

AWC Scholarship Program

ANNUAL NEWS 2012

Program News

Meet Our New Partner:

We are very happy to announce that in May, 2012, AWC signed a memorandum of understanding with The Education for Development Foundation (EDF) to administer the school interface portion of our program. EDF's highly qualified staff has administered scholarships to students in Thailand over the past 25 years. This partnership allows us to bring our mutual strengths to the program. EDF, under the AWC name, will oversee the application and acceptance process, database management, and disbursement of funds to schools. This will allow more time for Scholarship Committee volunteers to raise sponsorships and facilitate cultural exchange activities such as our annual Art & Essay Contest, English Camp weekend, and school visits. We're thrilled that this change will maintain continuity, improve local communications and continue to support students with no change to the scholarship funding they receive. Going forward, English Camp will be produced as funds allow or on a smaller scale. As a registered, tax-exempt organization, donations made by Thailand taxpayers are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by Thai law.

NGO of the Year

This year EDF won "NGO of the Year" at "Thailand NGO Awards 2012" organized by The Rockefeller Foundation, the Resource Alliance and Kenan Institute Asia for its best practices in Resource Mobilization, Accountability, Transparency and Sustainability. Learn more about them by visiting their website: www.edfthai.org/en/



AWC members visit Taelsiri Wittaya School students and their AWC advisor in Surin Province.

Welcome & Thank You

Since 1995 the AWC Scholarship Program has supported more than 350 students annually across rural Thailand through our sponsor-driven program. We have now helped almost 6,000 young women complete their high school education. Our mission is to advance the educational knowledge of disadvantaged female Thai high school students by providing supplemental financial assistance. Inspired volunteers within the American Women's Club of Thailand administer the program as an opportunity to contribute locally, support education in rural Thailand and inspire young women. The support of our program by donors like you encourages these young women to continue and complete their education at least in the high school level. Thank you for your support of the Scholarship Program! We are grateful for the annual donations made by committed sponsors like you who make our mission possible. And we hope you enjoy reading about the various activities from this past year.



The Gift of Education Lasts a Lifetime

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Rotary Club of Denver SE, USA

The Denver SE Rotary Chapter has raised yearly sponsorships for the Scholarship Program since 1999. This past year they donated 102 sponsorships thanks to Christa Reich and her continued support for the program. We are extremely proud to have Rotary as our partner and want to extend a huge thank you to Christa and the generous members of Rotary.

The Rotary International Convention was held in Bangkok this year, and we made plans to take a group of six, including former Scholarship Committee member LuAnn Tinkey, on a school visit in Lamphun province in northern Thailand. We had a fantastic day meeting Khun Soontorn and his nine AWC students (pictured right).



Doug and Lindsey Andrews with their student at Takhum Ngern School.



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Corporate Donors

The AWC Scholarship Program is grateful for the continued generous support of our corporate donors:



Chevron Asia South



Hess Thailand Limited



KrisEnergy Oil & Gas Ltd.

English Camp Sponsors



Mainly Silver Design, Thailand

Mainly Silver Design produces silver jewelry for export. Many of their employees are from provinces around the country where our schools are located. This year Mainly Silver Design sponsored 10 students. As a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project it provides a connection to the home provinces for many of its employees who correspond with the students. Thank you, Khun Yogeve and Khun Porn for your generous donation.

Brazilian Association of Thailand (ABT), Bangkok

In March of this year, the Association of Brazilians in Thailand notified the AWC Scholarship Program that they selected our program as the beneficiary of their 2012 Brazilian Carnival Ball. At the Carnival Ball on May 26th, the ABT presented Nancy Morin, AWC Scholarship Chairwoman, with an astounding donation of 300,000 baht to fund 50 sponsorships. We thank the ABT from the bottom of our hearts to help us improve underprivileged Thai girl's lives by providing the gift of education. It is gratifying to know that the ABT shares our belief that giving an education, not only helps one student, but also helps her entire community. We thank both Fabian Cavalcanti and Naira Martoli Rempel and their team for all the hard work and support to make this possible. We're pleased to announce that 5 members of the Brazilian Association will be joining us as volunteers at English Camp. Abrigado!

US Sponsors Visit Students



Edward Shanahan, a sponsor from Atlanta, Georgia, makes his annual donation from a foundation he established in the memory of his wife who was from Thailand. He has been sponsoring a student every year for the past 5 years. Committee members met him in Bangkok last spring before he traveled to Chiang Mai to visit his student and her fellow classmates at their school.



