

AWC Scholarship Program

ANNUAL NEWS 2013

Program News

What a great year we have had! The 2013 sponsorship drive ended last May with 399 scholarships divided evenly among 40 schools. We supported 156 M4, 87 M5 and 156 M6 students, which is the equivalent of grades 10, 11 and 12 in the United States. This success would not have been possible without the strong support from our sponsors. The student information certificates were e-mailed to sponsors in early August. We hope you had a chance to take a look and initiate correspondence with your student.

We began our partnership with EDF in May 2012 to administer the school interface portion of our scholarship program. We have had a wonderful year with EDF's help. They have assisted us with monitoring the student applications, English Camp, fund disbursements and monitoring student expenses. This partnership allowed us to bring our mutual strengths to the program.

Since 1987 EDF's primary goal has been to improve educational opportunities and quality of life for less fortunate children and youths in remote areas of Thailand. Sponsored students receive many opportunities to develop necessary life skills and gain valuable knowledge that can be applied throughout their lives.

In December 2013 EDF received the outstanding NGO award called the Golden Galapapreuk from Khon Kaen University for their contribution towards the betterment of Isaan students in the Northeast region of Thailand. Learn more about EDF by visiting their website: www.edfthai.org/en/

Letter from a Student

Hello, I'm Miss Butsakorn Sangkeaw. I'm in M6, ChiangMuan withthayakhom school. I would like to thank the scholarship was given to me. I never thought that would get this opportunity. This amount may be valuable not so much for others but it's worth for me. I have learned many things, English camp, Writing in English and English skills, can get many things from your scholarship. It has many useful for me now and in the future. I will try to do the best. (Butsakorn's sponsor is Mark Brown.)



Scholarship Committee members were entertained by the student musicians at Maneesarwet School during a school visit.

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 6,328 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 to at least 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. We hope you enjoy reading about the various activities from this past year.



The Gift of Education Lasts a Lifetime

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Brazilian Association of Thailand (ABT), Bangkok



AWC Scholarship Committee receives the 360,000 baht donation from Naira Martorelli Rempel at the 2013 Carnival Ball.

ABT began supporting the Scholarship Program in 2012. With the help of Naira Martorelli Rempel, ABT presented us with a check for 360,000 baht at their annual Carnival Ball fundraiser, thereby supporting 60 students in 2013.

We are so thankful to the members of ABT for their belief in our program. We had the privilege of getting to know a few of their members who participated in both the English Camps. They were very touched with the experience and began supporting us on their own as well as through their club.

Once again, we would like to say a big “Obrigada” to all the members of the Brazilian Community for giving the gift of education to the underprivileged girls living in rural Thailand.

Interaction with Thai Youth

by sponsor Ed Shanahan

My experience with two students, Darunee and Sopawadee, who have received scholarships has been rewarding. Initially, a donation of a relatively small amount of monies is helping a deserving student receive an education which their parents cannot afford. After getting to know your student by exchanging letters, cards and visits, if fortunate, you realize that the education the girl receives has great impact on her and her community. Without it, the girls will repeat the life of their parents. With it, they can make notable achievements with their lives. Not only are you providing monies to a young Thai but also you are receiving an opportunity to interact with an intelligent, forward-looking young person, whose contribution to her community is endless.

Rotary Club of Denver SE, USA

The Denver SE Rotary Chapter has been a strong supporter of our program and has raised yearly sponsorships for the Scholarship Program since 1999. Thanks to Christa Reich, the members donated 104 sponsorships in 2013. Christa Reich has been instrumental in garnering the support of the members and we applaud her for her hard work, dedication and her continued support for the program since 2006.

We are extremely proud to have Rotary as our partner and want to extend a huge thank you to the generous members of the Rotary Club.

Microsemi Corporation



The Microsemi Thailand operation is run by Scott Hudson, husband of AWC member Robin Hudson. The company makes semiconductor and system solutions supporting multiple markets around the world. Robin introduced the Scholarship Program to Scott, and since then Microsemi has given a generous donation of 12 scholarships to help our students. We had the wonderful opportunity to get to know Scott during our November English Camp, and he was very happy to meet several of his students, see the benefits of this program and is a definite proponent of the English Camp. Thank you very much to Scott and Robin Hudson.



Scott & Robin Hudson with 3 students at English Camp.

Corporate Donors

Strong support from corporations like Chevron, Hess, Kris Energy, and Mainly Silver makes it possible to reach out to so many students. We are ever grateful for your continued support.



Chevron Asia South

Kris Energy



Hess Thailand Ltd

Mainly Silver



SCHOOL VISITS



Student shows her drawing skills during a visit to Maneesawet School.

This year we had the privilege of visiting four schools: Hansa Sujit, Maneesawet, Thakum Ngern and Samoengpittayakhom. We provide scholarships to about 10 students per school.

