

The Ayui Foundation is a non-religious, non-government organisation that provides a home, educational opportunities and future pathways for disadvantaged Akha hilltribe teenagers.

Ayui Foundation

NEWSLETTER



Sumalee Milne, OAM
Director

JANUARY 2019

Chiang Rai, Thailand

FROM THE DIRECTOR

I have so much good news to report in this edition. For the second term, we were able to accept two new girls – Atchariya (15, nickname Aun) and Rawikan (9, nickname Omsin). Aun's mother has been raising her 4 children alone because her father was in jail since Aun was about 2 years old. He recently got out but has remarried so her mother is still struggling. Omsin also comes from a very poor family. She was living with her grandmother while her parents were doing manual labor.



The Ayui Foundation is all ready for the new year, thanks to our friend and long-time supporter Hal Radin, who again donated towards our annual rice supply that we purchase from local hilltribe farmers.



Also, a big **THANK YOU** goes to anonymous donors in Malaysia for jointly donating to help us buy a newer second-hand truck. After some repairs, we were able to sell our 13-year old Isuzu D-Max for a 7-year old model with a stronger engine.

Also, a big thank you goes to long-time supporters Richard and Serena Hields in NSW, Australia, for donating the funds to re-build our rice hut, to put in cement poles to raise the *sala* at the Boys Home, and build cement steps down to the toilets in place of the wooden ladder.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our child sponsors, donors and supporters throughout the past year and wish you a happy, healthy and successful 2019.



ANNUAL CLOTHES DONATION



In the spirit of 'Paying it Forward,' the Ayui Foundation held our annual clothes donation to help other Akha communities. This year, we did not have as many clothes to donate as previous years so we chose a small village to donate to. On December 9th, 2018, we loaded up the truck and went to 'Doi Bor 2' village in Mae Yao sub-district. We were joined by Kristine Timbreza from Bangkok who brought many donated clothes, shoes and toys from the international school she works at. Also, her friend donated two old pairs of glasses which were greatly appreciated by two elderly Akha women.



VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS



Towards the end of October, old friends Gill Lumsden and Yogi Karjalainen brought members of their Gungahlin, A.C.T. lawn bowls group to visit from Australia. The group kindly brought donations of clothes and school materials.



Around Xmas time, Grace McCaughey from Castlemaine, Australia, came to volunteer. In her early 80s, Grace was a very active volunteer and painted the walls of the boys toilets, put up nails in the storeroom to hang garden supplies and tools on, and replaced our bamboo clothesline with longer-lasting metal rods. With a background in agriculture, Grace also taught the housemother how to compost and she will, in turn, teach the children and start a compost pile at the Boys Home. Grace was such a positive volunteer and gave many helpful suggestions regarding agriculture.



★ ★ ★ Thank You ★ ★ ★



Also on Xmas time, former volunteer Nancy Yew from Penang, Malaysia, revisited the foundation with some friends and brought bags of donated clothes and yummy Malaysian snacks for the kids.



Thank you to the Chiang Mai Expats Group for their donation to purchase badly needed kitchen equipment and water heaters for the boys bathrooms, as well as some sports equipment for the children.



Thank you to Kai Xian Luo for kindly mailing a box of boys clothes from Malaysia.

- ★ Thank you to an anonymous donor who gave their old laptop to the boys.
- ★ Mr Teo, in Singapore, for sponsoring Omsin and Winnie Cain, in the US, for sponsoring Aun.
- ★ The Australian National University College of Asia & the Pacific for their donation.
- ★ Last, but not least, Grace McCaughey for your kind donation and for all the useful work you did for us while volunteering for just one week. We look forward to seeing you again sometime.

If you would like to VISIT, FUNDRAISE, VOLUNTEER or DONATE please email us at Ayui.foundation@gmail.com www.ayuifoundation.org

If anyone is able to support the foundation for a month at a time our average monthly expenditure is B80,000.

**Australian bank account:
Bendigo Bank
Acc no:133516195 BSB:633-000
Sumalee Milne-In Trust for Ayui**

**Thai bank account:
Siam Commercial Bank
Acc no:5072669424
Ayui Foundation**

For online or tax-deductible donations in Australia see our website www.ayuifoundation.org