SINCE 2001

ASIA CENTER FOUNDATION

MONTHLY
SNAPSHOT 20 OCTOBER 26

DEAR ACF FRIENDS,

Flights, family, fundraisers and floods.

October was a whirlwind for me. Visa issues meant emergency trips to Malaysia and Bangkok before I could travel to South Africa for our short October break. Life really carried on between flights. Flooding in Bangkok taught me how to navigate the city's different train systems, while the Swiss Embassy and the VFS visa application center added a distinctive flavor to my Schengen application—and it wasn't chocolate.

> *While our team was on holiday, James and I had our hands full with some very interesting conversations with government officials. These led to some stressful decisions.*



In mid-October, our team began the new term with a very helpful three-day planning workshop led by staff from the Thai Education Department. Meanwhile, I was finally able to spend time with family in South Africa.

Highlights

CHAMPIONING CHANGE

Great support of our work by the following organizations:





ROTARY FUNDRAISING EVENT

My brief visit home was locked in between two fundraisers. **The Rotary Club of Patong Beach** raised much-needed funds to replace our damaged school bus. On October 17, I attended the club's **'Disco Waves'** music fundraiser at Kalido. We sincerely thank everyone who attended or sponsored the event. We have been without a school bus since April and look forward to providing transportation again in the new term.





ASIA CENTER FOUNDATION – SWITZERLAND FUNDRAISING EVENT

Our ambassadors in Switzerland held their **first fundraising event as Asia Center Foundation – Switzerland** on October 31st in Winterthur. I was invited to share about our collaboration and our work.

Board members Phil and Naemi Bruderer and Joy Staeger organized the event with support from church and family members. Raising awareness for our work is an important goal for ACF – Switzerland.

It was lovely to meet up with previous volunteers Tobi and Sharmila, from Germany too. Tobi acted as my interpreter. We are deeply grateful for this collaboration and for the team's tremendous fundraising efforts.

LIFTING A TIRED SPIRIT

ASIA CENTER FOUNDATION
NGO MOMENTS
"Even shattered glass reflects the sun."

The most meaningful moments in our work with children are not always found in the big milestones. They happen in the quietest moments, when a child reminds us that care is never a one-way thing.

As Term 1 came to an end, our students were ready for a well-deserved break. But before the term closed, there was a little moment worth sharing.

On their way back to ACF after K. Somchai picked up our Safe House children from school, one of them asked, ***"Uncle, are you tired?"***

"A *little*," he replied.

The children said nothing more. Instead, they gathered their Coca-Cola, mixed it with ice in a plastic bag, and offered him a sip. As he continued driving, he took a taste, and a smile appeared on his face. The children giggled, delighted that they had something to share with him. Soon, they were chatting away, telling him little things about their day.

When asked if this happened often, K. Somchai said yes. He shared how happy he feels when the children show him care and open up about their lives. It makes him feel appreciated and included, not simply as the person who drives them to and from school, but as someone they look forward to sharing their stories with.

And this is what makes a place feel like home.

Some children grow up without having someone who listens, notices the little things, or makes them feel that their presence matters. We cannot change every circumstance they come from, but we can build a place where they know they are heard, where their small gestures are valued, and where they can share their hearts without fear of being dismissed.



That little bag of Coca-Cola was a child's way of saying, ***"We think of you, too."***

In that simple exchange, we were reminded that the relationships we build with children go beyond providing care. They grow into bonds of trust, belonging, and mutual affection. **We may begin by looking after them, but along the way, they begin to look after us, too.**

Because **when children begin to see you as someone they can share their little world with, you know that what you are building is more than a place of care.**

You are helping them find a place they can call home.

by Angel Danya Paparo

Diving into the second term, we remind ourselves that growth comes from learning to face challenges and overcome obstacles. I'm thankful for our team, who remain strong and steadfast, and for the institutions and organizations whose support help us keep going through difficult times.

We deeply value your support and thank God for His provision through so many of you, and for His guidance when we face life's difficult decisions. Soon we begin preparations for our 25th anniversary taking place next year, and we want to remind you about the Bangers on Bikes memorial bike ride.

The event honors Jeff Klentzi, a former biker, ACF friend, and devoted supporter over many years. Everyone is welcome to support the event. You can support it here.

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