






Vocational Opportunities
Through English


PHUKET HAS BEEN GOOD TO US

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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Phuket Has Been Good to Us Foundation

Annual Report

2017



Mission Statement

Our mission is to improve the economic opportunities and life chances of young people, by funding and implementing high quality, practical English language education in government schools in Phuket. Our goal is to help Thai youth become capable and confident English speakers so that they may secure well paid employment.

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Statement from the Chair of the Board

In 2017 we are proud to have continued to teach English language classes for free to over 1000 underprivileged Thai children in 3 Thai Government schools. Our volunteer teachers and volunteer office staff also ran Coconut Club, an afterschool programme for 175 children who live 10 months out of the year at Kamala School as they are orphans or their families are unable to look after them.

Highlights this year include the expansion of our English Integrated Studies Programme, at the Rajaprachanukroh school in Kamala, to include primary level 3 students along with primary level 1 and 2. We now teach over 50 children not only English, but also Mathematics and Science in English. 2017 also saw us enter our third year of teaching English to Kindergarten students at Kamala Children Development Center, newly named Anuban Kamala School (AKS).

We continued a third year of our biggest fundraising event: Pop Up and held two new fundraising events: Melbourne Cup Brunch, and The Ocean Emerald Sunset Cruise. We plan to continue these events in 2018 due to their success.

We are very grateful for our long term supporters who maintain their belief in our cause and to new friends who are starting a lasting relationship with us. To these donors from all over the world, a huge THANK YOU from our teachers, volunteers and helpers, we couldn't continue our mission without you.

2018 will be another great year for our Foundation and we thank you in advance for being part of our success. If you are in Phuket and have time please come and visit our afterschool programme Coconut Club and meet some of our students, teachers and volunteers.

Khun Pensri McNamara

Chairman of the Board of Directors

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In Review

I. History

- **Our Founding**

Phuket Has Been Good To Us (PHBGU) was founded by Tom McNamara, a local restaurateur with a vision for the future. The Foundation is the fruit of Mr. McNamara's efforts to give back to a community that had been so beneficial to him, and which he loved so much.

In 2005, Mr. McNamara approached a local Thai schoolmaster to inquire how he could best help his school on Kalim Beach in the wake of the 2004 tsunami disaster, which destroyed the school. The Headmaster of the Kalim School expressed his concern about the low quality of English language education at the school. Although there is an English language curriculum in government schools such as Kalim, its implementation was less than adequate and funding was limited. Mr. McNamara soon came to the conclusion that funding an English language program could prove highly beneficial. Living and working with Thai people on the island for nearly two decades, he knew first hand how difficult it is for businesses on the island to find staff who speak English well enough to work effectively in the tourist industry. He resolved to dedicate himself to making quality English language teaching available to disadvantaged youth of Phuket.

- **Why Teach English?**

English is spoken in most parts of Thailand, but perhaps because of the persistence of the nation's cultural independence, it is not spoken nearly as well as in places like Singapore or Vietnam. In a 2005 study, Thailand ranked second to last among nations in the region in English language skills.

Phuket prospered in the past, on the strength of tin and rubber industries, but tourism is now the dominant economic factor on the island, both in property



development and the leisure/hospitality industry. However, in Phuket, few Thais speak English very well. Demand is high in all sectors of the tourist industry for staff with good English language skills. Such skills usually outweigh other factors, such as experience, in hiring, retention and salary levels. The better-paid jobs and senior management positions are often taken by foreigners with a command of the language of English. This limits the capacity for local Thais to occupy such posts and earn an appropriately higher salary.

