



Phuket Has Been Good To Us 2024 Annual Report

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Vocational Opportunities
Through English

A MESSAGE FROM PHBG TU

Dear Friends of the Foundation

In 2024 we were able to continue providing English education to underprivileged students in Phuket thanks to the generosity of donors from around the world and the success of our fundraising events.

In both Kamala and the Chicorée Foundation Kalim Schools, our teachers designed lessons to be engaging, incorporating music, games, presentations and group work, to accommodate different learning styles.

Using Jolly Phonics, our teachers support students in developing reading and writing skills and a strong foundation in English equips these children with the skills they need to grow into confident speakers. Our teachers also nurture curiosity and a love for learning; qualities that will benefit the students for a lifetime.

At Kamala School, our four teachers delivered English lessons to all students from Primary Years 1 to 6. We also continued Coconut Club, offering extracurricular activities for 300 disadvantaged children living at school during term time due to family circumstances. These after-school sessions play a vital role in building self-confidence, social skills, and self-esteem.

At the Chicorée Foundation Kalim School, thanks to the sponsorship of the Chicorée Foundation, our two teachers taught English classes to all of the children in Kindy Years 1 to 3 and Primary Years 1 to 6.



On three weekends, we had excursions to the Hyatt Regency Marine Biological Center. Students from Primary Years 1 to 6 learned about the impact of plastic pollution on marine life and gained hands on experiences with beach cleanups.

Kata Rocks hosted three trips for students in Senior Years 1 to 6 to learn how the various departments work in the resort. The visits aimed to inspire the students to expand their visions of their future careers.

None of this would be possible without the incredible support of Friends of the Foundation. THANK YOU to everyone who has contributed - through donations, volunteering, or attending fundraisers. Your generosity is transforming the lives of these children and opening doors to a brighter future.

Tina Hall, Executive Director, PHBG TU

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OUR HISTORY

Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation (PHBG TU) was pioneered by Tom McNamara in 2005, following the 2004 Asian Tsunami. Mr. McNamara (a local restaurateur who owned Baan Rim Pa) 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.

Without the quality English education we provide, the underprivileged children we teach would be 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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ENGLISH PROGRAMME TIMELINE

Inception

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.

Expansion

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

In 2015, we introduced English Integrated Studies (EIS) (Maths and Science in English) to Primary level 1 at RPG Kamala School. This programme later expanded to all Primary level students (to include 2 hours of English, 2 hours of Mathematics in English and 2 hours of Science in English each week, in addition to the 2 hours of English set by the Thai curriculum).

Kalim School

It was with sadness that in 2020, due to COVID-driven financial constraints, we were forced to suspend our teaching programme at Kalim School as well as English classes for the Primary year students in tier two at Kamala School.

However, in 2023, The Chicoree Foundation funded extensive renovations to Baan Kalim School which were completed in November 2023. Since then, The Chicoree Foundation has sponsored two PHBGU teachers to teach English to all 280 students aged 2 to 12 in Kalim School (Kindergarten 1 - 3 and Primary Years 1 – 6).

Kindergarten in Kamala

From November 2022 to March 2023, working in partnership with the local Orbortor (Mayor's Office), we taught English to Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten children aged 2 to 6 at Kamala Child Development Center and Anuban Kamala School.

ENGLISH PROGRAMME TIMELINE

Post Covid 19

Thankfully 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 levels.



Recent English programme changes

In the academic year 2023-2024, the school management requested that we extend the teaching programme to include English class lessons to all Primary level 1 to 6 absolute beginners.

As there were so many students, two new tiers were created “/2 “and “/3” (P1 to P6 /2s and a P6/3, so 7 new classes in total).

In 2023-24, the school requested that Maths and Science (in English) be withdrawn, for all Primary levels except tier 1 P5 and P6, due to there being insufficient teacher resource to teach these subjects to all students. So, by moving away from teaching Maths and Science, every child can now be taught English for the same number of hours and therefore all students are treated the same.

In 2024, Kamala School started an Active Learning Project. For 8 weeks of the year the school initiated Active Learning school-wide for all age groups.

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ACTIVE LEARNING PROJECT

During 2024, Kamala School initiated an Active Learning Project, for all age groups.

What is Active Learning?