These visits help us connect with the students, matching faces to names and hearing about their lives. It also provides great insight into the needs of the students and validates that our program does make a difference in the lives of these girls. We also

take this opportunity to talk to the advisors and teachers about the school facilities, the number of students at the school, and the management of the Scholarship Program along with other pertinent topics.

During the visit, the students perform a beautiful dance for us thereby enriching our cultural experience. We enjoy a lunch with the teachers at a local street-side restaurant and gather information about their community. Finally, we have the opportunity to make a home visit at the end of the day. This is a very humbling experience to observe the smiles on the faces of the family members despite having so little.



Renee Hudson (right) meets with representatives of Samoengpittayakhom School in advance of English Camp.

Sonali Mundkur (center) at the home of Nilawan Ruenkam and her mother after a visit to Thakum Ngern School.



AWC SCHOLARSHIP SPONSOR GUIDE

Here is some basic information you might want to know after becoming a sponsor in the AWC Scholarship Program:

1. Donation receipt

- AWC Sponsors will receive an original receipt within 7-14 days by e-mail, after the donation has been fully processed.

2. Scholarship Student Information

- Your student information will be sent to you by e-mail in August after the start of the school term and all students' enrollments are confirmed by schools. Enclosed in the e-mail are the Student Information Certificate which includes a student photo, map with her province location and a message from the student.

3. Correspondence with Scholarship Students

- Also included with the student information is the name of the counselor and address of the school the student attends. If you wish to correspond with the student, please send a letter to the student in care of the counselor at the school address. Please include your address and e-mail contact information if you would like the student to correspond with you. The student is not given the sponsor contact information by AWC or EDF.
- AWC does not want the student asking the sponsor for money or any inappropriate communication. If your student does so, please let AWC know at scholars@awcthailand.org, and we will contact the counselor to inform the student that such communication is not acceptable.

4. Transfer of Scholarship Funds to the Scholarship Recipients

- Funds are transferred to scholarship students twice a year after confirmation of school term enrollment has been received. Funds are transferred in July for the 1st School Term and November for the 2nd School Term.
- Occasionally student substitutions are necessary as a result of factors such as change of school or relocation due to changes in parents' employment. Sponsors will be informed of such changes and AWC will reallocate the funds to other qualified candidates whose information will be e-mailed to you at the earliest possible time.

5. Tax-deductible donation receipt (only for those filing taxes in Thailand)

- You may request a tax-deductible donation receipt by contacting scholars@awcthailand.org. It will be sent to you by The Education for Development Foundation (EDF), the nonprofit organization directed by AWC to administer a portion of the Scholarship program.

6. Regular updated news and information

- AWC Scholarship Program will e-mail sponsors quarterly newsletters to keep you informed about our activities and progress reports about our program.

7. School Calendar in Thailand

- Term I Mid-May / June – early October
- Term II Early November – early March
- Children's Day Second Saturday of January

ENGLISH CAMP



Practicing Th sounds in "Just Say It."

2013 was an unusual year in that we held two English Camps. Our January Camp was held in Suphan Buri at Hansa Sujit Wittaya 2 School. We had 12 participating schools with 108

students, 30 teachers and advisors and 54 volunteers including members of the Peace Corps, U.S. Embassy staff, members from Education for Development Foundation (EDF, our partner in administering the school/student interface portion of our program) along with members from the AWC and the nearby expatriate community.

Our second camp was held in November at Samoengpittayakhom School in Chiang Mai Province. We had 12 schools participating again with 125 students, 25 teachers and advisors and 47 volunteers from a very diverse community, some coming from as far as Jakarta, Indonesia. We once again had a fabulous group from the Peace Corps, the U.S. Embassy, EDF, and people representing many women's organizations from Bangkok and the surrounding areas.



Sponsor Jennifer Winnie with two scholarship students.

Our camps start on Friday evening with registration, a welcome ceremony and icebreaker activities. On Saturday, we have five activity sessions of 50 minutes each and an T-shirt signing activity followed by a beautiful cultural show organized by the students of all the participating schools. On Sunday, we have three activity sessions and end the weekend with a certificate presentation ceremony. We have a good mix



Fun and Games...



Group of students on their way to the next fun activity.

of academic and non-academic activities like Spelling Bee, Quiz Game, Just Say it, Conversation Cube, Build the Man (Hangman), Computer Literacy, the Shopping game and Fun & Games. The activity stations are run by the volunteers, and all teachers and students participate in every activity.

In our January camp the Just Say It activity which concentrates on teaching the pronunciation of "L", "R", "TH", "SH", "CH", etc., sounds was a very popular activity. At our November camp, Fun & Games clearly won the popularity contest.



A lovely student in costume gives a wai.

