



Although SET had to suspend its work during the floods, we were still able to do something to help. Director Peter's home and office were under water for weeks and he was a refugee at Kiriwong Monastery. In the first few days of the flood, a lack of drinking water became a major problem for the 1,300 refugees there. SET donated 1,300 two-liter bottles of water to help, but local supplies had run out and we had to send a truck on a 1,000-kilometer return journey to buy it. We have since refurbished the student bathrooms and other areas in Kiriwong School. They were in a very poor state by the time all the refugees had returned to their homes.

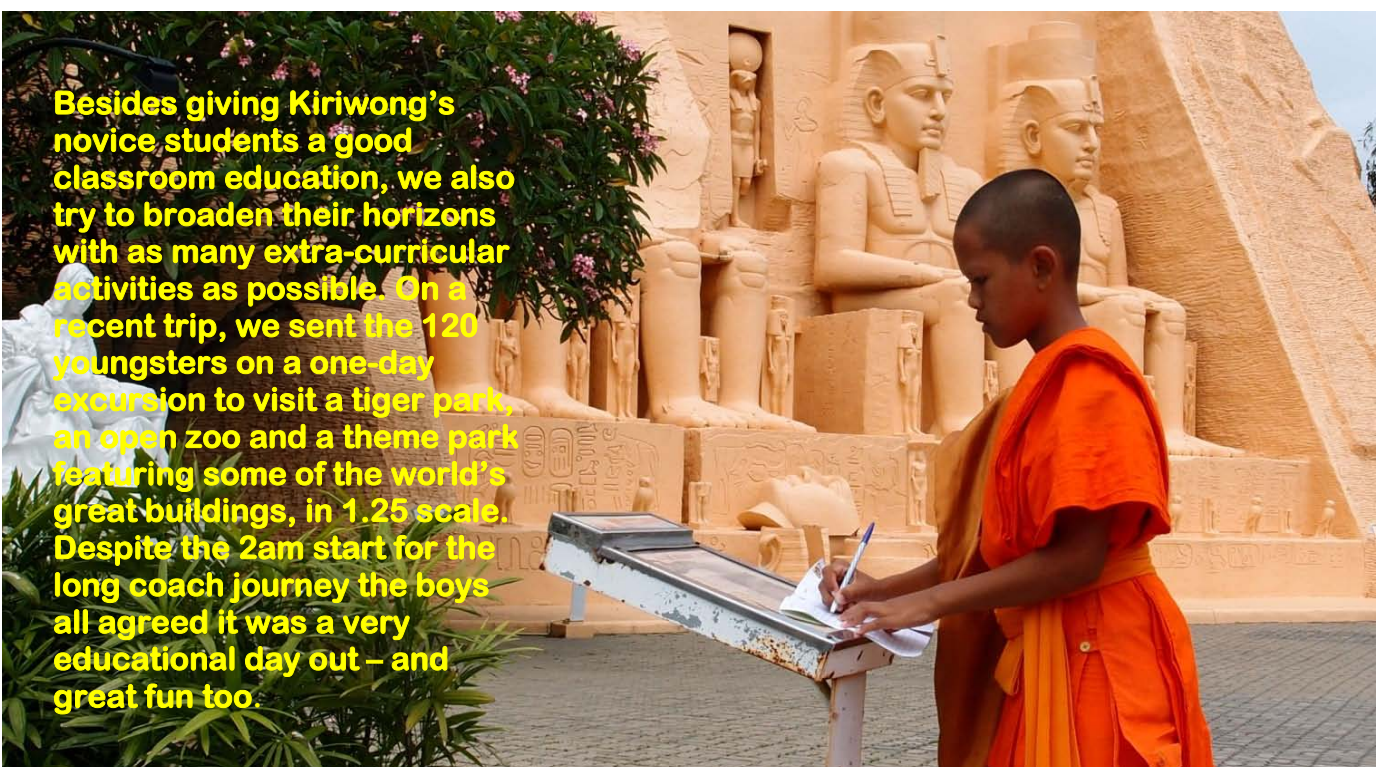
Another disaster!

Towards the end of last year Thailand suffered yet another disaster which left hundreds of thousands of families homeless, financially impoverished and facing a long-term struggle to survive.

In October and November, the worst floods for 50 years left 700 people dead, inundated millions of acres of farmland and severely damaged industries. The regions in which SET is most active - the Lower North and Central Regions - were particularly badly affected. SET also suffered, with our office under nearly two meters of water for several weeks. We had to suspend our operations for a month at what is usually our busiest time, but most schools, colleges and universities were so badly flood-damaged that they also suspended opening for the second semester by several weeks. Many students were stranded in their rural villages by high water and could anyway not get to their schools or back to their still-flooded city dormitories.

