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Ralph Waldo Emerson



Commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Asia Center Foundation, Phuket Thailand
2002 – 2012

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A history by Jaqui Lane





“Every child
has the right to
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to be loved.”

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Foreword

WHEN ROELIEN ASKED ME 10 years ago if I would stay on as ACF Board Chairman after Dr Martin left, I agreed without hesitation. Neither of us was quite sure at the time how everything would pan out, but Roelien was willing to start the Daycare project in Patong and the funding was secure. I was happy to support a project that was helping disadvantaged children.

Through the years many different people have made contributions and especially after the tsunami we received support that enabled us to start more projects to help poor children. Roelien's focus on education and sport has the potential to change lives and our projects up to now have done just that.

I'm not a rugby player but I enjoy watching the games during the Phuket International Rugby 10s. The event has been a great support to the ACF Scholarship program and Patrick Cotter and all the participating teams should be congratulated for their contributions and

partnerships with ACF. The Youth Rugby Development program also has a lot of potential and will create more opportunities for the children ACF is working with.

I have watched ACF develop into a stable organisation with the help of many individuals, and a team of people who are dedicated to what they are doing. The ACF team is doing a great job. I look forward to seeing the future school and boarding facility with sport facilities and a Youth Center being built so more permanence can be given to ACF's work.

Thank you to every organisation and individual who has supported what we do through ACF. We consider you our partners, working almost alongside the ACF team everyday to give children hope and a future.

Eam Thavornvongwongse
ACF Board Chairman



“We consider you our partners, working almost alongside the ACF team everyday to give children hope and a future.”

ACF Board Members

Eam Thavornvongwongse



ACF Board Chairman

K. Eam as he is known amongst ACF staff has been our Board Chairman since the inception of ACF. He has provided valuable input into matters regarding the Government during the past 10 years and also represents ACF on Government level when required. K. Eam is part owner of the Kata Group, which has hotels on Phuket, Koh Samui, Krabi and Khao Lak. K. Eam's support and involvement has been very valuable to ACF in the past and we trust that he will be part of ACF's future for many more years.



Timothy Byers

Tim joined the ACF Board in 2005 and has made a huge contribution in dealing with counselling foreign staff members, dealing with conflict and

advising ACF in various management matters. He has extensive knowledge of Thai culture and lived in Thailand for more than 20 years.

Pikul Thongthep



K. Pikul has assisted ACF even before she became a Board member. After the tsunami she brought her team from Bangkok to assist in interviews with children and families that was affected by the tsunami. Pikul manages the Project Life Foundation, a project under YWAM BKK which means she manages a Scholarship Program for around 500 students in various parts of Thailand. She also serves on the YWAM BKK Leadership team. ACF received valuable advice from her and her team with regards to management of our Scholarship Program.



Somchai Katnimit

K. Somchai is a local businessman with a heart for children. He is the Director of Grace Services Partnership on Phuket and also an entrepreneur. Somchai has been assisting ACF with advice on various issues in the past and ACF appreciates his involvement.



Roelien Muller

Roelien started the work done through ACF in 2002 by establishing the first project, the Patong Childcare Center in a slum area in Patong. With the help of many individuals, organisations, and a lot of grace she and her team have managed to continue working on Phuket developing five different projects aiming to improve the lives and situations of children-at-risk. She manages ACF with a team of Thai leaders.



Introduction

MY JOURNEY ON PHUKET started when I walked through Soi Namsea. The conditions were just terrible. I was not prepared for what I found in the slum while teaching English to adults working with tourists in Patong. Little did I know that my life would change completely when I saw the children's eager little faces when they joined their parents at the adult English class. I remember wondering, what do they do in a slum day after day?

I wanted to do something that would give the families I met there, hope again.

It was not a one-man journey. It is by God's grace and unmerited favour that I can thank many different people that played a role in bringing us this far.

Dr Danny Martin who believed in me, and introduced me to WCF – thank you for being there for me. Dr Joseph Lam from World

Children's Fund who took the risk, and provided the funding so I could get started – thank you for your tremendous support.

K. Eam Thavornvongwongse, our Board Chairman, who sat through numerous Board meetings and whose support ACF would have been stranded without on various occasions – thank you for your contribution on so many levels.

To many others, Patrick Cotter, the brave Bangkok Bikers, every team that has supported the ACF Scholarship Program at the Phuket International 10s year after year, every individual that walked through our doors, bringing a pencil or a donation – your interest and support served as great encouragement to all of us.

To James, my right hand man, “so far, so good” my friend! To an outstanding team of Thai and Burmese staff members – it wouldn't have been the same journey without one of you.

Thank you for your commitment and passion to serve and protect our children every day.

So many volunteers gave their time and talents. It was an amazing experience to have met each one of you. To my very patient, understanding and caring son, Jan-Adrian, who served as a great motivation and my anchor. Thank you for sacrificing so much so others can also have a glimpse of hope for their futures. And to Jaqui Lane, writing our history – what an enormous blessing you are!

It is with great expectations and excitement that I look towards the future and to reaching our goal of having our own facility. All in God's time.

Roelien Muller
Director, Asia Center Foundation



The beginnings: 2001 to 2002

IN NOVEMBER 2001 THE Asia Center Foundation was registered as a local non-government organisation on Phuket, Thailand to help the disadvantaged community of Phuket and surrounding areas with education and health care projects.

Roelien Muller, a South African by birth, had arrived in Phuket in 2000, 18 months earlier, joining an American missionary on a project he was working on.

Driven by a strong Christian conviction, and seeking a more fulfilling purpose in life, Roelien arrived with her then eight year old son, to work with Dr Danny Martin, who was setting up the Asia Center for World Missions, committing to work as his assistant for one

year. Not long after they started their work, Roelien and other team members were asked to teach English to street vendors who lived in the middle of a slum area of Patong, amidst the expensive Patong hotels that lined the famous beaches. A small shack was found in the slum and Roelien started 'teaching' English, something she had never done before, least of all to people who spoke no English.

After a few weeks of taking English classes twice a week Roelien could see first hand the conditions that the families were living in. She also noticed that the vendors would often bring their children, or that very young children would come to the area allocated for teaching (there was no room) to see what was going on.

.....
“When I saw the conditions the children lived in I feared that they could be exploited and wanted to do something to protect them, or at least, provide some protection up to a certain level.

“I saw their hunger and eagerness to learn while we were teaching their parents, it really inspired me to do something about their situation. Every child has the right to an education, to safety and to be loved.

‘When I realised the brokenness of their family situations I identified in a way because of the personal loss I had experienced in my own life and the challenging childhood I had experienced back in South Africa. Above all, as a believer I know that God asks each one of us to reach out and to make a difference right where we are, especially to those who are most vulnerable. And here I was in a slum in Thailand with children who needed support, love and kindness. I knew then that this was my purpose and this was what I was going to do.’

.....
It was clear to Roelien there was a need to support the children of slum families, and

those of women ‘working’ at night. A childcare facility seemed to be the best option to provide the children with a protective environment.

Dr Martin suggested the Asia Center Foundation, which had already been registered, and was not currently being used for local projects as originally planned. Prior to his departure back to the USA Dr Martin assisted Roelien in presenting a funding proposal to the World Children’s Fund in America to establish a Childcare Center for children at risk.

The project funding was approved and provided start-up capital for the Patong Childcare Center (PCC). As the President of the World Children’s Fund, Joseph Lam comments:

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“WCF selects worthy, charitable programs that are in line with our mission goal objectives; and ACF is one of them. Most definitely our knowing Roelien’s devotion, integrity and success in her mission are important factors in WCF’s decision to help ACF. And, with the endorsement of Danny Martin for Roelien’s work, we felt that we could not pass it up.”

The aim of the Patong Childcare Center was to provide a safe place during the day for children living in the slum while their parents worked or slept due to their work requirements.

With the grant money confirmed Roelien began the task of finding a place to house the Center and someone to help her. K. Lek, who had been a teacher was introduced to Roelien and the two of them started the process of establishing the Center.

It was the area for the poorest of the poor and there wasn’t much help or care for the children. After looking through the big slum area in Patong they located two of only four concrete built rooms in between all the corrugated iron shacks in Soi Namsea (Dirty Water Street). Pulling down the common wall that separated them, the two rooms were connected to make a space no larger than 40 square metres. Each room had a larger room in the back with a bathroom attached. One bathroom area was used for the boys, the other for the girls. In front of each ‘unit’ was a smaller section at the entrance that was converted into a dining area. Part of the second unit became the kitchen and ‘office’.

The help and care the PCC provided was free of charge and open to anyone who wanted it. “We didn’t judge people or try to tell them what to do, we were there to help them and their children where we could,” comments Roelien. Basic childcare was initially provided. This included breakfast, lunch as well as snacks in the afternoon, clothes, shoes, medicine, hair treatment against lice, hair cuts, nail hygiene and disinfecting mosquito bites and scratches.

In addition to their physical wellbeing the Center provided activities such as writing, learning colours, shapes and sounds to stimulate the children. They played games, learned basic English and also slept. The children had a nap in the afternoons. Establishing these routines was important, as at home many did not have any routine, and often they would arrive at the Center tired and hungry. The Center also organised some swimming experiences at the British International School that was part of its Year 9 community outreach program.

Prior to the Center being established children were often left unsupervised with neighbours

or older brothers and sisters, sometimes not very much older than themselves. Some were even locked into rooms during the day for their own protection by their parents. Others had to go to work with their parents, which might be a garbage dump picking through rubbish. Some were placed on the bottom level of the food cart used by their parent for selling food or fruit along the side of the streets of Patong. They’d spend all day next to a busy road where their mother was selling something, getting hot, tired and dehydrated.

