



SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOL SAMUI

Newsletter

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A mentally or physically disabled child should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

**(1)
Article 23.1**

SCHOOL RECEIVES GENEROUS LAND DONATION

We have just received the most wonderful news!

Thanks to the kindness and generosity of local resident Mr Khun Ngoen Wichaidist former Headman and Mayor (Pu Yai Baan) of Bangrak , the Learning Centre for Special Needs Samui moves yet another step nearer to its goal of creating a purpose built school. This new building with its added classrooms and facilities will, it is hoped, enable a greater number of those needy children living on the island to benefit from the specialised care provided by the special needs school.

Former Mayor, Khun Ngoen's donation of one rai of land, in the vicinity of the airport, is currently in the process of title transfer, which will ultimately be in the possession of The Autistic Thai Foundation, to which the Learning Centre

is affiliated.

Local company director, Mr. David McCormick, of M-System Architecture, has generously offered his firms services in providing the design, initially with an innovative concept utilizing ex shipping containers. This would enable construction to proceed relatively quickly and at a much reduced cost to traditional means. However, there has also been a tentative offer to provide free materials and labour, which would allow a conventional structure to be built. Final decisions to these issues will be made at a later stage.

One of the islands leading fund raising bodies has also indicated that, in the near future, when the appropriate time arises, they may well be able to assist in providing much needed items such as desks, tables, bookcases, chairs and other sundry items

needed to equip the school.

There will in addition, be specialised products required to meet the specific needs of our children and it is again hoped that voluntary assistance will become available.

Also, as a direct result of building the new school, we will automatically be creating the need for further trained staff. This will put even greater pressure on the need to increase financial support to meet these new overheads.

In the meantime, as readers will note further in the newsletter, the organisation remains very active in its attempts to raise funds, with numerous events scheduled for future dates.

Your continued support is very much needed and appreciated.

Golf Tournament at the Royal Samui Golf and Country Club



We are delighted to announce that we will be holding a Golf Tournament to raise much needed funds for The School Building Fund on Saturday 9th November 2013.

With the generous assistance of The Royal Samui Golf and Country Club the event will be a Nine Hole Competition with a 'Shotgun' start at 9.00 am followed by 'Nigel's BBQ & Catering' and Prize giving at Lunchtime.

There will be a maximum number of 30 players on a 'first come first served' basis. Scoring will be based on a scaled down version of the Calloway 36 System and there will be a number of prizes to win :

- Best net score - Nearest the pin - Longest drive - Hole in one - Booby Prize -

The entrance fee for players will be 1,500 Baht which includes Buggy and Barbecue

All spectators will be welcome and they can also enjoy Nigel's renowned Barbeque for only 300 Baht including complimentary glass of wine courtesy of BB&B Wines.

Please send your players entrance reservation to Philip Parker at pipparker274@gmail.com and reserve your place.

Teaching staff and voluntary helpers required

The school is very short of both qualified and voluntary helpers.

Anyone who has experience in either special needs or indeed any general area of teaching young children and is willing to give up some of their time, is most welcome to contact Khun Mattanee on 0817879263, alternatively call in and meet the children.

The school is located next to the Mayaburi Resort in Bangrak.

Charity Car and Motorcycle Treasure Hunt October 27th

On 27th October, starting at intervals from Nathon, vehicles will be given a set of numbered clues. These, when identified, will send them on an afternoons drive around the quieter parts of the island.

The team with the correct number of answers will be declared the winners. Duration - around 2.5+hrs.

The event will start and finish in Nathon, at the car park adjacent to the Seatran Ferry at 1pm. This will be followed by a complimentary buffet at around 5.30pm generously contributed by Paul Watson, at his exciting newly opened Max Murphy's Bar/Restaurant in Nathon, located just up from the Book Shop.

Entry is limited to 45 persons on a first come first served basis at THB 500 per head inclusive of buffet.



All applications to Claudia Wilkinson at samuiclaudia@yahoo.com together with the number of people in your team, a mobile telephone number and of course a team name

All proceeds will be donated to The Special Needs School Building Fund.

Bar Ice, Fund Raising Evening



The partners of Bar Ice Samui all have businesses themselves in different parts of the world, however what joins them is their passion about Bar Ice and the beautiful island of Koh Samui and offering a great experience to all customers.

In 2013 they teamed up with the children's learning centre for special needs on Samui to help them build a new school for the children.

Giving something back to the island is very important to them all and they have raised money hosting parties for this very worthy cause.

As one of the partners said "if you can establish one of the best venues in Samui which people love and at the same time you can help those not as fortunate as you it's a great feeling.

We've recently been awarded a certificate of excellence from Trip Advisor which we are proud of and were proud that we have been able to help the school".

They plan to continue in 2013 to raise more money for the children.

