

## Prem Tinsulanonda International School's Run Series for the Piers Simon Appeal a great success



The Piers Simon Appeal (PSA) was set up in memory of Piers aged 33 who died in the Indian Ocean Tsunami on the island of Koh Phi Phi in Thailand on December 26th, 2004. The Prem Tinsulanonda International School has been a committed supporter of the charity since 2010.

Back in October and November 2011, the Prem Tinsulanonda International School (PTIS) and the entire Traidhos Three-Generation Community for Learning (<http://threegeneration.org>) hosted three exciting running events as part of the annual

PTIS Run Series for the Piers Simon Appeal. Runners of all ages and abilities ran distances of 3 km, 10.5 km and/or 21.1km as part of this initiative.

The members of the PTIS Run Series group were extremely pleased with the success of the 2011 Series. It not only promoted fitness (and fun) for many members of our school and local community, but also raised almost 50 000 baht for a very good cause. This amount, in addition to the 25,000 baht raised by the 2010 Series, brought the total funds raised by PTIS to just over 75,000 baht. All funds raised were donated to the Piers Simon Appeal (<http://pierssimonappeal.org>) – School in a Bag (SIAB) project.

PSA was founded in early 2005 by tsunami survivor, Luke Simon, who lost his brother Piers on 26 December 2004. Piers was on vacation in Thailand, visiting Luke who was working at PTIS at the time. Following the tsunami, Luke created a foundation to commemorate his brother's life while making life better for victims of disaster. Since leaving PTIS Simon has made running the charity his full-time job.



School in a Bag is an initiative run by the Piers Simon Appeal. It is a simple solution created to help poor, orphan, vulnerable and disaster affected children throughout the world. Each SchoolBag is filled with stationery equipment and resources that will enable a child to write, draw, colour, calculate, express themselves - and above all, learn.

So far the funds raised by the PTIS Run Series have provided thirty-nine SchoolBags for children in Sri Lanka and Indonesia. This year, however, thanks to ex-PTIS student, Hannah Smith (2006), all the funds raised have stayed right here in Thailand. Hannah is working at the Development and Education Program for Daughters and Communities (DEPDC) in Mae Sai.

DEPDC is a non-profit community based NGO working in Thailand for the prevention of the trafficking of women and children into the sex industry or other exploitative child labour situations. It offers free education, vocational training and full-time accommodation for young girls and boys in an effort to achieve these goals. As a result of communication and collaboration between Luke Simon, Hannah Smith and members of the PTIS Run Series group, all the DEPDC children in Mae Sai will receive SchoolBags in June 2012.

PTIS and the Run Series group are very pleased to support Child Rights, the prevention of Human Trafficking, the lives of people in Northern Thailand, Hill Tribe Culture and the general welfare and well-being of children globally. The need to help underprivileged and displaced children worldwide is endless. By hosting three charitable running events annually, and working with the Piers Simon Appeal and the DEPDC, the organisers of the PTIS Run Series have given everyone in the local community, as well as the greater Chiang Mai area, the opportunity to get involved, get fit and support these very worthwhile causes.

The event is scheduled to be held once again in the fall of 2012.

Submitted by Traidhos Three-Generation Community for Learning