If they weren’t out with their parents they were in the slum. Many parts of the slum area were full of mosquito-infected water pools that the kids walked in daily without shoes, often with cuts and scratches from broken glass and stones. Even behind the Center’s space there was a small stream that had extremely dirty water running through it. Most shacks did not have bathrooms or running water. Electricity lines were all over the place. Almost everyone had a TV antenna on the roof and a TV in their shack, but not running water.

Before long there were 24 children at the Center, as it was too small to accommodate

many more, and yet more children required help. With not much room the children would learn, play, eat and sleep in the same space. On Fridays they were taken down to the beach to have lunch, play and swim.

A usual day at the Center started at 8am when the children arrived. For those who arrived earlier, the cook would provide some breakfast to those who wanted to eat sitting on the floor of the Center’s ‘dining area’.

After this, ‘class’ would start. First they were asked what they did at home the previous night. Then they’d learn English and after this, Roelien (as the only English ‘teacher’) would work through colours, animal names, fruit. The Thai teacher would teach the Thai alphabet and then it was time for lunch. After lunch it was naptime and everyone would lie down on the floor on sleeping mats for about an hour and a half. After naptime they would be woken up and get taken to the toilet. Many didn’t know how to use a Western toilet – why would they?

They’d then wash their faces after which the cook and teacher would put powder on their faces to cool them down and freshen

them up, a very traditional Thai thing to do for young children.

Some days the children practised gymnastics in the classroom. “It was a lot of fun to see them try do forward-rolls and handstands, as no-one had ever shown them these things before,” comments Roelien.

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“Some afternoons we’d mix ingredients and make a cake or snack for someone’s birthday. They were also given Vitamilk (soy) everyday for extra protein as many suffered from malnutrition. Then they’d have a shower. Most loved the shower as they had never experienced standing underneath running water, rather traditional baths where water was poured over them, which was scooped from another container.

“It was another of my ‘firsts’ in the early days, watching the children experience things for the first time. To see the kids enjoy a simple shower so much ... the other was to see how they sat on a Western toilet for the first time”.

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An average day finished at 4.30pm, if the parents were not late.

It was hard work and long hours. The PCC didn’t have a lot of space and the kids had very few social skills. When they first arrived they would often fight the other kids for toys. Some ate with their hands and had difficulty eating with a spoon. Others wet themselves wherever they were and had to be cleaned. Some cried non-stop as it was a new experience for them to be with so many other kids in one space and they didn’t know what to do.

There were no expectations of the children other than to participate in the classes, behave well and to share their stuff.

This was a new experience for some. Slum kids grow up a bit wild as they are allowed to do what they want from a very early age. In addition, most slum parents are not around to discipline their kids as they are working and simply don’t know how.

Many parents were happy to have ‘the school’ in the slum... that’s what they called the Center. They were proud that their child was going to school and told their friends and family. Some struggling parents would come to The Center and ask for milk for their babies.





The PCC would try and help where it could. Visitors would pitch up out of the blue and provide rice and snacks for the kids, sometimes toys, funds or other food.

In the early years, 2002–2003, it was extremely fulfilling knowing that the Center was keeping the kids safe during the day. The staff at the Center also loved and cared for them in a different way than they had experienced before.

“It was fantastic to see them changing from wild little things into the beautiful children they were. Many went from crying, wild children to smiling, confident children when they got to try and master something new,” comments Roelien.

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“Because everyone could see the need for a place like the Center, it felt like the Center was really making a difference. The hard thing was when one of the children just didn’t come any more as the family had moved back to the province of their birth due to some family reason. More often than not they did not tell us ... the child just didn’t come anymore. It felt like we had lost a family member.

“The first few months were over before we knew it,” recounts Roelien. *“Keeping up with accounting, putting together all necessary documentation (application forms), put guidelines in place as to which families we could help through the project, interviewing more people to work with us, dealing with visitors and deciding how we will help the older kids in the slum who clearly needed some help as well, meant there was little spare time for anyone at the Center.*

“The Patong Childcare Center started with around 20 kids. It soon grew to 30. The maximum number the Center could take was 36 because of our limited space.”

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The Center was managed as a Daycare Center and first focused on basic teaching of hygiene and personal care (brushing teeth after lunch, eating with clean hands), good manners, caring for toys and learning the basics about English, math, colours, shapes and forms. It followed a bit of the Montessori school system by teaching basic life skills as we went along, (carrying a tray, scooping seeds with spoons, counting beans, pouring water into smaller containers).

The day to day program for the staff also involved administration, taking kids to the dentist, and buying supplies. In addition, application forms for more funding had to be completed and presentations made. Quite a bit of time was spent discussing specific family situations with K. Lek who knew almost everyone's family. As funds were limited ACF staff had to decide which kids needed their help the most.

After the first year the health and wellbeing of the children at the Center had improved greatly. Most of the children's behaviour had changed-they became more social, talkative and thoughtful of others. Some put on weight as their general health improved and all started to learn things and use their English. Most looked forward to seeing their friends each day instead of fighting and screaming. They were happy.

While it was not possible to make any improvements to the buildings due to lack of funds, the first year of operation was a success. The Center was up and running and making a positive difference to the lives of the children and their families.

The end of the first year finished with a Christmas party for kids and families. This was held in the slum. A canvas tent was put up and a 'sort of stage' was built. A concert was planned and all the kids practiced their parts for the big event. Costumes and a sound system were also rented. There was even a lucky draw and families could also win some prizes. And, of course, there had to be food. The whole slum was invited. The Lions Club of Phuket donated gifts and each child received one.

2003

IN APRIL 2003 THE Center purchased its first vehicle with support from the World Children's Fund, Japan, a 7-seater Mini van. The van was such an enormous benefit to the Center as it could be used to transport food supplies and stationary in bigger quantities to the Center. It also doubled-up as a storage space, as there was no space to store additional supplies. The van also enabled Roelien to transport the kids to the beach and the hospital when required.



Up to this point Roelien would rent a Jeep once a week to go and buy the week's supply of Vitamilk, vegetables, meat and stationary for the Center. On the other days Roelien used her motorbike to go back and forth to the slum and for emergencies. It was far from ideal so having the van was a major step forward.

Roelien was the first driver as no one else had a licence. "It was absolute heaven to have a

vehicle of our own,” recalls Roelien. “Of course we overloaded it many times with kids when we took them out but, fortunately, we didn’t have to drive too far to get to the beach.”

“This was another of my ‘first’ experiences, to see the kids reaction when they had to get into the van and be taken for a drive somewhere. Most had never been in a car before, they were only used to motorbikes. They were all very excited and fiddled with everything they could touch for several trips. Some also got car sick, not surprising given the van was packed with children on even the hottest days.”

Fridays were special days as a packed lunch for all the children was made and then it took about three trips to the beach with the minivan (and three times back again) so all the children could get out of the Center for a while, run around and have fun. There was a playground area at the beach where they could run around and play on all the playground equipment. For many it was the first time they had played like this. After about an hour they all sat down for lunch – the children all wearing their bright yellow

PCC T-shirts so they could be spotted easily. After lunch the exercise of three trips to and from the beach was repeated. When the children got back to the Center at the slum everyone had a shower and then collapsed on their bedrolls for a much-needed sleep. This became the Friday ritual. It was always a fun and very hectic day.

As mentioned, the Center not only looked after the nutritional needs of the children, but also assisted with their medical and general health, teaching them basic hygiene, to clean their teeth and wash their hands, simple things that helped to protect them from many of the infections and diseases that were around the slum area.

The dental department of Patong Hospital helped the Center kids by checking their teeth for free, as some of their families did not have the B30 per day health card at that time. Without the card they would have had to pay full consultation fees and this was simply not possible for these families. The dental department staff helped make these cards for the Center kids, which enabled parents to bring their kids to the doctor and get medicine.



In October 2003 ACF was able to purchase a second vehicle, also sponsored by the World Children’s Fund Head Office in USA. Over the course of 2003 the Center had started to work with older kids in the slum as well, many of who were in as much need of support and care as the younger children.

The Center was receiving more visitors so it needed a way to show the visitors around. As a result of securing the second vehicle a holiday program for kids was started, which required more driving, buying and bringing more supplies to the Center.



Thanakorn Budvaew
(Nickname - Of)
4 years old

As Joseph Lam recounts:

The visit to meeting the Queen was a highlight for me. I was very pleased to have an audience with her. The Queen was very gracious and kind and expressed her sincere appreciation for our donation and our charitable work for her relief fund for Thai disadvantaged children.

2004

SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AND achievements occurred in 2004. On 30th May, Roelien visited the Queen of Thailand with Dr Joseph Lam from WCF to make a US\$10 000 donation to Her Majesty Queen Sirikit children's charity. Two slum kids, Deer and Jot, accompanied them to hand over a gift to the Queen. It was the first time either of them had left Patong, travelled out of Phuket, stayed at a hotel, eaten a buffet breakfast or used an elevator. It was a special experience for everyone and ensured that the Asia Center Foundation and its works were recognised by the Queen.

As noted earlier, not long after the Center was opened it was clear that there was also a need to care for some of the older children in the slums. While it was not possible to do this initially due to the lack of funding and the need to focus on the younger children, by 2004 the Center was able to start providing one-off scholarships to older kids. These 'scholarships' meant the Center could buy uniforms and shoes for those who needed the help. These funds came from visitors to the Center, and were allocated as and when the Center had the funds.

