

# TOGETHER WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

JULY 2025  
ISSUE NO 18

## JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

### PRESIDENT'S NOTE

A Season of **Transformation**—and **Deep Connection**.

As I reflect on the past few months, one word keeps rising to the surface: **transformation**.

From lettuce flourishing in Cebu to clean water flowing in Cambodian villages... from brighter smiles through dental education to our evolving computer centers in Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines—every project is a reminder of what's possible when compassion meets action.

What made this season extra special?

Our April 2025 tour to Vietnam. Not only was it our first time bringing the tour there, but it was also packed with close speaker buddies—many from Colorado. Experiencing that journey with longtime friends added another layer of meaning, laughter, and connection. It felt less like a tour and more like a family mission.

We're not just building greenhouses or classrooms—we're helping families rediscover purpose, students access opportunity, and entire communities grow stronger. And now, with new board members joining us, we carry fresh energy forward while honoring the leaders who helped lay our foundation.

Thanks to your **generosity** and **belief** in what we do, **transformation is no longer an idea—it's happening**. And it's happening **beautifully, boldly, together**.

With heartfelt gratitude,

*Scott Friedman*

**Scott Friedman**

President, TWCCTW



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# UPDATE ON OUR CAUSES

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## SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE CEBU: CULTIVATING GROWTH

### Greenhouse Project

Hope is flourishing in Cebu!

Our second greenhouse project with SOS Children's Village Cebu that we funded for \$5,000 is now operational! The first greenhouse project introduced a hydroponic system. The second greenhouse features a big organic vegetable garden, expanding both the variety of produce and sustainable farming methods on-site.

This initiative not only provides fresh produce for the community but also generates income through local market sales. Every seed sown is a testament to our commitment to sustainability and community empowerment.



### Family Strengthening & Sustainable Livelihood Programs

In celebration of International Families Day, we've supported 25 families through our partnership with SOS Children's Village Cebu. Sixteen families benefited from the Family Strengthening Program, while nine embarked on entrepreneurial journeys via the Sustainable Livelihood Program. Nineteen families have successfully grown their businesses, fostering stability and hope. For others, the support provided essential resources for education and daily needs.



## WILDFLOWER PROJECT: BUILDING SANCTUARIES

Progress is underway at the Wildflower Home in Thailand. The counseling and sewing room is 70% complete, and we're excited to welcome 200 chickens this July, enhancing the home's self-sufficiency. With a \$5,000 funding boost from TWCCTW, this sanctuary continues to evolve into a haven for healing and growth.



## BUKLOD KALINGA: CLEAN WATER FOR COMMUNITIES

Clean water is life.

We're proud to announce the successful completion of the water filtration system at Buklod Kalinga! This system now supplies all the facility's water needs and even allows the center to provide and sell clean water to the surrounding community. It's a powerful step forward in improving health, sustainability, and local resilience.





# APRIL 2025 TOUR

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## VIETNAM: SERVING WITH HEART

### VietHarvest

In collaboration with VietHarvest, we prepared 100 nutritious meals for the Mai Tam Center, which supports individuals affected by HIV/AIDS. VietHarvest is a cause we actively support—they rescue surplus food from hotels and restaurants and deliver it to orphanages and women's shelters.

### Mai Tam Center

Beyond providing meals, we also raised \$5,000 to support the center's ongoing mission. It was a day filled with joy and meaningful connection, especially with the children and house mothers who welcomed us so warmly.

### One Body Village

We're excited to announce our first-ever partnership with One Body Village Vietnam—an organization that protects and empowers children who are survivors of abuse and exploitation. Thanks to our generous donors, we were able to contribute \$1,000, which goes toward supporting counseling, safe housing, education, and legal assistance for a child's survival and recovery.



## CAMBODIA: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

### CCDO - Deep Well Project

Our visit to the Cambodian Community Dream Organization (CCDO) showcased the transformative power of clean water. The deep wells, donated in honor of loved ones, now serve as lifelines for rural communities, symbolizing enduring legacies of love and care.