US Sponsors Rick & Marie Cannon and their 2 teenagers visited the Hansa Sujit School with AWC member Debbie Cannon's husband, Brent.

About School Visits

From January 2012 to August 2012, we visited seven schools across rural Thailand. We consider it a privilege to meet the many students and teachers whom we support. These local visits validate that this program makes a difference to these students. Home visits show us the students' living conditions which attest to the low income level of her family. Your sponsorship monies are helping with the costs of school uniforms, lunches, school transportation, stationary, report-writing materials and the cost of relevant extracurricular activities which are not fully covered by the Government's education policy and would otherwise be a burden on the family.

SCHOOL VISITS

While visiting Thailand recently, Rotary SE Denver sponsors, Katherine and HansPeter Sphuler visited their students from Takkum Ngerm School in May 2012.



AWC member Nancy Morin with student and her grandfather on a home visit.



Germa van der Schief-Janssen with 2 students during a school visit to Siritanna, Taelsiri, and Sangkha Schools.



AWC members with students at Samoeng Pittaya School.

SCHOOL VISITS

My First School Visit:

Field Report, January 2012

I wanted to make a school visit for the last couple of years as other members who had done so said that it was a very humbling experience. I was able to visit the Pangruratrongsan School in Kanchanaburi Province this month with some of the other committee members. It was the highlight of my week.

We loaded up 2 cars and headed out to Kanchanaburi. It took a little over 2 hours to get there, but we did not realize it as we were chatting and getting to know one another. On our approach, we took some photographs outside the school building next to the school sign. The area was lovely: lots of trees, a pond or canal, a very idyllic setting. I expected to see a rundown school building, but this was not the case. The structures were simple but well-maintained, and about 200 students attended this school.

At the school we were greeted by the retiring advisor and the new advisor—very simple ladies who led us to their school auditorium. Yes, it was even air-conditioned! Once seated, we were introduced to the teachers and the current and prospective new scholarship recipients.

Three of the students performed a beautiful Thai dance wearing traditional costumes. I talked to the girls later and found out that they had not taken any formal training and had practiced for just 2 days. They are so talented and did such a wonderful job.



Debbie Cannon, on a home visit with a student and her family in Kanchanaburi, presented the family with small gifts.

Now comes the most interesting part. We had a chance to speak to the students along with their advisors who translated for us. The students were very shy and uncomfortable to speak in English. But between my broken Thai, their broken English and the advisors' help, we had a wonderful conversation. The two students with whom I spoke were keen to go on to university; it was so very encouraging to hear them say that. One wanted to be a lawyer and one a policewoman. Their advisor informed me that they were very good students and very hard-working. Weekdays they arrived at school by motorcycle; one of them lived about 10 km away and the other one about 4 km away. On weekends both girls worked on nearby farms from 7 am until 5 pm. They seemed to suggest that they then sold the vegetables they grew. They have a tough life, yet were smiling, dedicated and seemed to have plenty of ambition to succeed.

After our chat there was a presentation ceremony where gifts were exchanged, lots of photographs were taken, and then we said our goodbyes to the students.

We then went on a home visit with one of the students, and this is where their reality hits us. The accommodations were very basic: just one 10 ft. x 12 ft. room that contained all of their worldly possessions. Everything they owned was neatly lined up along the walls, including a fan and a small TV. Six people slept in that single room. This young girl's mother was overwhelmed and in tears of gratitude that her daughter was getting financial support to complete her education. It was such a touching moment, and the moment

when I felt the impact that our small donations have on the prospects of an entire family.

We then went for lunch to a local restaurant; Thai food, very tasty, and a tad spicy, but this gave us an opportunity to chat with the teachers, who seemed very dedicated. Some of them had studied in Bangkok and had returned to Kanchanaburi to work at the school because their families lived in the area.

The whole experience was very humbling, gave us some time for introspection, setting our priorities on track and bringing us back to reality a little away from the expat bubble.

These people living in the small towns live a very simple life without even the benefit of the most basic amenities, yet they were smiling, genuine and showed a lot of gratitude for the support that their students were getting from AWC.

I am so glad that I was able to go on this trip. I am pleased that the AWC, courtesy of its members, is able to support these very needy students and I hope they will be able to continue to support the young girls in the years to come.

~Sonali Mundkur is Canadian, a member of the AWC and a new Scholarship Committee member this year.



Sonali with two students in Surin Province.