- **Our English Programme Timeline**

- The Foundation's pilot programme was introduced at Baan Kalim School in 2006 teaching English to 124 students. We currently have one English Teacher teaching 120 students there aged 3 to 12.
- In 2007, the Foundation expanded to 36th Rachaprachnukroh Kamala School. We teach 750 children from their Kindergarten class to their final year of Senior school (aged from 5 to 18). All of our 7 English Teachers teach there, 5 full-time and 2 after their teaching hours at the other schools.
- In 2008, we started an after school programme called Coconut Club at RPG 36 Kamala School to improve the lives of 175 children who live at the school as they are orphans or their families are not able to look after them.
- In November 2013, we expanded our teaching programme into a third school, Kamala Child Development Center, one English Teacher works here teaching 260 children aged 3-6.
- In May 2015, we expanded our programme to teach the English Integrated System at RGP 36 Kamala School: teaching 2 hours of English, 2 hours of Science and 2 hours of Mathematics in English to the Primary year 1 class. In 2018 we are teaching Primary years 1-4.



II. Our Teaching Team

As the Thai Academic Year runs May to March, our core teaching team is employed for 3 months in to the next calendar year. To see the teaching team that concluded the 2016-2017 academic year and taught from January to March 2017 please see our 2016 Annual Report. In 2017, we employed a teaching team of 7 qualified English teachers on Non-Immigrant O volunteer visas. They are provided with a stipend for accommodation, living and travel expenses.



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2017 Teaching Team



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Head Teacher
Jerlin Balais,
Philippines



Teacher Yulia
Sorokina, Russia



Teacher Diego
Demaria, Italy



Teacher Vezah
Rojas, Philippines



Teacher Caitlin
Molony, Canada



Teacher Julie
Midden, USA
(Kalim and
Kamala Schools)



Teacher Violeta
Sagi Martin,
Spain (AKS and
Kamala School)

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III. Our Admin Team and Volunteers

2017 saw our Director of Operations, Tina Hall, entering her 8th year with the charity. Our Office Manager, Khun Arporn Nortip entered her 4th year with the Foundation and Fundraising Manager, Graham Haslam had his 5th year. They are provided with a stipend for accommodation, living and travel expenses.

Our Volunteer Office Fellows work full-time (40 hour weeks) plus additional hours planning and running our Fundraising events. Office Fellows also assist our teaching team at weekend activities including Saturday swimming and birthday parties. We typically have two or three volunteer Office Fellows at a time and each applicant commits to a six month contract with possibility of extension.

The Foundation hired and provided Non-Immigrant O visas and work permits for a total of 6 office volunteers in 2017:

- Claire Martin, USA: January 2017-April 2017 (4 months)
- Evi Veerdoodt, Belgium: January 2017 –May 2017 (5 months)
- Erin Grout, USA: January 2017-December 2017 (12 months)
- Lea Schumacher, Germany: March 2017 – November 2017 (9 months)
- Julia Landers, Brazil: August 2017 –December 2017 (5 months)
- Annie McArdle, Canada: November 2017 –December 2017 (2 months)

IV. Our Schools

We teach English for free to disadvantaged Thai children aged from 3 to 18 in three Government schools in Phuket: Baan Kalim School, The Rajaprachanukroh (RPG) 36 School in Kamala, and Kamala Children Development Center (KCDC).

In the first term of 2017 (May 2017-October 2017) we taught 929 students (see full break down below) this number was subject to slight variation in the second term (November 2017-March 2018) as students often come and go at our largest school, RPG 36, Kamala School.



The Rajaprachanukroh (RPG) 36 School also known as Kamala School

A) Kalim School:

In 2017 we taught English to 121 children aged 5 to 12. With the reintroduction of Kindergarten classes at Kalim this year we extended our teaching programme to provide English classes for the preschool children aged 5 and 6.

Total number of students: 121

- Anuban 2: 13, Anuban 3: 12
- Prathom 1: 27, Prathom 2: 21, Prathom 3: 15, Prathom 4: 9, Prathom 5: 15, Prathom 6: 9



B) RPG 36, Kamala School:

In 2017, we taught English classes to over 600 students aged 5 to 18. We also run an English Integrated Studies (EIS) programme to teach science and mathematics in English to the children in their first, second and third year of primary school.

