

## SCHOOL VISITS IN REVIEW

Our school visit schedule in 2017 was busy, interesting and productive. We were able to see 114 students and staff at 7 schools:

### In Central Thailand

- Nernpor Rungnokchanutid, Pichit
- Kaoliao Wittthaya, Nakhon Sawan
- Kuttumwittaya, Chaiyapum
- Tiew Wittayakhom, Petchaboon
- Phetlakorn Wittaya, Petchaboon

### In North Thailand

- Thakhumgern Wittayakarn, Lamphun
- Samoeng Wittayakhom, Chiang Mai

School visits provide the Scholarship Program with the opportunity to check in with the schools to make sure they are abiding by our guidelines, disbursing funds appropriately to the girls and to keep everyone on the same page. Most importantly it provides a chance to touch base with our students and get to know them.

A small contingent of our group meets with the school director and advisors. We go over bookkeeping matters and see if there are any questions. Each school's needs are different and the level of English speaking skills varies. It is important that we understand how each school functions to make sure the needs of our students are being met. Without fail all of the schools are grateful and proud of the fact that we



*AWC and EDF representatives and the Scholarship students at Nernpor Rungnokchanutid School in Pichit, Thailand, during the school visit in February 2017.*

help their students. They understand that without our scholarships many of these girls would not be in school past M3 (9th grade).

The larger part of the visiting group spends time with the girls, getting to know them. These bright and energetic individuals need our help and are so appreciative of the opportunity we give them. Again the level of English varies, but is usually poor to moderate level of speaking ability. Learning English is a difficult task in these rural areas as there are very few native English speakers to teach. Despite the language barrier, we have a great time playing simple games like duck-duck-goose, Simon Says, and memory games as a way to loosen everyone

up. Then we take some time to learn about the girls' home life, what they like to do, and what they aspire to be after school.

Students and their advisors enjoy taking our group on a tour of their school. This gives us the chance to see libraries, computer rooms, classrooms, special projects and the facility in general.

Nearly 100% of our girls continue on to university. We have had the privilege of meeting former AWC Scholarship students who went on to become teachers and are now back at their home schools. It is wonderful to see our program come full circle.

**W**e are so proud of these girls and all they are able to overcome and accomplish with your help.



*Ice breaker games such as We, You, Me are always fun. These are students at Kaoliao Wittthaya School.*



*When we sit to chat with the students, they always listen so intently and do their best to answer as well as they can in English. This group is at Nernpor Rungnokchanutid School.*



*Scholarship students, advisors and school director pose with AWC representatives during the visit to Kuttumwittaya School in Chaiyapum last July.*



*Thakbumgern Wittayakarn students enjoyed taking lots of selfies during the November school visit.*



*Selfies are the rage everywhere ... this one with students at Thakbumgern Wittayakarn School during the November school visit.*



*Smiling students at Samoeng Wittayakhom School pose showing little hearts with their fingers.*



*Making a thank you speech to the AWC visitors ...*

## HOME VISITS



Home visits give us a chance to see why our support is so important. Most of our girls come from humble homes. Some are only children, but most have 2-3 siblings. Our girls come from farming families, others have parents who work in factories or create hand-made goods for OTOP (One Tamboon, One Price), a national program aimed at supporting and marketing locally made products. Many times both parents work, but the income is still lacking. While our girls may come from humble beginnings, their families are as passionate about their education as we are.



**Reaction from AWC member Sue B after her first school visit ...** in reality there are parts of Thailand that are very poor. These girls come from rural areas and want so much more for themselves and their families. They may not technically be rich, but I think they believe they are. The magnitude of how many deserving girls not being helped through school is eye opening, and should not be ignored. Really, just \$200 (6,000 baht) per year?!