

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 2024
Chiang Rai, Thailand

FROM THE DIRECTOR



We were able to accept a few new students at the start of Term 2 in October: (L to R) Pui, Fah, Phote, Chon and Put. Put is 14 and the other new kids are 9 years old. We had a busy - and fun - last few months of the year. Now that people are finally able to travel (post-Covid), we were so happy to welcome back two of our long-term sponsors who had last visited us about 6 years ago!

In late November, we hosted our largest group of volunteers, from a high school in Australia. They did a lot of fundraising before coming, to donate as well as to cover the cost of their volunteer work and the activities/outings they took with the children. Everyone enjoyed the experience.

In December, we did our annual clothes donation, and were helped by two of our former students who live at that village. I always love catching up with former students and hearing how they are doing, so that was a nice way to end the year.

*FROM THE AYUI FAMILY TO YOURS –
WE WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY NEW YEAR!*



OUR SPONSORS



Winnie Cain, who sponsors Sawinee and Wanna, came from the US to visit us for about a week in October. Winnie got to join us at a New Rice Feast at the village of some of our students and do yoga with the older girls, like last time. Thank you for the gifts you brought the students, and fundraising for us in Utah.



Monika Mueller, who sponsors May, came to visit from Switzerland in November. She got to meet her sponsored student for the first time, and her father also sponsors a new boy, Chon. Thank you for the gifts and cash donations for May and Chon.



OUR VOLUNTEERS



For about 4 days at the end of November, a group of 22 Year 12 students and 4 staff from Apollo Bay P-12 College in Victoria, Australia, came to volunteer at Ayui. They were split into 2 teams – the boys went to repair the fence at the Boys Home while the girls re-painted the Girls Home. When the Ayui kids came back from school, they played games. On the Saturday, all the volunteers and Ayui kids/staff went to the Walking Street for dinner and shopping, and on the Sunday evening, they paid for everyone to go and watch a Chiang Rai United soccer match, which the Ayui kids really enjoy. On the Monday, for the annual Loy Kratong festival, the Ayui kids helped the volunteers make *kratongs* and then everyone went to the nearby river to float their *kratongs* and enjoy the festival. On their last night, everyone enjoyed a farewell BBQ at the Boys Home, and the children showcased their traditional culture with Akha dance performances

OUR VOLUNTEERS



ANNUAL CLOTHES DONATION

This year, we went to Baan Pasert village to donate pre-loved clothes, toys and shoes on December 17th.



THANK YOU

To our long-time supporter Hal Radin, in Malaysia, for covering the cost of our annual rice supply, which we purchase every November/December, after the rice harvesting season. We really appreciate this important donation that helps us feed 30 children each year.



To Varee International School, in Chaing Mai, for organizing Christmas gifts for each of the students at Ayui



THANK YOU

To organizer Donal Uahwatanasakul and the other teachers and students from Apollo Bay for their amazing fundraising effort, and for the volunteer work done at both the Girls and Boys Homes. Thanks for the games/gifts, new sofa sets for both Homes, fun activities and for spending time with the children. The Ayui kids really enjoyed the time spent with you guys.

To the Suwasin family, in Bangkok, for their New Year gifts of soccer balls, ball pumps and badminton sets for all the children.



To Winnie's dentist in Utah, Dr Robertson, for donating money to purchase toothbrushes and toothpaste for the children.



Last, but not least, a warm welcome and thank you to our new sponsors – Werner Mueller (Switzerland) for sponsoring Chon, Malcolm Burrows (UK) for sponsoring Phote, and Donna Rands (USA) for sponsoring Fah, Pui and Put.

*If you would like to VISIT, FUNDRAISE OR DONATE
please email us at ayui.foundation@gmail.com*

www.ayuifoundation.org

See www.helpinghilltribekids.com to volunteer



For donations in Thailand
ธนาคารไทยพาณิชย์
SIAM COMMERCIAL BANK
Acc no: 5072669424
Acc name: Ayui Foundation



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