Total number of students: 619

- Anuban: 13
- Prathom 1: 44, Prathom 2: 50, Prathom 3: 66, Prathom 4: 50, Prathom 5: 54, Prathom 6: 59
- Mathyom 1: 56, Mathyom 2: 81, Mathyom 3: 75, Mathyom 4: 15, Mathyom 5: 30, Mathyom 6: 26

C) Anuban Kamala School:

Kamala Child Development Center (KCDC) became a formal government school with Kindergarten and primary level classes and was renamed Anuban Kamala School (AKS) In 2017 we continue to teach Kindergarten students aged 3-6 at AKS some of whom will then move to RPG 36 School as primary year 1 students.

Total number of students: 202

- Anuban 1: 84, Anuban 2: 51, Anuban 3: 67

Thai Teacher Testimonials:

(Written in Thai and translated to English by Office Manager, Khun Arporn Nortip.)

"I like that Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation supports our English Programme in school and helps our residential students by organizing birthday parties and Saturday swimming for them. These are all good experience and exposure for our students because it can help them become better in English language."

-Teacher Fareeda Mae, Thai English Teacher in RPG 36 Kamala School

"I like all the programmes being given by Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation: the free English programme support and teaching from Kindergarten to Mathayom level, helping in our English for Integrated Studies (EIS) programme by teaching Mathematics and Science,



collaborating with us and the local community on projects that are good for the students and the Coconut Club for the residential students! They love the swimming and birthday parties!

I think it is very useful for our students. They are able to use the English language in their daily life. It helps the students express themselves better. The upper Mathayom level (M. 4-M.6) are confident in giving the tourists in Phuket information about the famous places in Phuket, which is helpful for the community in the long run. In Coconut Club, I can see the residential students are really happy doing the activities like making handicrafts and their own toys. The students have the confidence to talk to the teachers in English. I hope the Foundation would continue doing all these in our school, for the students.”

- Saowapha Sookasem (Teacher Au), Thai English Teacher and Head of English Department in RPG 36, Kamala School

“Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation has a lot of programmes for our students in our school that I think are very useful for our students like supporting the English language learning of all the students and for the residential students, they can make use of their free time learning other useful skills. The students become more and more confident and they dare to communicate with foreigners visiting Phuket.”

-Teacher Sopapan, Thai Teacher and Administrator (Curriculum) in RPG 36 Kamala School

V. Our Students

- Since our founding in 2006 we estimate, based on available school records, that we have taught 4655 students.
- At RPG 36, Kamala School where we teach students in their final year of Mathayom or senior level, approximately 6-8 students (out of a class of 20-25) pursue higher education (University, College, or Vocational School) after graduating.

Student Testimonials:

(Written in Thai and translated to English by Office Manager, Khun Arporn Nortip.)

“I have been in this school for more than 5 years already and I can say that I like the English Programme very much. It makes us communicate more with other people, not just to greet foreigners, but to have conversation with them. Learning English helps me both in my



studies and in my life. If we go anywhere, we can read signs. If I learn English, I can take scholarship exams for universities in the future, and I can make more friends when foreigners come to visit Thailand. Thailand is visited by many tourists from all over the world and if I know English, I have an opportunity to talk to them.

English is necessary, for example, if a Thai student becomes a nurse, you need to communicate to foreign patients in English. You can also take exams if you want to work overseas. Anyone who knows more languages than their own can communicate with more people better.”

-Foremost, Prathom (primary) level 6, Kamala School residential student

“I have been in this school for more than 5 years and I like learning with my teachers so much because it’s a whole lot of fun! We can practice speaking in English with them. Learning English is important for me because when I grow up, it is easy to get a job and maybe I can also teach English to other people too!”

-Sirikanya, Prathom (primary) level 6, Kamala School residential student

“I like learning English because it is fun. Nowadays, English language is an essential language to learn.”

-Natida Prathom (primary) 6, Kamala School non-residential student

“I like learning English with my teacher because it is fun and not boring. The environment is not too strict and we can do a lot of different activities. For me, it is important to learn English because in the future, you can have more opportunities to get a better job.”

