

AWC Scholarship

ANNUAL NEWS 2020



Welcome & Thank You

Welcome to the AWC Scholarship Program annual newsletter. We are pleased to announce that for the 2020 school year, we met our fundraising goal of 325 scholarships. Thanks to sponsors like YOU, we raised 1,950,000 baht to continue the education of 226 current M5 & M6 students and added 99 new M4 students into our program. It may not have been the 2020 that we imagined, but through it we have persevered.



It's always fun to take a group selfie! Nongjok Wittaya Scholarship students with AWC volunteers who visited in January 2020.

For 25 years the AWC Scholarship Program has served underprivileged females in rural Thailand, raising funds to help them finish their last three years of high school. These are at-risk girls who genuinely want to finish their schooling. They come from the poorest of families who need to spend their resources on food and clothing instead of school supplies or who need these girls to earn extra income for their family instead of attending school. In a country where three out of eight students drop out before graduation, any opportunity to keep a student learning is a win.

Your contributions make dreams come true!

The supplemental aid a scholarship provides allows these bright minds to afford the ancillary costs that go beyond general tuition. It pays for school books and supplies, transportation to and from school, meals, and regular and PE uniforms. In addition to financial support, AWC strives to encourage and develop the students' English-language skills to further their educational and employment opportunities.

Our one-of-a-kind program continues to make a difference. And we can't do it without the support of YOU, our donors.

COVID-19 Update for Thailand

Thailand is extraordinarily fortunate to have one of the lowest incidences of COVID-19 infections in the world. As of January 19, 2021, the total number was 12,594. Fortunately, this is a very low number compared to other countries, but the restrictions put into place have affected the national and local economies which are suffering from a lack of tourism and foreign direct investment.

The current COVID situation places the provinces into red, yellow and green color zones that show the level of impact caused by the COVID outbreak. Provinces in the red zone have higher levels of restrictions including, but not limited to, restricted restaurant patronage, no alcohol, no gyms, no professional sport games, and no in-person school.

A recent update from our partner, EDF, informed us that the schools in the red zone in central Thailand are closed during 4-31 January, and now the schools teach the students through an online program. That being said, it is a hard time for lower socio-economic families because they don't have internet, smart phones or digital TV. In cases of schools closed, the teachers must work hard to prepare paperwork to be sent home and follow up with students at their home. It is also difficult for the parents to teach the homework and find the people to take care of the students (young children) at home. Fortunately, many of the students live in "green zone" provinces and the schools can open as usual.

It is so important that we continue to contribute to the betterment of these young women who are fighting an uphill battle in this new world we live in.

THANK YOU, EDF

The Education for Development Foundation (EDF) has partnered with the AWC Scholarship Program since 2012. They provide our connection to the schools and with the students. In addition to finding, vetting, and communicating with our schools and students, EDF also handles the day-to-day management of our sponsor/student pairing. They disburse funds to the schools for each student and make sure that the guidelines of our program continue to be met. Without them our job would be much more challenging. Learn more about EDF by visiting their website:



www.edfthai.org/en/

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

About Our Sponsors

The AWC Scholarship Program is fortunate to have a great mix of corporate, group and individual sponsors. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to one and all.

- Rotary Club of Denver Southeast supported 103 students this year.
- Corporate sponsors include Thailand Oilmen Charity Group which supported 50 students. Thanks to them for their continued belief and support in our cause.
- Our individual donors combined to support 141 student Scholarships through personal fundraising and donations.

A sincere “Thank You” from the Scholarship Program to those who supported our program in other ways such as going along on the school visit or making smaller cash donations.

Q & A with a Donor

Name: Cheryl (AWC member)

Where do you live? On a narrow, green and quiet Sukhumvit Soi, nearest Thonglor station [Bangkok].

How long sponsoring young women for AWC? I began sponsoring from the first full school year I was in Thailand, 2018.