“Time with Our Elders”

More than 45 entries from 8 schools were submitted. Each winner will receive 1,000 baht, and the winning entries will be framed and donated to the American Chamber of Commerce Charity Ball in January 2013 to benefit their university education foundation.



Photograph winner

Placing 1st in the following categories this year:

Thai essay excerpt: Miss Jarinya Yumaka (12-071) - US Sponsor, Leigh Ann Miller

“Everyone who lives with grandparents would agree that their most memorable trait is their smile. It might be far from perfect and toothless, but nevertheless warm and reassuring. No matter how heavy our worries are those smiles are always present. We will always remember and be touched by them.” This student has no parents. She lives with her grandparents.

English Essay excerpt: Miss Songkron Fugsimung (10-081) - US Sponsor, Ann Bacher

“I’ll tell everybody that the elderly or my grandma is a very important and valuable person. Our life is like a strong tree with beautiful flowers that are watered and loved by a good person, and my grandma is that one. I can touch that purity love from her. I’ll impress and take good care of her forever.” This student lives with her aunt as her mom works in Bangkok.

ART & ESSAY CONTEST

Photograph: Miss Khanuengnit Kraitip (11-196) - Rotary Sponsor, Cheryl Radke

Art: Miss Nuttra Boathai (12-097) - Thailand Sponsor, Brazilian Association

Graphic Story: Miss Apinya Buadam (12-056) - Rotary Sponsor, Keith Rella

Video: Honorable mention to Miss Nalumol Chanthaphrome (11-175) - Thailand Sponsor, Brazilian Association



Art winner

STUDENT SMILES MAKE IT SO WORTHWHILE



ENGLISH CAMP

We have re-scheduled our annual English Camp to January 2013. The Hansa Sujit School in Suphan Buri Province will host the camp for 12 schools and 108 students and teachers. Our partner, EDF, will attend and participate as well as the Thai staff from the US Embassy's Information Resource Center. Volunteers will be a mix of AWC members and Bangkok expats.



We're also grateful to once again to have the amazing Peace Corps Volunteers help us. These wonderful young men and women dedicate a few years of their lives to help improve the lives of people in rural Thai villages and

often live in challenging conditions.

We just announced our local effort to collect food donations for these hardy individuals. Peanut butter, American cereals, salsa, chips, tortillas, taco seasoning, American candy, Nuttella, mac & cheese, and that old favorite: booze and wine are the most requested! Let us know if you can help.

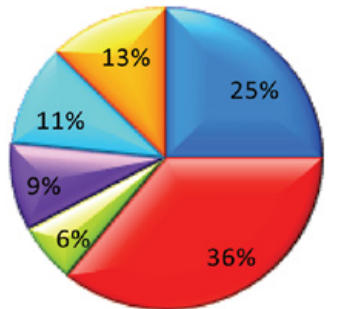


Peace Corps Volunteers at English Camp

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM INFORMATION

Student Annual Expenses

The graph below represents educational expenses which are not fully covered by the Thai Government. These costs are the responsibility of the student's family. An AWC scholarship can help limited-income families cover these expenses, which can make the difference between the student staying in school or not.



- Transportation
- Lunch
- School Fees
- Supplies
- Books
- Uniforms



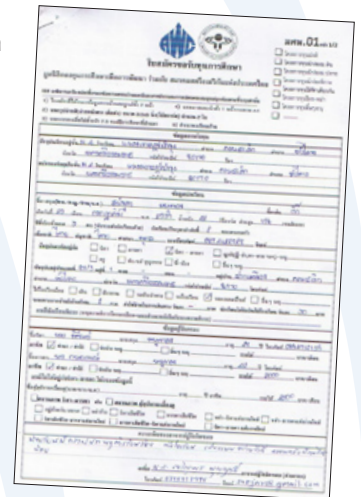
Our thanks to Khun Ju, AWC receptionist, for all of her assistance this year.

Program Statistics

372 Students
 159 New
 213 Renewals
 123 Graduating
 211 Sponsors
 41 Schools
 14 sponsored for 2013

New Scholarship Application

EDF collects this application form (in Thai) to ensure the student meets our criteria of low family income, good academic performance (GPA > 2.5), demonstrates good behavior, and a commitment to learning.



The student must also submit a biographical statement and current photo. For an example of the new AWC/EDF scholarship application, visit www.awcthailand.org/Resources/Documents/EDF-application-new.pdf.

Click the image to view/download the file.

