



FOUNDATION

The Ayuui Foundation is a non-religious, non-government organisation that provides a home, educational opportunities and future pathways for disadvantaged Akha hilltribe teenagers.

NEWSLETTER

CHIANG RAI, APRIL 2026



SUMALEE MILNE, OAM
DIRECTOR

FROM THE DIRECTOR

This edition covers the last few months of this school year, when we celebrated Children's Day and our graduates. We also had a Canadian volunteer who spent a week in Chiang Rai. The Boys and Girls hostels are quiet and empty now since the children have gone back to their villages for their two-month summer break. At least, it is cooler up in the mountains, as the summer heat descends upon us. Unfortunately, the 'smoky season' has also started, when the sky is grey with smoke from people burning off rice chaff in their fields to improve the soil for the next planting season and sometimes forest fires are started. The government has tried to impose heavier fines for those caught doing so - with some success - but Chiang Rai shares borders with Burma and Lao, where the smoke also comes from. The hilltribe people in Northern Thailand are often blamed for burning off their fields, but they are a small minority.

We had a total of seven students graduate this year - two from Grade 12, three from Grade 9 and two from Vocational College.



OUR GRADUATES



Congratulations to all our graduates this year! Wanna graduated from Vocational College, studying Food and Nutrition, as well as Kittika who studied Business Computer. Wanna is undecided on what she will do next, while Kittika has been accepted into the university of her choice in Phayao province. Wanna has been living at Ayui for 6 years and Kittika for 5 years.

Kwanporn and Surapha, who were only at Ayui for their final year of high school, both graduated from Grade 12. Surapha has decided to find a job to help support her family, while Kwanporn will leave Ayui and do a 6-month Nursing Assistant Course that guarantees her a job at the end of the course.



Chok, Jay and Cream graduated from Grade 9. Jay has been living at Ayui since 2018 and Cream (who is the daughter of our Housemother) has been at Ayui since 2024. Jay's whole family came down from their village to attend graduation. She will be leaving Ayui and moving to a different school to finish high school, supported by her older sister (also an Ayui graduate) who now has a job. Cream will be staying on at Ayui to finish high school. Chok's proud parents and grandmothers came down from their village to attend his graduation. Chok will also be staying on at Ayui.



CHILDREN'S DAY

Our Children's Day event on January 10th was, again, sponsored by our long-time supporter and child sponsor from Singapore, Mr Tan. He gave out presents to each child and then they played one of their favorite games - the water balloon toss. For lunch, the students enjoyed their favorite fast food - KFC and pizza - for lunch. As always, the children had a great day!



OUR VOLUNTEER

We had a wonderful volunteer from Canada, Andrew Grimes, come and do some house painting at both the Girls and Boys Hostel for about one week. During that week, the students had a public holiday so they all went with Andrew to the Huay Mae Sai waterfall and to the newly-opened deer café, where you can hand-feed the deer.



THANK YOU

To Mr Tan for sponsoring Children's Day 2026.

To all the sponsors of our graduates: Winnie Cain, Lauren Dowell, Margie Hulme, Serena Wee, Kok Hiang Tan and K.Mayuree Sinthuchat. Some sponsored the students for just one year and some for many years. We thank you for sponsoring their educational journey and making them feel supported.

To Andrew for spending time with the children so they could practice their English, helping paint their house and committing to sponsor some students for the new school year.

*If you would like to VISIT, FUNDRAISE OR DONATE
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