

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



มูลนิธิเยาวชนสุขสวัสดิ์
Prosperous Youth Foundation

LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

Adam Griffith



*PYF Annual
Report 2023



LAST YEAR IN OUR 1ST EVER ANNUAL report* we shared about adding a social services project to our already established youth ministry projects. In 2025, we hope to continue expanding and add another emphasis to what we do. We serve a demographic of youth growing up in institutional care, for the purpose of moving into the city for a better education. These youth are either without families or separated from their families living in rural villages. Both situations can be traumatic and cause an array of mental health needs. Chiang Mai, Thailand is a mental health desert and these students don't have access to care. We have two Thai staff that have just completed their coursework and will receive their master's degree in counseling from Chiang Mai University once their theses are complete and published. It has been a long process to get us to this point. We are very excited to soon begin offering mental health services in 2025.

Let's not get ahead of ourselves though. This document is to highlight all that we, with your help, accomplished in 2024. It was a year of continued growth. Our team grew as we on-boarded 4 new staff, bringing our current team size to 17. Our network of youth homes expanded as we connected with new youth homes, bringing our current network to 71 youth homes we are partnered with. Each ministry project also grew in size and scale, all while experiencing some unique challenges in our city. As you read about each of those on the pages that follow, I ask that you prayerfully consider expanding your partnership with PYF. Whether that be in prayer or financial support, we simply cannot do what we do without you.

Blessings,

Adam Griffith





Sing A New Song

*Worship experiences for students
from youth homes*

· 345 students attended 2 events

God First

A faith community for care leavers

· 52 students attended monthly meetings within five separate groups and a sixth group that will be our largest yet is set to launch in early 2025. Also, this year we gave out our first full-scholarship to a God First student.





Student Leadership Academy/Telos

Giving youth a platform where they can lead and a mentoring relationship to begin exploring what that means

- 44 attended a leadership retreat
- 49 participated in a year-long mentoring program
- 47 made Kingdom Worker decisions at this year's camp and will be invited to participate in Telos next year



Respite

Programming for youth that provided Sabbath rest for youth home staff from 22 different youth homes and was our first point of contact when connecting with 2 new youth homes this year





Camp

Immersive experience designed to help youth embrace their invitation into God's Family and to be a worker in His Kingdom

· 329 youth attended from 27 different youth homes



Social Work

Training and services for youth homes to better develop their overall care. We hosted an orientation training for new youth home staff, helped a home create a child protection policy and continued to mentor youth homes in shifting towards family based care models.



★ OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

Immigration

Following a military coup in Myanmar, the country has experienced widespread unrest and a decline in safety, forcing many young people to seek refuge in neighboring Thailand, particularly in Chiang Mai. PYF, working with individuals familiar with Myanmar's language and culture, has been able to provide support for some of these young migrants. Several of these young people with tech skills have volunteered to teach computer skills at one of the Thai youth homes—helping them find purpose and engage in their new surroundings. While the situation remains challenging and complex, PYF is grateful for the chance to play a small part in empowering these young people in Thailand.



Floods

In October floods hit Chiang Mai at historic levels never seen before. This flooding was widespread throughout the city and impacted thousands, including some of our staff, who had unsanitary water standing in their homes and neighborhoods for days. As the flood water was rising our team helped take supplies into areas of need and people out via our kayaks. Then, as the waters started to subside, we joined in clean up efforts and loaned out our power washers. We aren't first responders or a disaster relief organization, but as neighbors we felt compelled to do what we could.



Smog

Smoky Season – Chiang Mai as a city is situated in a valley between several mountain ranges. It makes for beautiful views, but it also means that smoke from slash and burn agriculture in the mountains settles into the valley every hot season (March-May). During this time those who can afford it turn on air purifiers and everyone wears masks to try to escape the smoke. As the blue sky turns darker and darker it can be a depressing time. Each year as the situation seems to worsen we try to educate the youth we work with and donate supplies when we are able.

