

REPORT ON SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

At Nakornrachasima, Mahasarakarm, and Khonkaen

on May 24 – May 25, 2009

Members who attended: President Kathy Barnett, PP Arunee Srifuengfung, Tessa, PP Sukanya Thavikulwat and her husband Mr. Yongyudh Thavilulwat and PP Pattama Triyakul

Nakornrachasima .

Mr. Pruttipong Terathammarat, our coordinator, has done a good job not only in contacting our students but he also invited reporters from local newspaper, cable TV and national-wide newspaper to take pictures and to p/r our scholarship presentation. He also asked his friend Khun Kanya to do the translation from Thai to English as well.

Our President Kathy presided at the ceremony of presenting scholarships to 16 students, one of which is in vocational level, five in elementary and 10 in secondary level. The total amount of scholarship given out was Baht 60,000. Our students

were quite happy and when some of them came up the stage to thank us on behalf of other students i.e.

Wipada Chinklang felt very thankful to us and she said that she would study hard

Supaporn - will also study hard and in the future will be good citizen for the society

Hatya Singkha – has one artificial leg. She was a little bit nervous but she also promised to study hard. Her relatives said that Hattaya almost stop schooling because they were out of money. When they received our letter telling her to come to get the scholarship they were very happy as she now can continue her study. This means that timing in sending scholarship to our student is very crucial as it means the future of our students.

Other students also promised to study hard and some of them want to be good and be able to help others in the society as well. Many of our students lived with grandma and aunts because parents already passed away.

We treated all our students, their parents, teachers and guardians as well as our coordinator for lunch.

We spent Baht 5,000 for food, meeting room and backdrop.. Moreover, PP Sukanya gave “red envelope” of Baht 100 to each of our student. PP Arunee also gave Baht 100 each to guardians of our 16 students. I also gave each of our student and few people who assisted us on our scholarship program one box each containing two beautiful mugs. We also presented pictures of Buddha to Khun Pruttipong and his assistants as a token of appreciation .

Mahasarakarm

Asst. Professor Udomsilp Wanchupela, our coordinator, has been helping us for 12 years. Most of the students have no father and they stay with relatives or grandma. One of the comments from Ajarn Udomsilp was that the number of scholarship students given by our club has been diminishing and she thought that the funding was given to students elsewhere. I told her that numbers of students were frozen not only in Mahasarakarm but across the board. As most of the 6 students will be graduating this year, she would like to know whether we would give scholarship to new students. We told her that we would revert to her after our meeting.

All students came up the stage to express their feeling about our scholarship. All of them were happy and thankful to our help. They will try to study hard and be a good person in the society and some of them would like to be able to help others as well.

Nopparat Rodwichai, one of our medical students from Khonkaen, who is being trained in Mahasarakarm joined us at the ceremony and stayed for dinner with our members and Ajarn Udomsilp. He is doing well in his study and will be graduating in 9 months.

PP Arunee and PP Sukanya gave out pocket money as in Nakornrachasima. We also gave them boxes of mugs.

Students also gave our president Kathy and the club a very beautiful vase of flowers as a way of saying thank you to us.

Khonkaen University

We were greeted by Professor Maneewan and Khun Sudarat, our coordinators for the scholarship. We met four existing medical students because Niwat is being trained in other province. They know very well the Vivian Scholarship Fund and looked happy. Nathida is now in 5th year studying anesthesia. Nuntasiri (Pla) is very thankful for the scholarship. She has done some social work and she liked to help people. Mr. Chalermwut's grade was 2.84 and he promised to study hard and tried to get better grade. Ms. Thanyarat is also studying pediatric. We presented them with ceremonial scholarship because we deposited Baht 180,000 to the University's account. Ajarn Maneewan, who has been managing scholarship for over 10 years, said that normally she would divide the scholarship by 12 and credit the student each month the same equal amount. This makes sure that students have money to spend for 12 months. Moreover, she also deducted a small portion of the scholarship so that in case of emergency, students still have some extra money to use.

The scholarship given by donors usually do not pay for 100% of students' expenses. The university

also prefer it that way because parents and/or guardian should have a part in the students' education.

The school fee for students from this year onward has been increased from Baht 7000 to Baht 24,000 per year. The increase in the amount of scholarship for new students are appropriate.

We have interviewed three new students namely Chatchawanwichai , Thumrongsak , Jittima and Keminthra and her father was subsequently interviewed by PP Arunee Srifungfung and we felt that these students are qualified and deserve to receive the Vivian Scholarship /Soroptimist Fund. Details of all candidates were given to Helena Mencer and all members who went to Khonkaen.

- (1) Jittima can speak very good English because she used to be an AFS student to Germany. She is the only child of the family. The father is very sick and her mother has to take care of him. After graduation she would like to be a doctor in her hometown .
- (2) Chatchawanwichai – Both parents have new family. He has been borrowing money from the Government Education Fund since high school. The amount that he is indebted so far is about Baht 200,000. He is being trained in OPD at the moment.
- (3) Thumrongsak – His father 's debt is Baht 300,000 because he acted as guarantor for friend who defaulted on the loan. His father used to send him every month Baht 5,000 but now having difficulties because of the aforementioned problem. His grade was only 2.56 but he promised to do better.
- (4) Kaemintra – please look at PP Arunee's report.

OTHER

On the way back from the trip, PP Arunee kindly donated Baht 200,000 in the name of Janie Fund for our scholarship. She was influenced by her mother who believed girls should have an education so that they can help themselves and have some freedom in life. She was very impressed by the way that we have handled our scholarship program. This fund is to sponsor students who wanted to become lawyer as she felt that there are lots of women who needs legal assistance. We are short of women lawyer. We will start by informing our existing scholarship students who are in Matayom 6 about this scholarship. Moreover, the Janie Fund is also for scholarship for 19 students in Ranong whom she has been supporting. She will transfer them to Soroptimist. Bhat 200,000.00 above is not the last time but she will consider it on a year by year basis.

Prepared by: Pattama Triyakul

May 28, 2009