

INDIGO THREADS

Laos Education Support and Village Development
A Non-Profit (501-3-C) Humanitarian Organization
www.indigothreads.org

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2009 VOLUME I

INDIGO THREADS PILOT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Three diverse, interesting women from around the world joined Indigo Threads first 7-day pilot Volunteer Program April 21, 2009 in Pakse, Laos. They all shared the same heart filled desire to give back to those that have so little. Usually extreme shy, students were thrilled with the special attention they receive from their new foreign friends while visiting their schools.



If they weren't already early risers, this week Diana, USA, Kim, Australia, and Tingkham, Laos were up and ready to begin the School Lunch Program by 6:00 AM. After purchasing the day's fresh food supplies at the bustling colorful local market, they cleaned, weighted, chopped and chopped chili, ginger, garlic, vegetables, meat and pasta while attending to the wood burning fires for the 3 large cooking pots of soup. Before we all piled into the overloaded tuk-tuk at 10:00 AM to deliver our nutritious labor of love to the students, you can be well assured another container of delicious Lao coffee was foremost on their minds. Tired and happy after the long 75 kilometer round trip to the rural schools and villages, serving 450 lunches, on the not so comfortable tuk-tuk, there was time to relax and discover local southern Laotian cuisine.

Indigo Threads previously built and projected schools were visited and college students had the opportunity to practice English with the volunteers. Teacher Tingkham expertly lead Indigo Threads Reading/Recreation Program at Louya Primary School. Medical Assistant, Diana, presented medical supplies to the District hospital. Mother of 4, Kim, enjoyed entertaining Nalath ethnic village children and students. With additional highlights added to the busy schedule, time out to

ride the elephants at Kiet Nong Village, an extraordinary experience, was enjoyed by all. The Director and staff thanked Indigo Threads new friends for their help and support; while looking forward to their continued help improving poor rural southern Laotian children's lives, enhanced through education opportunities provided by Indigo Threads Education Programs, as they had witnessed.

SCHOOLS OUT!

On May 13, 2009, Indigo Threads completed their School Lunch Program for the 2008-2009 school year. Over 51,000 nutritious healthy school lunches at a total cost of \$9,200 were provided during the school year for 4 rural primary school's students, their teachers and young compromised children at 2 poor rural villages. The focus of this important Program is to enrich the children's daily dietary needs with nutritious food allowing them to develop their minds and bodies. Malnutrition among rural children is epidemic. The student's final examinations followed, concluding this school year.

Indigo Threads is proud to have been able to successfully provide the School Lunch Program for so many disadvantaged students for the past consecutive 4 years. With your help, we will be able to continue to provide students with a healthy school lunch, addressing malnutrition in the upcoming 2009-2010 school year.



DESK DONATION

Although Nasome Village is located in Champasak Province, it is not one of the Districts Indigo Threads Education Programs supports. Over the past year, Indigo Threads Director had been approached numerous times by Nasome Village leaders to help build their new school. As Indigo Threads construction budget had already been allocated, Ms. Meyer stated Indigo Threads would help provide new desks "WHEN THE SCHOOL WAS COMPLETED". In April 2009, a group of village leaders arrived at Indigo Threads office stating the construction of their school was finished. "How many

desks are you going to donate?" Somewhat surprised and a bit skeptical, Mary and the volunteers made arrangements to visit their difficult to reach rural village to survey their new school. The new 6-classroom school was overwhelming beautiful, with excellent quality construction, ceilings, electricity and 5 latrines. The villagers had saved for 15 years to build their new school, replacing the dirt floored, rotting existing building. With this awe-inspiring dedication to education by the villagers themselves, Diana, US volunteer, in cooperation with Indigo Threads, donated \$2,000.00 to build 100 new

desk/benches for their heroic efforts to educate their village children. They were nearly speechless with gratitude as no foreigners had ever helped them before. It is hopeful Diana will be able to return to Laos to attend the special School Donation/Dedication Ceremony. Such a inspirational volunteer experience could have never been pre planned.



Donations may be made through Pay Pal on our website at www.indigothreads.org-DONATIONS, mail your check to Indigo Threads, P.O. Box 401, LaQuinta, CA 92247 or Shelly DeChantal, Indigo Threads, 2740 S. Humboldt St., Denver, CO 80210.
A grateful thank you.

SUPPORT IT 2009-2010 EDUCATION PROGRAMS

In just a few weeks, rural southern Laotian primary school students will return to school for the 2009-2010 school year. Over the past 4 years, innumerable students have been given the opportunity to receive an education with assistance from Indigo Threads Education Programs. These children may not otherwise have had this opportunity

due to their family's survival economics. Laotian schools are not free. Although not an easy choice, parents must choose to feed their family rather than educate their children. Our goal is to support 700 students. Your generous support is needed to provide funding for the following student assistance Education Programs:

- Indigo Threads School Lunch Program
- School Supplies Program
- School Uniform Program
- Bicycle Program
- Student's School Health Check Program
- Text Book Program
- Supplemental Rice Program
- School Reading/Recreation Program

NEW PROGRAMS

Indigo Threads has initiated two important new Education Programs. Addressing the lack of health care, STUDENT'S SCHOOL HEALTH CHECK PROGRAM provides a general check up for students at their schools by local Doctors and nurses. When prescribed, medication is provided. Students often miss a month of school for untreated illnesses, resulting in a high 'drop out' rate.



With more than 19 additional immediate area schools desperately needing support, Indigo Threads has had to make the

heart wrenching decision to exclude these impoverished students from our Education Programs, due to the lack of funding. The ADOPT A SCHOOL PROGRAM has been created, allowing Friends of Indigo Threads and corporate sponsors to become more involved in providing educational support for one or more of these schools. Read more about these two Programs at www.indigothreads.org 'Blogs' of the same names.

2009 Scheduled Volunteer Programs:

September 9-17, 2009

September 29-October 8, 2009

December 16-25, 2009

2010 schedule to be announced.