### CCDO - Dental Program by Dr. Steven Tilliss

Dr. Steven Tilliss's dental education program has reached 40 communities, emphasizing the importance of oral health. Witnessing children smile with newfound confidence reaffirms our belief in holistic well-being.

### Women's Resource Center

We supported the "Transform" Train the Trainer workshop at the Women's Resource Center, led by our own Lynn Leahy and Christie Ward. This initiative empowered women, fostering confidence and growth, and paving the way for future leaders.





# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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## BRAD MONTGOMERY

A Certified Speaking Professional and member of the Speakers Hall of Fame. With a career spanning all 50 states and four continents, Brad has inspired audiences at Microsoft, Verizon, the FBI, CIA, and IRS.

During his first voluntour with TWCCTW, Brad captivated children at the Mai Tam Center with a magical performance.

## EXPERIENCE

**This was your first time joining the tour — what were your expectations going in?**

Expectations were minimal. I wasn't expecting a bad time—I just had very little idea of what to expect, and that felt good to me. I had few, really. I'm close with Scott, Sarah, Steve, and Deb, and I expected to have a great time. But honestly, I wasn't sure what to expect, and I was okay with that. I have a theory that's worked for me: the fewer expectations I have, the less likely I am to be disappointed. So I didn't spend too much time researching this specific trip, and guess what? Everything turned out to be a wonderful surprise!

**You did a magic show for the children at Mai Tam — can you share what that experience was like for you? What stood out the most in that moment?**

The magic show for the kids—that was pure joy for me. I love kids, and I've been a magician since I was a teenager. It was an absolute treat to be able to share this thing I've worked so hard on with kids who haven't had a chance to see it before. Some of the kids were so into it—I still remember their faces. A few of the kids had a little trouble following it, and that was heartbreaking. Clearly, some of them have had a very difficult time. When I perform magic in the United States, most of the kids I work with are pretty privileged. They've seen live entertainment before. They've seen variety arts. And they've seen magicians—maybe even at birthday parties. These kids, of course, were different. They didn't have any privilege. They didn't have much prior experience—if any—with magicians. It was such a joy to see them.

**Was there a particular story, child, or moment that has stayed with you since the trip?**

My favorite part of the show might have come after. There were a couple of kids who wanted hugs, and of course, I was very happy to oblige. I wished I could just pour love into these children. They need more than just a couple of hugs from a guy who's visiting. But nonetheless, that was a very nice moment.







# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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## REFLECTIONS

**How has this experience changed or challenged your perspective personally or globally?**

It challenged my perspective.

I've traveled a lot internationally, including to Asia, so nothing really massively surprised me. But it definitely reminded me that not everyone lives the same way. We don't eat the same things, live in the same kind of place, have the same jobs, live the same lifestyle, or have the same privileges. And when you see a 75-year-old farmer hand-feeding his plants with fish poop water, that point couldn't be clearer.

Then there was the Mai Tam Center—same thing. So much struggle there compared to our relative privilege.

I love this about travel. When we're at home and busy in our own lives, we tend to think this is just the way it is for everyone. Of course, we know intellectually that's not true. But when you physically go to see how others live, that lesson becomes real.



**How did it feel to be surrounded by other thought leaders and changemakers during the tour?**

This was the absolute highlight of the trip for me. Personally, my family and I have gone through a lot of bad news and loss. I hadn't really noticed how much it had affected me. It was so fun being around people who are positive, filled with joy, optimistic, and just plain happy. Honestly, it took me a couple of days—I'm not sure when I fully realized—that I really needed to be around these types of people.

Usually, I'm the most upbeat person in any given room. I'm the most positive. I laugh the most. I make the most jokes. I'm the most optimistic. (But maybe not so much lately.) But when I got on the trip with Scott Friedman and all of the people who follow him, I was overwhelmed by their positivity and optimism. It was just fantastic to be around people who are genuinely happy. So many smiles. So much laughter. It's a cliché, but they filled my cup back up. On this trip, I was surrounded by people who are happier, more optimistic, and more positive than me... and it was wonderful.