CURRENT YOUTH – TESTIMONY

Allison Duncan



Story shared with Therd's permission and blessing

I LOOKED UP FROM HAVING MY HEAD BOWED IN WORSHIP, and saw the face of one of our Thai staff, looking absolutely wrecked. He weaved through the crowd and came face to face with P'Tan. He *wai'd* to her, a symbolic asking for permission. P'Tan gave the slightest of nods, and he melted into her arms. I had to look away. The tears were too much. Not sad, not happy. More of a way of releasing the overwhelm of the moment, of seeing kids respond to a call that he responded to eight years ago.

Every year at camp we have a call for students who would like to offer their lives in service, whether it be joining our high school aged leadership service group or wanting to study at Bible college, or just live fully for Him. Therd was the first ever student who stood up and responded to this call.

As Therd recalls, *"At first, I was worried. But I felt in my heart that I needed to stand."*

Eight years ago, he rose to his feet. Eyes clenched tightly shut and breathing heavy. He fluttered them open to see if anyone else was standing, and when he noticed everyone was still sitting, he quickly shut his eyes again. *"I felt awkward and didn't fully understand the feeling of what God was doing inside my heart, but just knew I had to use whatever bravery I had in me to stay standing. I asked God: 'Are you really choosing me?'"*

In God's perfect timing, the next time he opened his eyes, there were a dozen of his peers standing up, also ready to answer the call.

Fast forward eight years, during this same call for service, Therd will tell you the feeling was so heavy. *"I was trying not to cry. I was trying just to be still, but I kept seeing students stand up and go forward. It's so hard to stand up and be brave - I remember what it was like. In that moment, I felt so thankful that God was calling them. I couldn't keep it inside any longer."*

Later in our staff meeting at the end of this year's camp, he recalled in detail his first ever camp experience. When Therd arrived, he was delightfully confused about there being kids from other youth homes there. As Therd thinks back on the shock of it all – *"I thought it was just my home."* He had never considered the fact that there were so many other kids from different youth homes going through the exact same thing as him. It had previously felt like he was in this sad bubble he couldn't escape from.

That particular year at camp, the rooms were also air conditioned. It was the first time Therd had ever experienced sleeping in an air conditioned room. It was a gift he wasn't expecting and for the first time, it made him feel like he had value. *"In that moment, I felt like I was a VIP."*

Continued





The moment when Therd became the first student to stand in response to the call to ministry

"I WOULDN'T BE THE MAN I AM TODAY WITHOUT PYF BELIEVING IN ME BEFORE I BELIEVED IN MYSELF AND THEN GIVING ME OPPORTUNITIES TO LEAD."

My very first memory of Therd is of him, at 17, with tears in his eyes, because we had put him in charge of the budget for a service project, of which at the end of, he was 500 baht (\$15) short. This was shortly after he joined our high school leadership program. He was so distraught that we had trusted him and he had lost track of 500 baht. Talking to Therd about the experience eight years later, he has fresh eyes and is so thankful for the opportunity he got to lead and learn. *"PYF has helped me to be confident in getting out of my safe zone. They taught me how to talk to adults or people older than me, make phone calls in order to make events happen. I also learned how to take public transportation. I once had to run 3km to get to a worship practice because I didn't know how to catch a truck. PYF staff went with me and taught me."*



*"IN THAT
MOMENT, I FELT
SO THANKFUL
THAT GOD WAS
CALLING THEM."*



There were kids from 10 other youth homes at that camp. Therd, having been at his youth home since age 9, was now just becoming aware that there were other youth homes and students living just like him. *"I saw for the first time that others like me had special abilities, talents, and were making the best of their situation. It made me want to better myself. It helped me to be brave in just deciding to live the life I was going to live."*

Seeing him break down in P'Tan's arms this year was one of the most beautiful, full circle moments I have ever experienced. I have tears in my eyes writing this, because I was there 8 years ago as he stood amongst a sea of his peers. I watched him grow up, saw him gain confidence as he learned from experiences and failures, and eventually we created our God First program because of him and a couple of other students who we saw needed support as they aged out of the system. Now I get the joy of doing ministry alongside him as we expand the God First program to reach even more students.





2024 BUDGET BREAK- DOWN

