

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



**Director
Sumalee (Sue) Milne**

**APRIL 2018
Chiang Rai**

From The Director



We have come to the end of another school year and we are closed for the long summer break, until mid-May. As usual, we take this time to carry out major renovations and truck repairs, while the students are away. We finally leveled out the land at the Boys home by dumping 170 truckloads of soil on the top half, after building a short retaining wall, to prevent more erosion on the sloping land during the monsoon season. I attended the high school graduation of Chan and Nichakarn. Chan will be continuing onto grade 10 and staying at Ayui while Nichakarn will live with her sister and either find a job or enrol in vocational college.

This was a very special year at the Ayui Foundation, when we celebrated the Vocational College graduation of three of our oldest, and longest residents. May moved into the foundation at age 12, when we first opened in 2007, so she feels it is her home. When they lived in Burma, May's mother was a gambler and drug user, so her father brought her and her brother across the border into Chiang Rai for safety, and to start new life. He placed them in the Ayui hostel while looking for work



May aged 12



Ploy aged 10



Ahmer aged 10

(eventually getting a stable job in Bangkok) as they didn't have a home. Having never been to school before, she started Grade 1 with her younger brother. Two years later, aged 10, Ploy joined the Ayui family. Her poor parents live across the border in Burma and sell things at the border market but sent Ploy and her sister to live with her aunt in Chiang Rai in order to get an education. Three years later, in 2012, Ahmer's mother placed her at the hostel to protect her from her abusive step-father, who would get drunk and beat up her mother. Ahmer later said moving into Ayui was like "being pulled up from hell".



Proud to be Akha



High school graduation 2015



College graduation

~ Local Fundraiser



To celebrate 11 years of supporting disadvantaged Akha youth, and one year since opening one of the few homes for hilltribe boys in Chiang Rai province, the Ayui Foundation organized a local fundraiser. It was not only to highlight the work of the foundation but also to share aspects of Akha culture that we are helping to preserve among the new generation. The event was held under the stars at the Boys Home, and guests were served a typical Akha dinner while the students showcased their culture by performing Akha dances. All the students participated, either behind the scenes, in the kitchen, taking tickets, helping the dancers or performing on the night. All the guests said it was a great night and everyone got up and attempted the bamboo dance, when the girls asked for audience participation.



Thank You!

* First and foremost, a big THANK YOU goes to sponsors of our 2018 graduates for supporting their education - Annette Pilloni & Bruce Millar, Alanna Maclean and Margie Hulme in Australia, Amanda Hudson in Switzerland, and especially the Moller-Mawson family in Australia for sponsoring May for a record 11 years !

* Thanks to our friend Hal Radin for his generous donation towards the top soil project to finally even out the land at the Boys Home.

* Thanks also goes to our Swiss friend, Thomas Albisser, for his donation to help pay for the much-needed overhaul and engine repairs to our beloved, second-hand truck and also for bringing over a suitcase full of donated children's clothes from his friends.

**If you would like to visit or support us please contact:
Sumalee Milne - ayui.foundation@gmail.com
www.ayuifoundation.org**

Thank you for thinking of us.

Without regular funding, we rely solely on small grants and donations and, therefore, try to keep expenses as low as possible. If anyone is able to support the hostel for a month at a time, our monthly average expenditure is B80,000. All donations and fundraisers are welcome.

Donations transferred to

**Australian bank account:
Bendigo Bank
Acc no: 133516195 BSB: 633-000**

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



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