

FRIENDS OF THAILAND  
PCV Small Project Assistance  
PROPOSAL FORM

**(When Completed, Please E-Mail Form to Your Program Manager)**

Note: The level of specificity and detail should correspond to the total amount of funds requested. That is, for those of you who are requesting a relatively small amount of money, you do not need to fill out this request with extreme specificity and detail.

**Date of Request:** April 16, 2009

**Total Funds Requested (maximum is 50,000 baht):** THB 21,603.00

**Title of Project:** English Resource Center

**Dates of Project:** November 2008-June 2009

**Name, Group Number and Address of PCV:** Carolyn Douglass, 119, Khon Kaen Education Welfare School, Moo 11, Nonsomboon, A. Ban Haed, Khon Kaen, 40110

**E-Mail Address of PCV:** Bekah9778@aol.com

**Location of Project (School or Organization, Moo Baan, Tambon, Amphur, Province):**  
Khon Kaen Education Welfare School, Moo 11, Nonsomboon, Ban Haed, Khon Kaen

**Individuals/Groups Responsible:** Khon Kaen Education Welfare School English Department, and school administration

**PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION/PROJECT HISTORY:**

I have been teaching at Khon Kaen Education Welfare School (KKEWS) for the past two years. KKEWS is a boarding and welfare school for elementary to high school students that houses around 600 students from all over Northeastern Thailand, central Thailand (including Bangkok), and some hill tribe students from the North. Although there are 200 students who live locally studying at the school, they have to meet the following criteria:

1. The students at KKEWS must come from economically challenged families.
2. The students are missing one or both of their parents due to death or divorce. In Thailand you do not have to support your children if you are divorced and so in

many cases the parent who does not have the kids does not help support them monetarily.

3. The parents cannot control their children. Many times these children are not only poor but have behavioral problems as well.

KKEWS also houses around 20 disabled students. In these cases, parents have found it too difficult to care for their child while working full time jobs.

This is a special school where teachers teach during the day and fulfill the roles of mom and dad at night.

KKEWS has a strong English speaking program with many, highly skilled English teachers. There are currently six English teachers although they do not teach in the same building. They can go a few days without seeing each other. This makes it difficult to share teaching material.

I discussed this with the head of the English Department, Pee Mod, and my co-teacher Alex. Their solution was to create one area where teachers can go and get materials as well as leave materials they have found helpful to use in the classroom. After discussing this idea with the rest of the English Department, a suggestion was made to not only have books or worksheets available but also visual aids like flash cards.

After further discussion the teachers thought of another idea. Why not have the resource center available for the students to use in improving their English skills on their own? Therefore the teachers decided the center would need a TV and DVD player to help students practice their listening skills by watching English movies. The center would also need simple books for the students use to practice reading. We want this center to be a relaxing and fun place to be so students will want to spend their time here learning English.

Another problem brought to my attention was the problem of assigning critical thinking homework to the students. Currently there is no place for students to do research in English. To solve that problem, this center will offer resources in English about local, national, and world history that students can use to complete their homework.

The next discussion was regarding where we should put this resource center. The first idea was to use an empty room in building three. After further discussions, the teachers decided to use a room already being used for English. In KKEWS currently possesses an English Lab room containing a T.V. and listening tools, all of are in good working condition. Suggested by another teacher, Pee Ning, my desk will now be located in the English Lab room. His reasoning was that each teacher from grade 7 to grade 12 would sign up and use this room on a weekly basis. This room will now be used on a daily basis as a lab and resource center where teachers will take their students to study English with a native English teacher teaching along side a Thai teacher.

This solves three problems. One problem is each grade has a classroom but the classrooms themselves are very rudimentary. There are very little visual aids and only a few classrooms actually have English visual aids. The teachers have to bring these materials everyday to the classroom to teach. This development of the English Lab room into an English Resource Center allows seven grade levels and four teachers to have a room that would be solely used for English. The second problem was a location for teachers to share ideas and materials. Now the teachers would be leaving materials in this room to be used by all. The last problem was the students having the opportunity to learn English on their own. During the week, this room would stay open until 4:30 p.m. at which time students have dinner and do their homework. As for the weekend, the room would be open 1pm to 4:00pm on weekends allowing the students to clean the school and do laundry in the morning.

Although the school is supplying the space and labor to arrange and maintain the resource center, they are unable to supply the items to completely furnish this room. Therefore, we are requesting funds from Friends of Thailand to assist in furnishing the resource center with bookcases, one large bookcase for bigger books, wall fans, posters, filing cabinets to keep teaching materials in, and board games. The glass bookcases are to keep the more expensive books in good condition. The room is not air-conditioned, therefore not sealed. Humidity would destroy these books if we didn't keep them in a sealed bookcase. The other two bookcases are for the inexpensive books which the students would be checking out.