Active Learning is a learning management process that focuses on intellectual creativity, emphasizing the learning process over the content. It aims to help students connect and generate knowledge internally. In this approach, students engage in hands-on activities and use various media, while teachers guide, stimulate, and facilitate their learning.



Design Local Clothes & Presentation

What students do?

Students were divided into groups, each focusing on different topics related to our local community, such as tourist attractions, culture, food, the history of Phuket Province. Each group created presentations in both Thai and English. PHBG TU teachers assisted in the English section by reviewing and suggesting appropriate English terms to ensure the students' output was accurate and complete.

What outcomes are expected?

Students can leverage the knowledge they have acquired to create tangible benefits in their communities. For example, by designing innovative products that cater to local needs, they can not only generate income but also encourage entrepreneurship. Additionally, they can share and celebrate cultural traditions, ensuring that these valuable practices and stories are passed down through generations, thereby preserving their

heritage for future audiences. Through these initiatives, students can make meaningful contributions to the economy and the cultural landscape of their society.



Making The Clothes

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 (Senior Teacher Jerlin, Teacher Jes and Teacher Mint), all supported by Assistant Teacher Da.

In 2024

357

Underprivileged
students were
taught English



In 2024, a total of 357 primary-level children aged 7 to 12 received FREE English classes from our three teachers, 73 of whom live at Kamala School during term time due to their family circumstances..



We also continued to run the Coconut Club after-school programme for over 250 children aged 7 to 18 who are unable to live at home during term time, 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, educational and incentive trips.

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THE CHICORÉE FOUNDATION KALIM SCHOOL

In 2024
70 Kindy
191 Primary
students were
taught English

Background

The Chicorée Foundation funded extensive renovations of Kalim School in 2023. Throughout 2024, they have sponsored two PHBGU teachers to teach English to all students aged 2 to 14 in Kalim School; Kindergarten K1 – K3 and Primary Year 1 – 6.



Kindergarten

The Kindergarten children learnt many new English words during the year. There were also activities to encourage children to have love and unity among their friends. In December there were a number of celebrations and holidays, so the children were busy with extracurricular activities connected to Mother's Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, etc., including coloring, making cards and reviewing vocabulary connected with each festival.

Primary Years

Their PHBGU English teacher gave students extra opportunity to practice speaking skills. They learned how to introduce themselves and, to encourage them to memorize and build their confidence, the students practiced their self-introduction speech in front of their schoolmates at morning assemblies. This also aimed to scout future participants for yearly English proficiency competitions in the province. Not all students are at the same level when it comes to reading ability. With the goal of helping the slow readers to catch up, small group after-class remedial reading sessions and pair-reading continued to be run by the teacher



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A MESSAGE FROM SENIOR TEACHER JERLIN

As we conclude the 2024 academic year, we reflect on a journey filled with growth and resilience. This year marked a significant transition as (per the request of the School Director) we returned to teaching an English Programme after a decade of English for Integrated Studies (EIS). While EIS allowed our students to practice English alongside Science and Mathematics, our current focus is solely on strengthening their English skills.

The aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic brought several challenges, including a decline in available funding due to the continuing economic crisis. Our teaching team in Kamala School was reduced to just three teachers and one assistant, leading us to make tough decisions. Instead of spreading our resources thin across multiple subjects, we chose to concentrate on delivering high-quality English instruction across all Primary levels.

Throughout the year, we faced obstacles such as class cancellations due to flooding, unforeseen school events, and rising student numbers. However, our dedicated team remained steadfast. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone on the team for supporting each other through these tough times.

This year, we've seen our lower Primary students grow in confidence, not just in their English skills but in their overall approach to learning. Our Primary 6 students have enjoyed English classes, as engaging activities sparked their critical thinking and encourage them to step out of their comfort zones. Meanwhile, motivated Primary 5 students have formed small groups to practice speaking English together, fostering collaboration and a sense of community. Additionally, our residential students have thrived in after-school activities, gaining valuable life skills through outdoor sports, arts and crafts, cooking, and IT sessions.

These achievements would not be possible without the collective effort of everyone involved in our foundation. Your commitment has helped us create valuable educational experiences for the children. I sincerely thank each of you for your contributions to our mission, and I encourage you to continue your invaluable support as we work together to improve the lives of the children we serve.

