



# Pistorio Foundation Newsletter

"On the way to school, on the way to life"

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## Quick Links

Our website:  
[www.pistoriofoundation.org](http://www.pistoriofoundation.org)

Support for the Pistorio Foundation can now also be shown by joining our recently formed groups on [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).

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## About us

The Pistorio Foundation was established in Switzerland in 2005 by Pasquale Pistorio with the mission of improving the living conditions of children in developing countries by sponsoring children's education, nutrition and primary health care and by building and improving school infrastructure.

Having started by providing scholarships to less than 300 children in 2006, today, the Foundation supports the long-term education of 1668 children in five countries: Burkina Faso, Tibet (China), Thailand, Cambodia, and Morocco. We continue to operate with no overhead costs: 100% of all donations and resources go directly to projects on location to benefit the children we support.

The Morocco Back to School Project was launched in July this year, and in Thailand we have inaugurated one primary school and extended our support to two more villages, providing scholarships to over 300 more children. We have opened a new pole in Italy, the "Associazione Amici della Pistorio Foundation" to increase awareness of our projects. Our Singapore Chapter has consolidated its team and continued to spearhead successful fundraising events over the year.

## The Pistorio Foundation reaches out to Pakistan

In August last year Pakistan was struck by the worst flood in its history, causing over two thousand deaths, damaging millions of homes, and displacing over 21 million people (BBC news).

The Pistorio Foundation donated **CHF 20,000** to *Medecins sans Frontières* (Doctors Without Borders) to contribute to the world wide appeal for funds by the United Nations for the emergency relief effort.

## Inauguration of New Primary School of Huay Kuk

**On March 6, 2010, the Pistorio Foundation** inaugurated the construction of its second Primary School in Thailand, benefitting yet another hill-tribe village in Chiang Rai.



*New Six Classroom Primary School of Huay Kuk Photo courtesy of Carolyn Strover*

The six classroom school, comprising additionally of a teacher's room and sanitation facilities, was opened in the Hmong hill-tribe village of Huay Kuk in May 2009.

The school caters to three villages, including that of Huay Kuk, for a total population of 828 villagers. The school can hold up to 200 students. Over 110 students are currently enrolled and the school is expected to run in full capacity

within the next two years. The school is powered by solar panels, which have been donated by third parties. The village is in the North East of Chiang Rai, on the border with Laos, a region that is controlled by the Thai Border Patrol Police.



**Ribbon cutting by Pasquale Pistorio, Elena Pistorio, and Thai Border Patrol Police Lieutenant Don Somkown**



**Foundation volunteers Sarah Meisch and supporter Valérie Guibert planting banana trees**



*Huay Kuk school students playing soccer outdoors*

Present at the inauguration ceremony were Pasquale Pistorio, Elena Pistorio, Country Project Manager Lino Battan, as well as Foundation supporters François and Valerie Guibert and Foundation volunteers Sarah Meisch and Gianluca Lionetto. Local partner representative Brother Gianni dalla Rizza and Operations Manager Chiwarat Dunensee, were also present, as well as a number of local administrative and regional education authorities.



*School Administration Staff and Teachers and Village Head*

During the inauguration, 30 banana trees were planted by participants and participants witnessed that the land in the vicinity of the school grounds has been cultivated by students in order to provide the grains and vegetables for their meals in school. The students are taught cultivation and crop growing skills by the teachers and their success has led to them being self-sufficient in providing for the school meals.



**The land on the school grounds is cultivated by students and the produce is used for the preparation of school meals.**

In the weeks preceding the inauguration, Carolyn Strover travelled with our Project Manager Lino Battan to several villages to take photos of children and villagers. Carolyn has volunteered her time and skill to document life in the villages we support and we thank her for her generous and kindhearted contribution. Carolyn also took pictures at Huay Kuk during the school inauguration.

***Photos Courtesy of Carolyn Strover:***



## Visit of Princess Saralee Kitiyakorn to the Ban Mhai Pattana' School

On July 28, 2010, ML. Saralee Kitiyakorn also known as Khun Nam Phueng (**Sister of Her Royal Highness Princess Somsawali**) along with her guests, paid a visit to the villagers and to the school in Ban Mhai Pattana School built by the Pistorio Foundation in 2008.



ML. Saralee Kitiyakorn generously donated several boxes of textbooks and colorful reading books for the Library at the School, also built by the Pistorio Foundation in 2009.



## Launch of a new project in Morocco in July 2010

**The Pistorio Foundation has partnered with the *Centre d'Azrou pour le Développement Communautaire* in Ifrane** to help curb high drop out rates in the region of Azrou. Mr. Mohamed Lasry, Project Manager for the Pistorio Foundation, kick started the launch with the signing of the agreement with the CADC. Foundation Volunteer Laila Jabry also attended the event, met with students, parents and teachers and documented the occasion. Children that will benefit from this program will range from the age of 8 to 14 and come from very low income and often broken families, whose socioeconomic situation often induces the children to abandon school and work on the streets. At the CADC center, forty children were admitted as of September under this program. The children will receive teaching in all the National Curriculum subjects, following a National Non-Formal Education Program. This will be enriched with IT training, sports, and field trips.