The Center also connected to the Phuket International Rugby 10s Tournament for the first time through an offer to sell raffle tickets at the event.

Of started to attend Patong Childcare Center in 2011. His parents separated when he was only two months old and since then neither has taken any responsibility for him. All the responsibility rests on his grandparents. His grandmother heard about Patong Childcare Center and since it is free of charge to send children, and transport is provided by ACF, she decided to send him to PCC.

Of has a problem with his left cheek and jaw bone. He needs to see a doctor often to make sure that there is nothing else growing in the mass on the left side of his face – he was born like this. Of requires extra attention as he is also a very strong-willed child.

Of is quite expressive in nature and sometimes this ends up in screaming and shouting, but he also smiles easily. Of loved to draw and paint with colours, and he would like to be a policeman in the future. His grandparents hope that one day he will be healed and that he will be able to continue his education to a high level.



Kittikorn Chairab
(Nickname – Seven)
5 years old

Seven has attended the Patong Childcare Center since 2010. He is in the care of his grandmother who had very low income from massage work. When his grandmother heard about the Center and that it was free of charge to let children stay there every day, she felt very relieved. His grandmother also takes care of Seven's younger sister. Seven's grandmother can't work due to the fact that she also has to take care of his younger sister. Some days Seven is absent from school as she is not able to drop him off, or they don't have food for breakfast. PCC staff sends home leftovers from lunch when there is any.

Seven learns quite well in class but, sometimes, is very impolite and naughty. It's almost as if he seeks more attention. He needs additional discipline from the teachers and, therefore, takes up extra time from the teacher, which affects the entire class. On the other hand, he is always willing to help his teacher and his friends and he likes to play football. His behaviour has improved since he started to attend PCC.

The Phuket International Rugby 10s attracted visitors from around Thailand, Australia, the UAE and general rugby teams, so it was a great opportunity to raise much-needed funds.

This connection came about as a result of the organiser, Pat Cotter, meeting up with Roelien.

As Pat recalls:

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"I was looking for a child who had gone missing and was directed to Roelien's operation. After meeting her and discovering that she was doing everything on her own with donations and no secure funding, I decided to help the ACF as other charities were well funded."
.....

So the initial relationship with the Phuket International Rugby 10s Tournament was established. Roelien and her team sold raffle tickets at the tournament and raised B20,000. This was used for buying uniforms and stationary to older kids in the slum area.

The family situations of children attending PCC currently are, sadly, all too familiar and illustrate the need for the Center.

In October the Foundation started the first "Kids Club" meetings in the Daycare Center for older children on Saturdays.

By the middle of 2004 the Foundation's little team of five was expanding with the addition of a driver and another teacher. This meant we could start a holiday program during the October holidays. The program involved talking about important issues for primary age kids, sharing basic Bible stories to teach good character, and a two week holiday program which included activities at the Childcare Center, visits to the local library, making picture frames, painting pictures, making jewellery and a beach sport program.





Thawatchai Patveaw
(Nickname - Ple)
6 years old

The Patong Rotary Club supported the holiday program financially.

Then the tsunami hit us on Christmas Day 2004.

It was the most traumatic experience ever for most of the people in Phuket and Thailand. We used our vehicles to transport food and water to areas in need on Phuket and in Khao Lak. Foundation staff tried to help foreigners who lost family members to check lists for names at hospitals and translated at hospitals for tourists and Thai medical personnel. The Foundation also used its vehicles to give lifts to people from the media between Khao Lak and Phuket.

The Childcare Center, fortunately, was too far from the beach to be impacted by the tsunami directly, and it did not lose one child.

Some of the children at the Center, however, lost a family member as many Thais worked on the beach. We were fortunate that no child from the Center lost a father or mother.

The event shocked the children tremendously because they heard about so many others who had lost someone. The Friday excursions to the beach stopped, as they didn't want to go, they were too scared of the sea. Friday outings were changed to park visits.

Ple has attended PCC for two years. His parents are separated and Ple lives with his mother. His father is in prison for smuggling drugs. When the family moved to Phuket they worked as garbage collectors but they didn't earn enough and Ple's father fell for a shortcut and started to sell drugs. He ended up using drugs as well. Ple's mother could not find a good job and carries the burden of providing for her children all by herself. Finally, she found a job selling lottery tickets. Through this job she receives a monthly salary, and can take care of only some of her children's needs. Ple has an older brother who also attended PCC and is now in grade 1.

Ple is a good student. He pays attention in class and does his work well. He has good habits, listens well to the teacher and he likes to talk with his friends. He is a kind boy and has good relationships with his friends. He loves to play with clay. In the future he wants to be a policeman to protect people. His mother would like to see him and his brother reach higher education.



2005

ACF PROVIDED ASSISTANCE AFTER the tsunami by delivering food, water and supplies to families in shelters and affected areas in both Phuket and Khao Lak. Its vehicles and staff picked up food and water supplies from the Phuket City Hall and delivered these supplies to local families. People from South Africa, Australia, the UK, Japan and the USA contacted the Foundation offering to help. With the donated funds the Center bought various items like pots and pans for cooking, mosquito nets, more water, rice and clothes and delivered these to the families in the camps.

The Foundation was fortunate that its vehicles were not destroyed and as a result they could go anywhere to help. The whole ACF team was

involved in buying and delivering. Center staff also took visiting volunteer teams from the US and Japan to affected areas so they could decide how to help directly. Some of the donated funds went into repairing long tail boats so people could start making a living again. The Foundation bought engines for boats, fishing nets and big water containers for families as well. Staff from YWAM's Project Life - Child Sponsorship Program in Bangkok also came to help.

Asia Center Foundation staff then set about determining how to help children affected by the tsunami. The team undertook this by interviewing over 150 children and their families living in shelters in Khao Lak to establish their specific needs.

Based on these interviews the Foundation bought general supplies as well as some ready-made meals, water, rice and clothes, also available at City Hall for distribution. Specific things for families they interviewed, such as underwear for kids, shoes, coffee, milk, sweets and snacks for children were also bought. In addition, it provided colouring books and crayons so the children had

something to do, and balls and soft toys so they could have something of their own again.

Soon after the tsunami ACF addressed the needs of children affected by it, by establishing the ACF Scholarship program. The Scholarship program provided financial help to children who were affected by the tsunami and who lost all they had, and provided the necessary support to help kids go back to school. A scholarship of B7,000 was allocated to each child who then received two uniforms, a sports uniform and shoes, school shoes, a school bag and stationery. They also received plain clothes and shoes and towels as well as underwear. No cash was provided. Sometimes, a bicycle was provided so a child could get to school. Other times we paid for transportation to school as well as lunch at school. ACF put together a guideline document to help decide what would be acceptable expenses and then tracked all expenses so reports could be provided to sponsors and donors.

After the tsunami the Foundation had 144 students on the scholarship program. The program continues to this day and ACF currently has 100 students on the program.



Over the last four years the focus has shifted to helping disadvantaged kids. Scholarship fees are now B10,000 per child, per year that includes attending the Phuket International Rugby 10s event as well as a birthday and Christmas gift and lunch.

In 2005 the ACF office re-located from Rawai to the Kathu area. Shortly afterwards everyone was evicted from the slum area due to a new mall, Jungceylon, that was being built and a

new road that was to go right through the slum area where the Center was located. Property for rent was, and still is, very expensive in Patong, but the Patong Hospital graciously provided a room on their premises for the Center from where it could continue to help children in Patong.

Two supporters of the Scholarship program are Jo and Chris Spearing who had spent time in and around Phuket and Thailand scuba diving.



Jo Spearing comments that:

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“The horrendous sight that greeted us six weeks after the Tsunami left an indelible impression on both me and my husband - neither of us had ever seen such utter devastation. We visited a few volunteer camps, and refugee camps, and at one of them, saw children who’d lost most of their families. I’m very aware of how a sudden change in circumstances can affect a child’s whole life, and we decided that we had to help somehow.

We asked Patrick (Cotter) to put us in touch with someone or a local charity, the criteria being that it had to be an organisation on the ground and be dedicated to helping children. That organisation was the Asia Center Foundation.

We’ve been supporting the scholarship program since 2005. I’m a great believer that through education children can change their lives. The sponsorship of several children who otherwise may very well have been taken out of school to provide economic support for what was left of their families, was very important to us.”
.....

2005 also marked the start of a year-long Youth Program in the form of a Saturday Kids Club program at Baan Sai Nam Yen, a primary school in Patong to assist and encourage children affected by the tsunami with life skill activities, sport and drama. Mr Narimichi, a well-known International musician (violinist) from Japan, visited our Center to play the violin, bringing the joy of music and as a diversion to children affected by the tsunami who attend ACF projects.

The year also saw the start of involvement with social work volunteers on an intern basis. The first was a Swedish social worker, Annia Skorupska, who volunteered for three months at Patong Childcare Center as part of the practical work requirements for her Social work degree at Socialhögskolan Stockholm. Since Anna's volunteer period the Center has had volunteers from three other Swedish Universities (Mitt Sweden, Umea, and Ostersund) volunteering on an ongoing basis.

A Safe House was also established in 2005 after the tsunami. In 2005 a sponsor from the UK provided funding to start a Safe House. This project was a direct result of a need ACF

picked up at PCC. During the early days in the slum Roelien and her team knew which kids would be better off in place of safety where they received full care instead of living with their families on a day to day basis. Parents were either involved in the red light district of Patong or alcoholics. There was often family violence as well.

“We felt a desperate need to protect these children. However, we didn't have the funding or other resources to provide that kind of service at the time.” comment Roelien.

