



# Mission Matters

## Sponsorship Leads to Educational Success

Borwornnan, also called Kuk-kai, is a role model of successful children who has been served by Pearl S. Buck Foundation in Mae Ramard, Tak province, Thailand.

Before enrolling in PSBFT's child sponsorship program, she and her family lived in a small hut with a leaf roof because they earned little income. Her parents, who have three daughters and one son, grew corn to try to earn more income to pay for living necessities and the children's educational expenses.



Kuk-kai enrolled in the sponsorship program when she was 5 year old kindergartner. PSBFT staff provided her counseling through home visits as well as healthcare and educational advice. She received warm clothes, school uniforms, shoes and socks, school supplies, and stationery, allowing her to not have to worry about having to drop out of school due to the cost.

Educational support from her sponsor through PSBFT has been so helpful for her family to pay for educational expenses, living costs, and medical expenses for Kuk-kai and her siblings.

Kuk-kai attended nutrition training and education for sponsored children. Since this event, she and her family have grown organic vegetables to eat such as pumpkins, peas, Chinese cabbage, and tomatoes. They also raise animals such as pigs and chickens. Kuk-kai learned so much at the various camps that were offered through Pearl S. Buck Foundation Thailand. She was responsible as a group leader, assisted staff in preparing materials, and looked after younger sponsored children in the camps.

Kuk-kai excels in school because she takes her education seriously and is confident and responsible. After completing secondary school in the village, she went to a public high school located in the district. She focused on science and mathematics and stayed in the school dormitory to lessen the financial burden on her parents. She faced many obstacles in adjusting to high school, but she persevered. She got involved in school activities and received a regional science prize. She also serves as vice president of the student council, joined the regional student council, decorated candles to offer to a Buddhist temple, and helped with school improvement projects.

Kuk-kai is very appreciative of her generous sponsor and the opportunities that have been presented to her through the sponsorship program. Presently, she is studying in grade 11 with a 3.92 GPA and thanks to encouragement and guidance from a teacher, she is motivated to go to medical school.

Her sponsor has motivated her on her educational journey and career hopes as well. She is very grateful that her sponsor has provided her with encouragement and education support over the years.

Kuk-kai noted, "When I study in the university level I will be a good student, pay attention to studying, and will make my dream of being a doctor come true. After becoming a doctor, I will be able to help a lot of people, especially hill tribe people. From experience, I have found that hill tribe people such as my family do not get great care because they are unable to speak the Thai language with doctors and hospital officers."

Kuk-kai would like to thank so much her kind sponsor for all the support, love, care, and concern for her family and herself time. Thank you to all our child sponsors and donors whose support and generosity allow children like Kuk-kai to stay in school and follow their dreams.



## Woman of Influence Award Returns

After a two-year hiatus, Pearl S. Buck International is thrilled to announce the return of the always inspiring Woman of Influence Award Dinner. Each year the Woman of Influence Award honors our founder, Pearl S. Buck, by recognizing women who continue in her humanitarian, cross-cultural, and advocacy footsteps.

Originally established in 1978 as the Woman of the Year Award, the Woman of Influence Award honors women, who like Nobel and Pulitzer prize-winning author, activist, and humanitarian Pearl S. Buck, have distinguished themselves in their career, devotion to family, and pursuit of humanitarian and advocacy goals.

Pearl S. Buck was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Literature for her novel, *The Good Earth*, and the Nobel Prize in Literature for her body of work. Buck used the spotlight on her to shine a light on the plight of marginalized people everywhere and to advocate for the civil rights movement in the U.S.

She also founded Welcome House (the world's first international biracial adoption agency) and established The Pearl S. Buck Foundation (now Pearl S. Buck International) to provide international humanitarian aid.



Ms. Buck's groundbreaking words and work paved the way for greater international and intercultural understanding. They also provided life-changing aid for countless impoverished children.



The Woman of Influence Award is an honor bestowed upon a woman with remarkable talent, drive, and compassion and has such notable recipients as Laura Bush, TV personality Nydia Han, and former President of the Philippines, Corazon Aquino. The Woman of Influence is chosen every year based on criteria that best exemplifies both Pearl Buck herself as well as embodies the mission of the organization that bears her name.



This year, Pearl S. Buck International is expanding its search and asking for the public's help in identifying candidates who exemplify what it means to be "Woman of Influence 2023."

Nominations are now being accepted at <https://pearlsbuck.org/woman-of-influence/>. All nominations are due by March 1st. A spring/summer 2023 date for the Award dinner and ceremony will be announced once an honoree has been chosen.