kata Rocks Superyacht Rendezvous

Over THB 380,000 raised

One of our long-term supporters, Kata Rocks Phuket, kindly selected Phuket Has Been Good to Us as charity of choice for their Superyacht Rendezvous in 2023, with guests donating over THB 380,000 at their "Back to the Eighties" private party!



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HOW TO HELP THE CHILDREN

Donations and sponsorship are crucial to our ability to continue our work

- Sponsor a Child, Class or Teacher
- Attend our fundraising events
 - or donate a prize for live or silent auction
- Organise your own community fundraising event
- Join us at Coconut Club and bring a fun project for the children
- Donate in-kind by purchasing teaching supplies
- Make a monetary donation
- Support our Christmas Tree Giving Campaign at your hotel or school

**For more information on ways to help Phuket Has Been Good To Us continue to teach disadvantaged children, please contact Tina Hall +66-(0)-801-439-554
tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org**



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SPONSOR A CHILD

***Sponsoring a child is one way to support our students' education.
A THB 10,000 donation covers the cost of a full year of English education,
as well as fun Coconut Club activities for one student.***

One of the new students to come and live at school during 2003 is Udomsak, known as Bajang to his friends. He is 11 years old and in Primary year 5. He is in school with his older sister, who is studying in PHBG TU Primary 6 English classes. He made many friends in and outside the classroom in the first few months of school. His kindness towards others has shone through, and his willingness to take risks is good for his studies.

Udomsak



Umareen



Umareen, (nickname Khaomao) is one of the students who stays at school during term time. After class, Umareen likes to attend PHBG TU's Coconut Club which offers different exciting activities for the residential students to hone various skill sets. Sports, number bingo and computer lab are top of her favorite Coconut Club sessions.

**If you would like to help offer children like Udomsak & Umareen a better future, please contact Tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org
As a sponsor, you would receive regular updates on your student's progress.**

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MAJOR SUPPORTERS



AND ALL OF OUR FRIENDS WHO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT US
THANK YOU

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THANK you!