Jerlin Balais, Senior Teacher



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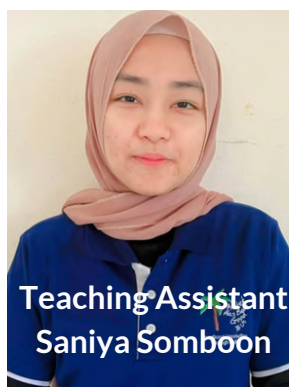


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OUR TEACHERS & STAFF



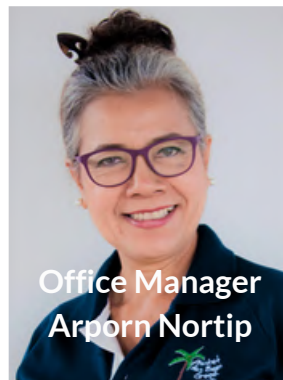
Our teaching team is employed according to the Thai Academic Year from May to March. Our teachers are fluent English speaking and fully qualified. In 2024, we continued to employ Senior Teacher Jerraleen Balais (Jerlin), Teachers Jesylnn Loo (Jes), Patsara Choochart (Mint) and Assistant Teacher Saniya Somboon (Da) to teach Primary Years 1-6 at Kamala School.



From May 2023 Teacher Melody Ybanez 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 at The Chicoree Foundation Kalim School. In addition, trainee teacher Panisara Phongiarus (Pearl) taught Kindy 1 – Kindy 3 at Kalim School to the end of Term 1, with new Kindy Teacher Annisa Maedingwae (Sa) replacing Pearl from November.

All our teachers are fluent English-speaking and are fully qualified to teach English. They also provide support with daily after-school activities for the 300 children who live at Kamala School during term time. Many of these students come from difficult familial backgrounds and our after-school programme is hugely beneficial to their development.

In 2024, Khun Arporn Nortip entered her eighth year as Office Manager and Tina Hall, Executive Director, entered her fifteen year with the charity. Furthermore, Graham Haslam continued to volunteer at Coconut Club and fundraising events.



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2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

81.40%

OVERALL ENGLISH EXAMS AVERAGE

2023-24 was the second year of back-to-school classes (no more online), with less restriction on the wearing of masks.

Whilst there were some class cancellations and teacher absences due to COVID-19, the strong team work and enthusiasm to cover for others minimized the impact.

The overall average mark for PHBG TU English classes at the end of the academic

year May 2023-April 2024 stood at a commendable 81.40%.

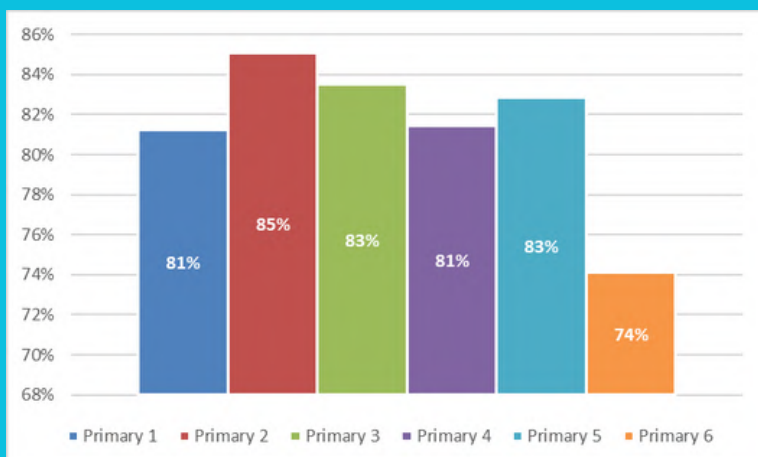
In Term 1, there was a shift from the full EIS programme of teaching English, Science and Maths to teaching only English for all classes other than tier 1 of Primary level 5 and 6. In Term 2, there were no classes for Primary 1 students, as our Kindy teacher transferred from Kamala school to Kalim school.

Despite a modest dip in the overall average mark compared to last year, as a result of student and teacher absences and various other challenges, everyone demonstrated unwavering resilience and adaptability.