Some supporters were quick to respond with donations made to help youngsters in both short and long-term need. Using those gifts, we have already made many cash welfare grants this year to students who were assessed as having suffered from the floods, to help them replace lost uniform, books and personal affects and to take some of the financial burden from their families, who may not now be able to afford to assist them. Our thanks to everybody for their generous response.

Besides giving Kiriwong's novice students a good classroom education, we also try to broaden their horizons with as many extra-curricular activities as possible. On a recent trip, we sent the 120 youngsters on a one-day excursion to visit a tiger park, an open zoo and a theme park featuring some of the world's great buildings, in 1.25 scale. Despite the 2am start for the long coach journey the boys all agreed it was a very educational day out – and great fun too.



Student letters

All letters are written by the students. Some are received in English and others are written in Thai and translated by teachers or friends. Spelling is corrected and letters may be 'tidied up' but otherwise they are printed without alteration.

You inspire me to help others

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for awarding me a SET scholarship. I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honor and I am deeply appreciative of your support. It means so much to me and is making a great difference to my life.



I am growing up in a home where my parents have to work very hard to make ends

meet. They are rice farmers. Their constant struggle to survive from day to day has made me realize the value of a university education. When I graduate I will be the first person in my family ever to have achieved a university degree and I do not want to be a burden on my parents while I am studying. You have eased that burden, both for them and for me.

I am majoring in Dentistry and I will graduate in 2015. My scholarship has a value of 100,000 Baht and supports me in my study for five years. The financial assistance you are giving me will be a great help in paying my education expenses and will allow me to concentrate on my studies without worrying so much about my finances. Thanks to you, I am a step nearer to achieving my goal of becoming a dentist. Without you, I am not sure that I could reach that goal at all.

Your generosity has inspired me to want to help others and give something back to my community. I hope one day I will be able to help other students achieve their goals, just as you have helped me.

Santisak Sombun, scholarship 3566

Our good future depends on our English skills – and on you

My friend Lertchai and I both want to say how much we appreciate and need your support. We are both studying English in our first year at Rajabhat University in Nakhon Sawan. There are more than 7,000 students at the university and many of them (175) have scholarships from the SET Foundation but many others do not. Lertchai and I know how lucky we were to be chosen.



Both of us were novice monks at Kiriwong School and we studied there for our high school certificates. Although we are from different provinces, we are from similar backgrounds. Our parents are farmers with only a little rented land, so it was difficult for them to find the money to send us to an ordinary school. That's why we became novices, because we wanted to study very much, and at Kiriwong everything is free.

Although we were happy to be able to study, we both had to move a very long way from our families and our homes to study at Kiriwong in Nakhon Sawan. As novices, and now as university students, we can go home only for a short time in the summer holidays. It can be sad to be parted from your family but we know it is only until we finish our studies. Then we both hope to get good jobs using our English skills. I would like to work as a flight attendant for Thai Airways and Lertchai would like to work in a foreign company. For both of us, our good futures depend on our English language, so we are determined to study hard for the next four years. We will make SET proud of us!

Thank you to everybody at the SET Foundation for giving us the opportunity we need.

Theerapong Khumfu, scholarship 3672

Accept your sorrows

I am Maneerat Inprayoon, studying Public Health at Rajabhat University in Kamphaengphet. I think I would not be able to study for my degree without your support, so I want to send you greetings for the New Year Day!



We often make good wishes to others for the New Year with the

words "May you be happy". In fact, happy alone without suffering is very hard to get. That is the Buddha's teaching and we all know it is true, whether we are Buddhists are not. All of us must have suffering at some time in our

lives and we have to accept that. I have had suffering in my life, even though I am young. My mother died when I was a child, then my father disappeared from my life. Now I have no real family and that makes me unhappy, but I have to accept that as the way things are for me.

So, I would like to change my wishing words that "May you be strong in your heart to accept both happiness and sorrows".

Thank you! For the scholarship that you are giving me every year.

Thank you! For everything that you are giving me every minute.

Thank you! To all the SET supporters that are making my dreams of study come true.

I will never forget what you have done for me.

Maneerat Inprayoon, scholarship 4038

You are our Santa Claus!

Because of the floods, we paid scholarships very late for the second semester last year. Some were even paid on Christmas Day. On scholarship day at one school in December, 16-year-old student Sanphet gave a very nice 'thank you' speech in English, which he wrote himself:

This is my second time standing here to say a word all of us want to say. That word is just two syllables long. It is 'thank you'.

SET has been supporting students at this school for many years and hundreds of students have received scholarships. For us, this isn't just about money. It's proof that there are people all over the world who care about us.