After the tsunami Mr Nigel Willgrass who lost his wife, a teacher in the UK, during the tsunami inquired about how he could help us. We proposed that he fund a full care project for the 'emergencies' we had in the Patong Childcare Center at the time.

The Safe House project was born and funded by Mr. Willgrass until 2007 after which the World Children's Fund took over the support for the project. Currently (2012) nine children are cared for through the project. Four of them have lived in the Safe House since its inception. Children helped by the project



Jin Ja
10 years old

Jin Ja and his sister Bee joined the Safe House project in 2006 after attending the Center in Patong for two years. They lived in extremely poor conditions as their house was a drop-off point for garbage collectors. They spent the whole day in the sun and amongst the dirt.

The family had a history of alcohol and physical abuse between the parents. ACF repeatedly asked the parents to make use of the Safe House for their children. It was only after they burnt down their shack in the slum that the parents finally made the decision to let the kids stay at the Safe House. When they joined PCC, Jin Ja was severely malnourished. Both of the kids went through the PCC program, and both of them are now part of the ACF Scholarship program.

Jin Ja is now in grade 4 at primary school. His GPA is quite good and he pays attention in class. For the past eight years ACF has supported this family. Jin Ja is a very kind spirit and always ready to help. He talks a lot, loves to draw pictures and sings very well. One day he would like to be a singer.



Ploy
8 years old

Ploy is eight years old and started out with ACF in the Patong Childcare Center. Soon after she joined her father, an alcoholic, passed away. She and her mother lived in a small rented room and her mother works as a cook at a Patong hotel.

Ploy came to live at the Safe House when she was five years old. Her mother also had a problem with alcohol and gambling and was, therefore, not able to care for Ploy properly.

The effects of Ploy's upbringing are clearly visible. She is very shy and does not speak much. Ploy has been on the ACF Scholarship Program since she went to primary school and still stays in the Safe House. She is in grade 2 and does as well as she can at the moment. Ploy has changed since living in the Safe House where there is regular food and a fixed routine. She likes to help her friends and would like to be a doctor one day.

come from single parents who are not able to care for them on a day-to-day basis. The children call the house "Baan Sii Som", The Orange House, because the house is painted a rusty orange colour.

The stories of just three of the Safe House children provide a small window into the experiences of the children the Foundation supports.

The Phuket International Rugby 10s Tournament also continued in 2005, this time supported by AirAisa. International teams from around the world participated in the event and donated funds towards the Scholarship Program. Countries represented included Malaysia, Singapore, UK, South Africa and Australia. Over B500,000 was raised which meant ACF was able to help 144 students with scholarships. The Rainbow Warriors team from South Africa won 'an inspired final' against the Australian Defence Force team, the ASRU Warriors, 12-5.

ACF has involved Scholarship students by bringing them to the event to meet with their sponsoring teams since 2005.



Children stay overnight in a hotel that is normally sponsored by K. Eam, who is the ACF Board Chairman and co-owner of the Kata Group of Hotels. The Foundation puts together a special program for them for the weekend. In recent years the event has developed a lot more with ACF having a proper booth at the event with marketing materials and reports on each child for their sponsors. A big screen TV also is used to run fun moments of previous 10s for the players at the ACF booth. ACF has also organised a local school orchestra/band to play during the official opening ceremony of the 10s for three years in a row.

The Scholarship students attending the event have most often never stayed in a hotel before. Children on the program coming from Khao Lak sometimes see Phuket for the first time during that weekend. It is a special opportunity for sponsors and team members to meet up personally with the child they are sponsoring.

2006

AFTER MUCH SEARCHING AND discussion a new premises was found for the Patong Childcare Center, close to the ACF office in Kathu. At about the same time a British sponsor purchased 12 Rai of land in Kathu for the building of a permanent facility for ACF. This facility would include a kindergarten and primary school, boarding facilities, ACF office, volunteer accommodation, sport facilities. As of 2012 negotiations and fundraising are still on going to bring the dream of this facility to fruition.

The Center's new home was an old hall rented from a local primary school behind the ACF office. The hall was in a derelict state when ACF took it over but with the help of international and local volunteers, and expat business people, partitions were built to separate the large space. First, the building was repainted inside and out with the help of a US navy team brought to us by Mr Brad Kenny from Patong Rotary Club. Outside plumbing was also given some attention.

Brad Kenny comments:

.....
"I was introduced to ACF by Eam who works with ACF. I decided to help, as I liked Roelien and Eam and the work they do. I worked with my Rotary Club to support ACF and we've done four or five 'projects' around the building and maintenance. We'd be happy to do more!"
.....

A major challenge was the repair of the roof. Again the rugby network worked and Bob Merrigan, a member of the Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers Club, connected with Pat Cotter and provided the funds and manpower to re-roof the building. In 2010 the Bangkok Spoofers Club returned. They repaired the window spaces that were covered in basic mosquito screens, replacing them with glass louvres. They also repainted the hall. But there was still more to be done and on another trip they installed internal plumbing. As Bob Merrigan remembers:

.....
"I was introduced to ACF and Roelien by Pat Cotter, a long time rugby friend. I have been involved with a small group of Bangkok-based friends for many years that target support to



underprivileged children throughout the Kingdom. We undertake one or more projects each year via two annual fund raising events. The ACF had a need and we ended up providing a new roof to their classrooms in Kathu.

"Really it was quite simple – Pat kept me informed about ACF and I was impressed with Roelien and the whole ACF program. They had a need, and we had the resources. Funnily enough, the owner of the construction firm who did the work at basic cost, is also a rugby man and has been involved in the Bangkok Bangers on Bicycles fundraising event.



“When we visited the project some time later, to my surprise the children put on a show to say thank you which left me feeling very humble and with a lump in my throat.”

A team of high school students from Fraser Coast Anglican College in Australia came out with their teacher, Mark O’Conor. They raised the necessary funds themselves and spent their holiday time decorating our wooden classroom dividers. This created a fun and colourful atmosphere inside the building for the kids.

It all made a dramatic improvement to the building. Continued funding support from the World Children’s Fund helped and still covers some of the basic costs of operating the pre-school.

On 31 May, 2006 the MS Doulos ship anchored at Phuket for approximately ten days. Teams of crew-members from the ship wanted to do something to help the center and the children. After discussions with ACF they came up with the idea of building the playground equipment in our outside area. The philosophy of



MS Doulos is to foster cultural exchange and encourage community service by visiting various countries. At each port of call the crew usually holds a floating book sale and the ship has also been involved in providing relief in areas of need. Children from the Patong Childcare Center were able to go on board, see the library and look through the ship, where the sailors slept and around the deck.

The Patong slum community also received the first medical outreach services by a group of visiting nurses. They undertook basic health checks for all the Foundation’s children and then went into the smaller slum areas to do the same for adults there. Other teams of doctors from India and Burma, as well as nurses, have visited since this initial visit to do health checks on all the children involved with ACF projects.

2007

SETTLING INTO THE KATHU facility meant interviewing many new applicants from the surrounding area who needed the support provided by the Patong Childcare Center.

In April 2007 the first Patong Childcare Center 'graduation' ceremony took place. Six children 'graduated' and left for Primary school with a parting gift of school uniforms, a school bag and shoes as well as stationary. This was a proud moment for the children, their parents and all the staff at the Center. It had taken five years to get to this point and it was wonderful to see the how the children had grown in confidence and ability during their time at the Center.

While all this was going on the rugby connection was developing as well.

Pat Cotter recalls that:

"After the Tsunami of 2004 it became even more important for rugby to have a greater role in supporting and helping children affected by that tragedy. Hence the Phuket Lomas Youth Rugby development program was formed for local Thai children both affected by the Tsunami and from under privileged backgrounds.

"Starting off in a low key way with a couple of coaching clinics held at a local navy base, a core of 18 10-11 year olds was put together to form the base of the Phuket Lomas Youth Rugby. With voluntary help from local and expat rugby players, coaching sessions and regular training sessions were organised and a team was formed."

About this time ACF was fortunate to meet Dr Troy Amdahl. He had visited the PCC sometime after the tsunami and returned a few years later and visited the Safe House. He saw one of the kids that stayed at the Safe House who was very stunted in his development due to malnutrition. After that visit he went out of his way to find a way to



get vitamins for all the children who attend ACF programs. It took a while and, due to various rules and regulations in Thailand, the vitamins he wanted to send us from the USA could not be brought in. Undeterred in his mission, he then found a company in Bangkok that could manufacture the exact vitamin formula that he felt the children required. Having done this he has funded the program ever since. The kids love these vitamins and they know that "it makes us strong and clever."



2008

IN AUGUST 2008 ACF commenced the JumpStart project for Burmese students in Koh Sirae. As Burmese people in Thailand experience certain restrictions on movement, in 2008 ACF felt it had to assist Burmese children as well as the local Thais.

To do this Roelien had to find a location close to where the children lived as they were not able to travel to the existing Center and the Foundation did not have a capability to pick them up. Since most Burmese parents are involved in the fishing industry or construction work, they live and work around the harbour area in Koh Sirae, a small island connected by a bridge to Phuket. We decided that the Center needed to be in walking distance from their homes.

A run-down building that had basic running water and was relatively waterproof was finally located. Even then it was expensive to rent. People in the community painted the building and after this was completed a student group from an English school



Lin Latt Zaw
9 years old

Lin Latt Zaw is nine years old. His family came to Phuket ten years ago to earn money because they were very poor in Burma. His father is now working as a fisherman and earns B6,000 per month. His mother works at seafood buffet restaurant and earns B5,500 per month. Lin started to attend the JumpStart Program in 2009. During that time his parents were not earning much as his father worked at a rice factory and earned only B5,000 to feed the whole family with and his mother was unemployed.

