



# The Phuket Project

WWW.PHUKETPROJECT.ORG

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As many know, the tsunami in Southeast Asia has left an unprecedented human situation in Phuket, Thailand. More than 6000 people have lost their lives, and many local Thais will need to rebuild their everyday livelihood - including their local schools, temples, businesses, homes, and community centers.

The Phuket Project was born on 1 January 2005, and is a collection of almost 200 global volunteers, attempting to organize ongoing volunteer efforts to help local Thai communities rebuild. The group consists of everyday people - students, teachers, advertising folk, business gurus, former soldiers, bankers, media mavericks, engineers, contractors, paramedics, nurses, architects, writers and photographers - who understand the power of the devastation and hope to invest our time, energy and collective experience to help those most affected by the disaster.

Our efforts are focused on initiatives that will benefit the children and families of Phuket. Our first project is to help rebuild the Kamala Child Development Center, which was destroyed by the tsunami one day before it was due to open to the local community. It had been designed to house 182 students and ten teachers and assistants, and the building was entirely lost in the aftermath of the disaster. This effort is being coordinated with the Bangkok Phuket Hospital, the largest medical facility on the island, with the goal of raising \$125,000 USD for construction and ongoing education programs for the children at the school.

We are also in discussions with Habitat for Humanity in Thailand, to help coordinate and provide volunteers for their rebuilding efforts in Phuket as well as across South and Southeast Asia. Additionally, we are continuing to discuss a volunteer partnership with the ArtReach Foundation, based in Atlanta, Georgia. ArtReach focuses on art therapy as a method to help children around the world affected by war and natural disasters.

#### **Media Relations**

Tracey Eyers  
Veronica Rosario

#### **Corporate Relations**

Nicole Reynolds

#### **NGO/Charity Outreach**

Sam Bottum

#### **Grassroots Fundraising**

Mach Arom  
Aarti Thiagarajan

#### **Communications**

Maya Gorton  
Nancy Hughes

#### **Spenser Somers Foundation**

Dan Arom

In Thailand, our goal is to field teams of volunteers who are able to travel to Phuket beginning in March, with each team scheduled for two week itineraries and projects lasting through the year for as long as we are able to secure ongoing sponsorship and financial support. Small and large donations of any size are helpful, and donations of money, frequent flier miles, or non-cash material items can be made at our website at [www.phuketproject.org](http://www.phuketproject.org).

Our partnership with the Spenser Somers Foundation in Minneapolis, Minnesota has allowed us to quickly establish non-profit status and identification as a 501c3 tax exempt organization. Since 2000, the Spenser Somers Foundation has been committed to helping children around the world, including mentoring and outreach programs targeted toward inner city youth in the Twin Cities. More information on the Foundation can be found online at [www.spensersomers.org](http://www.spensersomers.org)

Our methodology is somewhat unorthodox and we realize that who we are may pale in comparison to more established organizations like UNICEF or OXFAM or Save the Children. We are attempting, however, to harness the incredible energy of people from New York City and around the world who want to get their hands dirty, help in ways that directly benefit local Thai communities, and work together to build a groundswell of support and initiative that is testament to the human spirit.

For more information, specific conversations related to financial support, or to understand what you can do to help, please visit [www.phuketproject.org](http://www.phuketproject.org) or contact us directly at [info@phuketproject.org](mailto:info@phuketproject.org).

On behalf of almost 200 volunteers worldwide,

Mach Arom  
The Phuket Project  
New York City