



the Charlotte Jones Memorial Tsunami Fund

Char's Fund is a memorial tribute to 23 year old Charlotte Jones, beloved daughter of Alan and Liz Jones and sister to Vicki who so tragically succumbed to the Asian Tsunami on December 26th 2004. A memorial statue stands at the headland of Siam Bay beach on the island of Ko Racha Yai, Thailand and there is a memorial tree and garden in the grounds of the Cittaviveka Buddhist Monastery in West Sussex. We will never forget her.

CHAR'S FUND NEWSLETTER, MAY 2009

Welcome to **Char's Fund** 11th quarterly newsletter. The Charity supports 13 school children, college and university students, aged 13-18, with long-term educational bursaries at Muang Phuket School, Phuket College and Phuket Rajabhat University, Thailand. So far £97,125 has been raised and we say a huge thank you to all of our wonderful sponsors. A monthly stipend gives them an allowance of 2,000 baht (= @£40) to spend on tuition fees, books, uniforms, meals, transport, etc. The students have now received £13,500 since the charity started in 2006.

Update on the Students

Yindee, the Thai teacher in charge of the scholarship scheme, reports this month that all of the students continue to do well. A full update will be up on the website shortly. The two eldest girls, Salita Yalong and Khajonsi Tannukroh, are now studying at Phuket University having started a 4 year Tourism degree. Next year 3 more of the girls would like to continue their studies at the University. Supaporn Sukasem and Pornkamorn Kowdee have already passed the entrance exam. Jintara Kangbun would also like to attend, but she has to take the exam first. The fees are less than we thought at 16,000 Thai baht/year so we will do all we can to help them achieve their dreams. Supaporn has always dreamt of becoming a doctor but coming from a poor family she never thought she would ever be able to get the support to go to medical school but now with the help from Char's Fund she says she now has the possibility.

Fundraising Update

Alan, Vicki, Kate and Ben ran the *Reading Half Marathon* on the 29th March and between them raised over £5,000. Pictures of the event are on the website. And Becky, Sarah and Clare ski dived on the 18th April and raised £500 (again please see the website). This is what Becky had to say, *"I did it and it was absolutely amazing! I was very nervous in the morning but after the training we were pumped up and couldn't wait to throw ourselves out of a plane at around 12,000ft! We had to wait around all day for the fog to lift but it was worth it as it was so clear and sunny when it was our turn. The free fall at 120mph was such a rush and I was shaking with adrenaline afterwards. If it's something you'd want to do, then you have to do it!"* Please see <http://www.watchmyskydive.com/rebeccabate>, <http://www.watchmyskydive.com/sarahtubbs> and <http://www.watchmyskydive.com/claremartin> for the video records. Funds received since last time also include some £1000 in Gift Aid and application will be made shortly for the full financial year 2008/9. And *Onion Fest 2009* is zooming up for Saturday 25th July with the Windsor Half Marathon over the horizon at the end of September 2009. And we wish Char's friend Ben Southall all the very best from July when he starts 'the best job in the world' based on Hamilton Island in Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Ben has been a strong supporter of the charity's activities and we will miss him greatly at Onion Fest this year.

Sarah & Rachel Reflect

On Christmas Day 2004, Char's close friend Sarah Tubbs was poised to fly out to Thailand to join Becky and Char on their world trip. The flight never took place although Becky and Sarah did later finish most of the trip in 2005. Sarah reflects, *"Char and I met at the age of 12 and shared talk of boys, braces, booze and general growing up. Our friendship was firmly cemented at college and at Uni and we kept closely in touch, both finding it great fun to share and expand our friendship groups further. When I decided to join Char and Becks on their travels we spent 18 months at our graduate jobs plotting and planning the year away (and probably doing very little work!), counselling each other through woes and worries and coming up with endless ideas of how to save more cash. I will always be sad that I never got to meet up with and enjoy travels with Char, but also glad that she had her amazing time in India. I am so very proud of all the great things we have achieved through Onion Fest and Char's Fund - not only the money donated but the help it has given us to grieve. It has brought all our groups of friends closer and is a positive influence on our lives that would not have happened without Char and the inspiration she left with all of us."* And this is what Rachel Edmonson, another close friend of Char had to say: *"My dear friend Char may not be here anymore but we have certainly made sure to change other peoples lives for the better in her memory."*

We are making a real difference to young lives in Thailand. Do please continue to support us. Thank you

The Charlotte Jones Memorial Tsunami Fund. Charity Reg No: 1116217

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