SET students are all from poor families and we have a problem about getting a good education, especially if we want to go on to university. SET gives us the

same opportunities that children from wealthier families have.

I also want to say how much we appreciate Mr Peter, seeing him sitting there on the sofa as usual. Sometimes we wonder who he is and why he is here. I mean, why does he need to do this and what does he get from it? We haven't got an answer but we know that we couldn't find anyone who dedicates himself as he does. But we don't need an answer. It's like when you fall in love with somebody, you don't need to know why you love him or her. It's the same in our case: we love him, our Santa Clause.

Sometime in the future, we are going to repay SET's kindness to us. We will pay it back not in money, but in service to our country and to others less fortunate than ourselves. We will do our best to show all the SET people that we can do more than just say 'thank you'.

Sanphet Jumreang, scholarship 3476



I couldn't have done it without you

I am writing to thank you most sincerely for your continued financial help to me for the past six years. With your scholarship I studied Law at Naresuan University but then you continued to support me for two more years while I studied at the Thai Bar. Now I have graduated in the first stage of those studies to be a barrister and I was honored to receive my diploma from HRH Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn. My parents attended the ceremony and they were so proud of me! My family is too poor to have supported me for so long and at such expense, and I owe my good fortune and my good future to everybody at SET. Thank you - I would not have achieved anything without your wonderful support.

Rattarit Jakkawaddiyoyhin, scholarship 3329

You never abandoned me

My name is Phutthaporn and I study at Nakhon Sawan School in my final year. Next year I am going to study for a Nursing degree.

I have received a SET scholarship for six years already, since my first year of high school, and you have told me you will give me a new scholarship for my university studies. Thank you for that.

I would also like to say thank you for my sister. She has been studying Nursing for two years and she also has a SET scholarship. Neither of us could study without your help.

I come from a province far from Nakhon Sawan but my parents split soon after I was born. My mother took my sister and me to live in Nakhon Sawan but she gave us to another woman to take care of. I haven't seen my mother for many years.

Although my new mother takes good care of me and loves me as though I was her own daughter, she is very poor and could not help my sister or me study. Only SET can help us. Only SET gave us hope for a good future.

When I have finished my studies I hope I will be a good person and give something to my society, the same as SET has done for me and so many other students.

From my heart I want to say that you make me thankful, you make me happy, you make me understand that God never abandons his children, the same as SET has never abandoned me.

Phutthaporn Fachaiyaphum, scholarship 1995



SET to the rescue as students get burnt out

Can you imagine what it must feel like to watch your house burn to the ground, along with everything you own? That's what happened to three students from Rajabhat University in Nakhon Sawan last year.

The youngsters were living in rented rooms in a very old, mainly-wooden house in the city center. Nobody knows how the late night fire started but within about 30 minutes the house was totally destroyed. Two adjoining houses were also burnt to the ground. The students were able to escape unharmed and then stood silently weeping on the other side of the road as they watched everything they owned go up in flames. University uniform, clothes, course books, a motorbike, identity cards, mobile phones, money and all their personal items - not a single thing survived the blaze.

One student said afterwards: "Our only thought was to get out as quickly as possible. There was no chance of saving anything - except ourselves".



Above, Warrataya, Songkran and Piyawan. The youngsters are studying Public Administration, Applied Art and English. After losing everything they owned, the three are now receiving SET scholarships of 10,000 Baht per semester.

The three distressed students reported to the Rajabhat Student Welfare office the next morning, still wearing the same smoke-smelling clothes in which they escaped the fire - the only clothes they had. Welfare officers called in Dr Teeppipat Suntawan, vice-president of the university. He is also a SET trustee.

Dr Teeppipat immediately took control of the situation, arranging for the three to be put into temporary accommodation with other students in Rajabhat's already overcrowded dormitories. He then called SET director Peter to explain the situation and to ask whether we could help. Of course we could - *that's what we do*.

Although they are all from poor backgrounds, the three students were not receiving SET scholarships. Two had applied at the beginning of the semester but there were so many applications for the 32 scholarships available that the three only made it to the 'B' list for consideration the following semester. Their sudden drastically changed circumstances made the difference. They were immediately awarded SET scholarships of 10,000 Baht per semester.

When Peter gave the students their first 10,000 Baht, one told him: "Immediately after the fire we were in a daze, not knowing what to do or how to recover from our loss. We had absolutely nothing, but Dr Teeppipat, SET and our fellow students were so kind. Other students gave us clothes and bits of uniform and even money to help us over the first few days. I don't know what we would have done without that help. We are still quite distressed about losing everything in the fire, but it has also shown us how much kindness there is in the world and how quickly some people respond to other's troubles. None of us will ever forget that".



