



# Newsletter

## March 2021

We are pleased to acknowledge the wonderful continued support we are receiving from sponsors of the Education Fund. Scott Johnson has taken over the role of sponsorship coordinator. He reports that, to date, the number of students sponsored or with commitments from sponsors is 751, with 134 students yet to be sponsored. These funds will secure support for the academic year 2021-2022.

Groups or individuals wishing to sponsor one or more students may contact Scott Johnson at [ourstudents.7fountains@gmail.com](mailto:ourstudents.7fountains@gmail.com). Individual sponsorships range between B1,000 and B6,000 for a year for children in primary school and between B2,000 and B6,000 for a year for children in secondary school, with varying amounts up to B10,000 or more for students in higher education.

Unfortunately our fundraising activities at Seven Fountains have been curtailed due to restrictions imposed by the Thai government in response to the COVID pandemic. Our annual Christmas Dinner Fundraiser was cancelled, and subsequent fundraising proposals were also abandoned after further restrictions were introduced in January.

However, throughout the second half of 2020, Than Hartman set up her baked goods stall every Sunday after the morning masses at Seven Fountains, selling freshly prepared goods to the local community. Than maintained her efforts for five months, ending in December with Christmas goodies. She was supported in her hard work by

the Seven Fountains community, and thanks to a number of additional generous donations from supporters, a total of 100,000 Baht has been raised for the Sponsorship fund.



*Than Hartman in front of her baked goods stall in December*

Donations and additional funds raised may be used to support individual students, or may be used to support general improvements to the schools.

During the last academic year a small proportion of the funds in some villages has been directed to improving facilities within the local school. The teacher who takes care of the Kindergarten at **Pongnoi** used money to build a kitchen to provide cooking facilities for lunch.



*The kitchen building work*

At **Mae La** school money has been used for building a bridge to cross a big stream. The present bridge is wooden. It is old and quite dangerous for students to cross particularly in the rainy season because the school building is on both sides of the stream.



*The bridge in dry and rainy seasons*

At **Huay E Kang** kindergarten, the teachers who take care of kindergarten also used the fund for repairing the kitchen because the present kitchen is very small, without enough space for the children. The kitchen was not as hygienic as it should have been.



*Before and after*

As noted in an earlier newsletter, sponsorship funds meet only the very basic needs of these disadvantaged young people. School transport and school meals represent the largest expenses. Very often it is the mothers of the village children who work together to cook the school meals.



In December Scott Johnson and Brother Pii, the Jesuit brother who liaises with the village coordinators, were able to visit Mae Wang, to the south west of Chiang Mai. They carried out a site inspection, meeting the children who are in receipt of sponsorship and a group of mothers, grateful for the educational support their families are receiving.



And finally, a thank you from one of the sponsored students from **Omkoï** :

*Hello, I am representative of students in Omkoï Catholic Center. We thank you very much for the scholarship fund. This money is used for buying study supplies and for lunch expenses. This scholarship fund is very useful for us. We don't have anything to give you beside our prayers. I wish you have good health. May God give you strength and success in all your works*

For more information about the educational sponsorship project:

[www.thesevenfountains.org/index.php/en/scholarships-for-neediest-students](http://www.thesevenfountains.org/index.php/en/scholarships-for-neediest-students)