Change in US Currency Donations

We have raised the US currency donation amount from US\$185 to US\$200. This will now cover both the exchange rate and the foreign check fee of US\$3.67 (103 baht), our bank charges. Exchange rate as of early December 2012: US\$200 = 6,127 baht

Because we incur a PayPal transaction fee of 245 baht (US\$7) for online payment, we encourage all Thailand sponsors to pay by Thai check or cash to minimize processing fees. Donations made in Thai baht remain unchanged at 6,000 baht.

AWC Donates to EDF:

In May, 2012, AWC Thailand made a donation of 2,010,000 baht to EDF Thailand to create the AWC Education Fund. These funds were raised by AWC members at a gala event some years ago and were being held in reserve. The AWC Scholarship Committee solicited a proposal from EDF to create this fund which was approved by the AWC Board of Directors in May. We're pleased to put this money towards supporting the education of young women in poor rural areas—120 female high school students for 3 consecutive years in 7 provinces in Northeast Thailand. Donations can be made by any organization, anytime, directly to the fund in the name of AWC Thailand.

IN RELATED NEWS



Scholarship Committee members present the AWC donation to Charuwat Boossamalee, Project Development Director at EDF.

Updates on Former Students

AWC member Jennifer Bloomfield's former student, Junjira, sent us an update following her high school graduation in March 2012.

I got the AWC scholarship when I studied in M. 5 at Stisuksa school in Roi-Et. The scholarship money helped me in many ways. First, I used the money for buying books. Next, I can take an extra course for subjects I don't understand. After that, the scholarship can help my family to reduce expenses. Finally, not only scholarship money, but the AWC English Camp helped me, too. I had new friends, new knowledge, new experiences and it was very fun. Moreover, this camp inspired me to study English. My English is better and better because I had chance to write English letters to my sponsors. I'm so proud to be a scholar of American Women's Club of Thailand.

I was an exemplary student at Stisuksa in both academics and extracurricular activities. I am an avid supporter of the preservation/conservation of the environment. I have participated in several environment camps such as "The Power Green Camp #5" of Mahidol University and Banpu Company, and the "EGCO Forrest Thai Youth Camp #26" of EGCO Group. I have conducted several programs for the benefit of the deaf and blind student of Khon Khean. I have entered many competitions during my high school years, most notably the 2009 Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympics held in Ubon Radchathani University, in which I won several awards. I also enjoy sports such as basketball, volleyball and badminton. I have excellent marks in my English, Biology, Social Studies, and Thai language course. I especially love English.



I come from a very supportive family. Their input in my all of my life decisions is invaluable, and I know that I can always count on them for anything. Now, have been admitted for full scholarship for study overseas called One District One Scholarship. I love learning about new ways of life and the different cultures outside of Thailand. It is my dream to be able to study abroad, and doing so will give me an amazing opportunity to broaden my horizons. When I finish my studies abroad, I wish to return to my home country and be the best asset that I can be. I would like to use all the skills and knowledge learned to be benefit my country. I want to be the best person that I can be who has lived a quality life.

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AWC member Angela Darling recently met with her former student, nicknamed Full Moon, and gave us a follow up to our 2011 Annual Newsletter report on this student.

While at a visit to Rongkwang School in Phrae in 2011, the teacher took us to see her home. The Scholarship team was stunned by the difficult living conditions endured by this student. Her parents passed away when she was 3 years old and she was living with her feeble aunt and uncle, even sharing their bed. Three others relations shared the house.

Angela is happy to report that Full Moon has received a scholarship from Central Department Stores to attend University in Bangkok. She will work part-time for Central for the duration of the scholarship. She will be guaranteed employment after graduation. She is the only student from her school who is attending university in Bangkok! Congratulations to Full Moon!



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FAQ

What is the Scholarship Program?

Founded in 1995 and operated entirely by volunteers, the American Women's Club Scholarship Program has helped thousands of girls to pursue one common dream: an education. In Thailand, the compulsory education system requires students to attend school only through grade 9. The final grades, 10-12, which mainly focus on academic or vocational training, are often sacrificed because of financial pressures on individual families. The AWC program offers scholarships to female students who are at great risk of dropping out during these crucial years. We currently have 41 schools participating in our program.

Why is the Scholarship Program Needed?

While the Thai government provides basic tuition, this subsidy does not cover all educational expenses. The fees for books, uniforms, supplies, meals and transportation are all the responsibility of the student's family. These extra expenses are a real burden for most families in rural communities in Thailand. Your sponsorship covers most educational expenses for one year, enabling a student to further her education.