What inspired you to donate? I have retired to Thailand and was immediately interested in supporting the AWC Scholarship program when I joined the club. I was seeking a meaningful way to give back to Thailand, my new home for the foreseeable future. I began by learning more and participating in various planning, fundraising and school visit activities. I saw with my own eyes that the program was being managed well, and that the funds were going to needy and deserving students, and resulting in life-changing opportunities and benefits for the students and their families.

What do you tell others about AWC’s scholarship program? In my experience, our scholarship girls are bright, sweet, unassuming and sincere – almost from an earlier time. They are mostly from basic rural homes with hard-working families. Their families are proud that they have been granted these scholarships, and are hopeful and optimistic about their futures being better. The cost of these scholarships is very modest for sponsors, but result in life-changing improvements to the lives of the students that will last a lifetime. I am hard-pressed to think of a better way to invest US\$200 with greater impact.

Anything else you would like to add? For me. I intend to continue supporting this program indefinitely.

Rotary Club of Denver SE, USA



For more than 20 years the Rotary Club of Denver Southeast has supported the AWC Scholarship Program! With Christa Reich spearheading the donation drive, the organization has consistently donated money to support education for these underprivileged girls. In 2020 the Rotarians generously opened their pockets to support 103 young women. None of this would happen without the diligence and tenacity of Christa. She is our biggest advocate stateside, constantly sharing our story with her friends and associates.

Thank you, Christa and all the Rotary sponsors, for your continued donations to keep these amazing young women in school.

Melinda Gates recently published an article highlighting that women and girls have borne the brunt of the pandemic, but they have also led the fight against it, and at AWC we couldn't agree more. Which is why today we are giving all our sponsors a round of thanks for making a positive impact on these young women's lives.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

As you may know, AWC organizes special social events in Bangkok to raise money for the Scholarship Program every year. Due to COVID-19, all in-person fundraising events were canceled for the year, but that didn't stop us from receiving donations from YOU, our continuing and new sponsors. We were very pleased with the results during this strange time for all of us.

Former Student Writes to Her Sponsor

I am not sure that you still remember me, but I remember you at well. I used to be a scholarship student at the American Women Club which you helped fund every semester. It has been a long time that we haven't any contact, but I alway still considering of you.

Now, I have graduated with a bachelor's degree in English major for 5 months ago. Of course, partly because of you too. I wish you are happiness and have a Healthy.5 more days to enter to 2020,I want to say "Have a good year for you", I hope we will meet in one day, Thanks and Love.

P.S. Merry Christmas and this is a little gift that I can give you back. :)

From Amporn Kangkham to her sponsor Angela Darling. Amporn graduated high school in March of 2015 from Samoengpittayakhom School in Chiang Rai.

NOTE: Angela and Murray, staunch supporters of the AWC Scholarship Program, have sponsored 14 students since 2010. Thank you!

PROGRAM NEWS

THANK YOU AND GOODBYE!

It has been a privilege and an honor to chair the Scholarship Committee for AWC. Being the chair during this difficult time of COVID-19 had its challenges, but overall proved to be the bright spot for me. When I struggled to get through each day with virtual learning for my children, as a parent who couldn't escape for even an hour for alone time and boundless amounts of energy between the whole family, I was reminded about the young women who use our scholarship. If anything, it encouraged me to do more and see the positive in the situation. While I am incredibly sad to leave this position, I know the new co-chairs will do a fantastic job. From the bottom of my heart, thank you! ~ Laura Guffey



HELLO, NEW SCHOLARSHIP CO-CHAIRS

Marinda Mullis

I was born and raised in Washington State, USA, and have lived in Salt Lake City, Utah, Ghana, West Africa and the last 8 years working in Washington, DC. My family (husband and 3 young boys ages 6, 4 and 1) and I moved to Bangkok in August 2019 with the US Embassy.



I come to the AWC Scholarship Committee with a diverse professional background in global public health. As a certified health education specialist, I have worked with a number of NGOs including the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, H.E.L.P. Fighting the Stigma against HIV/AIDS in rural West Africa and Women Heart, an organization aimed at promoting women's heart health across the USA. I have experience in project development, grant writing, grass roots health education, government relations and capacity building among many other things. My side hobbies include playing tennis and painting, and I currently teach piano to expat children in the Bangkok area. I am excited to be serving on the Scholarship Committee at AWC this year.