Left, the students' burnt-out house, the day after the fire.

A special visit

SET president Sievert Larsson was in Nakhon Sawan in January for a whirlwind visit. He's usually based in Sweden but comes to Thailand as often as he can. Besides being our president, Sievert is also our major supporter through his own Cyprus-based scholarship foundation.

The visit by Sievert and the four committee members of his foundation was originally arranged for last October but had to be cancelled because of the floods. On this occasion, the members travelled from Sweden, Cyprus and the US and had only a few days in Thailand. In a limited time, they not only had to visit SET, but also other charities that Sievert's foundation supports. Our guests had only a day and a half in Nakhon Sawan and we packed in as much as possible so they could see SET in 'action'.

Besides sponsoring many SET scholarships, Sievert's foundation also contributes generously to our Student Welfare Program. On the first day of the visit, we arranged for Sievert and his colleagues to present special flood-relief grants of 3,000 Baht each to 105 students at a city vocational college. They had all been assessed as having suffered financially from the 2011 floods. Some had lost everything they owned when their homes or dormitories were inundated, so the



The guests received a warm welcome from Chinese dragons at the college before presenting 105 flood relief grants. Above, committee members of the two foundations.

grants helped them to replace lost uniform, books or tools.

The committee received a warm welcome at the college. The visit coincided with Chinese New Year and the students put on a show of dragon dancing, as well as a traditional Thai dance show.

That evening, the guests visited Saengsawan Orphanage - always a favorite destination for our supporters. There they presented a special dinner for the children, as well as gifts of toys, towels and baby milk. (Saengsawan news - page 9).

Because of the floods, all eight inner-city municipal schools in Nakhon Sawan opened very late for the second semester last year, leaving us insufficient time in 2011 to pay scholarships to the 200

children in our Inner-City Program. Scholarship day was therefore arranged for the second day of Sievert's visit. His foundation sponsors many of the children in the program.

It was just about the busiest day of the year in Nakhon Sawan, with a massive parade of dragons, lion dancers and carnival floats, but the mayor still found time to greet Sievert and his colleagues and help to present the scholarships at city hall. The program is very important to the municipal authority and the mayor greatly appreciates the help city students receive from SET and our supporters.

A whirlwind visit but, we hope, enjoyable and enlightening for the committee members.

Below, a committee member of Sievert's foundation presents a college student with a flood relief grant. Right, Sievert presents a scholarship at city hall to a youngster in our Inner-City Program.



Scholarships



Children in our Inner-City Program. This year, we've increased the quota to 200.

Giving help where it's needed most

This year we'll be awarding more new scholarships than ever before - around 450 - and we're increasing quotas at several schools and colleges where we know there is a particular need. We hope to be supporting about 1,400 students with scholarships in 2012, though it could be more, depending on income.

Most importantly, we're awarding more scholarships to children from deprived inner-city areas. Children studying at inner-city municipal schools are usually from very disadvantaged families. Their parents are often poorly-educated and work in the most menial, low-

paid jobs. Many are unemployed and live in slum communities. In the most impoverished cases, children from such families sometimes don't even study beyond primary school. We need to get more of them onto the education ladder, to help them break free from their poor backgrounds and bleak futures.

In our Nakhon Sawan Inner-City Program, we have been supporting 150 children studying from M1-M3 (grades 7 - 9), but have now increased the quota to 200. The scholarships are relatively low-value at 3,000 Baht per semester but even that makes a major difference to the children's lives. They study free at school but our scholarships help pay for their bus fares, lunch and other education-related costs.

When the children have finished M3, we encourage them to study for vocational or technical skills at a choice of three local city colleges, with higher-value SET scholarships. We currently award

300 scholarships at the three colleges in Nakhon Sawan.

A school with more privileged students is Nakhon Sawan High School, one of the most prestigious in Thailand. There, students usually study until M6 (grade 12) and most go on to university. The majority of students are from relatively wealthy families but there are others less fortunate who've been able to pass the school's tough entrance examination. They need support, so this year we have increased the school's scholarship quota from 75 to 100. We have also increased the quota in our new program at Chiang Mai Technical College. The program started last year with 25 students but we have now increased that to 50. Our aim is to have 100 students in the program within the next year or so.

In our university program, we're awarding an additional 25 scholarships at the Rajabhat campus in Kamphaengphet, where many students are from low-income hilltribe families. We've increased the quota from 75 to 100 and most of the new students will be training to be teachers, helping to fill a major shortage in schools.



Left, SET trustee David Williams presenting a happy student at Chiang Mai Technical College with her scholarship of 5,000 Baht. We now have 50 students at the college.