The school has a library with a minimal amount of English materials. The teachers who run the library do not teach nor speak English. The library does own some English movies which it will be letting the English resource center use to show during and after school.

#### **PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND BENEFITS:**

1. By May 2009, teachers from the English Department at KKEWS and the PCV will create a functional English Resource Learning Center available to teachers and secondary students in order to improve four fundamental English skills including reading, writing, listening, and speaking.
2. By May 2009, all six teachers will have copied their classroom materials and put them in the resource center. As of today, four out of the six teachers have done so.

#### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

The English Department has shown great excitement in making this center. On November 17, 2008, two teachers and the director from KKEWS traveled to Bangkok to collect books from an organization named *Books for Thailand Foundation* that offers free English books. Members of the English Department independently applied for the books and the trip was completely organized by KKEWS. *Books for Thailand Foundation*

allows schools to apply every three months so the teachers want to apply next year to add more books to the center.

The director of the school, Mr. Kamon, is very excited about this project. He has offered us the English Lab room to create the English resource center in. Although this room has the equipment for a sound lab, it is not furnished as a resource center needs to be. We are requesting furniture and fans for this room. The fans will be installed by the school janitors and the room will be put together by the English department and the *We Can* club. Since the room currently possesses one computer, a T.V., and a DVD player, the English resource center will have full access to these items.

### **SUSTAINABILITY:**

In order for everyone to understand how the center will benefit the school, the director of the school has requested this project to be written up in Thai. The English teachers have already started collecting materials, dividing up responsibilities and looking into areas like the internet to add to the center. The center will be controlled by the English Department and the *We Can* club, which are very excited for the resource room. For an entire school year, I will be at the school working along side these teachers helping them use the center. The maintenance will be kept up by the school's janitors.

My COS date has been extended to June 19, 2009. Due to the limited time I have left as a PCV and my desire not to leave KKEWS two months into the school year, I have decided to stay on at KKEWS for the entire school year ending March 2010. I have discussed this with the director at my school and I will be an employee of the school. This will allow me to see to the successful set-up, opening, and usage of the resource center.

### **BUDGET (may be a separate document):**

See attached document

### **PROJECT SCHEDULE (including start and finish dates):**

June 2008:

- First discussion about the center with Pee Mod and Alex

July 2008:

- Had a meeting with the director of KKEWS to get his support for the center
- Started working with Alex on my extension to stay longer as a PCV to make the resource center.

August 2008:

- Started looking into ways of collecting free books. I found two foundations to help us get books. The first one is in America which I applied for by internet. The second was a Thai foundation. This application was completed by two of the teachers at KKEWS.

#### September 2008

- KKEWS received the first shipment of books from America.
- Moly, an English teacher at KKEWS, found an internet site with free short stories on it. These stories will be added to the center.
- PCV extension papers turned in to Peace Corps.

#### October 2008

- The KKEWS English department held a meeting to discuss what books were needed to help the students and to plan how to pick these books up from Bangkok.
- The director of KKEWS gave his permission to use the school's van to collect the books in Bangkok after requesting the English Department to fill out a project form in Thai.
- Received the books from Darien Book Aid.

#### November 2008

- PCV's extension was approved.
- Two teachers went to Bangkok and collected over 100 books for the teachers and students.

#### December 2008

- KKEWS English Department held meeting regarding the center.
- KKEWS teachers showed the books to the administration.
- A list of materials that will be beneficial to the English Teachers was compiled.

#### March 2009

- Used KKEWS van to go and price materials in order to create the budget.
- PCV and teachers gathered the materials and stored them in the resource center room
- Four teachers made copies of their materials and stored them in the resource center room.
- Generated a list of all the materials in the center on the computer to begin a system for checking out materials.
- All books have been collected and cataloged in the computer system.
- There was a meeting with the English teachers where it was decided to move me to the center for one year. Each teacher will sign-up to use the center on a weekly basis.

#### April 2009

- The resource center room will be cleaned and ready to set up materials.
- PCV finishes and submits the Friends of Thailand grant proposal

- PCV and teachers will purchase additional materials if needed.
- The new materials will be cataloged in the computer system.

May 2009

- Fans will be installed into the rooms.
- Resource center will be completed.
- English teachers get their schedules for teaching and sign-up to use the center
- PCV completes Final Report of Friends of Thailand.

June 2009

- Start the use of the room as a classroom and after school learning center.