Marie-Lyne J. Thomas



I am from Haiti and moved to Bangkok with my family in 2019. I studied human resources and project management and regularly visited Bangkok for the past 5 years before accepting a new role with the UN here.

As I am reinventing my life in this beautiful city, it was also important for me to find opportunities to give back. Serving as the co-chair of the Scholarship Committee is an amazing way to do that. I benefited from several scholarships myself from high school to graduate studies and I know the difference it can make in the life of a young woman full of dreams. I am really excited to be part of this team and make a difference in these girls' future.

Making of an American Quilt, Thai Style



AWC members met for quilting bee sessions, where they selected their patterns and 100% cotton materials and received instruction on how to cut out the pattern and hand sew it. The blocks

have now been assembled in a king-sized quilt. It is looking beautiful!

As a kickoff to the 2021 fundraising campaign and in honor of the **AWC Scholarship Program's 25th Anniversary**, the American Quilt will be raffled off over the next few weeks. The winner's name will be drawn on March 8, 2021 (International Women's Day). The goal is to raise enough money to provide at least 20 student scholarships.

If you wish to have the chance to win this meaningful quilt, visit <https://awcthailand.org/event-445012> to purchase raffle tickets.



AWC Donation Presented to EDF

AWC Scholarship made its annual donation to the Education for Development Foundation (EDF) Thailand, our partner in Thai education. For the 2020 Thai school year, we raised 1,950,000 baht from individuals and corporate sponsors, who supported 325 students for one year of high school.

EDF oversees the disbursement of the funds to the students each term and follows up with the advisors and directors at each school in our program.



Pictured from left to right for the check presentation in July 2020: EDF Thailand representatives Khun Srilak (Koy) Antarasena and Khun Charuwat (Poo) Boossamalee. AWC President Andrea DiCastro and Scholarship Committee chair, Dr. Laura Guffey.

SCHOOL VISITS IN REVIEW

In January 2020 we were able to visit 11 students and the school staff at NONGJOK WITTAYA SCHOOL in Petchaburi, which is located in Central Thailand. Unfortunately, we were unable to conduct any of the other planned school visits due to the COVID-19 restrictions put in place March 2020. We are hoping by the second half of 2021 that we will be able to reinstate a school visit or two.

The Scholarship Committee visits some of our schools, typically 3-4 times each year, to do an in-person check and see how things are going. It is important that we verify the schools are adhering to our guidelines and that everything is running smoothly.

We meet with the school director and advisors to go over program specifics. Each school's needs are different, and the levels of English-speaking skills vary. It is important we understand how each school functions to make sure the needs of our students are being met.

But our most important task is to touch base with our students and get to know them a little better. The girls are so appreciative of the opportunity we have given them to stay in school. As with the staff, their level of English varies but is usually poor to moderate. Learning English is a difficult task in these rural areas as there are few to no native English speakers who 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 lives, what they like to do, and what they aspire to be after school.

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



Scenes from the Nongjok Wittaya School visit with our Scholarship students in January 2020.

HOME VISITS



HOME VISITS give us a chance to see why our support is so crucial. Most of our girls come from humble homes. Some are only children, but most have 2-3 siblings. Sometimes we visit single-parent homes or those with no parents present. Even when parents are involved and

working, the income is still lacking. Our girls come from farming families, others have parents who work in factories or create hand-made goods.

These visits can be heartwarming and heartbreaking at the same time. Their homes are simple structures, often elevated, with no more than 3 or 4 rooms. Many do not have running water or indoor plumbing. The kitchens are often at the back of the home or may be a separate area next to the house. They consist of a small burner or fire pit and simple cooking utensils. Furniture is sparse. Beds are often a small sleeping pad on the floor. Lighting can be a single bulb hanging, or sometimes none at all. Electricity is expensive in Thailand, so these families may not have it nor use it much if they do.