We presented goody bags to all the students and teachers at both camps. This was possible due to generous donations from Chevron, DTAC, Microsemi, Bank of Ayudhya, IRC, Thai Watana Panich Co. Ltd, and Deb Wooden. A big "Thank You" to each one of you in helping to bring smiles to the faces of these students.



Thank you to Goody Bag sponsors.

In November, we stayed at the beautiful Lhong Khao Resort where the manager Khun Chanet took special care of all the needs of the volunteers, ending our busy Saturday with the magical touch of paper lanterns that we floated into the sky after sunset.



Signing T-shirts is always a highlight of Camp.

For all English Camp pictures and more great photos about the AWC Scholarship Program, we invite you to visit... <https://picasaweb.google.com/AWCScholars>

ENGLISH CAMP

We thought we should share snippets of comments about camp from a few of our fantastic volunteers:

Joan, Peace Corps Volunteer: *I learned a lot about how to plan a successful camp and appreciate the model. I was especially touched by how international the group was and how much fun it was to meet and interact with such a diverse group. Thanks again for your continuous support and energy and willingness to accommodate so many different needs.*



Conversation Cube...



Adriana (right) and her student.

Adriana Singh, our youngest sponsor: Thank you for giving me the opportunity to come and help all these girls and getting to know them. It was very fun and interesting! I am very happy to have met my student in person instead of from post cards. I would like to share this privilege and see if I can encourage others to volunteer for English camp.

Rebecca Lamphier, sponsor volunteer: I had such a great time at English Camp!!! Truly, I didn't know what to expect. Everyone was so positive and determined to have a wonderful weekend. I quickly



Camp Organizers: Khun Chantawan (Samoeng-pittayakhom School), Jennifer Chutorash, Robin Hudson, Renee Hudson & Sonali Mundkur.

fell in love with the students. I would be happy to volunteer again next year and also with any other similar activities that you might have in AWC. Do remember that a great

team always stems from a GREAT leader. Thank you for sharing your 'sparkling self' and being a great role model. I appreciate you and all you do for others.



What shall I do now?

Linda Valentine, AWC Member: My husband, Steve, and I were among the 50 or so volunteers who trekked up to Suphan Buri for the annual AWC English Camp. To be honest, my husband wasn't overly thrilled to be going, but once he got there, he seemed to have more

enthusiasm for camp than I had! I was in charge of the Shopping game which became a huge success due to my wonderful volunteers: Steve, Dennis, Anne, Vera, Gloria and Noel. They helped the students feel comfortable enough to be able to buy and sell products using English. There was a lot of smiles and laughter in our classroom! If you are thinking about volunteering next year, please do! It is a great experience!

Maggie Elms, Rayong Pattaya

Women's Circle: It was a great camp and no I have not recovered from the camp it's a feeling I want to continue. I feel so fortunate to be involved with such great people doing great things. All your hard work made everything perfect. I want to do it again.



Smiling faces everywhere.

Leslie Jarvenpaa, Peace Corps Volunteer: I cannot thank you enough for such an incredible experience to be a part in helping to give back to the Thai community that has taken such good care of us. I don't know how I could thank you for how much everyone

spoiled us and it was so nice to meet so many people that are living and working in Thailand and share experiences. I hope I did not make a nuisance out of myself for all the eating and culture like fashion of the food given (or taken). I guess we don't realize all the things we are away from or bring us nostalgia or the comfort at home. The lanterns were such a nice touch and a beautiful experience to have in such a beautiful place. Again, thank you so much for allowing me to be a part of this English camp. I know there were people that missed this opportunity so that I could have one. I hope I repaid



Two students have a laugh with Joette Berkompas during "Go Find" activity.



That's funny!

that gratitude to you and the students. I'm sure I'll be seeing you all in the future.



Student reads her "Shopping" list with Michele Wells.



Happy group of students, sponsor volunteers and Peace Corps Volunteers.

IN RELATED NEWS

EDF (Education for Development Foundation) would like to thank representatives from the American Women's Club (AWC) of Thailand for handing over the scholarship donation valued at 2,394,000 baht (US\$ 79,800) which will enable 399 students to fulfill their wishes to further their high school education in this school year 2013.

With solid cooperation and active support from both public and private sectors in all their areas of operation, the EDF Scholarship Program has benefited more than 300,000 children from over 4,000 rural Thai schools since 1987.

Dictionaries

In July we sent approximately 170 dictionaries to the new scholarship recipients enrolled in the program. Several advisors wrote very kind notes thanking us for doing so.



Thank You Tea

The Scholarship team held a Thank you Tea for the sponsors living in the Bangkok area. Attendees had a chance to mingle with fellow donors, meet our partner EDF, and then were faced with the difficult task of voting for the Art & Essay Contest.