Children will be reinserted in school within one or two years of having attended the program. Should they not succeed, they will follow a one to two year professional training course so that they may be employed subsequently. The classes will temporarily take place in CADC structures, whilst the construction of the project's building, complete of four classrooms, gym, library, workshop, canteen and kitchen, is taking place. All the children will receive one meal per day and medical check ups throughout the year. The construction is expected to be completed by September 2011. The Pistorio Foundation will be funding part of the construction, together with local Partners and Institutions. The Foundation will support the full scholarships of the students.



*Children in classroom*

## Cambodia Back To School Project Testimonials from sponsored children attending PSE school By Angela Mitakidis, Project Manager

In her last trip to Cambodia, Angela Mitakidis also met with families of children sponsored by the Foundation who are enrolled in the "Catch-up" School of Pour un Sourire d'Enfant (PSE) in Phnom Penh. Below are testimonials from two of the PSE

students.

### Sothe Leak



**Sothe Leak** (in pink t-shirt), 16 years old, Primary School, Year 2, at home with her sister and sister's baby. Sothe's brother-in-law also lives with them. Sothe's sister and brother-in-law are her guardians, since her mother died of liver failure caused by alcoholism 5 years ago and her father abandoned the family.



Her sister is not employed, since she takes care of their one year old baby. Her brother-in-law, who himself was a former PSE student, is a mechanic and supports the household with his earnings of \$80 a month. One of the family's current challenges is to repay a loan for the purchase of a motorbike for Sothe's brother-in-law. The debt is \$800 and the repayment terms are \$40 a month which is half of his monthly earnings. Sothe has been at school for the last 2 ½ years.

Prior to that she was a scavenger on the dump, collecting recyclable goods for resale. As part of the scholarship, the family receives a monthly quota of rice the family. Sothe is very happy to be at school as she wants to become a chef or a waitress one day.

### Pana Son



**Pana Son** is a 17 year old boy (above) in Primary School. His sister, Srey (left) is 15 years old and in also in Primary School. They have been at school at PSE for 3 years - before that they were both scavengers, since their mother needed the income they provided.

They both live at home with their parents. Their mother collects recyclable rubbish and earns \$40 a month and their father is a construction worker but does not get a regular wage. The family has a debt of \$50, but their mother is very

happy that the children are at school and would like to keep it that way, if possible. As part of the sponsorships, the family receives 30kg of rice per month. Rental amounts to \$20 a month (half of the mother's salary).

Pana also used to work as a gardener. He is now very happy to be in school and to be able to read, since he used to be very embarrassed about his illiteracy. Now he is happy that he can read. He wants to become a mechanic one day. Srey used to be a scavenger on the dump and that's where the PSE found her. She loves school and wants to be a secretary one day.



Srey Pei (right), 17 years old, Secondary School, attends the PSE accelerated "catch up programme", which allows children to complete the equivalent of 2 academic years in one year.

## School Project - Lithang, Tibet

Carmelo Pistorio, together with partner representatives Giovanna Giorgiotti and Gemma Randelli, visited children from the Lithang School in June this year. All 80 children that started the program in 2006 are still enrolled in the school, with only very few that have had to repeat their grade level.



*Carmelo Pistorio and Giovanna Giorgiotti with scholarship students at Lithang School*

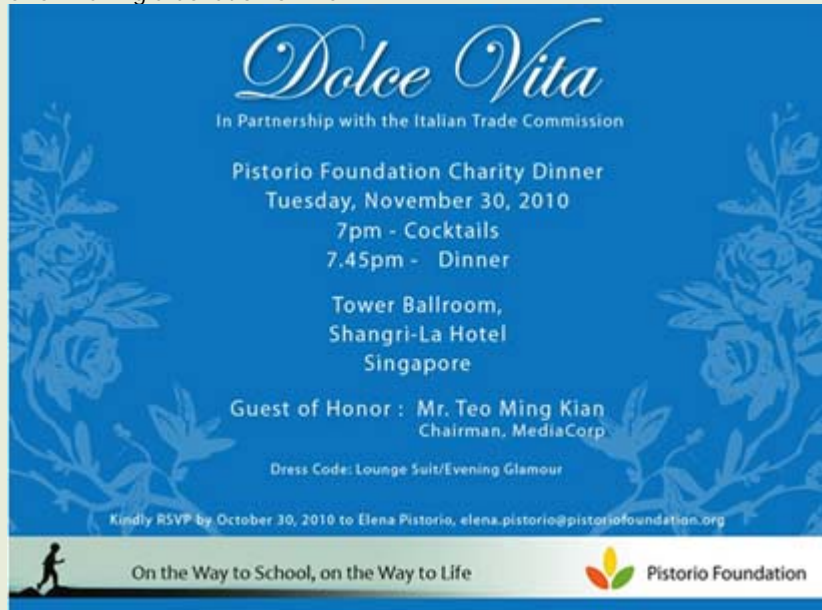
The children are performing very well academically and are in very good health, benefitting from improved nutrition and hygiene while at the school. The school offers a very high standard of education compared to the national average, as witnessed also by the high scores achieved by our students in regional and national math and language testing competitions. The children spend 9 months a year at the school campus, housed in the school dormitory built by the Foundation in 2006, and return to stay with their families during the summer months. The children come from nomad families and would not otherwise be able to study if they did not stay at the Lithang campus.