Regardless of how little the family may have, we see love and pride in the homes. These people graciously welcome us as visitors and allow us to look around and get a feel for their everyday life. They offer us food and sometimes a small gift of rice or mangos. And the love and pride for their daughter is always evident.

While our girls may come from humble beginnings, their families are as passionate about their education as we are.

School Visit Impressions

I was very excited to be able to join the group of members going to visit our Scholarship students and their advisors at Nongjok Wittaya School in Petchaburi, Central Thailand.

It was an early start to beat the worst of the peak hour traffic and still took us over 2 hours to reach the school.

The girls were all very interested to meet us and we were ushered into a hall and watched the graduates proudly receive their certificates. We were then treated to a fantastic singing performance from the school band. One of the girls is now singing in a local nightclub to earn money to assist her family. The girls were then all given a gift bag and we played some simple get to know you games to test their grasp of English and ours of Thai. The girls then reciprocated with lovely gifts for each of us.

The highlight of the day was to visit the homes of two of the girls. This was a very humbling but rewarding experience. In both of the homes their grandparents are looking after the girls, as the parents have left to find work, or have simply left. The homes themselves were very simple with very little in the way of amenities we take for granted. Both families however, appeared very



happy and were evidently proud of their granddaughters' achievements.

Back at the school we were treated to a delicious lunch and were joined by the girls where we were able to share more discussion about their lives and hopes for the future.

After an interesting tour of the school classrooms we said our farewells and were each presented with a large box of delicious locally grown bananas.

It was a wonderful day being able to have a small glimpse into the daily lives of our Scholarship students

– Julianne Stoyles, AWC volunteer

ART CONTEST 2020

Gratefulness during COVID 19

We asked students to draw a picture of what they were grateful for during this pandemic. Many Scholarship students from all over central, northern, and northeastern Thailand submitted their stunning pieces of art for the 2020 AWC Scholarship Art Contest. The 2020 winners were selected by popular vote on our members-only Facebook group. Each winner was very happy to receive a small cash award.



"Thank You Co-Vid"

1st place: "Thank You Co-Vid" by Ratchaneekorn Narason, M5 at Kokekor Pittayakhom School. Sponsor Derek Stamp, Thailand Oilsmen Charity



"Co-Vid 19"

2nd Place: "Co-Vid 19" by Wiphani Chaiyana, M5 at Samoengpittayakhom School. Sponsor Christopher Gaffney

OUR STUDENTS

Graduate Update:

Woranon Krairat graduated March 2020 from Sriwilaiwittaya School in Northeast Thailand. Woranon has said that all her family are well but she has not been able to take her final exam yet. She still intends to be a nurse.

~ Sponsor Jane Holmes Payne



The 18 Scholarship students who study at Udon Thammusorn School, Northeast Thailand, posed for this photo in November 2020.



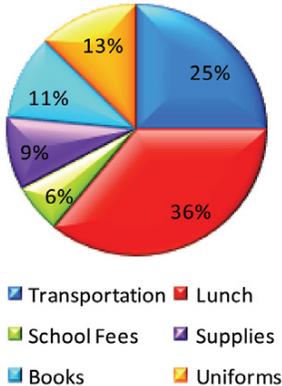
The 15 Scholarship students who study at Somdej Prayansangworn School, Northeast Thailand, posed for this photo in November 2020.

Connecting with our students has looked very different this year, but when we reached out to our partnering schools to see how the students were doing, we were delighted to receive videos and photos of the students enjoying in-person school and life.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM INFORMATION

Student Annual Expenses

The graph below represents an approximation of the educational expenses not covered by the Thai Government. These costs are the responsibility of the student's family. An AWC scholarship can help limited-income families cover these expenses, which can make the difference between the student staying in school or not.



Scholarship Application

EDF collects the student application form in Thai to ensure the student meets our criteria of low family income, good academic performance (GPA > 2.5), demonstrates good behavior, and a commitment to learning. The student must also submit a biographical statement and current photo.