Furthermore, increasing the number of class tiers, as mentioned earlier under “English Programme Timeline”, did well for the students, with performance being better than expected.

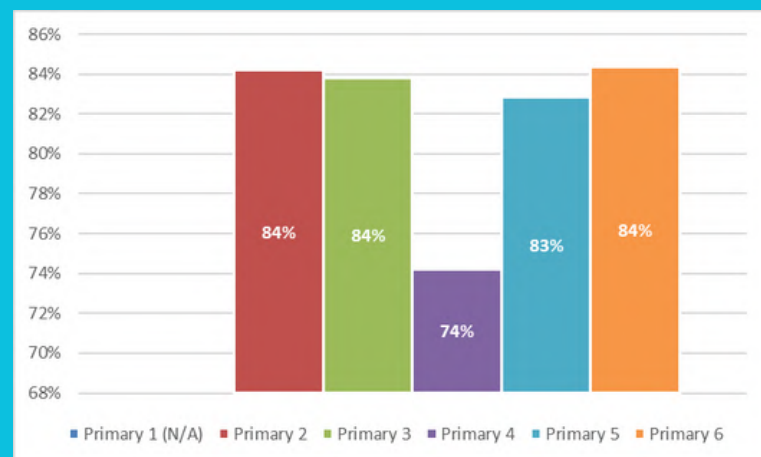


Term 1



Term 1 Overall Average = 79.68%

Term 2



Term 2 Overall Average = 83.12%



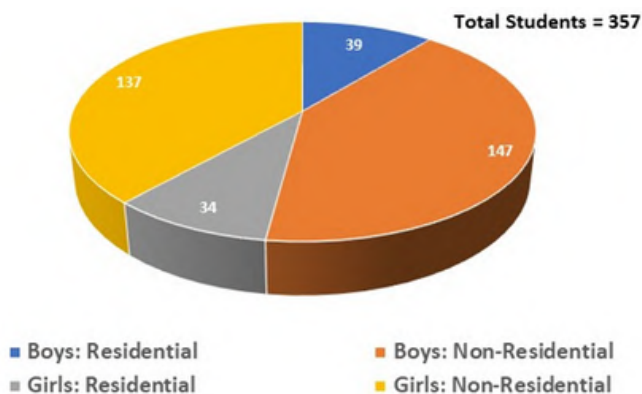
STUDENT STATISTICS FOR KAMALA SCHOOL AND KALIM SCHOOL

Kamala School

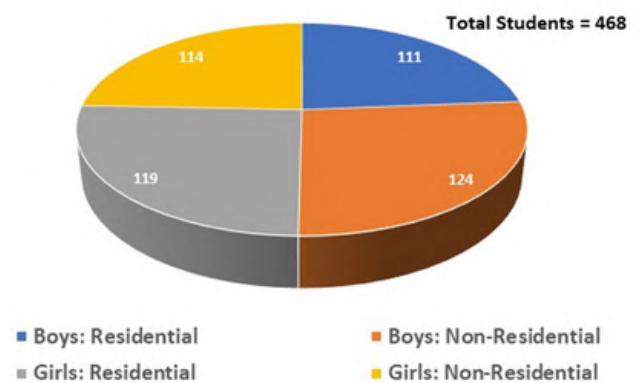
In 2024, there were a total of **825 students**; 357 Primary level children (of which 73 were residential) and 468 Senior level children (of which 230 were residential). The 303 children who live at Kamala School during term time are from underprivileged backgrounds. The King's Fund Foundation provides accommodation, school uniforms and 3 meals a day for these students. PHBG TU runs after-school Coconut Club (see next page) for these children.