## News from the Singapore Chapter

Thank you to the continuous efforts and collaboration of the volunteers of our Singapore Chapter Team who put together a zero cost event at the home of our Chapter Treasurer Marco Bardelli, and our now preparing for our upcoming Charity Dinner.

## Upcoming Charity Dinner/Fundraising Campaign- Opportunity to Give

The Singapore Chapter will hold a Charity Dinner on November 30 in favour of the Chiang Rai Village Program. Seats are sold at S\$ 300. Every S\$ 300 raised will allow one hill-tribe child to attend school for an entire year in Chiang Rai. Sponsorship covers uniforms, meals in school, transport to school, school supplies, backpack, and medical check-ups. S\$ 3600 will pay for one child's long-term scholarship up to and including professional school. Our goal is to support 1500 children's scholarships in Thailand in 2011. We currently have 1315 children on scholarship. Help us reach our goal and support our fundraising campaign by attending the dinner or making a donation online.



For more information about this event, please contact Elena Pistorio at [elena.pistorio@pistoriofoundation.org](mailto:elena.pistorio@pistoriofoundation.org)

## Singapore, Springtime Lunch 2010

### Springtime Lunch at the home of Kerry and Marco Bardelli

The Singapore Chapter's 2010 edition of the Springtime Lunch event was hosted on March 11 by the Chapter's Treasurer and his spouse, Marco and Kerry Bardelli, in their colonial black and white residence. Nearly 70 guests including businesspeople, entrepreneurs and local socialites attended the event which was graced by the presence of H.E. Italian Ambassador Anacleto Felicani and Mrs. Felicani. The Italian lunch was entirely sponsored by Oso Ristorante to the benefit of the Pistorio Foundation. Founder Pasquale Pistorio was also present and spoke about the recent inauguration of the new primary school in Huay Kuk, Chiang Rai, Thailand built by the Foundation and about the exciting progress of the Foundation's work in Thailand.



The fundraiser enabled the Foundation to raise nearly SGD 28,000, 100% of which will go directly to support children's education programs in Thailand and Cambodia. Many thanks to our generous donors and sponsors, able auctioneer, and volunteers of the Singapore Chapter who made this lunch a great success and will enable nearly 100 children to attend school in the coming academic year. Many thanks to Oso Ristorante; Mr and Mrs Bardelli; Harper's BAZAAR Singapore; Lisa Zanatta; Ketna Patel; Emilio Pucci; Molteni & C; Asiatique Collections; Swatch; The Orientalist; Sagem Wireless; Singapore Repertory Theatre; Arete Culture; The Boon's Pottery; and Carrot Banana Peach.



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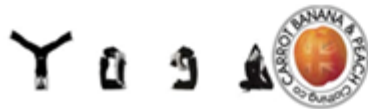
**Molteni & C**

**Lisa Zanatta Pistorio**

**Singapore  
The Repertory  
Theatre**

*Boon's Pottery*

**Aratong Galleries**



## In Kind Donations

We would like to thank Analou Assiss, Michelle Morton, Sarah Meisch, Sharoff Guarino, and Debbie Salling for the donations of clothes, shoes, bags, and books. We were able to send seven boxes of clothes and books totalling over 60 kilograms to Thailand and a full suitcase of clothes and books to Cambodia.

## Kids for kids - Sowing the seeds of love and compassion

### Canadian School Garage Sale 2010

Once again, for the second consecutive year, 10 year old Johnny Matthews and his family raised funds at the CIS Garage Sale for the Pistorio Foundation, raising S\$ 300 to support the education of one hill-tribe child for one year in Thailand. Johnny sold his unused toys, books, games, Lego, and videos at the Garage Sale, with the goal of reaching S\$ 300 to donate to the Foundation. Thanks Johnny and the Matthews family!

### Birthday party for a cause

A heartfelt thank you to the junior Kelly-Wongs, Christopher and Sophia, who selflessly asked for donations in lieu of gifts for their birthdays and at the young age of only 6 and 7 managed to raise an impressive 840 S\$ to help less fortunate children obtain an education. Their selfless gesture will allow two children to attend school for one year in Chiang Rai and to supply nearly 60 books for the a school library in a hill-tribe village. Thanks kids, well done!!!



Pistorio Foundation

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