

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 2025
Chiang Rai, Thailand

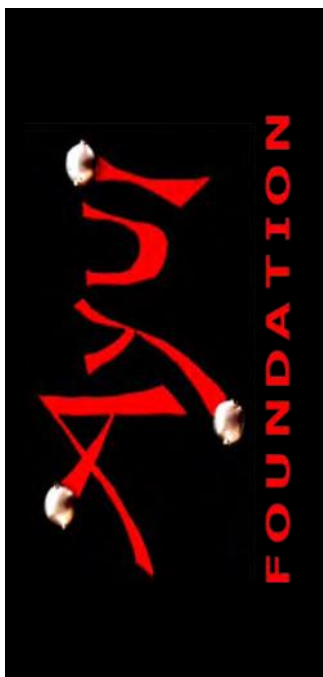
FROM THE DIRECTOR

On behalf of the children, I would like to sincerely thank our donors and sponsors for their outpouring of support during and after the terrible flood. We were able to buy new kitchen appliances, new computers and school shoes for our immediate needs. Amazingly, our motorbike survived, and our vegetable garden is flourishing again. Over one weekend, all the children and our volunteers re-painted the 2 houses at the Girls Home. The weekend after that, I took everyone out to *moo grata* (all-you-can-eat dinner) to thank them for their hard work cleaning up after the flood.



Loy Krathong

On Saturday, November 16th, 2024, we celebrated the annual Thai tradition of *Loy Krathong*, which was a new experience for our volunteers, and a favorite outing for the children. It is when *kratongs* are made (or bought), traditionally made of banana tree trunk slices. They are decorated with flowers and include an incense stick and a candle, and are floated on the river, to pay respect to the Goddess of Water on the full moon night. Nowadays, it also includes an adjacent fairground, with games, food and shops. Before the children left for the river, they lit traditional floating lanterns, which are to float away in the night sky, along with any bad vibes from the past year.



2025

Happy New Year
to all our supporters!

Thank you



A big thank you to VIA-AIE (the German volunteer organization that sent us our volunteers, in cooperation with sister organization AIE (Association for International and Intercultural Exchange) for their fundraiser that enabled us to buy 2 new computers, a printer and TV to replace the ones damaged in the flood.

Also, a big thank you to the following sponsors and supporters: Serena Hield (Australia) for her very generous donation to cover our Flood Prevention Project, Candace Sellers (USA) for the donation to cover our Re-tiling Project, and to Yvonne Ziegler (Chiang Mai) and Jeff Bradley (Australia) for their personal donations.

Thank you to Waree International School, Chiang Mai, for giving the Ayui children Xmas gifts again as part of their Xmas Gift-Box Project. Also, thanks to Clive Roberts, Year 13 teacher, who borrowed a pick-up truck to drive down to Chiang Rai with his son to personally deliver the gifts, as well as bringing lots of extra items that were donated or bought from funds he had collected for us.



Thank you

Once again, we are very grateful to our friend Hal Radin for covering the cost of our annual rice supply.



Last, but definitely not least, we are extremely grateful to Jordan Hunt, a Year 1 teacher at Harrow International School, Bangkok, for starting a fundraising project with the Year 1 students and teaching them about the Akha hilltribe people and our recent flood. With the guidance of Art teacher Laura Taylor, they decided to raise funds by designing and printing pillow cases following traditional Akha embroidery designs. The Year 1 team smashed through their original target and raised over B60,000 through cash donations, Harrow Fair coupon sales, Art pieces and pillow case sales.



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Or visit www.ayuifoundation.org
See www.helpinghilltribekids.com to volunteer**

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