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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## Here's a story:

Scott Friedman is a great example of this. One of my mentors taught me how to use these tiny squeakers to joke around with people. So for years, I used those squeakers to bring joy to others, which in turn brought joy to me. At some point, I taught Scott how to use the squeakers and gave him some.

Over the years, I'd more or less forgotten about them. I hadn't carried or used one in years. But seeing how Scott uses them—with profound effect, time and time again—was absolutely inspiring. He took something I taught him and made it so much better. You can bet that by the end of the trip, I was goofing and playing with people as much as I used to. I squeaked. I did magic tricks. I told jokes. And all of that was a direct result of hanging out with people I love. Old friends. New friends. But all of them amazing role models.



## LOOKING FORWARD

### Would you consider joining another tour with TWCCTW in the future? Why?

Would I go on another trip? Absolutely. Without a doubt.

### How do you plan to stay connected or involved with the causes you encountered on the trip?

To be honest, I haven't had enough time to really think that one through. I'm at the stage of my life where I am ramping up charitable giving. Definitely including the foundation financially is something that's easy to be excited about. But specifically... I think I just need to think about how to make it happen. There are soooo many humans who need help. As I read this answer, I think the proper truth is: I haven't figured that one out yet.

### Any words of encouragement or advice for someone thinking about joining a future tour?

Just go. Be open. Surrender control. Trust that you're going to have an amazing time with amazing people.



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Relive the highlights with us from our [last tour in Vietnam.](#)



# NEXT TOUR

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## 2026 VOLUNTOUR - PHILIPPINES

We're excited to announce our upcoming voluntour to the Philippines in **January 26 to February 8, 2026**. Get ready to pack your bags and your purpose. Because this isn't just another trip. It's a journey of transformation, deep connection, and meaningful impact.



### WHAT TO EXPECT

- Visits to life-changing causes and communities making a difference
- Speaking Events focused on how to work with AI while staying grounded in what makes us human
- A soul-nourishing retreat at the end of the tour in nature, in stillness, in community
- Cultural immersion through food, stories, landscapes, and the people we'll meet

### WHERE WE'RE HEADED

#### Manila – Buklod Kalinga Para sa Kapwa

We'll revisit Buklod Kalinga to witness how access to clean water is improving health, supporting sustainable income, and strengthening the local community. We'll also spend meaningful time reconnecting with the children singing, playing, and simply sharing joy. Together We Can Change The World proudly funded the installation of a full water filtration system, now serving the center and nearby families.

#### Cebu – SOS Children's Village

We're heading back to SOS Children's Village Cebu to see the growth of our second greenhouse project, now home to an organic vegetable garden that complements the original hydroponic system. We'll also share time with the children through play and connection, while receiving updates on the Family Strengthening and Sustainable Livelihood Programs that continue to plant seeds of stability and hope.



We'll wrap up the tour with a special retreat—but where we land is part of the adventure! Boracay, Palawan, or Tagaytay, each one offers a different kind of soul-refreshing magic. The final destination will be revealed a month before the tour, so get ready for a beautiful surprise.

#### Boracay – Sun-Drenched Serenity

After meaningful days of service and learning, we retreat to Boracay's crystal shores, where the sunsets feel like poetry and the ocean invites deep exhale. It's a moment to rest, celebrate the journey, and reconnect with the beauty that reminds us why we do this work.

#### Palawan – Nature's Masterpiece

If our retreat brings us here, expect to be surrounded by limestone cliffs, turquoise lagoons, and jungle peace. Palawan offers the ideal setting to rest, dream, draw fresh inspiration, a serene space to recharge, and hold space for what's next.

#### Tagaytay - A Breath of Calm Just Outside the City

Nestled on a ridge just a few hours from Metro Manila, Tagaytay is where cool breezes meet breathtaking views. Known for its laid-back charm, this city offers a refreshing escape with sweeping scenes of Taal Volcano, cozy cafes, lush gardens, and soul-soothing weather.



[CLICK HERE](#)



Relive the highlights with us from our [last tour in the Philippines](#).