Student welfare

Walking a fine line

Many students walk a fine line between just about making financial ends meet, or falling into debt and despair. Any unexpected expense or financial emergency can tip the balance between being able to study or - in the worst cases - being forced to drop-out. Our Student Welfare Program was established specifically to help such youngsters.

Last year, 698 students at schools, colleges and universities received grants ranging from 2,000 Baht to 5,000 Baht, with a total value of nearly 2.5 million Baht. We expect to make many more grants this year, especially to students who were financially affected by the 2011 floods.

Students who receive grants are not usually scholarship students. Often they just missed out on a full SET scholarship but still need financial support, often for some specific education-related expense: to pay dormitory rent, bus fares, lunch, or to buy the necessary books for their courses.

Each school, college and university where SET has a major presence has an annual budget for grants, but an additional budget is kept for students with financial emergencies. The majority of our students are from farming families and such emergencies can arise at any time, especially during the wet season when farms may be flooded and crops destroyed. The 2011 floods were an obvious example; many families lost all their crops and everything else they owned. At such times, already impoverished parents may be unable to spare even a small amount of money to help their children's study expenses. That's when our grants become essential.

Below: We've introduced a new program of grants at Mahachula Buddhist University in Nakhon Sawan. The university is mainly for the education of monks but also allows lay students to study. The very low fees attract those youngsters who can't afford to study elsewhere and most of them come from disadvantaged hilltribe families. Each year, SET awards grants of 5,000 Baht each to 40 lay students.



Last year, we started a new welfare grants program at a tiny village school in Sisaket Province. 50 children received grants of 2,000 Baht. *File photo.*

If it wasn't for my grant, I'd be working in the paddy fields

"Thank you for giving me a grant of 5,000 Baht last semester. It came at a time when I was beginning to despair of being able to continue my studies at Rajabhat University in Sisaket.



"I am in my third year of study for a degree in Social Studies. My parents are rice farmers. Usually they can grow enough rice and vegetables for themselves and have some left over to sell, but that is their only income. They can earn about 15,000 Baht a year. Even though they have little money they send me as much as they can because they want me to study and get a good job. That's best for all of us because when my parents are too old to work anymore it will be my duty to take care of them, just as they have taken care of me. I can only do that if I complete my studies and find a good job.

"Last year my father was very sick for several months. My mother had to spend a lot of time caring for him so she wasn't able to work on the farm as much. Because of that, they could not grow enough rice and had no money at all for themselves, or to send to me. I worked every evening in a shop to make a little money for my daily expenses, but that left me less time to do my homework and I was so tired every day I sometimes fell asleep in class. I also had to return home every weekend to help my mother.

"With your grant, my problems were eased. I still work part-time but now I am confident I can finish my course. I want you to know that you not only helped me but also eased the pressure on my parents at a time when they also were very worried about the future. Thank you for your kindness".

Ms Siritorn Janduangstri

Volunteer teachers

A small program with great benefits

Our latest volunteer teachers from the UK are once again proving the value of this little program.

With their friendly and out-going personalities, the two girls have not only improved their students' understanding of English, but have also overcome their shyness to actually speak the language. That's always a problem with Thai youngsters.

Helen and Olivia, both 19, arrived in Nakhon Sawan last August to take up their one-year project at a vocational college and at Kiriwong Novice School. The project is sponsored by the British Chamber of Commerce in Bangkok with an annual donation to SET of 150,000 Baht to cover the volunteers' expenses. The volunteers are chosen and assessed for SET by the UK's Project Trust organization and live in secure accommodation on the college campus.

Although the girls try to make learning and using English as



It's a nerve-wracking experience when the volunteers have to introduce themselves at their first morning assembly to more than 4,000 students at the vocational college.

enjoyable as possible, it's still hard work, especially at the college. There, lessons are geared towards English that will be useful in the students' chosen careers, which could be accountancy, secretarial or computer work. The students' use and understanding of the language could be very important, especially if they want to work for an international company.

The project at Kiriwong is less serious. Although the school is a relatively relaxed environment, the

boys still live according to strict monastic rules - which don't allow for much fun. Our brief to the girls before they start teaching at Kiriwong is to make the lessons as much fun as possible; to let the boys throw themselves into learning some simple English by whatever means possible. If that means breaking a few of the novice rules - never mind. We want to see the boys running around, playing games and making a lot of noise - as long as it's in English. The novices respond very well and really enjoy being taught by native-speakers. Over the ten years of the Volunteer Teacher Program, some Kiriwong students have even been inspired to choose English as their major when they disrobe after high school and go on to university with their guaranteed scholarships.

