

Baan Saan Rak

HOUSE OF LOVE



DEAR FRIENDS OF BAAN SAAN RAK.

It is always a great joy to salute and thanks everyone who have been part and collaborated to Baan Saan Rak (BSR) since our foundation in September 2003. The following Newsletter is the 4th since its creation in 2015, on which we would love to tell everyone about our most relevant projects and activities in the last six months period (October 2016-February 2017). Inside this short magazine you will find photos, stories, activities and be a witness of child's growth and development, becoming part of their present life and future dreams. We hope you enjoy it and keep supporting us.

BAAN SAAN RAK TODAY.

BSR is the home of 25 children from 8 to 20 years old, creating a lovely family of brothers and sisters who take care, teach and love each other's. Most of the children live in the home facilities in Maelao (30 Kms from Chiang Rai), but some others had left to continue their studies in other towns or cities, staying still under BSR care despite the distance. Even though all children come from problematic family situations like extreme poverty, broken parenthoods or suffer any kind of violence abuse, today BSR is a family for them taking care of every needs thanks to the unconditional, tireless and kindness love and compromise of Jit, mother and model for all of them, but also because of the generous support of BSR's sponsors and friends who help us with love and economic donations to pay for their scholar membership, cloths, food and daily expenses. Baan Saan Rak or House of Love (translated from Thai language) hold their full custody and protection, giving them love, support and the proper tools to rebuild their self-esteem and faith in future, encouraging their skills, promoting their social incorporation with the same opportunities than any other child.



CONTACT INFO:

- * Adress: 153 Moo.5 T. Phakhodam A.
Maelao, Chiang Rai, Thailand. Post 57250
- * Home phone BSR: 66 053 778343
- Mobil Jit: 081 9528865
- * Mail: jitbaansaanrak@hotmail.com,
sponsor@baansaanrak.org
- * Facebook: Baan Saan Rak

Seventeen (17) children live today in BSR's home in Maelao, attending from Monday to Friday to three different schools. In there they learn, share, play and laugh with their classmates, studying hard to get the best chances they can.

The other 8 children live outside BSR's home but they are still under care and custody of Jit who take responsibility and care of their expenses, school enrollments and fees even though they are living in Bangkok, Chiang Mai or Payao.

HOW DOES BAAN SAAN RAK BORNED?

In this edition we want to take a look back in time to see the history of BSR so we could understand the context and conditions it was created and why was necessary a children home in this particular area of northern Thailand. The project established by Pimpam Kaewsrinuan (Jit) born fourteen years ago as an answer to the serious international and local problems developed during SXIX and SXX into the called "Golden Triangle" (North of Thailand, Myanmar and Laos), a strategic place for economic exchange because here is the three border connection divided by the shores of Mekong river, but also one of the places with the highest rates of opium and heroin traffic in the world, because this area has been for a long time core of growth, supplying and distribution of this products to China, Europe and EEUU (SXX)

The Golden Triangle is worldwide known also because there is high rates of human trafficking for labor or prostitution purposes. More than 80% of those trafficked persons are women and girls cheated and forced to prostitute themselves in Thailand or into other places of the world (Japan, EEUU and Europe). For many years Thailand led world number rates in human trafficking despite of the government efforts to solved this crime which brings so many bad consequences with it.

So BSR's story began many years before our opening into this global and local context, with Jit (Social Worker) helping women victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation who returned to Thailand with severe physics and psychological disorders and sometimes with a child they could not take care of. Seeing this harsh situation that many children had to went through, Jit decided to build and open a small home for children who suffered those social and family conditions, giving them a shelter, love and hopes for their future. Along the time passed more children arrived to BSR, from families whose parents was involved in drug trafficking, prostitution or had suffered violence or extreme poverty



In rural areas where there is high rates of poverty, like Mae Sai and the hill zones near Myanmar borders, human trafficking is still a daily reality. Unregistered children (from Myanmar or Lao) and farmer kids without school preparation are still in high risk of been captured.

BSR welcome and give a safe home to children under those mentioned risks, giving them tools to overcome any previous childhood condition, putting into their hands the capacity and trust to build their own future far from trafficking and mistreatment.

Your help and support make BSR possible, that's why we invite you to keep giving us your love and donations. For a better world to them and all children of this planet.



PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

In the following pages we will show you some of the most important activities we made during the months of October 2016 and February 2017, thanks to the compromise and kindness of BSR's friends who gave us thousands of smiles and unforgettable moments. In this stories you can also be witness of children's growth, follow their adventures and stay in contact with us.

