



# Duang Prateep Foundation

## Monthly Newsletter for April 2023

### **New Novices**

On 2 April, six boys from our New Life Project in Kanchanaburi ordained as novices, along with 67 other boys, as part of the activities associated with the Summer Ordination Ceremony (honoring the birthday of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn on the same day). They will learn Buddhist teachings and practice meditation from 2-22 April at Wat Sapan Temple in Bangkok and the Sampanta Mediation Center at the New Life Project. Long-time DPF friend and supporter, Mr. Robert Wilson, also joined the ceremony and, coincidentally, it was his birthday too.



## ***Youngsters Learn Basic Fire Safety***

Fires are an ever-present danger in the crowded slum communities. So, to help minimize the chance of these occurring, the DPF volunteer fire-fighters and their colleagues from other stations held a training session on basic fire safety during the school holidays. Fifty primary school-aged students took advantage of the opportunity on 1 April, and learned how to prevent fires in the home, how to protect themselves if a fire starts, and CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). Many thanks to all our brave firemen for helping to keep us safe.



### ***Air Quality at Kindergarten***

On 4 April, representatives from the Environmental Development Section of the Klong Toey District Office, and Dr. Pichai Sapparojpattana and his team from Charoenkrung Pracharak Hospital, came to donate a PM 2.5 Detector Air Quality Monitor, which will be installed in a room at the DPF Kindergarten. Dr. Pichai also instructed the teachers in its use and how to teach children to self-protect against PM 2.5.



### ***Making Life a Little Easier***

On 3 April, Khru Prateep went to the Lock 4-5-6 Community to donate a medical bed and a walking frame to a disabled man who suffers from severe weakness in his legs. He lives alone. Our volunteer fire-fighters helped to carry the equipment and also cleaned his house for him. Many thanks to the sponsor who donated this equipment through DPF to help the disabled people in need.



## Scholarship Requirements

The first meetings for the parents/guardians of our sponsored students were held on 3, 4 and 5 April. Two further meetings, in other communities, will be held on 8 and 23 April. They were reminded of their obligations while their children receive financial support for their education, such as ensuring their child attends school, providing school results to our Sponsorship Section, writing letters of thanks (or drawings) on time, etc. In addition, Khru Prateep and our field workers updated the attendees on the progress of the coming eviction.



## Road Safety 101

During the summer school holidays, the DPF Nithan caravan team has been busy around the communities, presenting shows on road safety for children. The team employs puppets, games and music to get their message across in a fun and enjoyable way. Children learn about basic road safety rules and the importance of wearing protective headgear when riding on motorcycles and bicycles. Parents and guardians are also participating in the activities. At the conclusion of the shows, safety helmets are presented to the children.



## Royal Birthday Wish



On 5 April, Khru Prateep, DPF staff and Mr. Wattana Sittirachot (representative of Baan Tharn Namchai Foundation) went to express birthday wishes to Princess Ubolratana Rajakanya, eldest sister of HM the King, on the occasion of her birthday. The Princess is an active social campaigner for young people in Thailand, promoting a healthy, drug-free lifestyle in her “To Be No. 1” campaign. We wish the Princess good health, happiness and prosperity.



At the same occasion, Khru Prateep also met the Bangkok Governor. Concerned for young children’s health, the governor said he plans to present air-conditioners, air purifiers and PM 2.5 Air Quality Monitors to more than 200 children’s centers around Bangkok.

## Hands Group Pedals in to NLPC

After braving searing heat, 14 “Hands Group” cyclists participating in the 2023 ‘Digital Live Riders’ Southern Bike Ride from Hua-Hin to Baan Than Namchai pedaled into our New Life Center at Chumporn on 6 April. Led by Claire Baines, the riders wanted to visit the resident boys and youths who are being rehabilitated from drug abuse or abandonment. Hands Group have been prominent benefactors of the center for several years. Officially welcomed by the project’s staff and children, the Hands team were entertained by the lads with an exhibition of Thai Boxing to thank them for their generous support, after which the boys took them on a walking tour around the project. The ‘Hands’ riders saddled up again and completed their fundraising ride at Baan Than Namchai on 7 April.



## Connecting the Generations



In the morning of 10 April, the DPF Sponsorship Section organized an activity “Young Children Visit the Elderly People” on the occasion of Thai New Year (Songkran). The group, led by Khru Prateep and staff, took 91 students (divided into nine groups) to visit and distribute Survival Bags to nine elderly and bed-ridden people in three communities – Lock 1-2-3, Lock 4-5-6 and 70-Rai communities. This activity is for the children to learn to help elderly people who are in difficult circumstances, and to share love and kindness towards them. The children can also learn to help their elderly family members in their own homes. Many thanks to our long-term supporter Mr. Juergen Goepfert, his family and all the supporters of Friends of the Duang Prateep Foundation in Germany who sponsored the Survival Bags.



## Sponsors Lead Songkran Celebration

It’s that time of the year again that all Thais look forward to – the Songkran Festival (traditional Thai New Year) – and this year we held the event “Songkran for the Elderly People in The Slum”. Khru Prateep and staff invited members of our elderly residents’ group to join this event on 12 April to chant, enjoy traditional Thai dances and participate in a singing contest. At the end of the event, Prof. Sant Hathirat and Khru Prateep had the enjoyable tasks of presenting prizes to the winners of the singing contest and presenting 230 New Year gifts to all the elderly people. They also presented 30 wheelchairs to 15 community leaders and public health volunteers for patients in their communities. And in the afternoon, Khru Prateep and staff also brought the Survival gifts and adult diapers to the bed-ridden people. Thank you to all participants and all supporters of this special event.



## **Novices Pass Muster**

The 73 novices who have been learning and practicing Buddhist teachings in the summer school holidays (at Wat Sapan Temple and the Sampanta Meditation Center at NLPK) have all completed their tasks satisfactorily. To mark the occasion, the Abbot of Wat Sapan Temple presented certificates to the young boys on 23 April.



## **Meditation Center Now Complete**

On 23 April, Phra Theppariyatsopol, the Ecclesiastical Kanchanaburi Provincial Governor, presided over a ceremony to place the Buddha's relics into the newly installed Principal Buddha Image to 'open its eyes,' at the Sampanta Meditation Center at NLPK. Khru Prateep, NLPK staff and children, and honored guests joined this event. The meditation center is now complete to welcome all Buddhist devotees who are interested in the mind practice of Dhamma.



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Duang Prateep Foundation, 34 Lock 6, Art Narong Road, Klong Toey, Bangkok 10110 Thailand  
Tel: (+66)2-671-4045~8 Fax: (+66)2-249-5254 Email:dpf\_found@hotmail.com