In a few years, the ASEAN community will become 'open' and nationals of many countries will be able to move and work more freely between the member countries. The common language will be English. Thailand lags far behind its neighbors in its English skills but in a small way our volunteers are helping to prepare Thai youngsters for the challenging times ahead.

Helen and Olivia with some of their Kiriwong students.



Saengsawan Orphanage

Another great evening for the kids

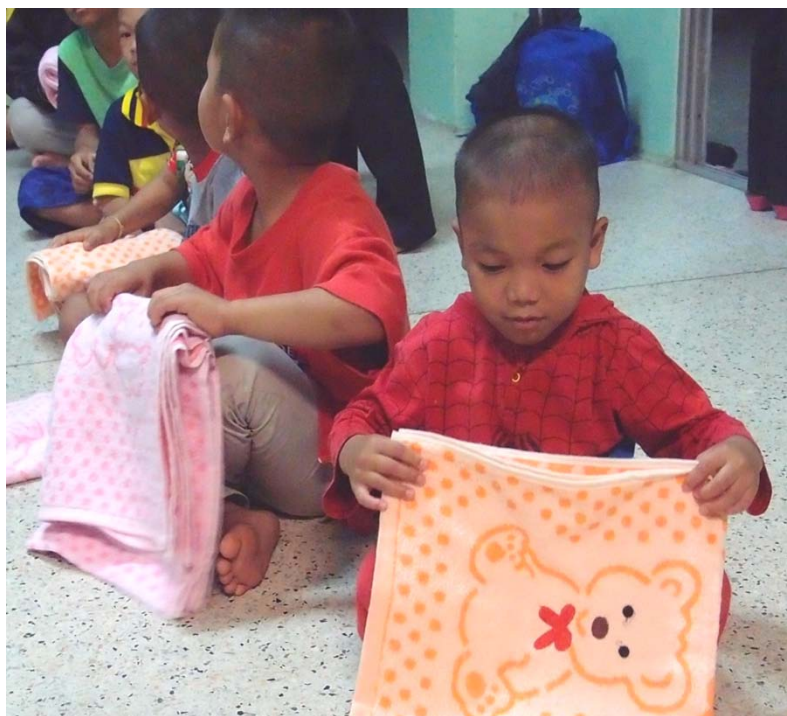
The children at Saengsawan had another special evening in January when SET trustees paid a visit, together with the five committee members of the foundation of our major supporter.

These visits are greatly anticipated by the children because they know they are in for some special treats. This time, as usual, we gave them dinner and candy, but also presented each child with a brightly-colored towel. The younger children seemed especially pleased with the gifts and delighted in opening up and carefully refolding their towels.

The older children also had a special gift. One visiting committee member had collected a suitcase-full of K-Nex - similar to Lego - from his friends in the USA. He took great pleasure in showing some of the older boys how they could make working models of just about anything. The huge collection included battery-driven motors, rechargeable with mini solar panels, as well as several illustrated books of suggested designs. The boys were fascinated and will no doubt spend many happy and creative hours with the gift.

We also presented a year's supply of baby milk. The funds for that were donated by one of our former Project Trust volunteer teachers. Fiona worked in Nakhon Sawan several years ago and is now at university in the UK. She raised the money by baking cakes and selling them to other students at the university gates. Thanks, Fiona!

Dining room makeover: Two supporters in the US were so impressed with our makeover of the Saengsawan kitchen last year that they offered to sponsor similar work in the adjoining children's dining room. Like the kitchen, the dining room had hardly been altered or improved since the orphanage was established in 1965. The work included tiling the bare cement floor, part-tiling the walls, repainting, installing safer electrical fittings and resurfacing the old wooden tables with Formica. What a difference it made! Thank you, Willie and Meg.



Kiriwong Novice School

Big improvement planned

We're hoping to make a substantial improvement to the facilities at Kiriwong School this year, though it will depend on available funding.

The school director has been asking us for several years to establish a combined Science/Art classroom. Thai students often excel at the subjects and some of the youngsters at Kiriwong are no exception. After finishing their studies at the school, a few have gone on to study Science or Art at university or college, with SET scholarships.

Unfortunately, only the very best Thai schools have the budget for such specialized classrooms or to purchase equipment specifically for teaching Science or Art. At Kiriwong, there is an excellent Science teacher and an ex-SET student Art teacher, but when having to teach only in theory they find it difficult to make their subjects seem very interesting to the students, despite the students' own enthusiasm.

We feel sure that the addition of a few microscopes and other basic science equipment, as well as easels, paints and so on will make a huge difference to the students' understanding of both subjects.