-Thanaporn Prathom (primary) 6, Kamala School non-residential student

Student Story Highlight:

Phuket Has Been Good To Us is more than an educational charity. Yes, the main aim is improve the English language skills of the students, but it also provides a learning environment where the children can take risks and grow in confidence in all areas of their life. The teaching and methodology that the Foundation adopts, coupled with the after school programme, Coconut Club, means that sessions are active, productive, fun and relevant.

When children are emotionally literate (ready to learn) they feel secure, they are happy and in a comfortable environment. This is when successful learning takes place. The teachers and volunteers at PHBGU provide this for the students and it’s clearly reflected in the children’s behaviour, motivation and achievements. For me, this is particularly relevant for a student whom I have personally followed since I worked for the Foundation. His name is Faozee.



When PHBG TU started teaching at Kamala school in 2007 we were an unknown entity. A lot of the children hadn't had contact with foreigners before and certainly hadn't had much English language education and it took a little while for everyone to be at ease with the new situation. Faozee was pretty small, I think about 6 years old. He was scruffy, distracted and generally a bit reluctant to learn.



Faozee was a difficult student. However, his willingness to attend classes and try to learn English increased significantly as he warmed to us- always hanging around the teachers' room hoping to be invited in for a game or even a little healthy snack. Faozee soon gained self-esteem and became much more confident in his learning. This change became even more evident when Faozee found an interest in photography through one of our Coconut Club activities.



Today Faozee is a motivated student and is headed into his final year at RPG 36, Kamala School. Faozee does not have the best English in his class but he is well known and well liked by the teachers and his peers. He is also a role model for the younger students, always helping out at school events and lending a hand at PHBG TU birthday parties and student activities. Faozee also shared with his current teachers that he would like to go to University when he graduates to become a teacher one day!

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I have personally followed Faozee for the last 11 years and have observed how PHBGU has helped him not only progress in English, but to develop stronger relationships, have more ambition and really helped him to grow into the wonderful, happy, responsible teenager he is today! Phuket Has Been Good To Us's approach gives support, positive reinforcement and security that children need in order to really want to do the best they can. Working simultaneously with the care and education they students receive within their schools means that the students are much more likely to reach their potential. Faozee is proof of this.

-Laura Gray

Senior Teacher and English Programme Coordinator, September 2007-June 2009.

VI. Coconut Club

There are 175 children who live full time at the RGP 36 School in Kamala as they are orphans or their families are not able to look after them. PHBGU English Teachers and volunteers run an afterschool programme, Coconut Club, where these children have fun with arts and crafts or sports. Saturdays are dedicated to swimming, with Mathyom students attending swimming lessons at Phuket International Academy (Thanyapura) and Prathom students getting to play at local pools or Kamala beach.

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Coconut Club provides fun activities for these children who otherwise have very few recreational opportunities. The programme also supports the Foundation's English language programme by offering additional opportunities for our students to practice their conversational English outside the classroom in a more relaxed social environment.



This year we started a Rugby Club twice a week in the first term along with a very popular Thursday cooking session thanks to support from a few longer-term visitors. Skateboarding, jump rope, and bingo remain popular activities and in the second term we introduced more active sessions with Zumba and dancing which the children particularly enjoy.

Our teachers and volunteers continue to organize quarterly birthday parties for the residential students with the support of local hotels who provide amazing venues, food, and cake. We collect birthday gifts for the students throughout the year from generous donors who visit our Foundation.

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Student Testimonials:

(Written in Thai and translated to English by Office Manager, Khun Arporn Nortip.)

“I love our Coconut Club because I learn new things that I have never experienced before like go to different places on birthday parties and swimming and other events of the Foundation. I also like being trained for many skills (swimming, cooking) and I get the chance to have fun. Coconut Club makes us smile, learn and have fun with visitors from many parts of the world.

Coconut Club is very important for the residential students because sometimes we can get bored and we do not have other things to do. When we join the activities and do things together, we do not feel lonely, especially for some students who do not live together with their family.”

