

New Beginnings

Empowerment of Indigenous Karen Tribal Girls
Through College Education and Leadership Mentoring



November 2014 Interim Progress Report

Dining for Women Grant: \$36,867

Contact: Dr. Usa Bunnag

Address: 6501 Democracy Blvd. Bethesda, Maryland 20817

1. Recap briefly what outcomes the program was designed to achieve.

Through the Smiles on Wings (SOW) New Beginnings Scholarship Program, five qualified young Karen tribal women from impoverished villages in rural northern Thailand (including the Maesariang District, Maehongsorn Province, and the villages of Maelid, Sobmauy, and Huysingh) are receiving a college education. SOW's objective is to provide training, education, and scholarships for young women in the fields of education and healthcare.

As these young women are committed to returning to their families and villages upon completing their education, SOW aims to empower these women to return as locally trained providers in their home villages. The program benefits the women and provides hope to their communities. When the young women graduate, they return to their villages to assume leadership roles, serve as role models to other young women, and provide essential healthcare and education.

2. Has funding changed for this program? For example, have you received unexpected funding from another source?

There are no additional sources of funding at this time. However, the extension in the Bachelor of Education program to include a yearlong internship for four of our five scholarship recipients requires that we fundraise an additional \$10,000 [see changes in project budget explained in 4]. In addition, monthly expenses for some of the young women exceeds our estimated budget. SOW will cover any additional expenses to ensure the young women attend the schools and graduate as planned per the DFW grant.

3. Is your organization or program situation different than presented in the approved proposal? For example, new executive director, significant program staffing changes or NGO affiliation, loss of large funding, or other significant changes?

There are no changes in the organization or program situation as presented in the approved proposal.

4. What challenges are you facing as you move forward with this project? How are you approaching these challenges?

The major challenge that SOW is facing is due to the recent decision by the Thai Ministry of Education to extend the Bachelor of Education degree from four to five years to include a required yearlong internship. The change requires four of our five scholarship recipients to commit five years instead of four years to their respective education programs and the Dining for Women Grant does not cover their fifth year. To approach this challenge, SOW will commit its current fundraising efforts to cover the cost of the additional year of education.

Furthermore, the Thai Ministry of Education has decided to change the academic calendar for all Thai public universities. Originally, the first semester at Thai public universities ran from June to September and the second semester ran from November to March. However, Thai public universities have recently realigned their academic calendars to match the United States and other countries to promote internationalization in higher education. Due to this both this change and the extension in the Bachelor of Education Program, our schedule for awarding scholarships is now projected to end in July 2019.

6. Have you revised your original objectives since the project began? If so, why? What are your new objectives?

The objectives since initiating the project remain the same.

7. What progress have you made toward achieving your objectives? Please address each stated objective.

First, SOW aims to provide access to education and training to young women to become future teachers and healthcare providers. Our five scholarship recipients are currently in their first year of education.

- Sangthong Sodsachampa and Chuleeporn Srisophawiman both attend Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Chiangmai Campus and are working towards their Bachelor of Education in Social Studies
- Sriprai Yongsakunnuansri attends Phayoa University and is working towards her Bachelor of Education in Chemistry
- Janjira Thoedmapai attends Chiangmai Rajabhat University, Maehongson Campus and is working towards her Bachelor of Science in Public Health
- Muthita Sermpraiwal attends Lampang Rajabhat University and is working towards her Bachelor of Education in English

Second, SOW will provide mentorship and support through leadership training. We are currently planning a one-day leadership training session for our scholarship recipients in January 2015. Dr. Usa Bunnag, a graduate of the Leadership Montgomery program will travel to Thailand to host a leadership reception for the scholarship recipients to learn from her experiences as a healthcare provider and mentor. The leadership reception will also give the young women a chance to present on their educational experiences and plans to return to their villages to serve as role models for other young women seeking opportunities in higher education.

8. Do you anticipate any difficulties in completing your project in the timeframe outlined in your proposal?

Due to the change in the academic calendar schedules for all Thai public universities, our scholarship recipients will not graduate in four years as originally planned. Instead, the project will take five years and our projected end date has been extended from May 2018 to July 2019.