To pave the way for the establishment of the new classroom, we prepared a spare room last year with half-tiled walls, a sink, fans etc, Now comes the expensive part - actually equipping the room. SET trustees recently visited the excellent Science lab at Nakhon Sawan High School to get a clearer idea of what might be needed. At this time we don't have all the estimates in but we expect a necessary expenditure of around 400,000 Baht. We can't manage that without help - your help. If you are interested in making a donation specifically for the new classroom, please let SET director Peter know.



Most of the novices at Kiriwong are from remote rural villages. Such youngsters often have limited access to regular health care, since hospitals and clinics are usually situated in the cities. Getting regular health checks may be difficult or inconvenient.

At Kiriwong, we're determined that the students should always be in good health, so twice a year a team of doctors and nurses visits the school from the nearby provincial hospital to give every boy a basic health check. At last year's check-up, five were found to have minor problems, quickly treated in the hospital out-patient department.

Rural families also have limited access to optical and dental facilities. According to published reports, only 2% of people in rural areas receive regular dental checks. One reason is the imbalance in dentist numbers and locations. In 2007, 50% of all dentists in Thailand operated in Bangkok - a ratio of one dentist per 1,203 people. In the northeastern region - from where many Kiriwong students originate - the ratio was one dentist per 18,540 people. At Kiriwong, all new students receive a thorough check by dentists from the provincial hospital.

New students also have their eyes tested, often for the first time in their lives. Some students don't even realize they have a problem, since they may have had poor eyesight for many years and have got used to their impaired vision. Some years, as many as a dozen new students are found to have eye problems, but last year only the two students pictured above needed spectacles. SET was happy to supply them. Below: the annual medical check-up.



The Duk's tale - part 4

I'm really happy that the school year is nearly over. I'm at the end of my second year at Kiriwong but it hasn't been a very good one for me. I seem to have let people down and I've had some problems.

I told you that I was very upset last summer when I went home to my village and discovered that my parents had separated. My little brother had been taken away to another village by my father and my mother had gone to work in Bangkok. I was even more upset when I found out later that my mother has a new husband. I don't know who he is, but I don't want a step-father. I want my family to stay together and be happy, like we were before I was a novice.

There's a lot of bitterness in my family now. My mother is in Bangkok, I'm in Nakhon Sawan and my little brother is in Sisaket. We're hundreds of kilometers away from each other and I know we will never be a proper family again. I am very sad about that.

Maybe because of all this I haven't been concentrating on my studies as well as I should. Or perhaps that's just my excuse. My first year's grades were good but this year they've dropped below average. I think a few people are disappointed in that, and I am too.

I also got into trouble with my uncle (*ex-SET student Phisarn*). He's a teacher at the university in Nakhon Sawan and he visits me whenever he can. I know he cares a lot about me, so he was quite angry when he discovered I'd been smoking cigarettes with some of the other novices. He told me I was very stupid - I know I was - but I think that I needed to feel part of a group. That gang of novices all smoked, so I did too. I was very silly to get involved with those bad boys and my uncle had me moved to a different room, sharing with some older boys. I promised him I would try harder to be a good boy and a better student in future.

I think it's very difficult being 14. Different people are always telling me what to do and sometimes it's



hard to know what's best. But that's why I try to listen to my uncle. He was a novice at Kiriwong when he was my age, so I expect he's been through all the problems that I seem to be going through. It's good to have someone like that who gives you good advice and who cares about you, even if they shout at you sometimes.

'My mother has remarried, but I don't want a step-father. I want my family to stay together and be happy, like we were before.'

This school year hasn't been all bad. The best thing to happen was our SET day-trip to Pattaya. It was a long day because we started from Kiriwong at 2am. I was so excited I didn't go to sleep that night. Pattaya is a seaside place but we couldn't go to the beach. That's not suitable for novices but it's my dream to go swimming in the sea one day. I've never even seen the sea yet, but Uncle Phisarn told me he never saw it until he was about 20, so I suppose I'll have to wait.

Instead of the beach, we went to a tiger park and a sort of museum of models of famous buildings. I liked the tiger park best. Tigers used to be common in Thailand but I think there are hardly any left now. It was interesting to see them and

they had big cages, but I was still sad for them. I'm sure they would be happier living free in the forest, but then maybe bad people would kill them for their skins, so I suppose they are safer in the park. I wonder if they dream about the time when they lived in the forest with their families? I dream sometimes about when I lived in my village and had a family. I felt free then, but I was only a child.

What with my family splitting up, getting poor grades and being told off a lot, last year wasn't the best year of my life. But something happened that made me realize I'm not the only person in the world with problems.

In October there were terrible floods in Thailand. A lot of people died and others lost their homes and all their things. Most of Nakhon Sawan was flooded for weeks but my monastery is on a hill, so we were alright.