Who is eligible for an AWC Scholarship?

School counselors nominate students who show a strong desire to complete their secondary education and meet the established grade-point requirement (>2.5 GPA), but whose family income levels place them at risk to discontinue their studies. A comprehensive application form must be submitted to EDF for verification of need. EDF will then match approved students to individual sponsors. In return, the students must continue to meet the grade-point requirement and correspond with their sponsors.

How much of my contribution goes to overhead?

1,000 baht of the 6,000 baht donation will go towards the EDF administration fee starting in academic year 2013 when the partnership is fully in place. Prior to the partnership with EDF, 500 baht of the donation was spent on an English/Thai dictionary for each student, postage, newsletter printing, photocopying and other administrative costs. Another 500 baht went towards school visit audits and English Camp expenses. Going forward, English Camp will be held pending availability of funds. School visits will be funded by AWC volunteers.

Is my scholarship donation tax deductible?

AWC does not have tax-deductible status in the US, although we understand members do claim under charitable contributions much the same as clothing donations. Our partner EDF can offer tax-deductible receipts for taxpayers in Thailand, expats or nationals. EDF Thailand advises us that EDF America has received a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) status and expects the office to be operational next year. This is great news for matching and tax-deductible donations from our US sponsors.

Our Annual Newsletter Goes Electronic!

We are excited to announce we are moving towards all electronic correspondence. This will help us greatly reduce postage expense and administrative efforts. Please keep us informed if you change your e-mail address.

How are the funds disbursed and tracked?

EDF works closely with an advisor at each school to oversee the disbursement of the funds to the students each term. The student is responsible for submitting an expense report for each term. The advisor will review and monitor the student's expenses. In addition, committee members periodically visit and audit the schools in order to ensure proper use of funds and to assess compliancy to AWC guidelines.

What if my student drops out?

As soon as EDF is notified by the school advisor, they will assign the sponsor a new student and send both the student and sponsor a letter of introduction.

Can I correspond with my student?

Yes, you can send a letter to your student at her school address on the Student Information Form you receive from EDF.

How can I participate?

Every scholarship is made possible by the generosity of individual sponsors. Your support is needed! Complete the application and mail it today along with your donation to the American Women's Club of Thailand. We accept donations of 6,000 baht or US\$200. Donations can also be made via PayPal at our website: www.awcthailand.org/scholarship/sponsor.

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662-712-3380/1

E-mail: scholars@awcthailand.org
Web: www.awcthailand.org/scholarship
Facebook: American Women's Club of Thailand - Scholarship Program



We thank you for your generous support!

Sponsor a Student This Year

Please complete this sponsor application and mail it along with your payment to our office in Thailand. Or visit www.awcthailand.org/scholar_sponsor for online application and payment.

American Women's Club of Thailand Scholarship Program

Sponsor a Thai student in rural Thailand in grade M4, M5 or M6 for the academic year May to March. (*Equals U.S. grades 10, 11, and 12)

Donor Information: AWC member? Y N

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Contact Number: _____

E-mail: (required) _____

Note: **All future AWC correspondence will be by e-mail.**

I prefer all correspondence by mail/post. (please check here)

Sponsorship: New Sponsor Renewing Sponsor

For sponsorship renewals, we will assign the same enrolled student.

• I will sponsor ___ student(s)
Correspond with my assigned student? Yes No

• I will make a general donation toward the Scholarship Program
English Camp in the amount of _____ baht/USD.

• I will donate ___ student sponsorship/s as a gift to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ City: _____

State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Country: _____ E-mail: _____

Donation: (per sponsorship)

Amount: \$200 USD 6,000 Thai Baht

Payment by: PayPal Check Cash Bank Wire

Check made payable to **American Women's Club of Thailand**

Residents of Thailand are encouraged to pay in Thai Baht to minimize payment processing fees incurred by AWC.

TOTAL DONATION: _____ baht/USD.

I require a receipt for a tax deduction in Thailand. Please make the receipt in the name of: _____

Thank you for your generous support! Funds will be distributed in June, so we appreciate your donation by **April 30th**.

Return to: American Women's Club of Thailand Scholarship Program
72/1 Sukhumvit 38
Bangkok 10110 Thailand

Email: scholars@awcthailand.org

Website: www.awcthailand.org/scholarship

Facebook: American Women's Club of Thailand – Scholarship Program

