



# The Sunflower News

Friends of Thai Daughters

Newsletter / Autumn 2019

For more information visit  
[www.FTDThai.org](http://www.FTDThai.org)

## Before & After



Arrival Day in 2016 for Daughters **Bushu, Kanlaya, Napa** and **Ladda**.



**Bushu, Kanlaya, Napa** and **Ladda** pose four years after arriving at the Sunflower House. They are now leaders and role models for the next generation of Daughters.

## A Message from Patty & Jane

### Hitting Milestones:

Everyone's life is marked by milestones. FTD is no exception. The year 2020 will mark 15 years! Looking back and looking ahead causes us to smile, to pause, to reflect and to march forward.

Since our inception in 2005, YOU dear Friends have helped our Daughters achieve so many dreams. Education, once out of reach for our Girls, has now opened the door to careers in nursing, art, oyster farming, social work, dentistry and more. Thanks to your support we not only continue the basic work we started but FTD is moving boldly forward towards the future. Read more about the creation of Sunflower Farm – the first "Thrivable" community in Northern Thailand. Imagine a place where we not only sustain our children but also the land. For now, the future is bright – Our FTD Daughters are leading the way.

Patty & Jane



## Sunflower Permaculture HOME & FARM

Our shovels are poised to break ground on 6.5 acres of beautiful farm land located in Maechan, Thailand. Thanks to **Jack & Melissa McBride**, FTD has purchased land to develop our third Sunflower House plus a farm and permaculture food forest.

Imagine creating sustainable housing that produces more energy than it uses? Imagine living in a way that produces more than we take and leaves things better than we find them? Imagine children living in a loving eco-system of clean energy, food, water, air, plants, animals, and community? We want our girls not to just prosper, but to THRIVE! In 2020, Friends of Thai Daughters will launch its first capital campaign to break ground on the Sunflower Farm.



Sunflower Farm will serve many purposes and provide for Daughters who, due to permanent statelessness, may never receive Thai ID or have an economic opportunity to advance beyond menial labor. It will create educational, cross cultural learning opportunities while providing sustainable agricultural products to help move towards self-sufficiency. In addition, exciting future careers in hospitality, farm-to-table food production, and entrepreneurship will be fostered. Want to help us break ground? Please contact us at: [info@FTDThai.org](mailto:info@FTDThai.org)

## Announcements

Youth Advisory Board (YAB) formed: our East/West youth leaders joined forces to facilitate communications among Daughters, Housemothers and FTD USA. YAB representatives include Daughters **Aon, Gaysorn, May** and **Nakhamsee** and Co-Chair **Charlotte Page** (USA).

☀️ Co-chairing the Advisory Board are **Nakamsee Chermeu** (Thailand) and **Charlotte Page** (USA). Charlotte explains "I feel it's important that the Daughters' voices are amplified, that they feel part of the process when it comes to programming and deciding which direction FTD takes."

☀️ 15 year old **Gaysorn** remarked, "I am very happy to represent the Girls from the Sunflower House. I know being a representative is important and such a big mission for me. As a representative, I will listen to the thoughts and opinions of all the girls in FTD and help share them with others. I'm so glad FTD has given opportunities like this for girls and young women."



