

Foundation To Encourage The Potential Of Disabled Persons Thailand

December 2015 Newsletter



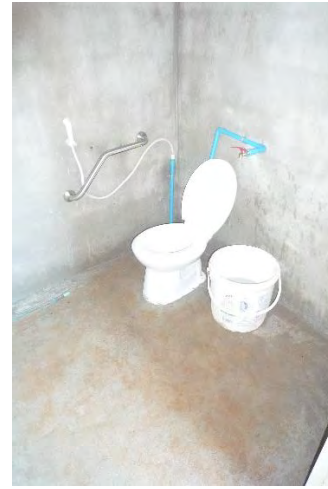
**Seasons greetings and heartfelt thanks from Don and Piranan
as we embark upon our 25th year as your voice for disability support in Thailand**

25 years ago as we more or less innocently initiated steps toward legally registering north Thailand's first disabled-managed Foundation to address the multiple and pressing challenges of regional disability, our foot prints marked the beginning of an extraordinary journey of discovery, trial and error, and hard won recognition as a professional hands-on and nationally respected grass roots NGO. In the beginning, Thais were continually asking us **"why would anyone want to focus energy assisting a group of disenfranchised people who live under a negative cultural stigma?"**

With help, trust, and financial support of countless people around the world, we are delighted to report that today much of the area we serve enjoys a completely different and entirely positive mind set as to how disabled persons are perceived. The stigmas of the past have been replaced. Today, in order to access our free services, applicants (including government agencies) must partner with us via shared responsibility and problem solving. Unlike many functioning Thai NGO's we no longer allow ourselves to be perceived as a "free hand out" or pseudo Santa Claus. Our change in policy has stimulated a new consciousness toward disability awareness and has re-awakened Thai compassion.

Today, as just one example among many, Piranan and I partner with literally dozens of local, district, and regional public officials who provide us with both moral and logistical support – something completely unheard of 25 years ago. Unfortunately, and although attitudes have improved, public funding for disability remains scarce or non-existent. What does however make our work easier is that the raised eyebrows and questions of "why we do what we do" have all but disappeared. So as the year 2015 becomes past tense, we extend our profound thanks to everyone who has enabled us to grow and mature with tangible results. We hope your journey at our side has been rewarding. Collectively - **We salute all of you!**

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Above Piranan illustrates 5 examples among the 15 indoor toilets we have recently funded to replace inaccessible or non-existent outhouses in traditionally elevated rural Thai homes. Recipients have included 4 blind persons, several elderly with limited mobility, and one 12 year old female with severe cerebral palsy. With support from the British Community In Thailand Fund For The Needy (who provided funds for materials) - local residents, family friends, community members and even Thai soldiers and monks have partnered with us providing 100% of the labor. Additionally in 4 of the 15 projects we have also added ground floor sleeping rooms adjacent to the indoor toilets.



New beds & bedding for blind sister & brother plus new ground floor bedroom for 90 year old lady



Tricycle cart donations at Mae Sai on Burma border



Before and after wheelchair donations at Mae Ka "Disabled Day" party



3 more wheelchairs fo elderly disabled at Muang Gee, November 2015



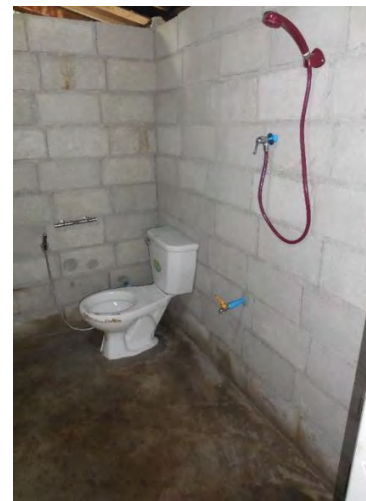
65 mobility aids headed for the Burma/Lao/Thailand border & loaded in the dark –Dec 1, 2015



Providing incontinence support for those in desperate need who are unable to help themselves



Above recipients include retardation, Alzheimers, and Cerebral Palsy survivors



Why toilets? Here is one vivid example of an existing squat toilet before and after renovation. Just imagine an elderly disabled person trying to access that leaning outhouse at night or in rain!



When there is no income, we often provide giant sized packages of adult diapers for folks with Incontinency challenges. At left adult diapers for delivery. At right diapers delivered to a disabled patient confined in bed. Often we also donate bedding, food, home care, and medicines.

Please help us continue our life-affirming efforts to assist real people with real needs.

Our website is at www.assistdisabled.org & includes newsletters & videos.

Our email is at: don@assistdisabled.org We are also on Facebook.

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Happy Holidays!
Don & Piranan