These 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 just might 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)

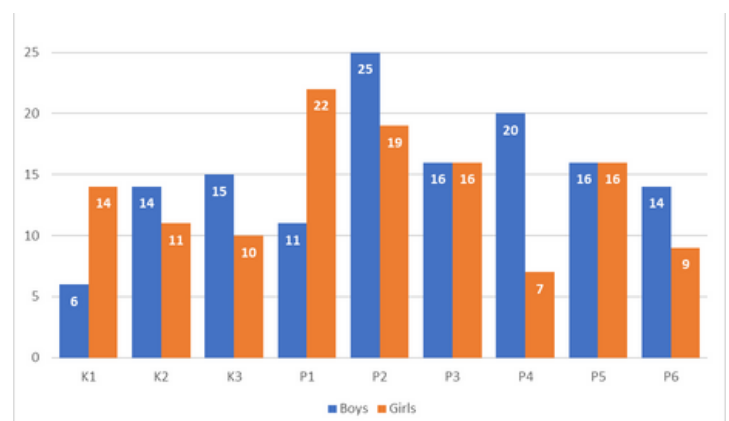


Mathayom (Senior School)



The Chicorée Foundation Kalim School

In 2024, there were a total of **261 students** being taught at this school – 70 Kindergarten children and 191 Primary level (P1 to P6) children.



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COCONUT CLUB

Alongside providing formal English education at Kamala School, our volunteers and teachers also run an after-school programme called Coconut Club for 300 students aged 6 to 18 who have to live at school during term time due to their family circumstances. Coconut Club stimulates the residential students' imagination, strengthens their independent thinking abilities and enhances English language skills. Assistant Teacher Da and the team ensure a safe and creative environment, where the students can grow in confidence and practice their spoken English.

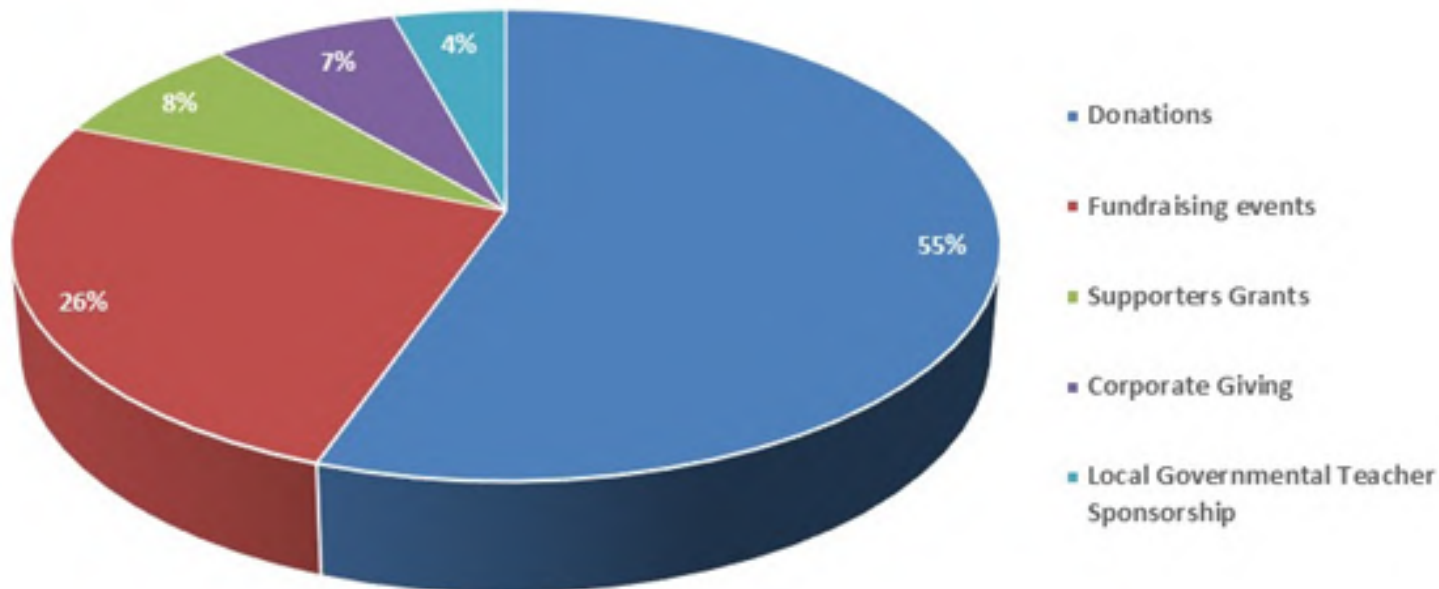


Additionally, the Club offers an opportunity to interact with visitors and sponsors from all over the world, engage in new activities and discover new talents. Each of our teachers organises at least one afterschool activity a week for the students, ensuring all areas of interest are covered; from arts 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 and Kata Rocks resort.

