

PEACE CORPS THAILAND



Over 5,100 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in Thailand since the program was established in 1962. Volunteers have served throughout the country in a wide range of projects including education, rural development, health, & environment. Peace Corps' distinguished history here reflects the close relationship between Thais and Americans working together in friendship and development.

Twenty-six staff, under the leadership of former Thai Volunteer and Country Director Kevin F. F. Quigley, support Volunteers through intensive language and cross cultural training, health care, job training and safety and security support.

Volunteer Programs

Currently, Group 124 Volunteers are working in two programs:

1) Education Volunteers, **Teacher Collaboration & Community Outreach (TCCO)**, work primarily with teachers to strengthen English teaching and curriculum design, improve English skills, and apply participatory learning approaches.

2) **Community Based Organization Development (CBOD)** Volunteers assist Sub-District Administrative Offices (SAOs) and community leaders to promote and encourage sustained rural development in Thai communities.

Arrived in January 2013, Group 125 Volunteers are working in two projects:

1) Volunteers in the **Teacher Collaboration and Community Service (TCCS) Project**, builds upon the work of the previous Teacher Education Program. In addition to strengthen English language instruction, they will support the Royal Thai Government's education initiatives and promote community service projects.

2) Volunteers in the **Youth in Development Project (YinD)** help prepare Thai youth for their adult roles as engaged and constructive citizens. Volunteers and their Thai counterparts will educate youth in life skills, service learning, healthy lifestyles, civic engagement and entrepreneurial skills.

Volunteer Profile

87	Currently serving PCVs
65%	Female Volunteers
35%	Male Volunteers
13%	Over the age of 50
100%	College educated
17%	Post-graduate degrees



Volunteer Group 1 (1962 – 1964)



Volunteer Group 125 (2013-2015)



Barbara Harm, a 25-year veteran teacher from California, is serving as an Education Volunteer in Phitsanulok, Thailand and has made phonicsthe has focused on phonics as the best means for establishing the foundation for improving her students' reading ability. Barbara saw that her student progress was stuck because they were merely memorizing words. She explains, "English is about eighty percent phonetic, and knowing phonics opens a world of vocabulary to the English learner. Learning the sounds of the consonants, vowels, digraphs and blends clarifies pronunciation and gets the Thai students vocalizing right away, and vocalizing correctly, which takes away a lot of the fear of speaking English out loud." A good phonics program integrates speaking, listening and reading decoding and comprehension skills as well as skills in spelling, letter formation, sentence structure and mechanics. Barbara has poured hundreds of hours of work into making phonics resources for her co-teacher and readily shares these materials with other Volunteers. Barbara reports, "Today, after some drill and two games to familiarize the students with the vocabulary in our new book of study, many students were able to open the book for the first time and read it—and understand it—without further instruction. To me, that is success." Her co-teachers are so impressed that her students can read that they are anxious to learn from her.

Josh Gallegos a CBOD Volunteer in Sukothai, worked with a teacher and the local health staff to improve the oral health habits of students at an elementary school. Josh reports that initially, his co-teacher was reluctant to try oral hygiene lessons and felt uncomfortable with the topic. After they worked together to the basics of proper brushing and flossing, the co-teacher recognized this as the perfect opportunity to teach the students about a traditional Thai herb mouthwash recipe she knew. Then they presented their oral hygiene lessons and the traditional herb mouthwash and a specially designed label for the mouthwash. Josh helped the teacher bring her label design to life by teaching her computer skills to design the label and present their work. Their school was selected to proceed to a provincial level exhibit and they are not looking to develop the herbal mouthwash into a small business.