His parents wanted him to go to school so he could have a better life in the future. Up till then he had not been to any school. One day he had a very big accident. He was pushed from the second floor of a building by one of his friends. He broke his left leg, his arm and some of his teeth, as well as his nose. His parents didn't have any money for the hospital expenses, therefore, the hospital couldn't help them. ACF heard about the accident when he stopped attending school.

We then tried to find support for his case. Facebook friends and previous visitors that knew our work amongst the Burmese children helped by making donations and, in the end, we received the exact amount that was required to pay the hospital. Lin Latt Zaw is a joyful and kind boy, always helping his friends. One day he would like to be a doctor. He has been with the JumpStart Program for three years and he speaks, read and writes excellent Thai.



Aung Naing Win
(Nickname – Soe Htit)
8 years old

Aung Naing Win (Soe Htit) is eight years old and his family has been living on Phuket for 13 years. His mother is a labourer at a construction site and earns B5,500 per month, but she has some mental problems and can't always work. His parents are separated, and both of them have a new family. Soe Htit lives with his grandmother and father. His grandfather, a fisherman, earns B7,000 a month. His mother comes to visit him sometimes and then give him a bit of money.

Soe Htit started at JumpStart in 2009. He was a very quiet child and struggled to concentrate. Sometimes he looked lifeless and it was difficult for him to have any fun. Soon after he came to JumpStart he had a severe inflammation in his throat/glands and his grandmother tried to heal him by giving him medicine from the pharmacy. ACF helped this family until Soe Htit was healthy again. Soe Htit has now been at JSP for three years and has changed into a happy and active child. He likes drawing pictures and he would like to be an artist.

in Kuwait came to paint Disney pictures on the walls to create a fun atmosphere.

Families and children were interviewed and before long the Center was caring for 36 children on a week-by-week basis. The children either walked from their rooms in the surrounding area or their parents paid a motorbike taxi with a sidecar to drop them off in the mornings and pick them up in the afternoons again.

The families of all the children have left Burma to find a new life in Thailand, often leaving their extended families behind. Many send money home to help their families.

A Thai team leader staffs this Center and four Burmese women, who undertake the cooking, teaching, care and nurturing needed. All the students receive teaching in Burmese and Thai as well as in the English language. They learn to read and write, study math and social studies and, when a bit older, they learn how to use a computer – there are three donated computers in the study room. In addition, they hear Bible stories, learn to sing English songs and go on outings to parks.

The stories of three of the children from this Center provide a glimpse into the environment they come from.

In October 2008, ACF received funding for a bus from World Children's Fund. A 36-seat Hino bus was purchased. It helps transporting children to the Phuket International Rugby 10s events every year, as well as taking children from the two Centers on weekly field trips.

As an important major sponsor of the Asia Center Foundation its President, Joseph Lam, provides some insight into the work of Roelien and her team.

“Roelien and her team are dedicated humanitarians who work tirelessly helping disadvantaged children and their families to have hope for a better life and future. Her work is amazingly successful and inspirational. Her organisation is doing an effective, remarkable job there!”

“ACF has a good program and system that are effective in rescuing, nurturing, and helping children in need. The children are



Aung Htet Paing
9 years old

provided education, food and assistance. The parents are also instructed and assisted in being better parents.”

In November 2008 ACF were surprised and honoured to receive The Spirit of Rugby award from the IRB (International Rugby Board).

Patrick Cotter (Phuket International Rugby 10s organiser and head of the Phuket Vagabonds) and Roelien were hosted by the IRB in London for the Award ceremony, wonderful recognition of the fundraising and Scholarship Program supported by the rugby community in general and partnering with ACF to support the Scholarship Program via

the Phuket International Rugby 10s competition. As Pat Cotter recalls:

“It was a surprise really. During the 2005 10s journalist, Jason Dasey from ESPN, came over and wrote a feature on the 10s and how rugby was helping Phuket recover from the Tsunami.

“From that show Total Rugby then came to Phuket and produced a spot on the 10s and the link to the ACF. Next thing I hear is I have won the award, but it was a joint effort and the IRB agreed. Roelien and I attended the IRB dinner in London in November 2008 to jointly receive the award. Quite an overwhelming experience.”

Aung Htet Paing is nine years old and his family has lived on Phuket for more than ten years. His mother came to Thailand before she got married.

Aung Htet Paing’s father is a fisherman and earns B8,000 per month. His mother is working at the dry fish factory and earns B5,000 a month. Paing started at JumpStart at 2008 while the family was facing a very difficult time. His mother couldn’t work due to a heart condition, so money was scarce.

Paing is a very kind boy, and looked after his younger brother during the time his mother goes to work until she comes back at 11.00 PM every night, and on the weekends. Paing has been at the Center for four years. He is a good student and pays attention in his class. He is always attending classes and read, writes and speaks very well both in Thai and Burmese. Burmese language is his favourite subject. In the future he would like to be a singer and have a barbershop.

2009

THROUGHOUT 2009 ACF AND Pat Cotter discussed how rugby could be used to create new opportunities for disadvantaged children. Given Pat's rugby connections, and ACF's contact with children, it was agreed that a development program centered on rugby might work. In November 2009 the Youth Rugby Development program started with the help of local volunteers playing for the Phuket Vagabonds and visiting coaches from various parts of the world. The aim of the program was, and is, to bring the game of rugby to schools on Phuket and, hopefully, to the South of Thailand.

Although anyone can join in playing, ACF focus on bringing kids to the program that need help or come from disadvantaged families. Many young Thai children waste their time

in Internet cafes and become involved with the wrong friends quite early in life. Many are exposed to drugs and pornography, while lack of parental supervision opens the door to all kinds of poor choices. Learning to play a new, rough and very physical game creates opportunities and challenges for the boys particularly. Playing for the club creates a feeling of belonging which helps to keep them out of trouble. There are rules and regulations to follow, and expectations in terms of commitment and behaviour.

As the program has developed ACF and the rugby community have seen that as the children get to know the game and experience learning new skills, their confidence grows. Training and games also teaches them many other skills such as teamwork, self discipline, communication – which passes through to all areas of their life. It has also been noticed that regular contact by the coach with the boys keeps them accountable to the coach and team members. In this way rugby is an opportunity to teach good values and character as well.

Parents of children who had problems at school have reported back that many of their

boys have changed. Their teachers confirm the same changes at school, noting that they are not so unruly and disrespectful and some, who had issues with stealing, have stopped. Many are more focused on their schoolwork, as a fundamental rule is that they are not allowed to attend practice if their schoolwork is not completed properly.

It was also the year that the Bangkok Bangers Rugby Club, through Bob Pearson came up with a new fundraising idea for ACF. As Bob recalls:

.....
“My involvement actually started before 2009 when the rugby club I belonged to, The Old Bangkok Bangers, would go around Thailand giving coaching weekend clinics to the less fortunate kids of Thailand. We would go up north, down south and I just happened to go to the one that was organised for Phuket. I was just fortunate that I was teamed up with ACF.

“I was saddened to see that they had very little in the way of sports clothes or opportunities but their enthusiasm was fantastic. I started talking to the teacher who was accompanying them, Roelien, and was saying how touched I was by the stories that she started to relate about the kids.

“I was totally blown away by the whole project. Being a teacher I was more impressed that ACF were coming at it from an educational point of view, and trying to show the kids a correct and good start in life which is everybody’s god given right. Once I had seen the school and what everybody did I felt somewhat humble because in general I have a privileged life over here in Thailand.”

“It was after this that I came back and decided to help. I thought of volunteering or raising money through a rugby match. That would have been a one-off and I wanted to do more, so I decided to organise a bicycle ride from Bangkok to Phuket, all 900kms of it!”

By 2009, seven years after starting, the ACF leadership team had started to expand. Since 2006 Roelien had worked with K. James (Paradorn Keawpradit) training him to become the ACF manager.

K. James did a fabulous job by grabbing the opportunity to take on a new role and responsibility, and has grown tremendously in the role. In addition, Roelien started to



develop an internal leadership team by inviting certain members of ACF staff to join her and James in discussions and decisions with regards to the direction of ACF’s work. Roelien is quite clear that, “ACF requires Thai leadership for the future and this can only be developed by providing opportunity to staff members to be involved in day-to-day management decisions and responsibilities”.

Those ACF staff that want to learn definitely have the opportunity while working with the Foundation. While the Foundation does not have an official training program for locals

from outside learning all aspects of the operation and running of the Center, this requires a wide range of skills.

For example, staff are involved in teaching, lesson planning, organising activities and events, ordering and monitoring the food supplies, budgeting for various projects, keeping proper accounts, presenting programs being the MC at events, child care and discipline. The Foundation’s manager, K. James taught some of the ACF staff to drive. Others, who are not so competent are encouraged to use the vehicles to improve their driving skills.



2010

THE FIRST BIKE FUNDRAISING trip from Bangkok to Phuket by members of the Bangkok Bangers on Bikes took place this year. Bob Pearson, a teacher at an International School in Bangkok and a participant in the International Rugby 10s event each year, got his friends, Jeff Klentzi and Peter Burgess together to undertake the fundraising bike ride. The bike ride took place in support of the ACF Infrastructure Fund so ACF has sufficient funds to build a new Center when the land donated to ACF can be finalised. As Jeff recounts:

“Neither Bob or I were cyclists but we managed to enrol Pete Burgess, who was our rugby coach at that time, as he cycled every weekend. He would be our locomotive.