-Foremost, Prathom (primary) level 6, Kamala School residential student

“After school, I love going to our Coconut Club. Playing Bingo is the most fun! I enjoy playing games with my friends. We need Coconut Club!”

-Pittayarat, Prathom (primary) level 4, Kamala School residential student

“I love the Coconut Club because the teachers are very kind. They let us choose the music when we like to dance and we win prizes in Bingo. We get to have fun and meet with our other friends in school when we do outdoor games and we can get out of the school when we have swimming on Saturdays. We have gifts, movies, and we can eat popcorn and many foods on birthday parties! I like chatting with my teachers and get to know people from other countries and play with other visitors. We need Coconut Club in school because we learn more. If we do not have Coconut Club, it’s going to be too quiet, nothing for us to do on most days.”

-Sirapatsorn Prathom (primary) level 6, Kamala School residential student



"I attend the Coconut Club because I like to have fun and also, it helps me learn more English when I speak with my teachers or meet new visitors. It is necessary to have Coconut Club in our school because the activities that the teachers are organizing make me feel relaxed."

-Bussakorn, Mathayom (senior) level 1, Kamala School residential student

VII. Fundraising Events



We had 3 major fundraising events in 2017 which brought in over 2 Million Thai Baht in donations:

Date	Event
1 st April 2017	Pop Up 3 at Latitude with Angsana
7 th November 2017	Melbourne Cup Brunch at Outrigger Laguna Phuket
14 th December 2017	Ocean Emerald Cruise

It is also important to mention smaller community based events that guarantee funds and exposure to the foundation including: *Ride 4 Kids* benefitted PHBGTU along with two other charities on the island -Good Shepherd Phuket, and Outrigger Resort's Share 4 Change. Our partnership with the Good Shepherd also led to our cooperative *Melbourne Cup Brunch* fundraiser. We plan to hold both events again in 2018. In 2017, we continued our yearly *Christmas Tree Campaign* which is only possible with the support of several hotels on the island. We also ran our first online crowdfunding campaign, *Gift Them an Education*, via Chuffed.org in an effort to widen our fundraising reach. Thanks to a generous long term donor, who agreed to

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make up our difference when the campaign closed online, we were able raise enough money to sponsor a teacher for a year.

Our Donors

I. Sponsor a School



Baan Rim Pa Restaurant Group –The English Programme at Baan Kalim School



MontAzure –The English Programme at Kamala Development Center

II. Sponsor a Teacher



Destination Wedding Planners Congress – Teacher Jerlin



Phuket Condos & Homes –Teacher Yulya

III. Grants



Australian Embassy's International Development Fund of the Direct Aid Program (DAP) was awarded 13th December 2017. This grant will enable us to expand our EIS programme to Primary level 4 students in 2018. We plan to continue issuing grant application and maintain this as a funding method.



XL Catlin – Sponsors Primary level 1 class at RPG 36, Kamala School. XL Catlin also generously sponsors our Foundation vehicle for transporting children to Saturday swimming, birthday parties, and staff to meetings and events.

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IV. Sponsor a Class



Anantara Vacation Club Maikhao Phuket –Kindergarten class at RPG 36 Kamala School

Jean-Claude and Khun Kantaya – Primary level 6 at RPG 36 Kamala School

Kay and Andy Hunter – Primary level 2 English Integrated Studies (EIS) at RPG 36 Kamala School



The Chava Resort -Surin Beach – Primary level 1 English Integrated Studies (EIS) at RPG 36 Kamala School

V. Sponsor a Child

Our Sponsor a Child programme matches donors with one or more of our Kamala school residential students. This enables individual donors to support the Foundation with a yearly donation whilst we send them updates on their sponsored child(ren) and their progress in our English classes. A total of 40 children were sponsored by 31 sponsors in 2017.



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**SPONSOR
A CHILD**

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"Hi! My name is Focus. I am a quiet student and I like to make my assignments look beautiful with colourful writing and drawings. I am part of the Dance group and I enjoy playing board games at Coconut Club!"

