

▶ PestalozziWorld News ◀

▶ **PESTALOZZIWORLD US** has had a successful autumn. Trustee François von Hurter hosted a dinner at the Brook Club in New York, with 45 in attendance, which yielded generous support. A pledge for a \$100,000 house in the Pestalozzi **AFRICAN CHILDREN'S VILLAGE** & Educational Farm has been made, and an endowment fund has been started for the education of 24 children. The first part of the African Village (the Junior Houses) is nearing completion and the second phase will follow on.

It would have been possible to open up the Village with just the Junior Houses, but we would then lose the benefit of our contractor being on-site and able to keep to the original estimate; materials costs in Zambia are going up all the time so any delay will cost us significantly more. Completing the Village will mean that we can accommodate 280 bright but disadvantaged children, selected from rural areas of Zambia, Malawi and in time from other countries, to create a unique blend of nationalities and cultures. This is an important expansion in the number of students PestalozziWorld can sponsor in Africa. Sincere thanks to our gracious and generous donors.

▶ Less than two years since its foundation, **PESTALOZZIWORLD IRELAND** is building a loyal support base which has received a wonderful boost recently when the accomplished Irish soprano Virginia Kerr offered to sing in support of PestalozziWorld. Virginia has sung with some of the world's leading orchestras around the globe, from her native Ireland to England, Russia, the Far East and the Americas. Currently a Professor of Singing at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, she recently released her solo CD, "My Heart and I." We look forward to inviting you to a glamorous evening of opera when the bluebells bloom. Many thanks to all of you who are supporting our efforts in Ireland.

▶ The **THAI PESTALOZZI FOUNDATION** is delighted to announce the launch of its new website, www.ThaiPestalozzi.or.th, "thanks to the hard effort of our dear Samran!" The first page mourns the late Princess Kallayaniwattana, HM the King's elder sister, who passed away early this year; a great loss for the Thai people. The Contact Us page links with two websites: PricewaterhouseCoopers who have been auditing the Financial Statements, free of charge, for more than 10 years; and Kim Eng Securities, whose CEO was a sponsor for the printing costs of new brochures. There are links to Swiss, Peruvian, and UK Pestalozzi organisations, and a mutual link with PestalozziWorld. Information and pictures will continue to be uploaded on the Activities page. Please feel free to link up!

Thai Pestalozzi Foundation webmaster **SAMRAN LAEPONG** is an **ALUMNUS** of the Pestalozzi Village in Seddlescombe, UK. "I was from a poor family with three brothers. My parents were so proud of me and so was the whole village," he recalls. "The chance of getting an education higher than primary school was limited. I gained many valuable experiences during my Pestalozzi years." He studied IT and worked after graduating, but the entrepreneur in him then came to the fore, and he started his own company as an IT consultant before returning to Thailand in 2005 and starting an internet cafe. He lives with his wife and daughter in Pattaya, Chonburi Province.



Foundation House students with staff

▶ The children are busy at the **ASIAN VILLAGE**. In the coming months, the new foundation children will be sitting for their school admission exams. Six children have sat a test for St. Joseph's Academy, a difficult school to gain admission to, and two have been accepted with two provisionally accepted. National language exams were taken recently also. Skills classes are yielding some successful winter gardens, while tailoring, embroidery, knitting and woodwork may be a source for handicraft items for fund-raising.