



Duang Prateep Foundation

Monthly Newsletter for April 2020

“Duang Prateep Foundation Sharing the Fight Against Covid-19”



Songkran, or Thai New Year (April 13th through 15th, 2020) is an extended national holiday everyone in Thailand looks forward to. It's a joyful occasion to be celebrated with family. Many people who have moved far away from home to work have the opportunity to travel back to their hometowns to reunite with their loved ones. The festival is celebrated through many traditions, such as pouring water over the elderly's hands to pay respect and seek their



blessings. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year there will be no festivities, families will be unable to gather, and parents will be unable to see their children.

Auntie Noi Khemnimit is 68 years old and from the Lock 1-2-3 Community. She and her husband (Uncle Nuch Sungworn) and their four children used to live under an expressway exit ramp. Uncle Nuch, who had suffered from a stroke and then became paralyzed was unable to take care of himself. In addition, he and their children had an eye condition limiting their vision, and some of them were blind. They lived under the Art-Narong Expressway for 29 years, until the Duang Prateep Foundation found them a new home, where they live happily, given their circumstances.

Uncle Nuch, unfortunately, passed away shortly after that the family moved to their new home. Not long after, their eldest son also passed away.

Auntie Noi, who was now much older, had to sustain the rest of her family with a daily salary of only 300 baht. Currently, she has no income other than helping her blind son sell lottery tickets, of which the income is very irregular.

Auntie Noi says, “Each day I spend as little money as possible and budget as best I can. I have to sustain a four-member household with only 100 baht per day.” For many, 100 baht has little value, and can be mindlessly spent on one meal.





For Auntie Noi's family, 100 baht per day is worth three meals for four people. The economic disparity from one person to another is stark. Today, Auntie Noi came to receive a gift bag donated by some very kind volunteers. Every year, the Duang Prateep Foundation holds a joyful, celebratory Songkran festival for the elderly and disabled. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic we had to cancel this year's celebrations for the safety of our community. However, we made our best efforts to send

happiness to those who are in hardship. With the support and intention of our donors, we have put together gift bags for the elderly and disabled. Auntie Noi is one of over 300 elderly people who received a gift bag. Auntie Noi was extremely grateful to the donors and volunteers. Smiling, she said, "This gift bag extends me and my children's lives for another two weeks. Thank you so much."

In efforts to reduce crowds and adhere to social distancing, the gifts were distributed gradually. The Foundation also went to the communities to personally distribute gift bags to those who were bed-ridden and those too old to travel to us. The recipients were delighted by all the compassionate people who contributed. Although the Songkran Festival will not occur this year, and the elderly and disabled may feel particularly lonely, we believe that our recipients are full of happiness from all you have given them.



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Department of Disease Control Co-operation



On April 16, Dr. Preeda Prempree, Deputy Director-general of the Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health together with high officials of the Public Health Dept. and staff, visited the Duang Prateep Foundation to discuss with Khru Prateep strategies to help the people in Klong Toey slum during the Covid-19 crisis and set up a committee to screen people for the virus. Following the planning sessions, Khru Prateep took the visitors to inspect sanitation conditions in the communities and to meet the people some of whom are bed-ridden elderly residents, to plan protection measures against Covid-19.



Summary of Aid during the Covid-19 Crisis



Since 20 March, the Duang Prateep Foundation has acted as a bridge between the Klong Toey people struggling during the Covid-19 crisis and generous donors wanting to help them. We can summarize the help that has been provided to the people as of 1 May.

There are over 20,000 households, or over 100,000 people, in 45 communities in the Klong Toey district. 50,000 of those people are children, elderly who are bed-ridden, and people who are out of work with no income who are affected by Covid-19.

The foundation has already distributed 5,180 kilograms of rice, 111 boxes of formula baby milk, 18,720 cartons of milk for children, 1,530 plastic bags of milk for children, 8,800 food boxes, 50 bags of adult diapers, 1,200 face shields, 6,936 fabric masks, and 1,918 bottles of alcohol gel. We have also installed 4 coronavirus disinfectant gates in 4 communities and 1 coronavirus gate at the foundation, provided disinfectant spraying services in 75,193 houses and hired 32 people who are out of work to conduct our survey, and distribute food and survival bags to community people. Thank you so much to all our kind-hearted and generous supporters.



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