TALENTED BY NATURE

We already told in the past Newsletters about our love for Batik, it is definitely one of our favorite and traditional activities but we do not get stuck only in Batik. Artistic and handcrafts activities sweat from our skin and you know what, we are pretty good at because each creation we do it with love and dedication.

It was November and school had overwhelmed all children with homework and exams. Suddenly and idea came to our minds, why don't we make some handcrafts to relax on the weekend, one of the girl said, so that is how everything started. Let's do notebooks with recycled materials, another girl reply. Great idea but let's do it in the BSR way, with love. Boys and girls cut old notebooks and let their creativity fly as high as they could.



Some of them preferred textile for the front cover, some others colors and painting brushes, but something was common in all of their designs; absolute dedication. After a long day working, all the finished notebooks was putted into the mail box and distributed to different BSR friends all over the world. We still have a few so if you want one put in contact with us so we can send you a beautiful gift 100% made in BSR.

(Our E-mail in front page)

SUMMER CAMPS.

Summer is the favorite season for every children so BSR decide to accept camping invitations to learn about nature and have fun. There were two camping invitations (October and December) which fulfill of smiles and games our weekends.

The first one was and aqua camping where the swimming suit and swimming classes was the rule. Dives, jumps, flotation, rescue even synchronize swim was taught in those days of joy under water. It was four days of camping with lessons every morning and afternoon, pretty exhausted. but let all of us happier than fish in the river.





Thanks for this beautiful invitation, for everything we learned and those amazing moments shared with children of different schools from the whole north of Thailand.



The second camp was an invitation from a Chiang Rai foundation, who wanted to make us live an experience that reaches us closer and gave us awareness about everybody's nature responsibility and care.

Learn about local ecosystems in a book, sitting in a school classroom, is absolutely different than seeing it by ourselves because it made us understand we are part of it.

That is why I slept on a tent under the stars and open sky, hugged by living nature. It was so amazing for us. Can you imagine, all BSR family together, living a real and remarkable experience into the wild. Wow, absolutely unique, don't you think?

Thanks for both invitations! Experience is the best school a child can have and nature the best guru. Smiles, games and all what we learned will stay forever in our hearts.

FANTASIES UNDER WATER.



The visit of volunteers is more common every time in BSR but this time, thanks to Spanish friends, we enjoyed and got an unforgettable afternoon in Novaworld Aquatic Park, Chiang Rai.

Our new friends organized this trip and it was amazing, full of color splashing, diving jumps and games, also races and splashing competition. We are professionals already!

Water tubes, gigantic floating balloons and spontaneous laughs filled the atmosphere.

Our faces full of joy say it better than thousand words, it was just happiness and games until we surrendered to tiredness.



It was a very fun afternoon! Just on time when the school and daily routines gave us a headache, this unusual day reminds us the most important thing in the world, "one smile worth it all", and there were thousands of them.

We came back home happy, ready to start the new week with energy and enthusiasm. Thanks a lot to our friends for this spectacular invitation, we love to make BSR family bigger and bigger so any one who wants to come to our home will always be welcome, here you will find a warm family with open arms and a kind heart to any long or short visit.



ELEPHANTASTIC!!



We are lucky to live in Thailand, land of jungles and elephants. BSR's friend had the wonderful idea of invite us into an adventure trip to learn about this mammals into an elephant sanctuary. Many of us never saw one before so all together got closer, fed, played and even cuddled their graceful trunk.

People say that elephants have an astonishing memory and a special energy, that's why getting close to them was such a powerful experience. They look funny, sometimes intimidated us so we got scared because of their huge size and clumsy movements, but every time we got captured by their soft and sweet eyes. Anyway the most powerful feeling is being aware of the power and wisdom of all animal kingdom when we got close to them. Nature and the magic of living creatures is so amazing we just couldn't stop hugging them.

In this visit we learned a lot about our national animal, a very tender and wise creature, the one who attracts tourists from all over the world. We want to thank this incredible opportunity to feed our spirit, but also learn and share with those wonderful giants, one of the oldest inhabitants of our kingdom and guardians of our history.

BUILDERS OF OUR OWN FUTURE

Since BSR was established, one of the priorities for children's development has been education. At the moment every child arrived, Jit encouraged every personal ability based in an educative awareness of responsibility and learning as one of the most important life's instrument. Daily effort for personal growth has made that each one of the children overcome different achievements as students because they know that is the base to build their own future. Each one has dreams and goals to fight for, and they know the best tools to reach those goals is to do it with effort, compromise and honesty, that is why in the last school semester we want to make a distinction and value four of our sisters who were awarded by Maelao Wittayacom's director for their capacities, effort, human values and academic excellence performance.