For more information please visit www.specialneedsschoolsamui.com and www.baricesamui.com



Charity Fundraising Raffle at Mandalay Beach Villas



hansgrohe



On Monday 2nd of September Tibor Szedlak and Tim from the Mandalay Beach villas presented the Samui Learning Centre for Children with Special Needs with thirty thousand Baht.

The school was founded in 2009 to care for children with conditions such as Autism, Down Syndrome and other learning disabilities.

The school only receives around B150,000 per annum and has continually struggled to maintain suitable financing in order to meet their overheads and provide the support the children need, so donations such as this from the Mandalay Beach Villas are vital.

In June 2012 the school was granted certification from The Autistic Thai Foundation Surat Thani Branch and became eligible for charity status; however this does not mean any additional funding.

The generous donation from the Mandalay Beach Villas will be split equally between two funds set up for the school, one for the day to day running costs, the other to build a new school that has been generously donated by an island resident.



The money was raised at the grand opening of the Mandalay Beach Villas in Bang Por next to the prestigious Four Seasons Hotel.

Fifteen thousand baht was raised from a Charity Fundraising Raffle that took place at the event, prizes included: vouchers and gifts contributed by Nikki Beach Koh Samui, Nikki Beach Lifestyle Boutique, Hansgrohe-AXOR, and Mandalay Beach Villas.

This amount represents a total of 150 raffle tickets sold.

A further fifteen thousand baht was given by way of a cash donation by Mandalay Beach Villas.

Members of the Friends of the Special Needs School attended the presentation.

The school cares for ten to twelve children from Monday to Friday each week but this number only represents around 1/3 of the children that need the sort of specialized care that the school provides.



Miskawaan Villas pledge on-going support

The school has just received some fantastic news from Miskawaan Luxury Beachfront Villas in Maenam, who have pledged to sponsor the school in the sum of 5,000 baht per month.

The news was relayed to us recently by their Asst. Sales & Marketing Manager, Lorraine Lim Marsh who herself has taken a keen interest in the education and welfare of the children at the school. Miskawaan staff recently visited the school and provided lunch for the staff and kids.



International Paediatric Therapist visits school

Last month the school in Bangrak received a surprise visit from Kimberly Barthel and Bob Spensley.

Kimberly is a Paediatric Occupational Therapist with a vast experience in working with children since 1984.

She is a NDTA-OT instructor, an author, consultant and owner of Labyrinth Therapies practice.

She has offered workshops and lectures to therapists in North America, Europe and Asia.

Kim's personal continuing education reveals a passion for connecting with special needs and using the most up to date research in developing her therapy process.

Kimberly currently lives with her family in Victoria B.C. though will shortly be conducting a course in Singapore later this month.

Both Kimberly and Bob have expressed a strong desire to keep connected with our school with the view to providing the specialized help and guidance needed especially later in the new school's development.



Samui Gay Pride Bowling Evening

Saturday 21st September saw the Samui Gay Pride Organisation's Bowling event take place at Major Bowl in Tesco shopping mall in Chaweng.

Eight teams consisting four players per team took part in the competition followed by a top eight players play-off to determine an overall winner.



Adam Preston and the organising committee:

- collected over 67,000 Baht in cash
- received over 60,000 Baht worth of raffle gifts
- gave away 22,000 Baht in cash prizes (donated by sponsors)

Overall they are planning to donate 20,000 Baht to the school, and following discussions are likely to be purchasing much needed desks, table and chairs which will then be presented to the school.

AutisticThai Foundation President visits Samui.

On 21st September the president of the AutisticThai Foundation, Khun Chusak, visited Samui and invited the committee members to join him at The Mantra Resort in Bophut. Here they were shown a video illustrating the excellent work carried out by the foundation throughout their 20 plus centres around Thailand, at which they provide parents with skills and knowledge, enabling them to apply the special care and training needed, in their own home environment.

The meeting was concluded with an excellent evening meal, hosted by M.D. Andras Garai and G.M. Robert Mayer.

Calendars

The SNSS 2014 calendars are now being printed and will be available to purchase early in November in time for posting to friends as Christmas/New Year gifts around the world.

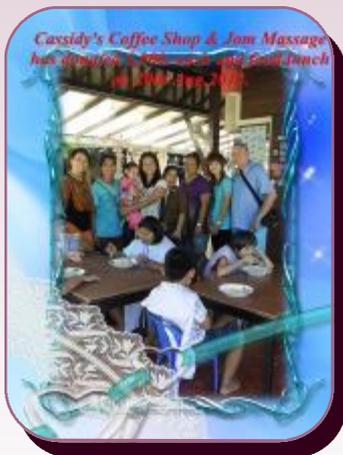
They are Desk Top Calendars, good quality and cost THB250 each. Early orders are welcome and should be addressed to samuiclaudia@yahoo.com

I deal as presents for your VIP guests, Friends, Family etc.