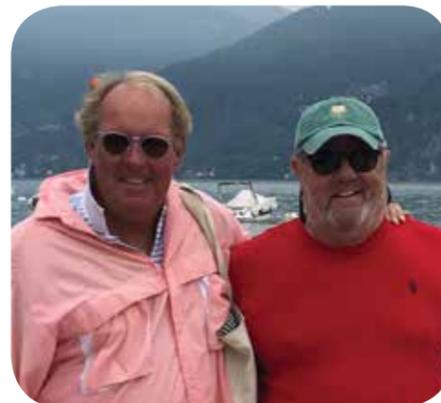
Charlotte Page, Patty & Jane

- Daughters **Meesa** and **Nakhamsee** received their Thai IDs! Birthright citizenship is not automatic in Thailand. It took 8 years of paperwork but patience paid off. Next stop the passport office!
- General Manager **Mee** received her Social Worker Certificate. Congrats to **Mee** for advancing her career!
- Graduate Daughter and Board member **Aoy** started a new job as Project Manager of Keep Girls Safe.
- Daughter **Dao** completed a mid-term internship in the USA studying hospitality at the Topside Inn in Boothbay Harbor, ME. Thanks go out to **Mark Osborn** and **Buzz Makarewicz**, owners of the Topside, for giving Dao this tremendous experience.
- Kudos to **Lauren Crosby** for tutoring **Dao** in English during her stay in the USA. **Dao** used her newly polished English skills to address FTD donors at the Fall Frolic in Boothbay and again in Concord, MA.
- Daughter **Khai** and husband **Ozzie Crocco** announced on September 13th the birth of their son **Aden** (8lbs) **Khai** and **Ozzie** are happily nesting in Baton Rouge, LA.

## New BOARD MEMBERS

**Marc Giles:** Joined FTD in March 2019. Marc divides his time between Ogunquit, Maine and Vero Beach, Florida. Marc currently serves as Chair of Lydall Corporation and serves on the board of the Ogunquit Playhouse. Marc's executive experience and advocacy for child rights adds depth to the FTD Board.

**Barry A. Kean:** Joined FTD July 2019. Barry comes to FTD from the world of finance and real estate. Barry has been a long-term supporter but is better known as a world-class connector of people. A global traveler, he's a Palm Beach snowbird when not in Maine or New York.



## Winter Visits

Ever think of visiting our project in Thailand, seeing first-hand where your donations go? FTD is happy to help organize and host private groups (minimum 4 people). Let us show you the main streets and backroads of the other place we call home. Email: [info@FTDThai.org](mailto:info@FTDThai.org)

GREATNONPROFITS

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TOP-RATED NONPROFIT



## Summer Friendmaker Events:

FTD Friends gathered over the summer at several New England locations. Thanks to **Dolly DiPesa** for hosting us at her rooftop Marina Bay, MA home. **Dolly** is calling all ROTARIANS to contact FTD regarding a pending Rotary Global Grant. And big thanks to **Katey Stone & Shawn Wilson** for rolling out the FTD banner in York Harbor, ME. Southern charm and hospitality merged with ocean breezes for a memorable lawn party by the sea. And huge thanks to **Jack & Melissa McBride** for kicking off FTD's "Thrivability" campaign in Concord, MA. A rapt audience listened to **Jane's** explanation of this visionary new initiative for the future of Sunflower Farm. Daughter **Dao** greeted the guests showing off her polished English skills.



## Job well Done!

Southeast Asia Foundation's **Peter Scontrino** (bottom left) and **Bill Taylor** conducted a two day "Leadership Training for NGOs" workshop to promote NGO sustainability. FTD was represented by General Manager **Pitchaya "Mee" Aryi**, Assistant Manager **Meesa Ayi** and Director **Puangthong "Too" Takan**. Our team came away with great insights into developing their leadership skills and made many new friends and contacts. Our thanks to the Maechan Rotary Club for hosting this informative event.



## Legacy Giving:

- **Ellen Ishkanian**, Friend and donor, wants to remind donors that year-end is approaching and she's leading by example by turning equities into support for FTD. While cash is always welcome – and simple, from a tax standpoint it is often better to give appreciated property owned for more than one year. You receive a double tax benefit: a charitable deduction for the market value of the securities and no tax on the capital gain.



- Saying goodbye to a dear Friend and longtime supporter. Before she passed away in September, **Dotty Mulcahy** of Provincetown, MA bequeathed a gift to FTD and asked Friends to consider making a donation in her name. Please visit [www.FTDThai.org](http://www.FTDThai.org) to make a donation.



**FAQ** How much does a year of college cost in the USA vs Thailand?

\$25,000.+ USA

(Google average out-of-state public school)

In Thailand, \$2,500.!