

December 12, 2004

I hope this message finds all of you preparing for a wonderful holiday season.

As many of you know, Friends of Thailand was recently faced with a financial challenge when FoT membership fees paid through the NPCA were delayed by several months. Because nearly half our membership joins or renews through the NPCA, there was a blip in time when complete FoT funding for the four third-quarter PCV projects was in question. Thanks to the generosity of several members who sent donations, we were able to transfer all the money to PCThailand in full. Those members are Kermit Krueger, Paul Paquette, Patrick Chambers and Ed and Peggy Kavounas. Many thanks to these very special people for their contributions. In fact, Dr. John Williams, Country Director for Peace Corps Thailand wrote today to thank Friends of Thailand for all it does to support Volunteers and their communities.

Another special thanks goes to the members of the FoT PCV Project Proposal Review Board. They determined that FoT should not close project-funding for even a quarter. Then, they went to work on a plan to guarantee funding for all third quarter projects and any in the fourth quarter. This is no easy task when they live throughout the United States and rely exclusively upon e-mail to communicate. They are a remarkable group of people who remain dedicated to the mission of Peace Corps even when there are obstacles.

Of course, all Friends of Thailand deserve a special thanks. Your yearly membership fees are what has made it possible for us to do all that we have since we began in Fall, 2001.

Finally, the NPCA has begun to once again forward membership fees collected for its Friends affiliates. Earlier this month, dues collected for July, 2004 were released and the NPCA indicated it hoped to forward funds and member statements for following months soon.

If you have not had a chance to read about the four their quarter PCV projects funded, they are on the FoT web site at <http://www.friendsofthailand.org/projectsponsorship/projects2004/menu/menu.html>. They are **PHA Leadership Training**, **"Leekaypa" Folklore Project**, **Life Skills Camp** and **Altitude**.

**PCV Project Proposal Review Board:** Actually, there are currently two openings on the PCV Project Proposal Review Board. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact me by return e-mail and I will give you more information.

**An FoT Member Writes:** Ernie Geefay, FoT member of Thai 27, has written that

a member of his group has put the 1971 PCThailand promotional booklet on the group web site at <http://thai27.com/thai27/thai27book.htm>. I actually have a copy of it and was able to provide the names of several people from my group featured in the book. If you were in Thailand in the early 1970s, you might like to have a look. They are hoping to locate the identification of several other PCVs whose photographs were featured.

**REUNION 2005:** A friend is on his way to Thailand in a couple days and will return with more complete information about various details related to the FoT reunion in Chiang Mai next July. It will be forwarded to you immediately upon his return. Many of you have written you are interested in attending, and it should be a great time.

**501(c)(3) Status:** I am not going to go into a lot of explanation, but it looks as if our initial application for non-profit status is back on track. Again, when I know more, and hopefully that Friends of Thailand has been made a non-profit organization, I will get the information to you. But this reprieve was unexpected, and it is exciting.

Again, thank you all for your dedication to FoT and Peace Corps Thailand. You are truly a remarkable group of people.

Happy Holidays,  
Carolyn Nickels-Cox