The date of the trip had to be set to coincide with the school break and we had no choice other than to make the departure day the following the Bangkok Rugby 10s. It meant that we had to play rugby for two days and then cycle for seven days (that was the original expected time for the trip) and complete the 860 km to Phuket. So, we finally completed the first trip in five days which was a great achievement, especially for Bob who did it on his mountain bike, and we managed to raise B350,000.”

Peter Burgess has a slightly different recollection of events.

“I am a keen cyclist. When Bob had this crazy idea about raising money by cycling from Bangkok to Phuket to support ACF, Jeff and I decided to join him. It really sounds like the beginning of a joke... A Scotsman, a Frenchman and a Kiwi...”

The ACF organised an ‘official’ welcome at the ACF center with some of the children which gave some of the riders the opportunity to understand the work of ACF.

ACF also welcomed the first Asia Exchange students. Asia Exchange is an organisation that assists students from Europe to undertake a practical semester at an Asian University for which they get a credit for at their own universities. It is a cultural education experience. As part of the exchange their students visit ACF projects to expose them to the work ACF (and other charities) do while they are on Phuket.

Asia Exchange also has students in Bangkok as well as in Indonesia and China. Each time a group visits ACF they make a donation and their students choose which of our projects should benefit from their funds. The students come mostly from Europe but the University hosts some from America as well.

The Phuket International Rugby 10s Tournament was held again and many of the players had the opportunity to connect again with ACF. Glenn Fowles, a long term 10s player and ACF sponsor comments:

“My first involvement was with the Moorabbin Rugby team – the 2005 Rugby 10s Tournament held in May. I still continue supporting through

Moorabbin Rugby but also started sponsoring myself three years ago. I don’t think words can express how great ACF’s contribution is. You need to see the people working with the children and the work that is done in improving these kids’ lives to fully appreciate it.”

Glenn also shares a more personal insight.

“At one of the rugby tournament days when it was held at Karon Stadium, I remember standing in the shaded area at the entrance to the stadium trying to get some relief from the heat after playing. I glanced into an adjoining room where the children were all spread out on the floor drawing pictures with crayons. They all had huge smiles and were incredibly well behaved for young kids and were having so much fun undertaking such a basic activity. It made me think about how easy it was to help these children and how fortunate young people in Australia were by comparison. It was actually that image that made my decision to start sponsoring children myself.”

Charlie Chelliah, a member of the Royal Selangor Club’s Rugby Section in Malaysia,

and a key person in bringing the Royal Selangor Club to the Phuket International 10s comments:

“The work being done by the ACF is reflected in the increased numbers of children on the program. Through the involvement in rugby, the kids get a chance to have a foster parent, interact with foreigners and about learn team sports, camaraderie and friendship. Through rugby and the work of ACF, the bonds of friendship through sport are cemented.”

In December ACF joined Facebook as a means of increasing the profile of the organisation around the world and as a way of helping people become and stay connected with it. A rugby player from South Africa, Johan Labuschagne, created the Facebook profile. Johan participated in the International Rugby 10s Tournament and succeeded in changing Roelien’s mind about having a presence on Facebook. By August 2012 ACF has 216 followers.

2011

THE FOUNDATION EXPANDED THE Youth Program activities in 2011 by starting the water safety and swimming program, working together with the Phuket Lifeguard Association.

ACF staff members, volunteers from the American Le Meridian Hotel all helped to get this going. Children aged 8–12 started out on a three-month basic water skills course and were required to attend swimming class each Saturday. ACF was, and is, responsible for transporting all children to the pool and back, as well as helping with supervising the children during the coaching session.

This age group learn to kick, float, breathe and to execute proper freestyle and breaststroke. They also learn water safety skills including



basic CPR. A very basic program was developed for the age 4–6 group as well, but mostly includes activities such as kicking and floating to help the children feel safe in the water. Continuing the link with rugby, the Phuket Lomas Youth Rugby Club was registered in September 2011 by Patrick Cotter and ACF with the Thailand Rugby Union. The purpose of this group is to provide young players with the opportunity to learn to play the game as well as receive coaching and to play in competitions.

ACF also focus' on leadership development within the Club in the belief sport creates great opportunities to teach the various social skills kids need such as team work and commitment.

As Roelien comments:

“We want to use the sport development program to change children’s lives by giving them more options and opportunities to get to know themselves and their God given talents and strengths better.”

Local volunteers and schoolteachers from Thai primary schools are also involved. In addition, Richard Folds (UK) has made a great contribution in cooperation with Patrick Cotter, Michael Whippy (New Zealand) and Panom Prom-ma, Jira Sukkaew (K. Aud) and K. Noom – all teachers at local primary schools.



Narongchai Ploblap
or Ar-Mud
(pronounced Ahmat)

In June 2011 the Phuket Lomas Youth Rugby Club visited Manchester for the Mayor of Manchester’s Touraid Rugby week. Touraid is a charity sports organisation that provides disadvantaged children with opportunities to connect with schools in the UK for sports events. As Andy Berry, the CEO of Touraid, comments:

“ACF met the Touraid criteria of support. We only provide support to groups that provide opportunities for disadvantaged children, and with the ACF work with children in Phuket and Roelien’s incredible efforts to give these children a solid foundation through to adulthood, it was a ‘no brainer’ for Touraid to invite them. I also visited Phuket as part of a family holiday and was able to meet Pat and find out first hand the work of ACF, its drivers, and need for international recognition.”

Ten Lomas boys went on the tour, the first time any of them had been out of Phuket or on a plane. The boys were billeted with families from Wright Robinson Sport College, Manchester, and experience many firsts – like the cold temperatures, snow and English food.

Andy Berry provides some insight to what the boys experienced:

“For Touraid rugby is the least important aspect of the ‘tour’. For us we see the psychological and educational benefits as pivotal to our intervention. We know from research that the children grow in confidence and self-esteem and have wider aspirations on their return. Yes a little rugby, but more importantly spending time both with the host families, doing what families do, and within the host school trying new experiences such as DT, IT, Art, Drama, Dance etc. and joining their hosts in other lessons across the curriculum.

“The week is about making friends and the realisation that no matter where you are from in the world, children are the same. The strong memory I have about the Lomas boys has to be the sense of fun the Lomas boys showed. At all times they were courteous and just happy to be in the UK making new friends.”

Patrick Cotter, Roelien Muller, Somchai Sriwichai and Panom Prom-ma went with the boys. Two of the boys recount their experience.

Ahmad is a sturdy young Phuket Lomas rugby player in secondary school grade 1. He has joined rugby practice even before the Lomas Club was registered. He plays prop for the Lomas. He has natural leadership abilities and was therefore, also, a natural choice to represent the Phuket Lomas as part of the team of ten participating in the Mayor of Manchester’s Touraid Rugby week in June 2011.

“If I didn’t play rugby I would never have had the opportunity to go to England and Manchester. I was overwhelmed by my first impressions of England when we arrived. We had the opportunity to play against other teams and I learnt a lot about sportsmanship and about playing a fair game. My host family took very good care of me. They took me around their town and I went to Wright Robinson Sport College, where their son goes to school. Before I left England my host family surprised me with a gift – they gave me some sport uniform. They also dropped me at the airport and gave gifts to my family to take home. I wanted to cry when we said goodbye as I knew this was the end of our time together.”



Apichai Rutso
or Fa-Hut
(pronounced Fahad)

Fa-Hut is 12 years old and in primary school grade 6. He plays fly half for the Lomas. Fa-Hut also joined the rugby development program from the beginning and was also chosen to represent the Lomas in England.

“When I heard that we will be visiting England I was so excited. I started to count down the days before we left. I can’t even describe how exciting it was to arrive in England. My host family took very good care of me. They took me around and I even experienced artificial snow and visited Manchester United Sport Stadium and Old Trafford. We played against other teams and our team came second in the tournament. The whole trip was like one big gift to me and my friends after we have learnt to play rugby and practiced so hard every week.

I want more kids in Thailand to play rugby. It helps children to stay out of trouble and away from drugs and it keeps us healthy and fit. My experience going to England was a once in a lifetime opportunity that I will share with my friends forever. I will never forget it.”

Other teams participating were from South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, and India. Boys practiced with students from each school that hosted each country’s team, and all of them participated in a general coaching afternoon. India won the Mayor’s Touraid Rugby competition and the Lomas team was second. Eight teams participated in the event. The Mayor of Manchester handed over the medals and trophies after the competition and the whole week ended with a gala dinner where each visiting team had to do a traditional performance during the dinner. Pat Cotter comments:

“Two of the best experiences/moments I have shared as a result of my connection with ACF would have to be collecting the IRB award with Roelien in London in 2008 and taking 10 kids to the Mayor of Manchester Touraid Rugby festival in 2011 where we finished runners up. Memorable and exciting.”

In October ACF hosted a visit from ‘Free to Serve’, a community organisation based in the hill country of Chiang Rai in the North of Thailand on Phuket. It was the first time



these children from a children’s home had visited the beach and it was a terrific experience for the ACF children to meet the children and show them ‘their’ home.

December is always a busy time of year as ACF staff spend a lot of time getting ready for Christmas celebrations. In previous years ACF held a Christmas celebration for all the kids attending its projects and once again a concert took place in 2011. In addition to the concert ACF started to visit other organisations to share the message of Christmas, fun and



friendship. Christmas outreach presentations were done at SOS Children’s village, the Youth Prison and the Phuket Old Age Home.

It was a terrific experience for the children and those visited, and it connected ACF more closely with different groups within the community.

While all this was going on ACF continued to raise funds through the Phuket International Rugby 10s Tournament and seeking grant funding from various sources.

