

# Father Ray Foundation

## Newsletter



December 2014



### Message from Father Peter

It has been two years since we last got together for our family photo. Two years that seem to have flown as we are kept busy making sure our children and students have what they need.

The number of children coming to us for help continues to rise, as does the number of students with disabilities who want to be educated. You will see on the 'Big Picture' that we have children from as young as one year of age, to students who are just a few years short of celebrating their half century.

But first, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Although we try to keep you up to date with the goings on here in Pattaya in our regular newsletters and through social media here is a review of 2014.

### Soon be ready...

Construction has started on the new Father Ray Center for Children with Special Needs, and we are hoping, fingers crossed, that it will be ready in the first half of next year. For the children and teenagers, and let's not forget their families, who are attending the present Center, their lives have already started to change.

Early intervention therapy, support, counseling, education and vocational training are available to the children of Pattaya who have nowhere else to go. However, we are limited in what we can achieve due to the cramped conditions and lack of specialized equipment.

But things are changing for the youngsters who come to us each day. A few weeks ago several of our children and teenagers represented our province, Chonburi, at the Special Olympics Thailand. Not only did they compete against others from similar establishments, but they returned to Pattaya with a huge haul of gold, silver and bronze medals.



### Almost three thousand successes

Twice each year, in April and October, we welcome a new group of students to the Redemptorist Vocational School for People with Disabilities. At the same time we say farewell to a group of students whose study has come to an end. After two years with us they have gained an education, learned new skills and their confidence has grown so much it is sometimes hard to think they are the same terrified new student who arrived two years previously.

The good thing about our school is that no matter what your disability is, whether it is a physical or an intellectual disability, you will be made welcome at the school.



### 25th Birthday Celebrations



Next year, 2015, we shall be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Father Ray Children's Home. Speaking with people who remember the original Home for Street Kids has made me realize just how far we have come in providing care for those in need. Our next newsletter, which you will receive in March, will be dedicated to the past twenty five years at the Children's Home.

As I write this message to you, eleven of our young men and women are studying at university campuses throughout the country, and an additional seven are attending local vocational colleges. A further seventeen have won scholarships to a local private school, one of the best in the province. While I am always amazed at what our children achieve, the thing that really gets me is that for most of these young men and women (I can't really call them children any more) they are the first from their family ever to graduate from High School and go on to further education. Most have parents who could barely read or write, and now their children, our children, are studying to become lawyers, nurses and the business leaders of the future.

### Update

I am often asked about one of our young boys who we have featured several times in our newsletters over recent years. This young boy came to us when he was three years of age and goes by the name of Condo. Many of you will remember reading of how he was thrown on a bonfire for making too much noise while his drunk of a father was having a party.

Well, I can tell you that all is well with this ten year old. During the summer holidays in April he became ordained as a monk at a nearby temple. He is doing well at school, and while he may never be top of the class, he is far from the bottom.

He was rushed to hospital a few months back when he fell off the trampoline and broke a bone in his leg. He hobbled around on crutches for 6 weeks until the plaster was removed, and a few days later he was rushed back to hospital as he again fell off the same trampoline, hitting his head on a large stone and needing several stitches. We warned him not to go on the trampoline, but boys will be boys and even at the grand old age of ten, they think they know better than any adult.



But even with his leg in plaster and a bandage on his head he managed to keep a smile on his face.

### Last Christmas & This Christmas



Although the number of decorated Christmas trees and hanging tinsel in shops seems to increase each year, Christmas Day will be a normal day for most Thai people. It is business as usual at all the shops, markets are open selling foods and souvenirs and our children will be up early, not to open their Christmas presents, but to catch the bus to school.

We shall be having our annual Christmas party on the evening of the 26th December. And if it is anything like last year the children will still be talking about it many months later. We decided not to have a staff party, but one just for children. This meant that all the toddlers from the Day Care Center, and those we help in the community were all invited: in total there were over one thousand toddlers, children, teenagers and young adults.

They were entertained with a singing competition between the projects, a battle of the boy bands and as usual our foreign volunteers ended their show by throwing thousands of pieces of candy into the audience. This is the time of the night the children are waiting for, even the blind students stand with their hands in the air as it rains candy.

**On behalf of all the children and students, workers and volunteers here at the Father Ray Foundation, I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a very Healthy, Prosperous, Peaceful and Happy New Year 2015.**

**May God Bless You All**

**Father Peter Pattarapong Srivorakul C.Ss.R.**

President



**Father Micheal Picharn Jaiseri C.Ss.R.**

Vice-President



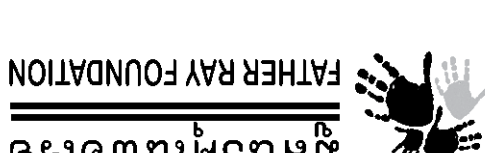
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**We never turn a needy child away**



Father Ray Day Care Center  
Father Ray Children's Home  
Father Ray Outreach and Drop-In Center  
Father Ray Center for Children with Special Needs  
Redemptorist Job Placement for People with Disabilities  
Redemptorist Foundation for People with Disabilities  
Redemptorist Vocational School for People with Disabilities - Nong Khai  
Pattaya Redemptorist School for the Blind  
Redemptorist Vocational School for People with Disabilities - Pattaya



**AIRMAIL**

**We never turn a needy child away**

**Open carefully as a big picture is inside**

**Printed Matter**





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