Donation Processing Update

The 2021 fundraising drive has begun, with a goal of supporting 260 students. The donation amount to support one student will remain unchanged at 6,000 baht or US\$200. Please know we will gratefully accept ANY donation amount. Below are the ways you can donate:

- Donate **cash** in person (for those who donate in Thailand)
- Donate via **domestic bank transfer** (see AWC bank details on page 8)
- Donate via **international bank transfer** (see AWC bank details on page 8)
- Donate via **PayPal** from anywhere in the world.
- Donate via **EDF America**, <https://edfamerica.org/donations/awc/> (intended for US taxpayers who require a tax-deductible donation receipt).

See full details at www.awcthailand.org/scholar_sponsor.

NOTE: Personal US checks are no longer being accepted due to Thai bank anti-money laundering requirements.

Program Statistics

325	Students
109	New
216	Renewals
65	Graduating
153	Sponsors
29	Schools

AWC Scholarship Sponsor Guide

Here is some basic information you might want to know after becoming a sponsor in the AWC Scholarship Program:

1. Donation receipt
 - AWC Sponsors will receive an original receipt within 7-14 days by email, after the donation has been fully processed.
2. Scholarship Student Information
 - Your student information will be sent to you by email in July or August after the start of the school term and all students' enrollments are confirmed by schools. Enclosed in the email are the Student Information Certificate which includes a student photo, map with her province location and a message from the student.
3. Correspondence with Scholarship Students
 - Also included with the student information is the name of the counselor and address of the school the student attends. If you wish to correspond with the student, please send a letter to the student in care of the counselor at the school address. Please include your address and email contact information if you would like the student to correspond with you. The student is not given the sponsor contact information by AWC or EDF.
 - AWC & EDF do not approve of any student asking a sponsor directly for money or any inappropriate communication. If your student does so, please let AWC know at scholars@awcthailand.org, and we will contact the advisor to inform the student that such communication is not acceptable.
4. Transfer of Scholarship Funds to the Scholarship Recipients
 - Funds are transferred to Scholarship students twice a year after confirmation of school term enrollment has been received. Funds are transferred in July for the 1st term and November for the 2nd term.
 - Occasionally student substitutions are necessary as a result of factors such as change of school or relocation due to changes in parents' employment. AWC will reallocate the funds to other qualified candidates whose information will be emailed to you at the earliest possible time.
5. Tax-deductible Donation Receipts
 - For Thai taxpayers: You may request a tax-deductible donation receipt by contacting scholars@awcthailand.org. It will be sent to you by The Education for Development Foundation (EDF), the nonprofit organization directed by AWC to administer a portion of the Scholarship program.
 - For US taxpayers: EDF America, located in the USA, partners with EDF Thailand. As a non-profit organization, they are able to provide a tax-deductible receipt to US taxpayers. It is sent automatically via email when you donate on their website, <https://edfamerica.org/donations/awc/>
6. Regular updated news and information
 - AWC Scholarship Program will email sponsors to keep you informed about our activities and progress reports about our program.
7. School Calendar in Thailand (usual)
 - Term I Mid-May / June – early October
 - Term II Early November – early March

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FAQ

What is the Scholarship Program?

Founded in 1995 and operated entirely by volunteers, the American Women's Club Scholarship Program has helped thousands of girls to pursue one common dream: an education. In Thailand, the compulsory education system requires students to attend school only through grade 9. The final grades, 10-12, which mainly focus on academic or vocational training, are often sacrificed because of financial pressures on individual families. The AWC program offers scholarships to female students who are at great risk of dropping out during these crucial years. For 2019, we have 29 schools participating in our program.

Why is the Scholarship Program Needed?

While the Thai government provides basic tuition, this subsidy does not cover all educational expenses. The fees for books, uniforms, supplies, meals and transportation are all the responsibility of the student's family. These extra expenses are a real burden for most families in rural communities in Thailand. Your sponsorship covers most educational expenses for one year, enabling a student to further her education.

Who is Eligible for an AWC Scholarship?