The Bangkok Bangers on Bikes also undertook their second Phuket to Bangkok ride, this time with seven riders including Richard Folds and two support vehicles. They raised B480,000.

Jeff Klentzi, one of the original three riders shared his thoughts on the work that ACF does.

“I have been very impressed, and I think they are doing a fantastic job. They are saving disadvantaged kids, who are just unlucky to be as they are, by giving them an access to the education. For me that’s the first step and

mandatory to hope for a ‘normal’ life, so for these kids, it’s priceless. The people who work for ACF give most of their time and life to help these children. They give their best and really deserve our respect.”

By the end of 2011 ACF’s face to the world, the website, was also redesigned and linked to the Facebook page with the help of Mr Burger Marx, a SA volunteer worker. Another small step in helping to get the word out about the ACF and its work.

2012

IN APRIL 2012, THE Patong Child Care Center held their graduation ceremony, the first time at a 'formal' location other than the PCC school building as every year before. The venue was at the local Prince of Songkla University. Sixteen Students 'graduated', and it was a proud day for everyone – teachers, parents and family as well as the children.

Continuing the rugby link, the first Bob Dwyer Rugby Coaching Clinic was held at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club in March 2012. Fourteen coaches, local Thai's and expat coaches from Singapore and Thailand, spent two days learning some of the skills required for coaching from Bob Dwyer, former Wallaby Coach, and Mike Penistone, a professional rugby union and rugby league coach and trainer. ACF kids were involved through their membership of the Phuket Lomas Youth Rugby Club.

As Mike Penistone, a Director/Coach of Bob Dwyer Rugby Workshops commented:



.....
“The facilities at the Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club were outstanding. It’s really important to work in the right environment as it makes everyone feel good, that they are special and what they are practising is important. The children that attended the camp were terrific, in fact really refreshing. Their attitude was first class, their enthusiasm never waned and their concentration and ability to implement the instructions they were given was excellent. Given that rugby does not have a long history in Thailand the performance of the children

was exceptional, and both Bob Dwyer and I are looking forward to coming back. It was also great to hear that one of the boys, Jirayut Sarsat (Toe), went on to represent Thailand. It’s a great credit to him, Phuket Lomas, the Asia Center Foundation and all those who make camps like ours happen.”

Over 40 children, boys and girls, participated in the coaching event on both days, as the coaches put into practice the theory they had been taught in the morning sessions.

The kids learnt a lot of new skills and techniques, had fun and met players from other schools. At the end of the weekend each participant received a certificate of attendance along with a specially designed rugby jumper. Bob Dwyer comments:

“To have the opportunity to coach a rugby team is just great; to coach a kids’ rugby team is even better; but to be able to coach a team of kids from an under-privileged background and to see their beaming smiles and shining eyes, is just the best!”

Interestingly, Jirayut Sarsat (Toe) was also the Phuket Lomas Youth Development Rugby player of the year 2011. Toe participated in the Thai National Under 19s training squad and was been picked to take part in an IRB U19s tournament in Hong Kong. He spent three weeks on a training camp in Bangkok with the Thai team before they departed for Hong Kong at the end of July. Pat Cotter adds:

“Children from the ACF scholarship fund have taken to the sport over the last few years and will form the crux of the team to take on the

Thai national championships in 2016. The Lomas continue to expand and can now field teams in U17s, U13s and girls U15s and compete regularly in national tournaments. We also plan to introduce the sport into local schools with an aim of setting up a local schools competition.”

Since ACF’s inception it has always emphasised the importance of education to the children as well as taking part in rugby. ACF has had a lot of feedback from teachers and parents on how much their school work and attitude to life in general has improved since taking up rugby.

2012 also marked the continuation of the link with the Phuket International Rugby 10s.

As Pat Cotter comments:

“The first year we had a total of five teams competing in a one day tournament. Today we have 20 teams in the main competition and 12 teams in a ‘coffin dodgers’ veterans tournament.

“There have been a lot of people involved with the Phuket Lomas Youth Rugby Club, the Rugby 10s and the Vagabonds including Ken Somchai from the ACF, Ajarn Phanom, Mike Whippy,



Alan Cooke and Island Furniture, Crash Rugby Wear, Centaurs Rugby Singapore, Tamoko Lions, Singapore, Bangkok Lions and Roelien to name just a few.”

And, true his original goal, Bob Pearson, secured the involvement of 11 riders and two support vehicles for the Bangkok Bangers on Bikes annual fundraising ride, raising B580,000.

Over the three years of the ride the group has raised over B1,410,000 and in 2013 will be riding from Phuket to Bangkok for the first time – just in time for the start of the Bangkok International Rugby 10s Tournament. Of his involvement with ACF Bob Pearson comments:

“They are absolute amazing people. Anybody who gives up their time to help less fortunate people deserve all the credit and help they can get. They [ACF] don’t shout about what they do, they just do it all quietly. They deserve respect and support from all of us.”

As part of the 10 year celebrations ACF decided to provide official uniforms for the PCC and JumpStart projects.

ACF also launched the ACF Ambassador of Hope donor award program at their 10 year celebration function. The awards are presented in recognition of individuals who have taken the initiative over the past 10 years and raised funds for ACF’s work without requesting help from the ACF. People receiving these awards are considered Ambassadors for ACF’s work and ACF trusts that they will continue their

involvement and support in the future. Awarded at the 10th year celebration event ACF hopes that it will be the start of a yearly fundraising/recognition event.

In October 2012 ACF now has 67 children attending its Center each day when everyone is present, and still receives applications. Four classes are divided by age that start at 3-up and progress to 6 year olds. There are also 35 children at Koh Sirae (at the Burmese Center).

ACF serves meals to 110 children on a daily basis and employs 14 locals and 6 international staff. It has an ongoing stream of volunteers from around the world to help care for local disadvantaged children, as well as many partners that support ACF financially or through various other ways.

Since being established ACF has provided Scholarships to over 333 students.

ACF has also started to host interns from a Bible school in Prachuap, near Bangkok, who make an enormous difference to the amount of work that can be done currently. The Bible school students mostly come from poor

families themselves and, therefore, understand the needs of the children and families whom ACF works with.

Roelien reflects on what ACF has achieved:

“Now, after 10 years, I think we have proved ourselves. We’re here to stay for as long as we have the support. We need to continue the day-to-day operations and care. We’ve got two pre schools, a scholarship program, a safe house and the youth development program going.

“Of course, I want to do more, give more children the opportunity to, well, have opportunity. And, I am constantly pushing in various directions to make this a reality. That’s why our long term dream and goal is to build our own facility with accommodation for a boarding school and for volunteers, as well as a pre and primary school with sport facilities.”

So what does the future of the Asia Center Foundation look like? Roelien has very clear ideas about this and they include a permanent boarding school that will take over from the Safe House project.



The story of Jay Jay, one of the children at the Safe House, is just one of many but shows how important the Safe House project is, and how a larger facility would help many more like her.

Roelien continues:

.....
"I'd really like a facility that is big enough so that any child that is poor has a place where they can come to get an education, do some sports and have the opportunity to develop their God-given talents. I'd like to create an official school so

more poor children will have access to education and opportunities. It's a big goal but I am a project-orientated person and I know I can make this happen with the support and further development of my team.

"All it takes is \$350 a year to sponsor one child on our Scholarship Program. We don't receive support from the government so we rely on the World Children's Fund's ongoing support and individual sponsors for funding our work. We have some good support coming from the teams participating in the Phuket International Rugby 10s competition each year that supports our Scholarship Program, but it is still not sufficient.

"We are also managing a Youth Developmental Program that includes life skills, Leadership Development and sport. With the support and cooperation of the Phuket Vagabonds Rugby Club we now have registered our own rugby club, called the Phuket Lomas Youth Rugby Club. Despite what has been done so far, the Club is in desperate need of a long-term sponsor that will help develop youth rugby on Phuket and the South of Thailand."

.....



Jay Jay
7 years old

Jay Jay is seven years old and her parents are separated. Her mother has a small laundry business but her income is not stable. Sometimes her stepfather provides some additional income as a motorbike taxi driver in Patong, but this is irregular.

Jay Jay has been living in Safe House for the past four years. She came to the Foundation's attention while she was in PCC because her mother could not take care of her properly. Her mother is also an alcoholic and abused Jay Jay physically while she was drunk. Jay Jay is emotionally scarred and is very fearful when even the smallest thing happens that makes her feel unsure.

Jay Jay is currently attending primary school, is a good student and is in grade 1. She is also on the ACF scholarship program. Jay Jay wants to be a teacher.

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ACF Leadership Team

K. James, (Paradorn Keawpradit)



started out as ACF driver and buyer in 2004. He became ACF Manager in 2007 and has developed into a steadfast, mature and confident leader.

He is a qualified chef and also House Father at the Safe House. He learnt to speak English since starting at ACF and now translates for Roelien and deals with international visitors. James is ACF's handyman, IT, hardware and sound specialist. He is in charge of setting up stages and backdrops for all ACF performances, and designs and builds whatever ACF needs. His favourite saying is, "so far so good!"

K. Ken (Somchai Sriwichai)



is the ACF Scholarship Manager and rugby coach. He learnt English after starting at ACF in 2006. He is now also translates for visitors. He became

the Scholarship Manager in 2009 and has excellent administration and presenting skills. When the rugby programs started K. Ken jumped straight in to learning to play and coach rugby when he was required to and he accompanied the Phuket Lomas Club members to Manchester. Ken is trained as a clown and is known amongst children as "Coco".

