



## Rotary Club of Palo Alto

Dear Donor,

The United Nations notes that “around 2 billion people, or almost one-fifth of the world’s population, live in areas of water scarcity. Another 1.6 billion people, or almost one quarter of the world’s population, face economic water shortage.”

The island of Koh Samui located in the Gulf of Thailand is not immune to the water scarcity challenges. Due to a severe lack of funding, only 1 of the 23 schools on the island has access to safe clean water (and this is due to the Rotary Club of Samui-Phangan pilot water project completed last year). Some of these poor schools have either Town Water or alternately Well Water and neither is drinkable. Limited clean water is currently being delivered to the schools in 5 gallon bottles. Each child receives about half a cup per day and often the students will have to wait for breaks in the school schedule to receive their water allocation. This leads to children drinking unsuitable water or the alternate is dehydration in the very humid climate. The overall student population from these 22 schools is approximately 7,000 students. The lack of access to clean water leads to mental and physical developmental challenges for children. Students suffer from dehydration and lose cognitive functions during class. Additionally, absenteeism rates are high due to diarrhea and other water borne diseases.

The Rotary Club of Samui-Phangan has set a goal to change the conditions for the students. They would like to provide each student with unlimited access to clean safe water. They proved their success with the Water For Life pilot project using a World Health Organization approved filtration system, which brought certified World’s Best Standards water to approximately 600 students, teachers and staff at Wat Lamai School. They now intend to add or update the infrastructure at the remaining 22 schools. Club members will work directly with local contractors to establish the water system and provide ongoing maintenance and local sustainability. The members who are local Thai citizens and international expats are hands on with each project. The project also includes a training program for sanitation awareness and education regarding the benefits of clean water to the community.

The Rotary Clubs of Palo Alto, Los Gatos Morning, Saratoga, and Los Altos have raised \$34,000 through the District Designated Funds program as part of a Global Grant. The overall need for the remaining 22 schools is \$175,000.

Please contribute to this project. For every \$1.25 donated our Rotary District 5170 will add 75 cents to equal \$2.00. Your donation is tax deductible and you will receive an acknowledgement letter from the Palo Alto Rotary Club.

Thank you for your consideration,

Khashayar “Cash” Alae  
Thailand Water Project Lead