New Beginnings Scholarship Recipients



Sangthong Sodsaichampa

Attends Mahachulalongkornrajavidalaya University Chiangmai Campus and is **working towards her** Bachelor of Education in Social Studies

Janjira Thoednaphai

Attends Chiangmai Rajabhat University Maehongson Campus and is **working towards her** Bachelor of Science in Public Health



**Sripai
Yongsakunnuansri**

Attends Phayoa University and is **working towards her** Bachelor of Education in Chemistry





Chuleeporn Sisophawiman

Attends Mahachulalongkornrajavidalaya University Chiangmai Campus and is **working towards her** Bachelor of Education in Social Studies

Muthita Sermpraiwal

Attends Lampang Rajabhat University and is **working towards her** Bachelor of Education in English



9. Any message you would like us to convey to our membership and donors about the impact our grant is having on those being served and/or your organization and its mission.

Smiles on Wings would like to thank Dining for Women for helping us provide training, education, and scholarships for young Karen tribal women from impoverished villages in rural northern Thailand. Dining for Women has allowed us to send five deserving women to achieve their dreams of college degrees in education and healthcare. These girls aspire to return to their villages to assume leadership roles, serve as role models to other young women, and provide essential healthcare and education.

10. Detailed list of all expenses incurred during the reporting period which have been paid for with the Dining for Women grant.

Date	Description	Expenses	Remaining Balance
4/14/14	Funding received from DFW		\$18,433.50
8/7/14	Initial	\$1,892.89	\$16,540.61
8/7/14	August	\$584.80	\$15,955.81
8/28/14	September	\$584.80	\$15,371.02
	TOTAL	\$3,062.48	\$15,371.02

See next page for itemized list of expenses by scholarship recipient

START 8/7/14

Students	Tuition	Room	Utilities	Uniform	Meals	Books	School Fee	Activity Fee	Transportation	Tutoring	Personal Spending	Total	SOW Scholarship	Remainder paid by Student
Sangthong	\$138.50	\$33.86		\$47.37								\$219.73	\$215.45	-\$4.28
Chuleeporn	\$138.50	\$33.86		\$51.68								\$224.04	\$215.45	-\$8.59
Sripai	\$461.68	\$338.57		\$46.17								\$846.41	\$831.02	-\$15.39
Muthita	\$200.06	\$61.56		\$46.17								\$307.79	\$307.79	\$0.00
Janjira	\$246.23	\$46.17		\$46.17								\$338.57	\$323.18	-\$15.39
Personnel														
Total												\$1,936.53	\$1,892.89	-\$43.64

AUGUST 8/7/14

Students	Tuition	Room	Utilities	Uniform	Meals	Books	School Fee	Activity Fee	Transportation	Tutoring	Personal Spending	Total	SOW Scholarship	Remainder paid by Student
Sangthong		\$33.86			\$58.39	\$8.09					\$3.94	\$104.28	\$92.34	-\$11.94
Chuleeporn		\$33.86			\$55.40	\$6.16					\$4.62	\$100.03	\$92.34	-\$7.69
Sripai				\$16.93	\$12.93	\$1.75		\$24.62				\$56.23	\$92.34	\$36.10
Muthita		\$61.56	\$6.16		\$30.78	\$10.77		\$12.31	\$12.31			\$133.89	\$92.34	-\$41.55
Janjira		\$46.17	\$7.69	\$6.16	\$15.39	\$7.69					\$9.23	\$92.34	\$92.34	\$0.00
Personnel	\$123.11											\$123.11	\$123.11	\$0.00
Total												\$609.88	\$584.80	-\$25.08

SEPTEMBER 8/28/14

Students	Tuition	Room	Utilities	Uniform	Meals	Books	School Fee	Activity Fee	Transportation	Tutoring	Personal Spending	Total	SOW Scholarship	Remainder paid by Student
Sangthong		\$33.86			\$46.72	\$8.09					\$6.77	\$95.44	\$92.34	-\$3.11
Chuleeporn		\$33.86			\$55.40	\$6.16					\$6.16	\$101.57	\$92.34	-\$9.23
Sripai					\$76.95	\$10.77		\$6.16		\$4.62	\$6.16	\$104.65	\$92.34	-\$12.31
Muthita		\$61.56	\$5.23		\$48.63	\$9.39	\$12.31		\$9.23		\$6.16	\$152.51	\$92.34	-\$60.17
Janjira		\$46.17	\$7.69	\$6.16	\$21.55	\$9.23					\$9.23	\$100.03	\$92.34	-\$7.69
Personnel	\$123.11											\$123.11	\$123.11	\$0.00
Total												\$677.32	\$584.80	-\$92.52

The students and their parents are responsible for the remainder of expenses that is not covered by the SOW Scholarship. However, as SOW reevaluates the budget and expenses after the first quarter, we will make any necessary adjustment of the budget and stipend to prevent any hardship for the students and their families.