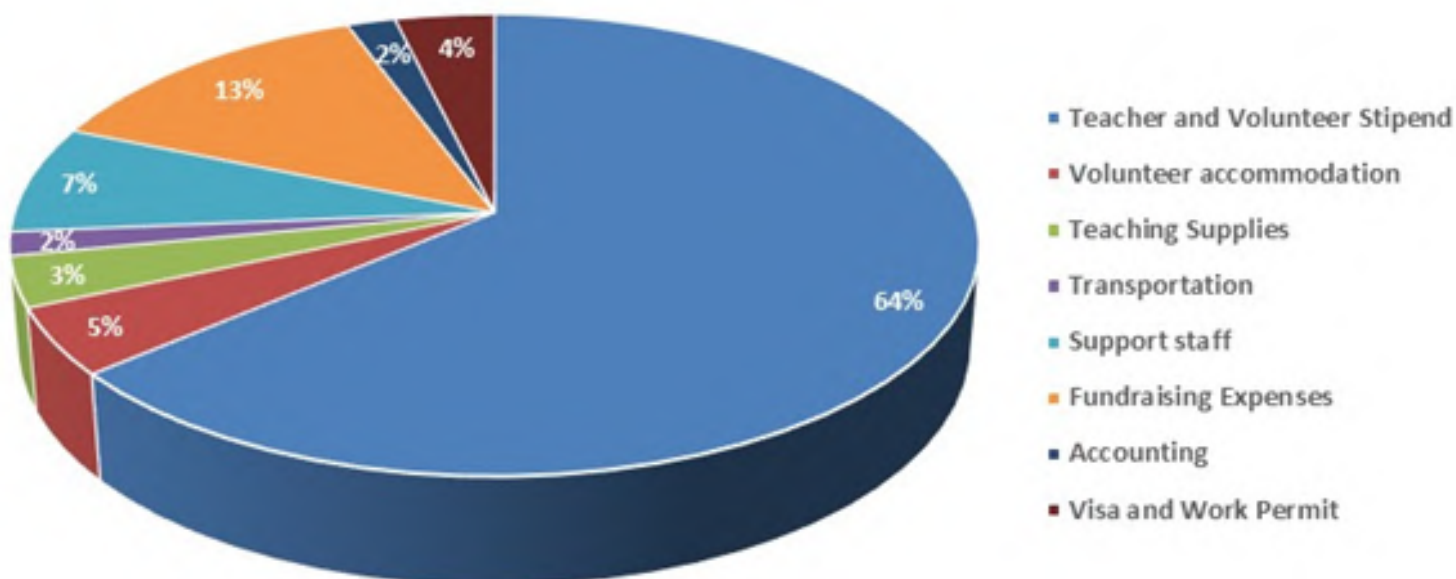


INCOME & EXPENDITURE

2024 Revenue % of Total



2024 Expenses % of Total



A copy of our audited 2024 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 also 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.

Austrian Asian African Association

We are hugely grateful to the Austrian Asian African Association (AAAA) for their wonderful donation of **฿184,500** (€5,000), enabling our teaching team to purchase numerous teaching supplies including English phonics workbooks, model clocks, LCD marker boards, stationery, a laminator, standing fans and world globes. These valuable resources enhance the children's learning journey, making it more effective, fun and engaging! Your contribution is making a world of difference in our students' education and future.



Also, a heartfelt thank you to Daniel, Geraldine and Alex from AAAA for their visit to Coconut Club to see the shiny new oven, cupboards & tables we were able to buy.

Hotel Christmas Campaign

During the festive time we were hugely grateful to The Slate who kindly displayed a donation box in their hotel lobby to benefit Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation and Good Shepherd Phuket Town. Additionally, on 25th December 2024, during their wonderful Christmas Brunch event, they featured a festive photo booth and donation station.



AustCham Thailand

In 2024, PHBG TU were beneficiaries of the AustCham Thailand CSR program. Their generous sponsorship of **฿60,000** helped us in our mission to continue to employ qualified English teachers and ensure that our students can keep learning the language skills they need for a brighter future.