Above: Naina Rao, Nichole Deidrick, Robin Hudson, Naira Martorelli Rempel

Left: Lyn Baldwin, Tara Newhouse, Michele Wells & Renee Hudson

AWC Donates to EDF



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

Letter from a Graduate

Dear AWC Scholarship program,

Hello, "Sawasdee kha," my name is Yaowadee Akaruan. My school name is Thakhum-Ngern Wittatakarn. It is located in Maetha District, Lumphun Province in Northern Thailand. There are 483 students in my school. I received AWC Scholarship since 2010 when I was in Grade 10 (Mattayom Suksa 4).

During the 3 years at this school, the scholarship had helped me go far in studies and school life experiences I have best opportunities to be better off which makes my parents and my teachers proud of me.

In March 2013, I graduate Grade 12 (Mattayom Suksa 6) and I'm lucky. I have an opportunity to study in Phayao University and I'm going to study at Science faculty, major in Mathematics and Educational Curriculum, Apparel program for 5 years.

Under AWC scholarship program for 3 years, I would like to emphasize that I have been helped to be better off. It also made me care of my studies and absolutely I would like to thank you very much for AWC and kind sponsors.

In the future, if I'll be a school teacher one thing I would like to do is a guidance teacher and a scholarship adviser I will be abridging for students to cross over and find good opportunities.

Yours sincerely, Yaowadee Akaruen (pictured below, left)



“My Hometown”



Photograph winner

The topic for this year’s art contest was “My Hometown”. We had more than 50 entries from 10 schools and it was lovely to see the creativity of the participants. Our members and sponsors were very kind in taking time to vote. Winners were each awarded a certificate along with a cash gift of 1,000 baht.

The 2013 winners by category are:

Art (2 winners with a tie vote):

A16 Busakorn Sangkeaw (M6 Chiangmuanwittayakhom School), Sponsor: Mark Brown

A17 Kanokwan Saelee (M4 Chiangmuanwittayakhom School), Sponsor: Peter Van Arsdale

Photography:

P12 Benjaporn Muangkorn (M6 Chiangmuanwittayakom School), Sponsor: Kate and Malcolm Hawk

Essay:

E8 Suthida Suwanno (M4 Laemratbumrung School), Sponsor: Cheryl Radke

ART & ESSAY CONTEST



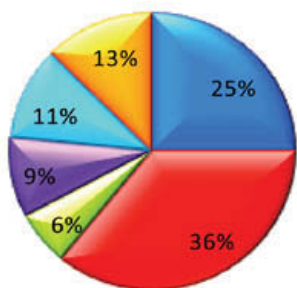
Art Winners (above) A16 and (below) A17.



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



Ms Benjamas Rattanakupt. Her gracious and efficient support in the office makes so much possible.

Program Statistics

- 399 Students
- 158 New
- 241 Renewals
- 156 Graduating
- 184 Sponsors
- 40 Schools

Scholarship Application

EDF collects the student 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 AWC/EDF scholarship application, visit www.awcthailand.org/Resources/Documents/EDF-application-new.pdf.

Donation Processing

The 2014 scholarship donation amounts remain unchanged at 6,000 baht or US\$200. When you choose to make your sponsorship donation online via PayPal, it is now on a “subscription” basis, renewable annually. We incur fees as follows:

- PayPal transaction fee = 260 baht (US\$8)
- US dollar check fee = 203 baht (US\$6.50)
- No fee for THB check & Domestic bank transfer (We prefer to receive THB checks, domestic bank transfers or cash donations from Bangkok residents.)

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 40 schools participating in our program.

Why is the Scholarship Program Needed?



Suchanan Matrawichit (M4) Hansa Sujit School is happy to receive a letter from her sponsor, Mary Fifer.

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 then matches 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. And the balance of 5,000 baht goes to the student in two installments, first and second semester respectively.

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.

Correspondence Update

We are pleased to report that converting to electronic-only correspondence has worked very well. Our postage expenses are reduced and administration is simpler. 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 compliance with 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/scholar_sponsor.

AWC Scholarship Program
c/o American Women's Club of Thailand
72/1 Sukhumvit 38
Bangkok 10110 Thailand
662-712-3380

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 to study 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.

Sponsorship: New Sponsor Renewing Sponsor

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

- I will sponsor ____ student(s)
- I will make a general donation towards the Scholarship Program Admin needs in the amount of _____ Thai Baht/USD.
- I will donate ____ student sponsorship/s as a gift to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ City: _____

State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Country: _____

E-mail: (required) _____

Donation: (per sponsorship) THB=Thai Baht, USD=US Dollars

Amount: \$200 USD or 6,000 THB

Payment by: PayPal Check (USD or THB) Bank Transfer

Make Checks payable to American Women's Club of Thailand

TOTAL DONATION: _____ Thai Baht/USD.

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



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

Rev. for 2014/1