# TAKE ACTION

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## COMPUTER CENTERS PROJECT

Digital literacy continues to be a cornerstone of our youth empowerment efforts. We're now focused on exploring learning platforms that will allow us to offer a consistent, structured curriculum across the countries we serve—ensuring every student has access to the same high-quality digital education.

We're grateful to **Roshan Thiran** and **Manoj Menon**, who are playing a key role in helping us identify the right partners and experts to bring this vision to life. Their support is helping us build the foundation for a program that will empower students with the skills they need to succeed in a tech-driven world.

With a unified curriculum in development, we're taking meaningful steps to close the digital divide—one student, one center, one future at a time.

## SUPPORT OUR COMPUTER CENTERS

Education is the cornerstone of empowerment. As we enhance our computer centers with structured learning programs, we invite you to support this initiative. Your contributions will provide students with the tools and knowledge to navigate the digital age confidently. Together, we can bridge the digital divide and **open doors to endless possibilities.**

[\*\*DONATE NOW\*\*](#)





# BOARD NEWS

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## TRANSITIONS AND WELCOMES

We bid farewell to Terence Rodrigues, our dedicated Secretary, and Ron Khoo, esteemed Board Member at Large. Their unwavering commitment and invaluable contributions have shaped our journey, and we extend our deepest gratitude.



## WELCOMING NEW PERSPECTIVES, WE INTRODUCE TWO DISTINGUISHED PROFESSIONALS TO OUR BOARD:



**Sarah Michel, CSP**

Sarah Michel serves as the Vice President of Professional Connexity at Velvet Chainsaw Consulting. With over two decades in the meetings industry, she specializes in crafting dynamic audience experiences that foster genuine connections. A Certified Speaking Professional, Sarah is renowned for her expertise in networking, facilitation, and designing engaging general sessions. Her passion for creating meaningful interactions aligns seamlessly with our mission to build connected and empowered communities.



**Raju Mandhyan**

Author of five books on Communication Skills, Raju Mandhyan has been in the Speaking, Training, Coaching, Facilitating and Consulting industry for over twenty-five years.

A former mechanical engineer and an international businessperson he has been

- Founder, President of the International Association of Facilitators, Philippines
- President of the Association of Appreciative Inquiry, Philippines
- Trained by the American Management Association
- National Champion for Evaluations and a DTM at Toastmasters International, Philippines
- Chairman, Philippines India Business Council

He has coached thousands of C-Level expatriates in cross-cultural sensitivity and leadership. He also directed and hosted a TV talk show ExPat InSights for three years, episodes of which still perpetuate on social media.

He holds certifications in Mind Mapping, NLP. His expertise Systems Thinking, Human Centered Design Thinking and Appreciative Inquiry enhances his ability to drive critical thinking and creativity.

At his core, Mandhyan is committed to empowering individuals and organizations, guiding them toward transformational success, fostering collaboration, and social impact through Authentic Influence ©

Welcome Sarah and Raju to the board! Your leadership will be part of the transformation we're building together!

With Sarah and Raju on board, we're poised to reach new heights in our mission to effect positive change across communities.

# HEARTS THAT TRAVELED

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Behind every journey lies a heartbeat — a moment, a memory, a connection that stays long after the trip ends.

Hearts That Traveled is our way of honoring those moments — the laughter, the friendships, the quiet impact that words often can't describe. We reached out to our past travelers, and while not everyone was able to respond, we are deeply grateful to those who did. Thank you for sharing your favorite snapshots and helping us relive the beauty of your journey.

We've gathered the photos into a heart-shaped collage — a symbol of the love and purpose that went into each tour. And from all the submissions, one photo stood out. A moment that truly captured the spirit of why we travel, serve, and connect.

Our **Hearts That Traveled** pick is... **Tanis Roeder**

Thank you for reminding us of the magic that happens when we walk with open hearts.



We hope this page inspires you to **travel with us again**. Because the world still needs your light — and there are more hearts to touch, more stories to write, and **more change to create, TOGETHER**.