

LIVIN' THE
INDIGO
THREADS
LIFE

INDIGO THREADS

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

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2010 VOLUME 2

Indigo Threads Celebrates 5 Years in SO. Laos

With a message from Mary D. Meyer, Executive Director



Loyal to our mission statement, Indigo Threads, Laos Education Support and Rural Village Development Non-Profit (501-C-3) Humanitarian Organization is dedicated to the development and support of educational opportunities for desperately poor children in Southern Laos' rural villages - which encompasses the ENTIRE circle of education, supporting the students families, their village communities, schools, teachers and Education Departments. We give the gift of education to so many children that would not otherwise have this opportunity; a gift that is everlasting.

Within these 5 short years, our direct 'hands on' flourishing Education Support Programs have overwhelmingly exceeded our projected accomplished expectations and has been a positive impact on student's lives. From the 3 original poor rural schools supported by Indigo Threads, we now provide a variety of Programs to 16 schools, assisting in meeting the educational needs of more than 3,000 students. While constructing new schools, with improvements and repairs to others, digging new wells and making repairs to existing wells, building school latrines, Indigo Threads has been able to provide healthy School Lunch Programs, Student Health Assessment Fairs, Reading/Active Learning Programs, Teacher Training Scholarships and numerous supplemental student Programs to improve the developing Southeast Asian Country of Laos' critical education needs. Please, visit our website at www.indigothreads.org for additional information.

Indigo Threads Director and Staff remain as committed and optimistic as when we first began in 2004. This is our organization's single focus Project, proudly assisting the Laotian people in their quest to develop their country. We have successfully built a solid foundation. Changes start with educating the children.

Indigo Threads was incorporated in California (USA) in 2006, while our non-profit status was granted in 2008. Addressing our critical funding issues, Indigo Threads urgently needs to secure grants, corporate sponsorships, philanthropic foundations, employee donation programs and individual Friends of Indigo Threads to continue our vital mission. Please contact Mary D. Meyer at mdmeyer@indigothreads.org to discuss our projected funding needs and your interest in supporting Indigo Threads.

Sabaidee Greetings from Mary D. Meyer

*(Photo: Mary works closely with Mr Orlahanh, Director,
District Education Department)*

AN INNOVATIVE TEACHING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

In order to address the critical shortage of teachers in extreme remote rural areas, Indigo Threads has joined the Education Department's innovative Program with a commitment of 4 additional 2010-2011 teaching scholarships after interning the first year at their remote village school. Their yearly education expenses to include tuition, board and room are covered with a \$500.00 donation; one of the world's best bargains. Consider giving a young Laotian person a future as a teacher.

Teaching Scholarships Awarded

Indigo Threads 2009-2010 scholarships were awarded to 3 bright, needy students to the Pakse Teacher's Training College for the 3-year secondary school teacher training Program. With the generous support of Phonexay Singharatsavong (USA) in cooperation with Indigo Threads, Mr. Anouvan (L), Miss Leo and Mr. Somsay (R) have an opportunity they would not otherwise have with a promising future as teachers, eventually supporting educational needs in their rural villages. Since 2006, Indigo Threads Teacher Training Scholarship Program has provided one teacher yearly to the Lao Ministry of Education. All candidates have been selected from the Pakse Ethnic Boarding High School.

We salute Phonexay Singharatsavong.



Pay Pal is available on our website for your donations or mail to Indigo Threads, P.O. Box 401, LaQuinta, CA. 92247 or Board Member, Shelly DeChantal, Indigo Threads, 2740 S. Humboldt St., Denver, CO. 80210. A grateful thank you.

8-YEAR OLD SURVIVES COBRA SNAKE BITE

Regrettably, deadly snake bites are prevalent in rural Laos regions.

While playing with friends in his village, a cobra snake found Noi, the youngest of 7 children. Noi with his poor parents at his side, has been at the Army Hospital for four months, after 2 leg amputations and suffering a heart attack as a result of the bite. Noi has beaten the odds and will survive . . . with a debilitating handicap. Indigo Threads has made a donation to help Noi's family and provided him with learning activities during his hospital stay while honoring him with a medal for his bravery. Understandably, photos were not allowed at the Army Hospital.

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2nd ANNUAL SCHOOL HEALTH FAIR

Indigo Threads in cooperation with the District Education and Health Service Departments, presented our second annual expanded Student School Health Check Up Program in February 2010. Doctors and nurses performed a general check up on each student, while Indigo Threads took the opportunity to present a Lao Healthy Food Choice demonstration.

For more serious ailments, Indigo Threads provided prescriptions. The 4-day event encompassed 6 primary schools with 700 students and teachers participating. CBF Pharma Co., a Pakse, Laos drug manufacturer, 'stepped up to

the plate' with a donation of a generous quantity of vitamins for each student to take home. We are grateful for their support and look forward to working with them in the near future. Indigo Threads intent is to provide preliminary health reports for the student's parents, as there is no health care available to their families.



Reading/Active Learning Program



The 2009-2010 school year's primary focus has been our Primary School Reading/Active Learning Program in cooperation with the District Education Department.

Each week one school is selected with 3 classes taught by Indigo Threads Director and staff.

With the generous support of the Lao Room to Read Organization and Suzanne Visor (USA), primary school students in all levels have an exciting variety of books to read. While half of the classes are devoted to reading, storytelling, acting out stories and presenting traditional Lao folktales, Indigo

Thread takes this opportunity to teach simple English words, introduce geographic maps, creative drawing, introduce simple science illustrations, exercise and environment issues.

School Supervisors and teacher are extremely enthusiastic about this Program as it gives their students opportunities that are not normally available. Fourteen hundred students in 13 primary schools have participated . . . and counting.



Happy Lao New Year (Pi Mai) April 13-15, 2010-2553 with wishes for good health, happiness and good luck.



Indigo Threads School Supplies Donation Up Date 2009/2010

- 5,000 Notebooks
- 3,500 Pens/ Pencils
- 600 Book Bags
- and 15 Bicycles to transport students to school