

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR

July 2019

Chiang Rai, Thailand

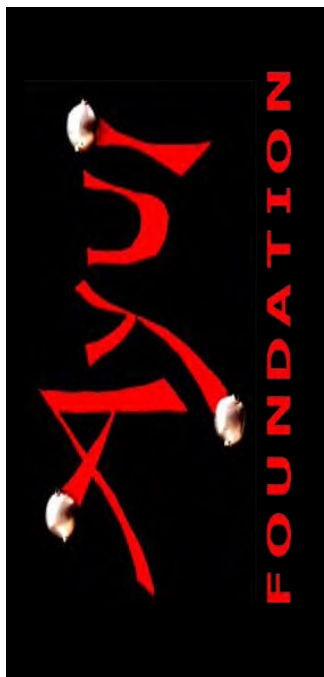


This edition is dedicated to Mr Brian O'Keeffe from Canberra, Australia, who was a long-time supporter of the Ayui Foundation and sponsored one of our boys for the entire 11 years that he was at Ayui, until his college graduation. Brian was planning to attend the graduation ceremony, as a surprise, but his health deteriorated and he was hospitalized several times. Brian passed away in June this year.

Mid-May was the start of another school year here, and it was nice to see all the children back from their villages. A few of the students got work in town during the holidays to help their families by earning money. However, the long hours and the conditions they work under, as well as the low pay, is not very fair. One of our girls slept above the restaurant she worked at, with 9 other girls, without a fan in the summer heat and almost quit but she ended up staying for the money.



Ready for school...thanks to their sponsors!



NEW STUDENTS

For the 2019 school year, we accepted four new students at Ayui – 3 girls and one boy. **Chuda Mayer** is 14 and started Grade 8. She is an only child because shortly after she was born her parents split up and her father's whereabouts are unknown. As her mother had to move around for work, Chuda was left with her grandmother and then went to the South to stay with her aunt last year, which she did not enjoy. Chuda is so happy to be living in a family environment for the first time in her life.

Chompoonut (Nut) Laechoeku is 13 and in Grade 7. She is the youngest of 6 children and her parents are poor farmers. **Yanisa Chanainthon** is 12 and started Grade 7. Her parents separated and abandoned her with her grandmother. She has an older sister but never kept in touch and doesn't know where she is. Yanisa was lucky in that her aunt had been supporting her financially but now her aunt's children are older (meaning higher school fees) she can no longer afford to support Yanisa. So, after looking around for a safe home, she placed Yanisa in our care. **Katanyu Becheckoo** is 12 and in Grade 6. His previous school and dorm was far from his village and his parents wanted him to study at a school in town and closer to them.



L to R: Nut, Chuda (top), Katanyu, Yanisa

VISITORS

On May 16, we were visited by former Chiang Rai residents and Ayui volunteers, Nicole Hanrahan and her daughter Olivia (15) who is in Grade 10. The students still remembered them from 3 years ago, when the whole family would come and do weekend activities with the Ayui students. They also accompanied us to a village on our annual clothes donation one year. After her first year back in Melbourne, Australia, Olivia made a personal donation to us for Xmas and this year, on her own initiative, she got permission from her school - Northcote High School - to hold bake sales to raise money for Ayui. Olivia raised an impressive B20,000 from the bake sales and came to visit us and present us with the funds she raised. As a small token of our appreciation, Asong gave Olivia a handmade Akha bag.



Thank You!

A big thank you to those who are sponsoring our new students: **Richard and Serena Hield** (Australia) for sponsoring Yanisa, **Sophie Tayton and family** (Australia) for sponsoring Nut, **Winnie Cain** (USA) of the Akha Women's Foundation for sponsoring Chuda, and **Bruce Millar and Annette Piloni** for sponsoring Katanyu.

Thank you so much to **Michael Heath, Marty Morrison, Annette Ellis** and **Numtip Lyons** for their individual donations to support the work of the Ayui Foundation.

Last, but not least, thanks to Olivia for her fundraising on our behalf, and taking the time to come and present us with the funds raised by her bake sales.



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