**FOR JUST 10,000 BAHT YOU CAN SUPPORT
FOCUS' EDUCATION FOR A YEAR!**

Thank you!

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+66 (0)76-278-146



**SPONSOR
A CHILD**

PHUKET HAS BEEN GOOD TO US FOUNDATION



"Hey! My name is Dome and I study at Kamala School. I am happy to share that I was the third best student in class! At Coconut Club I love to play games, to skateboard and to make people laugh."

**FOR JUST 10,000 BAHT YOU CAN SUPPORT
DOME'S EDUCATION FOR A YEAR!**

Thank you!

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VI. In Kind Donations

We also receive a regular stream of donations throughout the year from visitors and short and long term supporters. Donations include items for our office staff and teachers such as A4 and A3 paper, laminating sheets, notebooks, clipboards, printer ink, refillable whiteboard markers, etc.

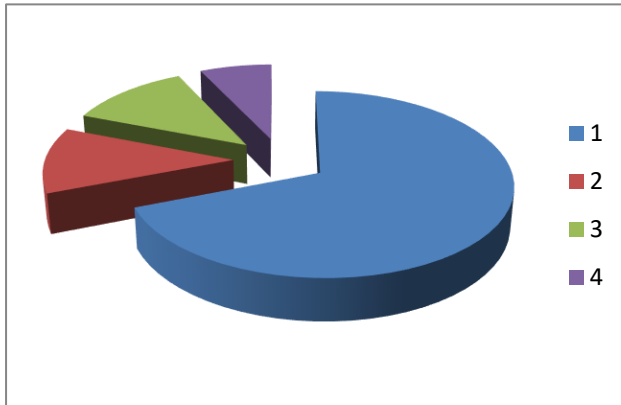
We also receive donations of Coconut Club supplies and birthday gifts for our quarterly parties for the Kamala School residential students. While we typically gather more donations during high season when more tourists are visiting Phuket and searching for local charities to visit, In-kind donations are valued at an average 5000 THB a month or about 60,000 THB during the course of the year.

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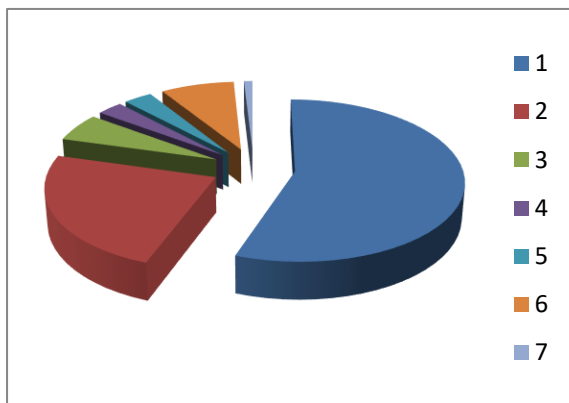
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Income and Expenditures



2017 Income (Thai Baht)		
1	Events and Fundraising	4400000
2	Annual Donations	750000
3	Donations	766000
4	Grants	450000



2017 Expenditures (Thai Baht)		
1	Teachers and Volunteer Stipends	3904000
2	Admin (eg full-time staff, office rent, electric, telephone, etc)	1600000
3	Thai Staffing costs	400000
4	Visa costs	270000
5	Travel and Auto	220000
6	Fundraising expenditure (eg catering)	565000
7	Teaching supplies	65000

A copy of our 2017 Audited accounts are available on request.



Ways To Get Involved

- Sponsor a Child, Class or Teacher
- Support our Fundraising Events –Donate a prize for our silent auction, help us sell tickets, or sponsor our printing or other essential costs.
- Organise your own community Fundraising Event
- Encourage Wedding Donations
- Make In-kind Donations
- Make Monetary Donations
- Support our Christmas Tree Campaign

For more information on ways to donate to the Foundation, contact Tina Hall:

Tel: +66-(0)-801-439-554

tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org



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