

The Sunflower News

A Message from Patty & Jane



We are delighted to share the happy news of the wedding of our Thai Daughter Khai. Khai was an 11-yearold AIDS orphan when we first met her in 2002. With FTD's support, she completed high school, graduated from Chiang Mai University and started her own tutoring and language business.

Despite the hardship she faced as a young girl, Khai is now a mature, confident and independent young woman eager to embark on the next chapter in her life. We were thrilled to walk her down the aisle.

We thank the extended FTD family for helping Khai and her sisters replace hopelessness and despair with joy and opportunity.

Khob khun kha, Patty & Jane

Congratulations...

...to Daughter Annie *(below, left)* who won a regional dance competition, beating out students from 10 schools. Annie is a talented singer and musician who is planning to become a fashion designer.

...to Daughter Lutha *(below, center right)* who was recognized by her school for being the $#1 \ 10^{th}$ grader among 142 students. She is an enthusiastic soccer player and plans to become a surgeon.





FTD Daughters Speak up for Minority Groups in Bangkok

In September, 14 Thai Daughters headed to Bangkok to make their voices heard at a 3-day conference sponsored by the Thai Health Foundation.

For many of the girls, it was their first time exploring the capital city but more importantly, it was their first time standing up in front of an audience of hundreds of people, including government officials, to advocate for the rights of vulnerable minority groups.

Children from all over Thailand were selected to take part in the workshop which included team building activities, discussions on human trafficking and the issue of statelessness.

The girls were excited and energized to have the opportunity to voice their concerns to government officials and returned home hopeful that the opportunities for minority groups will improve.

Photo L to R: front row – Ploysai, Seeda, Sorng, Nara, Sua, See, Jun and P'Too; back row – conference guest, P'Pan, Jasmin, Gift, Ploy Lek, Nati, Neung, Deaun, Ploy Yai, Annie and a conference guest.

Sunflower Celebrations Raise Spirits and Dollars

Over 400 FTD supporters enjoyed two Sunflower Celebrations in 2017, raising tens of thousands of dollars for our programs.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of event and committee volunteers, generous support from business and community sponsors, attendees enjoyed delicious Thaiinspired food and drink, silent and live auctions, "insectgrams" and musical entertainment.

Each Sunflower House nominated two Daughters to attend each event. Dao and Jun attended the May 11 event in Wellesley and Faii and Seeda attended the August 4 event in Damariscotta. They were joined by FTD staff and graduates, P'Mee, P'Too, Lek, Pui and Khai.



Diego Diaz, FTD Board member and Mexicali Blues co-owner Kim Erskine, Joan Fetsko, Beth Jones and Ricki Waltz are all smiles at Darrows Barn.



Long-time FTD supporters, advocates and sponsors, Topside Inn's Buzz Makarewicz and Mark Osborn join in the August 4 celebration.



Young women supporting young women – Lara Kingstone and Molly Horgan join FTD's Dao and Jun at the May 11 Celebration. Last year Lara volunteered for 4 months in Chiang Khong.



Alissa Kissel, Kirk Ryan and Jill Tallman joined the festivities in support of FTD on May 11.



Debbie Ridings, Peter Hawtrey and Beth Dininio at the May 11 Celebration.

All photos courtesy of Kodakit (www2.kodakit.com).

Thank You Sunflower Celebration Sponsors



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Daughters Form Soccer Team

The *Together with FTD* soccer team comprised of Chiang Rai's Sunflower House family is making its debut at a tournament this October. The new team, coached by FTD Manager Diaow, will compete against other hill tribe teams. The league was started to engage hill tribe children in a team sport to prevent drug use and trafficking in the region.

The 'Together with FTD' Team (L to R): front row – Aorn, Napa, Bushoo, Lada, Som-o, Kanlaya; back row – Ratree, Gaeng, Meesa, Dao, Lutha and Ali.

