

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 2021

Chiang Rai, Thailand

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Due to Covid19 travel restrictions, this has been a pretty quiet year at the Ayui Foundation, with no visitors or volunteers from overseas. Thailand is currently experiencing a second wave of Covid cases, but Chiang Rai is still in the Yellow Zone, or safe zone. Many schools in Bangkok re-opened after the New Year break only to go straight back to online learning but the school most of our kids attend will most likely just close because it is not capable of catering to online classes so it will be another disruption to their schooling. So, most of our activities during this reporting period occurred in December, before the Xmas/New Year break and the second wave.

*From the Ayui family to yours,
we wish you all a happy and safe New Year!*

CONGRATULATIONS

On 7 December, I was invited to attend the university graduation of a former Ayui student, Jeerana Yoeta, who is also a former Ayui Board member. She has lived in Chiang Rai since she was little, when her mother sent her over the Burmese border to live with her aunt and get an education here. She had been barely supporting herself by working during school holidays, when she moved into the Ayui Foundation after graduating Grade 9. With the help of her sponsor, we put her through Nursing Assistant School. Since then, Jeerana has had several jobs, and was able to put herself through university part-time and complete a Bachelor of Business Management. She already has a good office job. She actually graduated 2 years ago but due to events, the graduation ceremony was only able to be held this year. Jeerana is a good role model for the Ayui girls, and I am glad I could be there with her to celebrate her achievements.



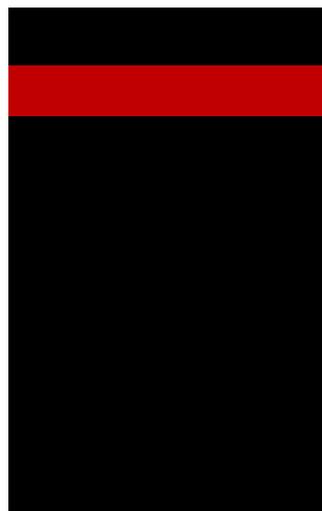
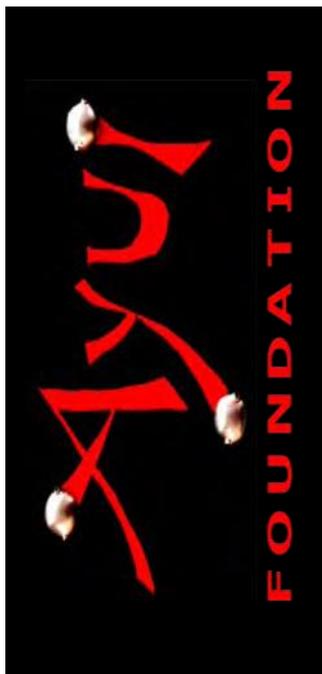
Grade 9, 2008



Nursing, 2009



B. Business Management, 2020



ANNUAL CLOTHES DONATION

On 6 December, staff and 10 of the oldest students went up to Pa Sang Kao village to donate second-hand clothes, toys and shoes. This remote village was very high up in the mountains, and we stopped to admire the view of Mae Suai dam along the way. Almost all of the male villagers were attending a funeral, so we only had a small crowd of women and children, but they didn't forget to get some clothes for their men folk, too.



PASSING DOWN AKHA CULTURE

On 11 December, all the Ayui students went to the nearby Akha Life University (Culture Network), started by the former head of the Akha Association, to learn how to make traditional Akha toys and how to use traditional herbs for healthy food. The kids had a great time, taking a step back in time to when toys were made of bamboo.



2020 CHRISTMAS PARTY

We don't usually hold a Christmas party at Ayui because the school most of the children attend closes for 2 weeks over Christmas/New Year so the kids go home but, this year, former volunteer Jae Song, who has now settled in Chiang Rai, offered to organize one for the kids. On 13 December, Jae and his family brought lunch and presents for everyone – ranging from a guitar, school bags, toys, a skateboard and even gifts of cash for the older students. Their Korean friends, Kyong and John, came along and provided the snacks. On behalf of the children, thank you for your kindness and for thinking of us on Christmas.



THANK YOU

A big THANK YOU to our regular supporters (Donal, Hal, Amanda and others) who stepped up after our funding plea in our last newsletter and donated enough to get us through this school year. Due to Covid19, nobody was able to hold any fundraising events or visit us this year and almost all charities contacted replied that their activities were on hold during the pandemic or that their funds were only being used for Covid-related relief.

Uncle Hal
for our annual rice supply.



Xyza and Xrein Mendoza in Bangkok
for donating toys for our annual clothes donation, and school materials and toothbrushes for the Ayui kids.



Catherine Villareal in Bangkok and parents of Ampai Kindergarten students in Chiang Rai for donating second-hand children's clothes, toys and shoes.

The anonymous older gentleman who came by one day to donate 13 new and second-hand English-teaching books.

*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

Visit www.ayuifoundation.org for online tax-deductible donations in Australia.
For donations via Paypal, our account is ayuifoundation@gmail.com