The monastery was an evacuation camp and my school and the meditation halls were shelters for people whose homes were flooded. There were 1,300 of them; old people, young people and little babies. Even Mr Peter from SET was a refugee. I was sad for those people but most of them still managed to smile and keep a happy heart, even though they had lost everything. I think that taught me a good lesson and made me realize that maybe my problems are not so bad after all.

Ways to give

Want to help us in our work? Here's how:

Donating by credit card



Credit card donations can be made from any country securely on our website, via PayPal. Just fill in your card number and the amount you want to give and click on the *Donate* button. You can also set up a standing order to give weekly, monthly or annually. Credit card donations come directly to The SET Foundation in Thailand.

UK tax-payers are asked to bear in mind that we cannot claim Gift Aid rebate on donations made via PayPal. The rebate is a substantial 25%, so we get less money if you donate via PayPal.

Donating from the UK/Europe

By cheque: send your cheque to Friends of SET-UK, made out to the **Students' Education Trust**. Please include a note with your name and address or download the donation form from our website. A form can also be sent to you on request to SET-UK. Cheques must be for Sterling or Euro.

By bank transfer: instruct your bank to make a Standard Bank Transfer to the **Students' Education Trust** account in the UK. (Contact SET-UK for bank details).

UK only

By bank standing order: regular payments by standing order are an excellent way for us to receive donations. They allow us to plan ahead and budget more accurately for the future. A standing order form can be downloaded from our website or can be sent to you on request to SET-UK.

The value of donations from UK tax payers can be increased by a hefty 25% through the Gift Aid Scheme. We need you to fill in a simple one-off Declaration form so we can reclaim the tax. The form can be

downloaded from our website or sent to you on request to SET-UK.

By CAF voucher: SET-UK can accept vouchers or cheques from your Charities Aid Foundation account. We cannot claim the GiftAid rebate on CAF donations.

Give As You Earn: The Give As You Earn scheme is an easy way of donating directly from your pay. Donations are deducted before tax, so it costs you less and we get more. A simple form can be downloaded from our website which you fill in and give to your employer's payroll office. Your employer must be registered with the Payroll Giving Scheme. For further details, visit the website: www.hmrc.gov.uk/payrollgiving.

Plan ahead: please think about leaving us a gift in your will. Ask trustee Mrs Lesley Blood at SET-UK for help if you need it.

From the USA

By cheque: send your cheque to SET-USA, made out to **Friends of SET-USA**. Please include a note with your name and address or download the form on the website.

By bank standing order: regular payments by standing order are an excellent way for us to receive donations. A standing order form can be downloaded from our website or can be sent to you on request to SET-USA.

From other countries

By cheque: please send your cheque or bank draft to the SET Foundation PO box in Thailand, made out to **The SET Foundation**.

By direct transfer: please instruct your bank to make an electronic transfer to **The SET Foundation** account in Thailand. Be sure to give your bank our account number and the entire SWIFT code shown in the 'Contact Us' panel.

Contact us

Write to: Peter S. Robinson, Director, The SET Foundation, PO Box 19, Amphur Muang, Nakhon Sawan 60000, Thailand.

Registered office: The SET Foundation, Academic Resource Center, Rajabhat University, Amphur Muang, Nakhon Sawan 60000, Thailand.

Email: SET_THAI@hotmail.com

Phone (Inter): + 66 87204 8018

Phone (Thailand): 087204 8018

Web site:
www.thaistudentcharity.org

Facebook:
[The SET Foundation Facebook Page](#)

Bank account: The SET Foundation, account number: 104-2-65347-7, Kasikorn Bank, Kosi Road Branch, Amphur Muang, Nakhon Sawan 60000, Thailand. (SWIFT code: *KASITHBK for onward transmission to 04-104*).

Friends of SET-UK

The Students' Education Trust
Registered charity number 1090708

Write to: Joanna Herbert-Stepney, Old Village Stores, Dippenhall Street, Crondall, Farnham, Surrey GU10 5NZ, UK

Phone: 01252 850 253

Email (Trustee Mrs Lesley Blood):
s.e.t.uk@btinternet.com

Friends of SET-USA

Write to: Michael A. Brooks, Friends of SET-USA, PO Box 272152, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73137-2152, USA

From within Thailand

By direct transfer: you can transfer to The SET Foundation by paying your cash donation into any branch of Kasikorn Bank.

By cheque: send your cheque to our PO box, made out to **The SET Foundation**. Please do not send cash through the post.

All SET's administration and non-program costs are covered by a 'dedicated' corporate donation. Every Baht you give goes directly and entirely to our students.

Thank you for your support of our needy youngsters.