FTD Primer

In 2002, Jane McBride and Patty Zinkowski were traveling in Northern Thailand when they encountered a group of 15 girls at risk of human trafficking, fending for themselves in an abandoned school. They decided instantly that they would help them and the idea of Friends of Thai Daughters was born. After three years of providing financial support from friends and family, they registered Friends of Thai Daughters as a 501(c)3 charitable organization in 2005.

FTD is a prevention organization, focusing its efforts on those most **at risk** of being trafficked. We use the U.S. 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.

FTD is an intensive, comprehensive and long-term program. We provide food, clothing, education, healthcare, housing and emotional support in a family environment. As of 2016, we operate safe houses, *or Sunflower Houses,* in Chiang Rai and Chiang Khong for Daughters ages 8-19. FTD also provides funding, emotional support and guidance for non-resident Daughters including university students and graduates.

FTD Welcomes New Advisors

In 2017, FTD welcomed long-time supporters and advocates Corrie Dretler, Arlene "Tuny" Page and Kate Horgan to its Board of Advisors. They joined Advisor Chuck Koch to provide FTD staff and Board Members with strategic planning and advocacy, and help with fundraising support.

Corrie is passionate about facilitating relationships among people committed to lifting the human experience. With over 20 years of experience as a development professional and volunteer, she has helped universities, mentoring programs, educational organizations, public television/radio, and other nonprofits. She is excited to be able to be part of the FTD team and continue its success for many more years and Daughters to come.

Tuny has known FTD Co-Founders Jane and Patty for over 30 years and has been a supporter of FTD since its inception. She brings her leadership and fundraising skills to FTD having served on the Board of the US Equestrian Team Foundation and as Co-chair of the Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center. Tuny's Daughter Chariotte volunteered at the Chiang Rai Sunflower House this Fall. Tuny says, "Thanks to FTD's supporters, these girls now have a bright future."

A champion and advocate for many years, Kate has lent her creativity and generosity to FTD's Sunflower Celebrations and opened her heart and home to FTD Daughters. Previously an educator and interior designer, Kate says, "I have raised money for various causes in my life but never one this personal and so humane. I can't wait to go to Thailand this winter to experience the work first hand. I am in awe that Patty and Jane saw this travesty and took action; that they have come so far inspires me and my husband and entire family to do our part."



L to R: Corrie Dretler, Arlene "Tuny" Page with FTD Daughter Dao and Kate Horgan.

Friends of Thai Daughters

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Transform Your Holiday Shopping AND Transform a Life

Celebrate the holidays with FTD. Choose a "gift" below for a friend, family member, or colleague. You will choose which holiday you wish to celebrate and we will send a packet to your recipient including holiday greetings, a certificate of the item you chose, a Daughter-crafted card, and an FTD family photo. Just click on the photo of the item you wish to gift. (Gifts \$1,000 and above have monthly giving options.)



Daughter Sponsorship: \$2,500 Fund the annual expenses for one Daughter. food, school, dental + healthcare, transportation. Receive letters and/or teleconference with your Daughter.



Medical Care for a Year: \$150 Fund annual visits to the dentist and doctor for one Daughter.



College for a Year: \$1,000 Fund classes, lodging, books and fees for one Daughter attending a college in Northern Thailand.



School Uniform + Books: \$100 Fund the school uniform and books for one grade-school aged Daughter. All gifts reflect the programmatic and material support FTD provides for its Daughters. Your gift is symbolic and supports FTD's mission to prevent child trafficking in Northern Thailand.



High School for a Year: \$500 Fund the school fees, books, uniform, and transportation for one high school aged Daughter



Personal Hygiene Kits: \$50 Fund toiletry necessities for one Daughter for one year.

Please visit our website at www.friendsofthai daughters.org (or scan the QR code below) and transform your holiday shopping.



Preventing Child Trafficking in the Golden Triangle Web: www.friendsofthaidaughters.org Email: info@friendsofthaidaughters.org