

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*

July 2020

Chiang Rai, Thailand

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Our last newsletter came out during our end-of-year Summer break...and then Covid19 happened. So, all the students were already back home in their villages with their families when lockdown, even high up in the mountain villages, started. Thailand is down to a few Covid cases (from Thais returning from overseas) and the government extended the school holidays for another month. So, the 2020 school year started July 1st.



During May, after we had been on lockdown already for two months, I was contacted by my friend, Dave Comas, the President of the Chiang Mai Expats Club (CMEC) about the possibility of buying food items and distributing them among people here unemployed due to the Coronavirus, sharing funds donated to CMEC for this purpose. I used the CMEC donations to buy, pack and distribute: a bag of dried/canned food items, a bag of fresh vegetables, a carton of 30 eggs and a 5kg pack of rice.

The first distribution round was done at the Foundation, for 30 unemployed people, and the second round was done for 60 unemployed people at Wat Jed Yod Temple with my colleagues, staff of Ampai Kindergarten. All the beneficiaries were very grateful for the help, especially those with children to feed, and it was nice to be able to give back to the local community.



New Students

For the 2020 school year, we have accepted 9 new students. Half of them have found sponsors, but the others are still looking for sponsorship. Sponsors will receive letters from and updates on their sponsored child plus the Ayui newsletters, and have the chance to come and visit them in beautiful Chiang Rai, northern Thailand. If anyone is interested to sponsor one of our new students, please see our website and email the Director on how to sponsor a child.



Name: Somchai Saeku

Date of birth: 18 October 2011 (9 yrs old)

Grade: 3 **No. of siblings:** Youngest of 2 children

Legal status: Non-Thai ID card (born in Thailand)

Family background: His Burmese parents are separated and live in Burma. Somchai has been living in Chiang Rai, Thailand, with his older sister but she works so does not have time to give him the care he needs.



Name: Piti Ahni

Date of birth: 17 December 2007 (13 yrs old)

Grade: 7 **Legal status:** Non-Thai ID card

No. of siblings: Eldest of 4 children

Family background: His parents are poor coffee farmers who want to give him a better opportunity at school by moving into the Ayui Boys Home.

SPONSORED by Angie and Joe Duenas, Guam



Name: Ekkaphon Yoeso **Grade:** 7 **No. of siblings:** only child

Date of birth: 2 December 2007 (13 yrs old)

Legal status: Eligible for Thai citizenship but needs his father to apply for him until he becomes a legal entity at 21.

Family background: His father is an alcoholic and his mother abandoned them and went back to Burma. His Thai literacy skills are very low because he missed a lot of school to take care of his father. Also, he was sometimes beaten or locked in his room so he could not leave the house. His aunt brought him to apply out of grave concern for his future. We will hire a Thai language tutor for him to catch up.

SPONSORED by Malcolm Burrows, Chiang Mai/UK



Name: Suphanat Wisetchukiat

Date of birth: 16 April 2009 (11 yrs old)

Grade: 5

No. of siblings: Eldest of 2 children

Legal status: Eligible for Thai citizenship

Family background: He comes from a poor family. He was living at a Home but it closed down so he needs a new place to live that can support his education as well.

New Students



Name: Suchintra Biacheku

Date of birth: 6 April 2008 (12 yrs old)

Grade: 6

No. of siblings: Third of 5 children

Legal status: Thai citizen

Family background: Her parents are poor farmers who are struggling to put all their children through school.

SPONSORED by Kok Hiang Tan, Singapore



Name: Sudarat Suche

Date of birth: 14 March 2006 (14 yrs old)

Grade: 8

No. of siblings: Youngest of 3 children

Legal status: Thai citizen

Family background: Her parents are poor farmers who would like to give Sudarat a good education at a high level, as she is a bright student.

SPONSORED by Monika Mueller, Switzerland



Name: Patcharin Yesorku

Date of birth: 17 June 2012 (8 yrs old)

Grade: 2

No. of siblings: Second of 3 children

Legal status: Thai citizen

Family background: Her father is addicted to crystal meth (ice) so does not contribute to family income. Her mother works and takes care of the youngest child, and has placed her older brother in another hostel. She wants to keep Patcharin away from their unsafe home environment.



Name: Meelu Phuchaku

Date of birth: 10 April 2009 (11 yrs old)

Grade: 3 **No. of siblings:** Second of 5 children

Legal status: Non-Thai ID card

Family background: Her family are in Burma but they are poor so sent her to live and study in Thailand with her brother-in-law but they are also struggling financially. She started school late so is in a lower grade than she should be.

SPONSORED by Angie & Joe Duenas, Guam



Name: Sunantra Sutthidanon

Date of birth: 8 March 2009 (12 yrs old)

Grade: 6 **No. of siblings:** Eldest of 3 children

Legal status: Thai ID card

Family background: Her parents are poor farmers who would like to give their eldest a chance at getting a good education by placing her at the Ayui Foundation.

SPONSORED by Kok Hiang Tan, Singapore

THANK YOU

A big THANK YOU goes to the Rotary Club of North Hobart,
Australia, for their financial donation.

Also, thank you to sponsor Amanda Hudson for her kind donation
for general expenses.



The Ayui Foundation would like to thank all our sponsors from last year because ALL of them have chosen to continue sponsorship for 2020. We also want to welcome and thank our new sponsors for supporting educational opportunities for disadvantaged Akha children.

*"Privilege says, I could help you, but I don't need to .
Courage says, I will help, you need me.
Love says, I must help, we need each other."*

HOLIDAY PHILIPS

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

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

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