

A Message from Patty & Jane



We are filled with gratitude from the outpouring of love and support from old and new friends in honor of our 10th Anniversary and the Sunflower Celebration.

Thanks to so many, we will be able to provide a safe, nurturing home and an education to more young girls at risk of being trafficked.

Our recruitment process to find girls in need to fill the new Sunflower House will start in earnest this October. Our hope is to have at least two new daughters in the home after the New Year ready to begin school in March. We are working with our networks and our daughters from the hill tribe region of Northern Thailand. We will be seeking those most vulnerable due to poverty, lack of family, lack of documentation, but with hope to gain education and study hard to make a new life for themselves.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Khob khun ka mak mak, Jane & Patty.



Sunflower Celebration Exceeds Expectations

The crowded room was filled with hugs, smiles, and occasionally tears as over 200 people gathered at the Opera House in Boothbay Harbor, Maine to celebrate FTD's 10th Anniversary at the Sunflower Celebration on August 12.

Thanks to some extraordinarily talented and dedicated volunteers including Kim & Philippe Villard, Liz Evans and Douglas Gimbel along with fellow event committee members, generous auction donors and high bidders, FTD raised over \$60,000. Equally as important, over 100 people were introduced to FTD for the first time.

Photos top to bottom, L to R: The FTD Family (photo courtesy of Katrina Clark/Boothbay Register); the Sunflower Celebration was also an FTD family reunion for Lek, Patty, Jane and Pui; Event committee member and new FTD Advisory Board Chair, Chuck Koch along with event committee member and FTD Board member, Kim Erskine, serve up Liz Evan's delicious signature Thai cocktail at the VIP Reception. For more event photos and videos, please visit FTD's website.

An FTD Primer



We offer an FTD Primer in this newsletter for all of our new friends.

2

Meet FTD's Newest Board Member



Nong Aoy is the first FTD program graduate to join the Board.

3



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Continued on page 2



Thanks to former FTD Board member Elaine Young and her colleagues Peter Henley and Douglas Martell at Onyx Hospitality, the Amari Koh Samui Resort donated used furniture for the new Sunflower House and Guesthouse, greatly reducing costs for FTD.

An FTD Primer

Since so many of you are new to Friends of Thai Daughters (thanks to the Sunflower Celebration), we would like to offer a primer on FTD to get you up to speed.

Jane McBride and Patty Zinkowski founded FTD in 2005 following much thought and research after a 2002 trip to Northern Thailand. On that 2002 trip they found young children fending for themselves in a dilapidated structure in Doi Luang, a remote village near the Golden Triangle.

FTD focuses its efforts on those most **at risk** of being trafficked. We use the US State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP Report) as a source of information on the status of trafficking in Thailand and also for identifying risk factors.

We provide a safe house, *the Sunflower House*, in Chiang Rai for all of our grade school and high school aged daughters. FTD also provides funding and emotional support for its college-aged daughters and assists its college and post-graduate daughters with internships. Daughters are encouraged to attend college in Northern Thailand. Most daughters live in dorm rooms at their colleges but if they are attending a college in Chiang Rai, they may live at the Sunflower House. Emotional support continues well beyond college, this is a family after all.

FTD instills a "pay it forward" ethic and encourages all of its daughters to give back in some way to their communities.

A 6-member volunteer Board oversees FTD. The Sunflower House is managed by housemother and FTD program graduate Mee, and part-time property manager, Diaow. Part-time US-based staff member, Julie Lamy rounds out the team as the Global Program Director.

Please visit our website at friendsofthaidaughters.org or email Julie at Julie@friendsofthaidaughters.org.

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After a scrumptious VIP Reception hosted by Alison Evans and Chris Fritz at Ae Home, an extraordinary art happening choreographed by Kim Villard, resulted in a human sunflower to kick off the celebration at the Opera House. A video of this remarkable "icebreaker" can be viewed on FTD's website. The Thai dishes created by Liz Evans with help from long-time FTD friend Ying Richter transported guests to Thailand.

Patty, Jane and Julie were joined by Sunflower Housemother Mee, A, Khai, Pui and Lek to introduce FTD to many new friends. A 5-minute video (also on our website) produced by the Villard crew with footage by FTD's Khai introduced the FTD family in Thailand.