Some more recent donations to the school



Nora Lim & family donated 2,000 plus lunches



Cassidy's Coffee Shop donated B5,000 and lunches



Big C Samui Branch donated children's toys & gifts

On behalf of the school we gratefully acknowledge a contribution of 5,000 baht from Rik and all the staff at Secret Garden, Bangrak towards school funds.



Kanda Residences, Samui donated 6 Computer Sets



Chamaiphon, Nawaphon & Manerat donated lunches



International School Samui, donated B30,000



I-YHA Samui donated B6,600 plus lunches



Bangkok Airways Samui Team donated B25,000 plus lunches

How can I help?

Apart from a small monthly contribution from the Tessabaan, which barely covers the cost of current premises rental, the Special Needs School in Samui relies heavily on voluntary donations from commercial enterprises on the island such as the large Resort groups.

Whilst these donations are not only essential and greatly appreciated, there is still a large shortfall in the amount of money required to fund the school's expenses.

A regular contribution by way of a direct debit or even a one-off payment from you would be graciously acknowledged and accepted.

There are two streams of funding available.

The first is to assist in funding the day to day activities, buying school books, teachers salaries, lunches etc.

The second is to invest in a building fund which, in time, will attract sufficient funds to enable us to construct a purpose built school for the children.

Additionally you could arrange your own unique fund raising event locally, perhaps amongst local clubs, bars, friends etc. Old favourites such as Car Boot sales, Raffles, Guessing the weight of a cake etc.

As mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter, Mr Khun Ngoen Wichaidist former Headman and Mayor (Pu Yai Baan) of Bangrak has generously donated one rai of land on which it is proposed a new school will be built.

School Expenses Daily Running Account

Krungthai Bank Public Co. Ltd,
Lamai Branch

Account No: 756-0-041523

Account Name:

Samui Learning Centre for Special Needs

Joint account holders:

Mrs. Dalin Ruangaisoon

Mrs. Sannit Virriyanong

Mr. Phairat Chanchaem

School Building Fund Account

Bangkok Bank -Koh Samui

Account No: 541-0-34040-9

Account Name:

Autistic Thai Foundation

Suratthani Branch

Joint account holders:

Mrs. Dalin Ruangaisoon

Mrs. Sannit Virriyanong

Mrs. Parinda Chunarong.

Due to the Thai banking system, we are unable to identify individual donations, therefore, would anyone requiring a receipt, kindly send a scanned copy of the paying in slip to – pipparker274@gmail.com (Treasurer) along with your email address. Thank you.

Friends of Special Needs School, Samui

Samui Learning Centre for Special Needs Children

9/192 Moo 4, Bangrak Bophut, Koh Samui, Suratthani, Thailand.

Phone No. 081-170-8290

We're on the web:

www.specialneedsschoolsamui.com

Committee Members

Chairman:	David Wilkinson
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Treasurer:	Philip Parker
Special Projects:	Yvonne Roberts
Public Relations:	Su Buchanan
Committee:	Khun Matt Bunluesingha
	Khun Dahlin Ruangaisoon
	Connor O'Leary
	Claudia Wilkinson
	Jeffrey Martin
	Lisa Taylor Hawkins

History of the School



Mrs. Dalin Ruangaisoon who was born here on the island of Koh Samui has a family of three children, two of whom were diagnosed with slow learning disorder and Autism.

Difficulties arose when trying to enter the children into the conventional education system and her applications were so often refused.

However she nevertheless tried her best to ensure they received the care and support necessary for their development and to prevent further regression.

Her initial approach took her to Saranrom Hospital (Suratthani) and later as far afield as Bangkok, not itself an easy task with disabled children but with no major success.



It was at this stage Dalin decided to tackle the problem directly and was inspired to establish her own school for children with special needs like her own.

Early in 2009 Dalin met local teachers Emma and Pirat of the Samui Learning Center in Lamai, they subsequently introduced her to Mr. Choosak Chantayanon Chairman of the Autistic Thai Foundation of Thailand.

On the 4th of June 2009 they all met up with the head of the Koh Sai Municipality, in the presence of parents, themselves having children with special needs and also with doctors and medical staff from the Samui Hospital with the objective of creating a solution to assist disabled children living on the island.



As a direct result Dalin was supported to start up her own special needs class within The Samui Learning Center in Lamai. This entity served the community until the class grew to a point where there was the need to move to their own premises, thanks to "The Rainbow Room" community in Bangkok a fund raising event was held resulting in (B160,000) being donated along with support from local sources, enabling Dalin and the children to move into their own building.

In June 2012 The school was official certificated as a branch of "The Thai Autistic Foundation" – Surat Thani branch, giving the school charitable status.

The school is now to be found at The Mayaburi Resort off the "ghost road" in Bangrak.

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