



SINCE 2001
**ASIA CENTER
FOUNDATION**

MONTHLY **20**
MAY 26
SNAPSHOT

DEAR ACF FRIENDS,

May marks the beginning of a new school year in Thailand, and before the excitement and busyness of the term began, our team took time to reconnect and prepare together. We spent a day exploring the beautiful hills of Phuket on a nature walk before ending the day at one of the island's stunning beaches. (Yes, Phuket offers both!)

As part of our team-building activities, staff members were grouped with colleagues they do not regularly work alongside. Through a series of challenges and activities, we gained a deeper appreciation of each other's roles and the daily opportunities and challenges faced across our different projects and departments.

During May we were delighted to receive official confirmation that our early childhood education center has now been registered with the Thai Education Department. We are incredibly grateful to have reached this important achievement! As part of the registration process, the center's name was changed and will now officially be known as the Cornerstone Education Center.



STAFF TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITY



OFFICIALLY AN EDUCATION CENTER!



CEC FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



Physically the trek up into the hills was challenging and a first ever experience for some on our team. It was also a fun way getting to know each other in a different setting (we have some new members on the team) as well as relax together before the wheels started to roll again.

Huge thanks goes to K. Kad our Board member for Government Relations, who guided us through the registration as well as the curriculum planning process. Here she receives the official registration document from a Government Officer.

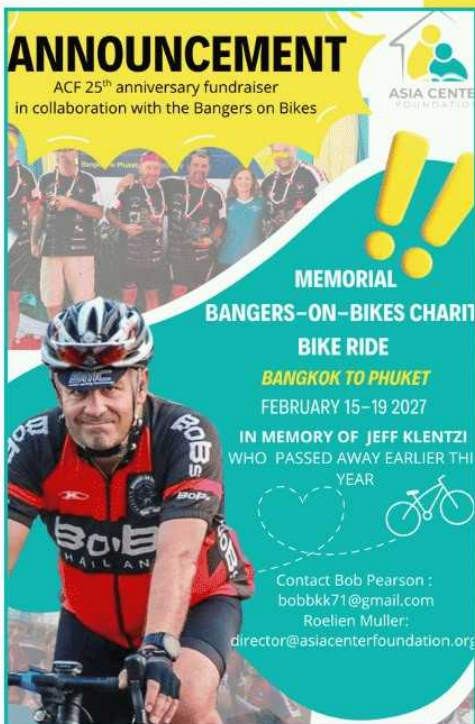
We welcomed 17 new 4 year olds this year and have 40 students in total. Requirements are now more strict which resulted in two children not being able to return for the new school year until certain documentation will be in place.



CHAMPIONING CHANGE

First ACF 25th anniversary celebration event

BANGERS ON BIKES CHARITY BIKE RIDE 2027



ANNOUNCEMENT
ACF 25th anniversary fundraiser
in collaboration with the Bangers on Bikes

**MEMORIAL
BANGERS-ON-BIKES CHARITY
BIKE RIDE**
BANGKOK TO PHUKET
FEBRUARY 15-19 2027
IN MEMORY OF JEFF KLENTZI
WHO PASSED AWAY EARLIER THIS
YEAR

Contact Bob Pearson :
bobbkk71@gmail.com
Roelien Muller:
director@asiacenterfoundation.org

We are most grateful to Bob Pearson who who stepped up once again to arrange the memorial bike fund raising event in memory of Jeff Klentzi, an avid 'biker' and supporter of the Bangers on Bikes charitable rides in aid of ACF over the years.

We look forward to receive them on Phuket once more at our facilities on the 19th of February 2027.

CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING



Much exploitation is happening to children today and our community unfortunately is not excluded from this.

We schedule regular training sessions every year but started this year with an interactive Safeguarding and Child Protection workshop presented by K. Radchaneekorn.

Our team was equipped with new child protection legal information as well as made aware of techniques used by traffickers and exploiters of children.

ACF CSR EVENTS



PHUKET PROVINCIAL OFFICE OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN SECURITY

News of our baking program has made the rounds and reached some of our fellow organizations who also work with children. During the holiday season staff are always looking for new opportunities for wholesome activities for the children they care for. We hosted two groups of children from two different institutions. They attended a baking session presented by our students who participate in the baking training program in collaboration with Marriott Chefs.



YOUTH FOOTBALL HOME (YFH)

Due to a staff training and planning session involving most of our own team at the same time, we took hands with volunteers from All Nations church who managed a creativity and life leadership workshop with some of the children while the rest were baking. It's wonderful to be able to use our facilities to bring together different groups of people on Phuket serving the needs of the children together. Thanks All Nations for a great program!





COMPASSION IN ACTION

One of the greatest joys at the start of every school year is welcoming a new group of preschool students. This year has been no exception.

From the very first day, their unique personalities began to shine through. For some children, however, leaving home and starting school can be an overwhelming and emotional experience.

Many of the Burmese children who attend our center have very close bonds with their parents due to the challenging circumstances in which their families live in Thailand. Often, entire families share small corrugated-iron accommodations within construction worker camps.

Older siblings are frequently left behind in Myanmar with relatives, while younger children remain close to their parents until they are old enough to attend school.

On the first day of the new term, I encouraged our older students to help the newcomers by showing them around and assisting them with their daily routines whenever they needed support. Shortly afterward, I witnessed a beautiful example of kindness in action. One of our older students, a six-year-old Burmese girl, took this request to heart. She noticed a new student who was distressed and desperately wanted to go home. Gently and patiently, she sat beside the child, offering comfort and reassurance.

It was a touching moment to see such compassion and maturity in someone so young.

Children today face many challenges. Some are exposed to difficult circumstances far too early in life, and many experience loss, uncertainty, or hardship from a young age.

Most of the children who attend our center have very few possessions and limited opportunities. Part of our mission is to help change that reality.

We believe that kindness and compassion are qualities that should be nurtured and encouraged in every child, and it is deeply encouraging to see these values taking root in our students' lives.

Many of the children come from environments where they can feel isolated and lonely, with few toys, books, or educational resources available to them.

That is why our center is so important. Here, children make friends, learn to speak Thai, develop social skills, and experience a world of new opportunities.

Most importantly, they are welcomed into a safe and caring environment where they are encouraged to participate, explore, grow, and thrive.

Colossians 3:12 (NIV)

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

Although our first month back at school was filled with excitement having the little ones back, 120 scholarship students were also fitted out with new school uniforms, shoes and the required stationery was bought to help them start the year successfully. We thank all sponsors whose support made this possible!

We look forward with high expectations to the rest of the 2026/27 school year while we are also preparing for the annual performance by the scholarship students during the Phuket International Rugby Elevens tournament in June. More about that next time!

Roelien and team

Please consider becoming an ACF "Champion of Change" by **supporting us monthly**. For bank transfers please use the following bank details or transfer via WISE.com

ACF Bank Details

(For local and international bank transfers)



For online donations to ACF's General Bank Account Please scan the QR code.
(Only donors in Thailand)

- **Bank:** Siam Commercial Bank
- **Account Name:** Asia Center Foundation (Phuket)
- **Account Number:** 817 2021906
- **Type of Account:** Savings Branch: Central Festival
- **Swift Code:** SICOTHBK

