

The Bangkok Post Foundation

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The Bangkok Post Foundation was established in 1982 to mark the Bangkok Post's 36th anniversary with an initial fund of 500,000 baht. Its main objective was to give children from poor families the same opportunity to attend school as other Thai children.



The foundation began by sponsoring the education of eight children. Then, in November 1989, the devastating Typhoon Gay struck southern Thailand, claiming the lives of 500 people and destroying many houses and more than 100 schools. One of the worst hit was the village of Ban Sapli in Chumphon province, whose local school was razed to the ground and reduced to rubble.

The tragedy shocked readers who wanted to help the people of the province. They sent donations to the Bangkok Post that amounted to 800,000 baht, and the foundation decided to commit the money to rebuilding Ban Sapli school.

Readers' donations, augmented by those of the staff and management, were used to build and equip eight classrooms for pupils from kindergarten to elementary levels. The foundation subsequently built an auditorium, first aid room and a pre-kindergarten room and has continuously provided scholarships to needy students attending the new school, whose name was changed to Ban Sapli (Bangkok Post Suksa) school.

In the same way, when the 2004 tsunami caused havoc in southern Thailand, donations from Bangkok Post readers helped 30 children in Ranong province whose parents were killed or missing in the wake of the destruction. The foundation continues to provide scholarships for these children to study to the highest level of education they can achieve. The foundation is not necessarily looking for academic excellence; all that is required is that children be able to pass their exams. The chief criterion is that they are poor and have a strong desire to go to school.

Before allocating funds to individual children, staff members and volunteers from the foundation visit their homes and talk to their teachers, parents or guardians and neighbours to ascertain that their living conditions warrant the foundation's help.

The funds supporting them come from donations and the interest they earn. All recipients will receive support until they complete their highest possible level of education. All the donated money will go purely to the cost of education, with no deductions for administration.

From its start with the first eight children, the foundation is now supporting 224 students from primary to university levels from 66 schools in 32 provinces, in all regions of Thailand.

The Bangkok Post Foundation has sought to increase its support for needy children by organising different fund-raising events to supplement donations received from generous donors. The Bangkok Post Charity Wine Dinner is one of them. The funds raised will enable the foundation to increase its assistance to existing students whose education expenses continue to rise every year, as well as to extend its assistance to more students throughout the country.

The scholarships have helped fulfil many children's dreams of receiving an education, but there are still so many more who are waiting for your help.

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