Bangkok Hospital

We are extremely grateful to the team at Bangkok Hospital Phuket for giving PHBG TU the opportunity to be one of the not-for-profits on their donations box. A huge thank you to all who donated. We are delighted to share that almost **฿9,000** was collected. We were delighted to be chosen as charity of choice again in 2025!

CB Fitness Muay Thai Gym in Australia

Our sincere gratitude to Kay & Glen and CB Fitness Muay Thai Gym for their involvement in the Foundation over the years. Since they met us over a decade ago, they have held raffles and BBQs etc. to raise more than **฿230,000** for our charity, along with other inkind donations (swimming goggles, whiteboard markers etc.). Best wishes to Kay and Glen on their retirement.



Global Property Success Co Ltd

We are hugely grateful to Anna Sadykova from Global Property Success Co Ltd for kindly donating **฿15,000** to the charity on three separate occasions. Thank you Anna, for pledging more support from your property sales moving forward.

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Cafe del Mar

Cafe del Mar invited students from Kamala School and friends of the Foundation to a special ceremony. At the ceremony, we were presented with a giant cheque for **฿50,000** donated from their 'Be Kind Beverage' initiative.



Friends From Australia

A huge thank you to Mike and Kim McGrath, who continued to send us the most wonderful parcels of educational resources, games and other goodies from Australia during 2024. The children are delighted with all their birthday gifts.

#Coins2Charity

Launched early in 2023, this campaign urges people to donate any small change. In 2024 we raised **฿12,700!** We have used these funds to purchase a number of teaching items including dictionaries, printer refill ink and a computer mouse for all Computer Lab laptops.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

One of our major sources of funds are the fundraising events organized throughout the year. In 2024, six successful fundraising events helped to raise over **฿1 million** in donations.

Kata Rocks

Over THB 90,000 raised

One of our long-term supporters, Kata Rocks Phuket, kindly selected Phuket Has Been Good to Us as charity of choice for their annual Superyacht Rendezvous in December 2024, with funds raised from silent auction.



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FUNDRAISING EVENTS

International Women's Day Luncheon Over THB 500,000 raised over two events

We would like to sincerely thank all of our incredibly generous donors, with their support, the English speaking event raised ฿300,000. Over 170 guests attended the lunch at the Courtyard by Marriott Phuket Town. Supported by the Australian Consulate General Phuket and Marriott Worldwide Business Councils, guests enjoyed the presentations immensely. There were many

fabulous Live Auction and Mystery Table prizes thanks to a huge number of kind donors.



Over 100 Russian-speaking guests celebrated International Women's Day at Banyan Tree's Lagoon Deck. They heard from inspiring speakers and bid on stunning prizes. Congratulations to Ksenia Kukonos who organized and spoke at this fantastic fundraiser, raising ฿200,000 for PHBG TU. A huge thank you to the kind donors of the auction and raffle prizes.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Play and Treat Halloween Family Fun Over THB 175,000 raised for PHBG TU



Frightful fun was had by all at this party, hosted by NH Boat Lagoon Phuket Resort and sponsored by Good Drop Water; there was a Spooky Costume Parade, Play and Treat games, a spooktacular Lunch and amazing Live and Silent Auction prizes kindly donated by local businesses. With funds raised shared between PHBG TU and Good Shepherd Phuket Town.

Melbourne Cup Over THB 300,000 raised

This fabulous fundraiser, hosted by the Hyatt Regency at Casa Boho Phuket, was a sold-out success! Guests arrived dressed to impress, bringing fierce competition to the Fashions on the Field nominations. There were also Live Auction prizes as well as Silent Auction and Raffle prizes. A heartfelt thank you to all of our generous guests and the amazing businesses who donated these prizes.



The Red Carpet & Limelight Gala

Over THB 50,000 raised

This Russian party, held by RL Magazine with Art of Events and Shaman Cafe Bar & Lounge, raised \$50,000 from the fabulous raffle – thanks to all who donated prizes.



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STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

SONGGLOD RATTANA



Songglod, (nickname Amas), is a former student at RPG Kamala School. He studied 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.

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. Ack's hard work paid off and he was awarded one of the rare scholarships from the King's Fund Foundation, 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.

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WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MAJOR SUPPORTERS



AND ALL OF OUR FRIENDS WHO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT US

THANK YOU

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