

Kuraburi Burmese Learning Center Donor Update August 2014



In this issue:

- YouthLinc Service
- Hydroponic garden
- Construction Update
- Meet the students
- Volunteer Help
- Parents Meeting

Current Updates

We are pleased to present our latest update on the current activities at the Kuraburi Burmese Learning Center. In June, the third academic year began with 60 children currently enrolled.

To continue the success of the Learning Center beyond this year, we are still seeking funds to cover the annual operational costs of \$40,000. Until now we raised \$16,400 and the volunteers who came to teach English at the center donated another \$300 through their program fee.

We would like to thank all contributors!

Sadly, only a few donations reached us during summer and that is why we are counting on your support! Please spread the word to help raise additional funds and provide an essential education for Burmese migrant children. The easiest way is to visit our current online campaign featuring a brand new video:

<http://www.andamandiscoveries.com/supportblc/>

Thank you for your continued interest and support for this cause!

Meet the students:

A TV program about people working in the lab sparked an interest and now he loves to invent things and re-use items to create something new and useful....

Read more about Win Htat Oo on the third page

YouthLinc Service

Andaman Discoveries was happy to help support the work of two separate groups of Youthlinc volunteers from Utah, USA at the Burmese Learning Center!

In both June and July, groups of 40 volunteers and team leaders came to Kuraburi to work hard on different projects, teaching English, as well as occupational and health skills to the local community.

The construction projects were completed in collaboration with a local company. Thanks to the help of the Rotary Patong, AD was able to work along with Youthlinc and donated over 600 hours of staff time to this program.

[Read more about YouthLinc here.](#)



The YouthLinc Group from Utah, USA



Hydroponic Garden

Hydroponic Garden Project

What looks like a strange white box next to the schoolyard, is actually the school's new hydroponic garden. In June, the installation and sowing was completed, and the first batch of fresh vegetables could already be harvested last week!

For practical advice and training, Youthlinc sponsored a group of students and teachers to visit the Home&Life Orphanage south of Khao Lak, that already has lots of experience with hydroponic gardening. Besides cooking with them, the vegetables will also be sold to local restaurants to cover the costs of the fertilizer.

How your contribution makes a difference

For the current academic year 2014/15 the Learning Center has four paid teachers. Like last year, one teacher is paid through the student tuition fund of the Foundation for Education and Development and three teachers are paid by the Andaman Discoveries Burmese Learning Center (BLC) Donation Fund.

The Fund contributed \$8,856 to the center's operational cost for the first three months of this school year. Besides for the teacher salaries, the budget was used for school transportation, general supplies like water and electricity, and the lunch.

Construction Update

Thanks to the YouthLinc volunteers and the funding they brought, this summer saw some great improvements at the school's facilities, such as the kitchen, the playground, all classroom floors, a backside wall, and an additional bathroom for the Kindergarten children directly attached to the nursery. See some of the biggest changes on the right.

The **kitchen** is now equipped with robust cabinets and shelves, a tiled floor, new cookers and a clean work space to prepare lunch.

All **classrooms floors** are now tiled and much easier to keep clean. In the breaks, the kids can have fun at a new colorful **playground**.



Meet the Students



Win Htat Oo

Win Htat Oo

is 10 years old and in the third grade. He has been living in Thailand since a young age when he moved here with his family for his sister to work. In the future he would like to become a scientist. A TV program about people working in the lab sparked an interest and now he loves to invent things and re-use items to create something new and useful. He loves nature and its wonders, would like to learn more about it to better understand the world. While speaking about his dreams, Win Htat really lights up and becomes livelier showing the passion he has for science.

Aung Zaw Min

is 12 years old and was born in Thailand, this is his home. He has five brothers and one sister, his younger brother is also studying at BLC. His older sister works as a labor in the day and takes care of the family at night after she left school early to help their parents. His dad and his two older brothers are fishermen, and his mom is a shopkeeper. He has mixed feelings when seeing how hard his family are working and would like to help them. He wants to learn more English with the volunteers and other languages so he can better communicate with a variety of people. He loves school because of the space to properly think and the opportunity it brings. Although he is Burmese, he has never been to Burma and feels more like a Thai citizen. He dreams of pursuing further education in Thailand and finding a job to stay in the country.



Aung Zaw Min

Volunteer Help

During this summer, Andaman Discoveries has sent four volunteers to the Burmese Learning Center. Katie from the USA, Radu from Romania, Jessica from the Netherlands and Roger from Spain committed a total of 13 weeks to teaching English as a second language in an interactive and fun way. Engaging with English-speaking foreigners helps to build the confidence and conversational skills of the Burmese kids. The volunteers also support and assist in the upkeep and development of projects like the recycle bank, composting pile and making recycled paper. Do you know someone who would like to volunteer, or are you interested yourself [Find more information here.](#)

Parents Meeting

On the first day of August the parents of the BLC students gathered for a meeting. The lunch program was the main topic of discussion. Currently the nursery teacher is responsible for cooking the lunch for over 60 students each day, this takes time away from her lessons and forces her to shop for the food each morning. It was decided that the parents would donate a total of 20 Thai Baht per week, per child to cover the cost of hiring a Burmese woman to cook and shop for the lunch each day. This shows the interest and commitment from the parents to support a healthy lunch and learning environment for their children!

