



Newsletter April 2022

Scott Johnson, sponsorship coordinator, has provided an overview of the current status of the sponsorship fund:

The “Our Students” Education Sponsorship Program at Seven Fountains seeks to remove financial barriers from students in the mountain villages of Northern Thailand which hold back children from receiving an education. The Primary, Secondary, and University aged children and youth that our sponsorship program assists, most of whom are from minority ethnic backgrounds, struggle to pay for essentials school items not subsidized by the government. Items such as their school uniform, art and craft supplies, fuel and transportation back and forth to school, and boarding house fees for those whose village is too far away for daily travel to school can be too much for a family to pay for. Without assistance, these families will often opt-out of sending their child to school.

For the 2022-3 academic year which is starting in just a few weeks, we have 834 students identified as needing assistance. Our budget for meeting their need is 2,843,000 baht.

Since the latter part of last year, we have been reaching out to past and current sponsors to join us in this endeavor to encourage these children to stay in school. I’m pleased to let you know that through the efforts of 224 unique sponsors here in Thailand and abroad, as well as those who made contributions through the sale of baked goods, hand-sewn face masks and greeting cards - all donated to support needs of the students - we raised a total of 3,381,688 baht.

Thank you so much for your generous support for these students.

Academic Year 2021-2022

The COVID 19 pandemic and the protocols introduced by the Thai Ministry of Education have seriously impacted on the education of all students throughout the country. On-site teaching was suspended for many months, and schools and teachers did their best to develop strategies to provide for students’ learning.

Ban Khun Win School has reported how they were able to support students and families over the last academic year:

Academic Year Activity Report of Ban Khun Win School, Mowakee (Nongmontha) House



“The pandemic of Covid-19 has caused students to be unable to return to school, as usual; though the village is small, the school has to follow the Ministry of Education protocol strictly. However, teachers have to come to school every day to give students assignments and check students’ homework in the village. Besides that, the teachers also have to take care of school activities, for instance, raising pets, and vegetable planting. Furthermore, the teaching style of worksheet assignments has

affected students' learning because they cannot study thoroughly. Fortunately, there are few students, and the teachers can teach them individually at specific times according to the community's situation or in some students' houses, but it has to follow the protocol of the Ministry of Education. “



Students are learning basket making from the local people

“And students who cannot return to school have to do online classes at home, and the impact of online learning is the students becoming addicted to their phones.

School has provided academic learning, technology, and vocational skills. Parents and local villagers provide help in developing important life skills. The students experience various tasks, such as taking care of pets, chickens, and pigs, making vegetable plots, growing vegetables, processing food, and selling their products.”

First, students learn how to raise black pigs to produce offspring to distribute to students and parents to feed them at home and use the dung in agriculture. Second, they learn how to raise laying hens to sell their eggs in the village. Third, they also have to learn how to feed pets, to clean the pigpen and chicken stalls. Fourth, they learn to plant vegetables. Furthermore, the students have to cook for their lunch by using the products in the school. Besides that, students have to take care of the environment of their school by collecting the rubbish around the school.”



Students' agricultural activities





Organic Vegetables



The House of Light in Ban Kad village (Mae Wang District, Chiang Mai Province) was established in 2000 to provide accommodation and food assistance for disadvantaged students who study a long distance from home. At House of Light, we have trained adults who care for the students - about 25 in total.

Nine students at House of Light in Ban Kad village completed their Upper Secondary education (Matayom 6) and were celebrated at a special program on March 25 in their honor. Of the nine students, seven are planning to continue into tertiary education, either in Chiang Mai or Lampang.



There are a number of building repairs which we plan to complete in the coming few of months. We will repair the boy's dormitory ceiling,



lay a tiled floor over the current cement one, and add a fresh coat of paint on the walls to keep the dormitory clean, safe and comfortable for the students. We also have plans to fix the roof of the communal boy's bathroom that was damaged by a fallen tree branch,



as well as do some painting and floor tiling in the dining hall. Special projects like these are one of other ways the "Our Students" Education Sponsorship Program at Seven Fountains assists the students in our care.

Activities of Chiang Mai Catholic Students in January, 2022

A group of university students in our program arranged a day of activities for the children at Zibrae School for Thailand Children's Day.



From one account of their activities: "We spent over 6 hours travelling to reach our destination, Zibrae School located at Moo 3 Meatuen, Omkoi, Chiang Mai.

It is a medium-sized educational institution, with 273 students from kindergarten to Mathayom 3. There is a students' boarding house with 77 students. Most of the students are villagers or Karen. When arriving at the school we had to do an ATK test from the public health officials for the safety of ourselves and our students.

When they came there were around 70 students. We separated the students into 6 groups and they went off to different games. When I was leading the game it brought back to me my childhood life because I experienced this kind of activity when I was in my village as a child. I was very happy to see this kind of sharing. It made me understand the feeling of the children. They got dolls and snacks and were very happy that we gave them things during this activity. There are very few opportunities when the children will have a chance to get some dolls and snacks like this, because they stay only inside the village and it is difficult to come out to go to the city. We had lunch with the students and were thanked by one of the students. Her speech was very lovely and full of happiness. All the smiling faces of the students made me very happy".



For more information about sponsoring a student:
www.thesevenfountains.org/index.php/en/scholarships-for-needy-students
or contact Scott Johnson by email: ourstudents.7fountains@gmail.com