

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 2022

Chiang Rai, Thailand

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to our first edition for the 2022 school year! Since school started in mid-May, we have had 6 students catch Covid but, since all but two of the children are vaccinated, it is no longer a big concern and they know the routine. We are pleased to announce our first-ever annual grant - which will cover a third of our annual budget - from the Samdhana Institute. Samdhana "is a group of activists and practitioners, working alongside Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) to achieve social and environmental justice in Southeast Asia." The Ayui students say thank you or, *Gu la hu ma de* in the Akha language.



Our Year 1 Vocational
College girls:

Supporting vocational skills
for 7 young Akha women.

L to R: Yanisa, Nattarika, Saifon,
Chomphunut, Nalinthip,
Kittika and May

NEW STUDENTS and STAFF

We welcomed 5 new students for this school year, and one of last years' college graduates is now being sponsored at university by Annette Ellis in Australia – her second sponsorship. Our new boy is sponsored by the Suwasin family in Bangkok. Three new girls are sponsored by Candace Sellers in the US, and one girl is sponsored by Charlie and Don Higgins in Australia - their second sponsorship. The new students are (L to R): *Kittika, Chanisa, Supapit, Chaloe and Worakan.*



We also welcomed our new housemother Non (32) and her cute son Ahkin. Non's husband is working in South Korea, and they are so happy she found a job where she can also have Ahkin with her. They quickly became part of the Ayui family.



ACTIVITIES

As a welcome to the new students, we did some group activities, such as an outing to enjoy nature at Huay Mae Sai Waterfall. The kids LOVE going there and it has almost become an annual summer tradition to take the kids there.



A great activity for promoting creativity and artistic expression in youth is painting. The students painted anything they wanted...and their results were quite beautiful. We later voted on the Best Painting, another new tradition we started last year. (The winner was Saranya).



THANK YOU

A big THANK YOU goes to members of **Team Hog Rider** from **Apollo Bay P-12 College** in Melbourne, Australia, for completing a 24-hr relay challenge to fundraise towards our Chicken Coop Project. The students had to plan the challenge, fundraise and complete the challenge, meaning there had to be at least 1 person on the track at all times and 2 overnight from each team. Thanks, also, to those who donated to the challenge: Cate Robertson, Tao Browne, Fiona Beauchamp, Lynelle Manson and the Uahwatanasakul family. Over \$1,000 was raised.



Luan Uahwatanasakul competing in the challenge



Thanks to the Suwasin family, from Bangkok, for visiting Chalodem (the boy they sponsor) and bringing him some gifts.

Thank you to Yvonne Piloni, in Australia, for her \$500 donation, and to our volunteer webmaster Dave Hester, in Chiang Rai.

Last - but definitely not least – a big thank you to all our sponsors - old and new - for supporting the students at the Ayui Foundation.

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



For donations in Thailand

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Visit www.ayuifoundation.org for online tax-deductible donations in Australia.