School counselors nominate students who show a strong desire to complete their secondary education and meet the established grade-point requirement (>2.5 GPA), but whose family income levels place them at risk to discontinue their studies. A comprehensive application form must be sub-

mitted to EDF for verification of need. EDF then matches approved students to individual sponsors. In return, the students must continue to meet the grade-point requirement and correspond with their sponsors.



How Much of my Contribution Goes to Overhead?

1,000 baht of the 6,000 baht donation will go towards the EDF administration fee. And the balance of 5,000 baht goes to the student in two installments, first and second semester respectively.

Is my Scholarship Donation Tax Deductible?

AWC does not have tax-deductible status in the US, although we understand members do claim under charitable contributions much the same as clothing donations. Our partner EDF can offer tax-deductible receipts for taxpayers in Thailand, expats or nationals.

How are the Funds Disbursed and Tracked?

EDF works closely with an advisor at each school to oversee the disbursement of the funds to the students each term. The student is responsible for submitting an expense report for each term. The advisor will review and monitor the student's expenses. In addition, committee members periodically visit and audit the schools in order to ensure proper

use of funds and to assess compliance with AWC guidelines.

What if my Student Drops Out?

As soon as EDF is notified by the school advisor, they will assign the sponsor a new student and send both the student and sponsor a letter of introduction.

Can I Correspond with my Student?

Yes, you can send a letter to your student at her school address on the Student Information Form you receive from EDF.

How Can I Participate?

Every scholarship is made possible by the generosity of individual sponsors. Your support is needed! We accept donations of 6,000 baht or US\$200. Ways to donate can be found at our website: www.awcthailand.org/scholar_sponsor.



We thank you for your generous support!



AWC Scholarship Program
c/o American Women's Club of Thailand
219/2 2nd Floor Asoke Towers
Sukhumvit 21 Road
Bangkok 10110 Thailand

Email: scholars@awcthailand.org

Web: www.awcthailand.org/scholarship

Facebook: [American Women's Club of Thailand - Scholarship Program](https://www.facebook.com/American-Women's-Club-of-Thailand-Scholarship-Program)

AWC BANK DETAILS:

Account Name: American Women's Club of Thailand
Bank Name: Bank of Ayudhya PCL (BAY)(Krungsri)
Account Number: 116-1-33939-1
Account Type: Savings
Account Branch: Sukhumvit 35
SWIFT: AYUDTHBK

Sponsor a Student for 2021



Please complete this sponsor application and email it along with proof of payment to scholars@awcthailand.org. Or visit www.awcthailand.org/scholar_sponsor for online application and payment via PayPal or [EDF America](#).

American Women's Club of Thailand Scholarship Program

Sponsor a Thai student in rural Thailand in grade* M4, M5 or M6 for the academic year May to March. (*Equals U.S. grades 10, 11, and 12)

Donor Information: AWC member? Y N

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Contact Number: _____

Email: (required) _____

Note: **All AWC correspondence will be by email.**

Sponsorship: New Sponsor Renewing Sponsor

For sponsorship renewals, we will assign the same enrolled student.

- I will sponsor _____ student(s)
- I will make a general donation toward the Scholarship Program in the amount of _____ Thai Baht/USD.
- I will donate _____ student sponsorship/s as a gift to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Country: _____

Email: _____

Donation: (per sponsorship) THB=Thai Baht, USD=US Dollars

Amount: \$200 USD or 6,000 THB

Payment by: PayPal Bank or Wire Transfer EDF America

TOTAL DONATION: _____ Thai Baht/USD

Tax Receipt Needed? Yes No

Our partner EDF (The Education for Development Foundation) can offer tax-deductible receipts for taxpayers in Thailand, expatriates or Thai nationals. If you wish to do this, please provide the name for the tax receipt:

AWC Scholarship Program

219/2 2nd Floor Asoke Towers, Soi Asoke, Sukhumvit 21 Road
Bangkok 10110 Thailand

Email: scholars@awcthailand.org

Website: www.awcthailand.org/scholarship

Facebook: [American Women's Club of Thailand – Scholarship Program](#)



Thank you for your generous support! Funds will be distributed in early June, so we appreciate your donation **by April 30th**.