K. Pat (Chavarin Srinoi)



is the ACF Youth Program Coordinator and works with K. Ken on the scholarship program. She started with ACF in 2007 and is ACF's main translator. She is also an outstanding Youth Program coordinator and manages the Youth Program that includes the Kids Club Life skill and Anti Drug program. K. Pat has amazing energy, is a master multi-tasker and an excellent presenter. She is also trained as a clown for children's shows and her stage name is "Gigi".

K. Eid (Niphaporn Maneekorn)



is the Head teacher at PCC. She has worked with ACF since 2006 at the Patong Childcare Center. She has lots of patience with the kids and plans all ACF events and ceremonies with great care. K. Eid is also very creative. She plays the guitar and is great with flower arrangements and planning of dance and acting performances by the kids. K. Eid is part of the presenting team for the Youth Program and she contributes further by presenting during the Kids Club activities.

K. Aoi (Amornrat Jairanai)



is the Head teacher at JumpStart Burmese Learning Center where she teaches Burmese students to speak, read and write Thai. She has worked with ACF from 2006 and wears many different hats. As House Mother at the Safe House she cares for ten children full time while also overseeing the Burmese project. In addition she acts as a presenter during the Youth Program at local schools and has started ACF's first choir with the help of K. Naw from one of the other projects. K Aoi sings beautifully as well as continuing with study in her private time. She has recently completed her Communications degree.

ACF staff members

Patong Childcare Center



**Wanatsanan
Manowong**

K. Nes is a teacher at PCC since 2006. She teaches the 6 year olds and is responsible for the sport activities at the Center. She is also involved in the Youth Program Life skill activities, especially the cooking classes.



**Buphaa
Daengkhaw**

K. Buphaa teaches the 4 year olds and has been with ACF for eight years. She is the longest serving staff member at ACF. She is very creative and is in charge of the ACF prayer team. Buphaa has recently joined the Youth Program presenters and has assisted in presenting during the Kids Club Life skill program at schools.



**Kanyaporn
Wantanasatid**

K. Naa joined ACF in 2011 and teaches the 3 year olds. She is an excellent cook and teaches the PCC and Youth Program kids to make Thai desserts and drinks.



Arree Saehngan

K. Arree has worked at PCC since 2011 and is responsible for cooking lunch every day for 65 kids and seven staff members.

Foreign staff



Charlotte Webb

Charlotte is from the UK and joined ACF first as a volunteer for three months in 2012. She was employed full time in May and is currently in the position of International Volunteer Coordinator. She is responsible for all arrangements with volunteers from around the world. She also assists with various administrative tasks for both PCC and ACF and teaches an English class during the Kids Club Life skill program.

Internship at PCC



Choepon Mer Lar

K. Nat is from a Southern Theological Institute in Prachuap near Bangkok and is doing an internship at PCC and has been a very valuable assistant since April 2012. Nat is also involved in other ACF activities, helping with music, taking care of older children in the Safe House project or assisting in presenting during the Youth Program Life skill activities.

JumpStart



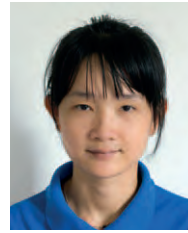
T Dau Naw

Naw joined ACF in 2011 as a teacher at JumpStart. She is also working on IT and website matters for ACF and teaches English, Bible and computer at JumpStart to all age groups. Naw is also in charge of all ACF photography efforts.



Hla Hla Win

Hla Hla Win joined ACF in 2010 and teaches the younger group of students at JumpStart. She teaches Burmese language, reading and writing and also speaks the Mon Thai dialect. Lawaeng also makes a contribution to the Youth Program (Kids Club) by assisting with the cooking classes.



Thans Thans Ao

Thans Ao teaches the older kids at JumpStart and has been with ACF for two years. She is responsible for math, reading and writing in Burmese for the older children. She is very creative and also does great art projects with the children in JumpStart. Thans Ao is actively involved in the art projects presented during the Kids Club activities.



Thet Thet Mar

K. Mai has been with ACF since 2009, and is responsible for all the meals and overall cleaning at JumpStart. K. Mai participates in the Kids Club program by using her cooking skills to help teach during the cooking classes.

ACF Admin staff



Rattiya Tongyoy

K. Pui is ACF's accountant and office administrator. She assists K. James with Government matters and prepares all work permit documentation for foreign staff. She also plays an active part in the Youth Program Life skill activities and teaches a computer class as well as assists in presenting during the Kids Club program.

Internship at ACF office



K. Noon

K. Noon is doing her internship with ACF. She is from the Southern Theological Institute in Prachuap, near Bangkok and assists in the office with various administrative tasks. She also assists with preparations for the Youth Program activities and teaches the children at the Safe House project after school.

Messages of congratulations to Asia Center Foundation the occasion of its 10th anniversary, October 2012

.....
Roelien is an exceptionally kind and efficient administrator and child care worker. She is diligent with accountability and reporting; she is a very hard worker and possesses a true humanitarian heart of caring and compassion. We are very pleased to have supported her since the founding of ACF. We consider it a privilege and an honour to co-labour with Roelien in helping the children of Thailand. There is such a great need there and WCF wants to continue to be making a difference in the lives of these hurting children and their families. It takes a very special person to do this type of merciful work effectively and Roelien fulfils it completely!
.....

Joseph Lam, President, World Children's Fund

.....
Well if we were living in an ideal or dream world, I would say that I hope it will be your last birthday meaning that there are no more kids who need the ACF. Unfortunately, I can't see this happening, so I just wish and hope that the ACF will remain active as long as the children need them and hope that they will find more and more donator to sustain their action.
.....

Jeff Klentzi, Bangkok Bangers on Bikes

.....
Keep up the good work and good luck with the development of your school program. If you are looking for a cause to help then get behind the ACF.
.....

Pat Cotter,
IRB Spirit of Rugby award
winner and rugby fanatic

.....
Keep up the good work. I would like to reinforce that message to the people at the Foundation, but more importantly, I would like to say to all of the readers of this, to make the Foundation's job easier by contributing in any way they can, and to tell their friends about the ACF cause.
.....

Glenn Fowles, Scholarship sponsor
and participant in the Phuket International 10s

.....
ACF does so much for children, not only through supporting them financially through their educational requirements, but also emotionally and in terms of safety through the kids club and the Safe House. Additionally, they also realise the value of sports. Chris and I both appreciate that being involved in sports, particularly internationally, can be a life changing experience for children.
.....

Jo and Chris Spearing. Long-term
supporters of the ACF Scholarship Program



Happy birthday and keep up the good work.

Brad Kenny, Member,
Rotary Club of Patong Beach

Congratulations to Roelien Muller and all the other quiet achievers for such a noble effort in galvanising the strength of the rugby fraternity in giving hope to the under privileged, a chance to be educated and a chance to live life. Happy 10th anniversary and I hope I am around for a long time to see your organisation growing from strength to strength.

Charlie Chelliah, member and player
with Royal Selangor Club, Rugby Section

I am not an educator but I see a group of under privileged children being given a chance via an educational foundation in a very caring environment. The children impress me, as much as Roelien and her team - they are a great bunch. Keep up the hard work. Know that the rugby and 'spoofing communities' of Thailand are behind you.

Bob Merrigan, member and player with the Bangkok Gentlemen Spoofers

Whatever one does in life, nothing achieves results like hard work. Roelien put her life on hold over the last 10 years and changed the lives of those less fortunate. This has come from her full commitment and dedication whilst learning and adapting along the way. Her efforts have led to her now commanding a leading knowledge and understanding of what it takes to give children in Phuket a real opportunity to grow into leaders. She deserves a medal!

Andy Berry, CEO Touraid

ACF does a great job, the people I have met are committed to the project and very appreciative of our fund-raising efforts. Congratulations on a fantastic 10 years and keep it up for the next 10 years. We will do our best to raise more money next year!

Peter Burgess, member and player
with the Old Bangkok Bangers Rugby Club

ACF are amazing people. KEEP IT UP - you really do make a massive difference to everybody in the Center. Unfortunately, we need people and organisations like the ACF.

Bob Pearson,
Bangkok Bangers on Bikes

You can make a difference

Make a difference in the lives of children in any of the following ways:

- » Sponsor a child on scholarship (US\$ 250)
- » Buy a school uniform for a student (US\$ 40)
- » Provide lunch for 30 students (US\$ 40)
- » Stationery for 60 students (US\$ 30)
- » Sponsor a staff member's salary (US\$ 300)
- » Assist ACF with general expenses (US\$ 50)
- » Monthly life skills training (US\$ 50)
- » Sponsor a camp / outreach weekend for 30 students (US\$ 500)
- » Contribute to the "Building Fund" for a permanent facility (US\$ 500 – US\$ 100 000)

Go to the website www.asiacenterfoundation.org
to make your donation, or email asiacinfo@gmail.com



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www.treehouse.com.au
Author: Jaqui Lane. www.globalstories.com.au

The Asia Center Foundation (ACF) is based in Phuket, Thailand and helps disadvantaged children and children-at-risk by providing care, training and education so that they will fulfil their God-given potential.

ACF employs local Thai staff and also makes use of the help of local and international volunteers to engage and work with underprivileged, impoverished and children-at-risk in Phuket. ACF has been in operation for 10 years and is a registered Christian Non-Government Organisation (NGO).

Make a difference in the lives of children by donating your time or money.
For more information go to www.asiacenterfoundation.org



100/35 Vichit Songkram Rd Moo 7, Kathu Phuket Thailand 83120.

Email: asiacinfo@gmail.com www.asiacenterfoundation.org