Following an amazing live auction helmed by Douglas Gimbel, the rhythms of Inanna (wearing sunflower shirts no less) filled the dance floor thanks to their uplifting songs.

FTD thanks the event committee including Kim V, Liz, Douglas, Alison, Chris, Kim Erskine, Chuck Koch, Kate Horgan, ML Rapelye, Patti Salvucci, Patty Z and Julie; the auction donors, many of whom approached FTD unsolicited; and everyone who made this an event to remember and an event that is providing critical funding to our growing program.

Meesa and Pompui Begin University



FTD Daughter Nong Meesa (L) began college at Chiang Rai Rajabhat University this year. Meesa is studying accounting and hopes to be a banker someday. Because the university is located so close to the Sunflower House, she will reside there and use a motorbike to get to school. New to FTD's program and younger sister of FTD's Pui, Nong Pompui (R) entered Maejo University in Chiang Mai this past spring and hopes to be a teacher and a banker someday.

FTD Program Graduate Joins the Board



Araya (Aoy) Sereethammaphilat

A clear indicator of the success and maturity of FTD's program, the Board of Directors welcomed FTD program graduate Nong Aoy in April of this year. Aoy is a graduate of Payap University in Chiang Mai with a double major in English and Psychology. She lives and works in Mae Sai as the English Program Coordinator for the government school. One day she hopes to open a language school for kids.

Aoy is truly a big sister to the FTD daughters and along with Mee, the housemother, serves as a valuable mentor. She is uniquely qualified to provide leadership during FTD's second decade.

Aoy originally planned to join the FTD family at the Sunflower Celebration but is expecting her first child with her husband in January. We look forward to welcoming another "grandchild" into the FTD family.



Photos top to bottom: FTD's Aoy and Mee (circled) as part of the DEDPC, a former FTD partner program; Housemother Mee (L) and Aoy (R) reunite at Doi Luang in January 2015, the birthplace of FTD.

Congratulations Lutha!

FTD Daughter and 11th grader, Nong Lutha, recently received several academic awards. She is ranked as one of the top 10 high school students from Northern Thailand. She won a writing contest for an essay about her mother, a gold coin for her achievements in math, and a bronze medal for her handwriting. Housemother Mee shared, "Lutha works so hard. She is a great role model for the other girls."



Volunteer and Guest House Program in Development

This October and November, the FTD team will be working diligently to establish a formal volunteer program and open its guesthouse doors to paying guests. We are currently developing policies, training and coordinating with our daughters, and getting rooms ready.

We want to make sure each program is done thoughtfully and enriches the FTD program, its volunteers and guests. We will keep you updated through our website and Facebook page.

Photo L to R: Busuoy, Ratree, May, Lutha and Lizzie Rogers from the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Bat Cave, NC.





Friends of Thai Daughters

Preventing Child Trafficking in the Golden Triangle

Web: www.friendsofthaidughters.org **Email:** info@friendsofthaidughters.org

Friends of Thai Daughters

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The Sunflower News, Autumn 2015



The Sunflower House is growing. Thanks to a Rotary Club of Boothbay Harbor grant, the Sunflower House now has a new computer. L to R: Gaeng, May, Meesa, Som-o and Rtree.

Please Pass Along 'The Sunflower News'

You may have noticed that we only mailed printed newsletters this autumn. This was intentional. With our new, grant-funded Sunflower House, we have the opportunity to help up to 15 school-aged daughters, more than doubling our program. To do this, we need to reach out to more people.

One of the best ways - if not **the** best way to do this - is by word-of-mouth. We ask you to pass along this newsletter (after you've read it, of course) to a family member, friend or colleague who might be interested OR let it sit on your coffee table. If you would like more copies, just let us know. We thank you very much for any and all advocacy.

What do "Nong" and "Pa" mean?

You may notice when we refer to FTD's daughters in the newsletter, on the website or on our Facebook page, we often address them as "Nong." "Nong" is a title used in Thailand to express affection to someone younger like a sister or brother.

The Thai language has other titles as well. "P" (pee) is an older person, sister or brother. For example, the daughters in the Sunflower House call Khai and Mee, P'Khai and P'Mee. "Pa" is the equivalent of "auntie" or an older woman deserving of respect. For instance, all of the daughters call Jane and Patty, Pa Jane and Pa Patty.