Dear Nipha, Ampha, Jan and Mudmee, we are absolutely proud of your achievements. All of you are models to the rest of BSR's children because of your constant effort, responsibility and good heart. As a family, we will be always at yours sides, supporting every step in your path.

Of course our awarded sisters dreams with keep studding and become a successful professional, expanding their future horizons as far as their capacities allow them.

We all know that is not enough because BSR's children need economic support to keep building their futures; study a career in the university or technical institute. This has become one of the most important goals for BSR in this days because we need you and all our friends support to make their dreams become true.

Make a compromise with children future becoming a Sponsor and give them the best educational tools to let them become future professionals and happy grown up persons.



RESCUING OU TRADITIONS

Every year, previous to summer holidays, students of Maelao Wittayacom School prepare expositions where they present traditional meals, games, dances, eco farming products and different environmental friendly activities to the rest of the school community.



So this day, the last of the school year, has always been a big celebration for everyone. This time, beginning of February, BSR's children worked hard with their class mates trying to make their expositions will be the most spectacular and their preparations the most exquisite of all stands. Students and teachers worked together to build, cooked and prepare expositions who rescue and put into value the traditional knowledge of North Thailand. Some classes prepared shampoo made with natural fruits and herbs, some others natural fertilizers, but most of them delicious meals and dessert using local and healthy ingredients such as flowers, palm leaves, coconut, sweet potato and pumpkins. Yummy!!

This is always a very important activity for children because every year they are the hosts and responsible to present each one of their preparations to teachers, school parents and school community.





Of course, the activity was a complete success so all the effort putted into each preparation was rewarded with flattery and delicious tastings. It was hard work and learning days but also a joyful one full of smiles and games where children developed their skills to rescue local and traditional heritage who has been in Thailand for many years, being also aware of nature importance and benefit in the production of each one of them. Congratulations to all, the effort always bring rewards and this beautiful last day of school was the biggest gift they could had.



MAGIC DAY.

Every first week of the month, Mr Eddy L. give us an unforgettable day, becoming a ritual of games, joy, laughs and love. This magic day of February started with a movie in Chiang Rai Cinema, followed by a delicious KFC lunch to finalize the afternoon swimming into the municipality public swimming pool. A wonderful day of games, sports and delicious food don't you think?



Smiles, games and laughs did not stopped since we left BSR that morning, because we all know this day is a special day to have fun, rest and forget school and daily duties, sharing a full day of happiness with all the BSR's community. Thanks a lot Mr. Eddy for your big heart and all those happy days you give us each time!



A WEEK OF HANDCRAFTS AND LOVE

We already had talked about the immense creativity of BSR's children, which had opened different artistic and manual universes to us, enhancing us to discover them with enthusiasm each time we learn something new.

This week of games and activities was promoted by volunteers who wanted something simple but magic, give us smiles and love, sharing handcrafts activities to have fun but also develop skills, creativity and team work. We all enjoyed and laugh playing and making "shooting stars" with color papers, also putted all their patience painting and drawing "Mandalas" and even playing to super heroes after made our own glue and newspaper masks, a fantastic and simple art creation.



We also made wool bracelets which they exchange and gave to friends in the school, learn how to dance Flamenco and cooked delicious cakes.

To finalize the week, the cherry of the cake, was a full day of water games, races and picnic. A beautiful days to learn, share and have fun all together.

Thanks to the volunteers who gave us those wonderful days, we wish we have friends and volunteers every week to make us games, handcrafts and learn new things. We'll be waiting for you to come back!!

Concluding this Newsletter N°4 we wish to thanks again the support, compromise and love of every friend, volunteer and sponsor of Baan Saan Rak. House of Love exists only thanks to your support and donations. Children will always be grateful for the trust and love given by you. We wish this Newsletter make you feel closer to children daily lives, enhancing to keep giving us your hearth and support.

SPONSOR BAAN SAAN RAK CHILDREN!!

If you want to sponsor or support us with any donation, or if you have any enquiry please contact us at the following e-mail address:

jitbaansaanrak@hotmail.com (Thai) / sponsor@baansaanrak.org (English, Spanish, and German).

Children needs are increasing because our family is growing, so we'll be happy to receive every kind of support to hold BSR future.



THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

Please keep supporting us with your Love and Donations.

