

# Baan Saan Rak

## HOUSE OF LOVE



### DEAR BAAN SAAN RAK FRIENDS.

It is always a great joy to salute everyone who has collaborated and be part of Baan Saan Rak (BSR) since our foundation in September 2003. The following Newsletter is the fifth since its creation in 2015, through which we want to tell you about the most important projects and activities during April to September of this year. Here you can find photos, stories, activities and be a witness of children growth, being part of their present and future. We hope you like it and bring us closer so you can keep supporting us with your love and good heart.

### BAAN SAAN RAK TODAY.

**BSR** family has suffer many changes in the last few months because of new children arrivals and departures. Today is the home of 29 children between 6 and 20 years old, gathering a lovely family of brothers and sister which take care and teach each other, into an environment of respect and love. Most of children live in the foster home located in (Maelao, 30 Kms south of Chiang Rai), but some others had left to continue their studies. Nevertheless their care and expenses are still covered by BSR despite of the distance. Thanks to that today all children have a family and all their basic needs satisfied as a result of care and absolute compromise of Jit, mother and model for them. Sponsors are also fundamental to finance their studies, meals, cloths and daily needs. Baan Saan Rak or House of Love (translated from Thai) keeps their complete warship and protection, giving them love, support and the necessary tools to rebuild their self-esteem and confidence, fostering their best skills, promoting their integration to society with similar opportunities than any other child.



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Actually 21 children live in the foster home of Maelao, attending regularly from Monday to Friday to different public schools in the surrounding. Into them they learn, share and smile together their school mates and teachers. The other 8 children live outside BSR; Payao, Bangkok or Chiang Mai, because of the school specializations they choose. Nevertheless they visit us very often because this is their home and here are all their beloved brothers.



**A BIG FAMILY THAT KEEPS GROWING**

Baan Saan Rak started the year 2003 with just a few children who lived together in a small bamboo hut built in the backyard of Jit’s house. In those times the construction had only the basic conditions where despite the precariousness, children was always provided with food, a shelter, warm clothes and love. Many changes have been made since those times when first children arrived with only 5 or 6 years old.

Fourteen years later, those first children are teenager students, professionals and technicians with a great future ahead. This has been the circumstances for Tanakon and Somchay, who left BSR 3 years ago to deepen their studies. Today both have a technic degree in mechanics and construction. The same path followed Masae and Dan the last March who are now studding in the University to become professionals. Best of luck in this big challenge you had just started and congratulation for the huge achieve you obtain with your effort. BSR is your home so you will always be welcome whenever you want to visit your family.



Along with the above announcement we want to give a warm welcome to 7 new members of our family. A new generation had come to learn from grown up children and fill up with love and hope their future. Here we introduce them one by one.



**Aek.** 6 years old  
Pakodam School



**Wut.** 8 years old  
Pakodam School



**Snow.** 9 years old  
Pakodam School

**Asao.** 11 years old  
Pakodam School



**Na.** 10 years old  
**Porn.** 9 years old  
**Morn.** 6 years old  
(All sisters)  
Bantamao School



This seven new children came to BSR to make even bigger our family, coming from Rahu and Akha tribes, located in the mountains of Chiang Rai Province. Here we will give them love, brotherhood and the best tools to make their dreams come true. Since the moment they arrived they become our brothers, sisters, friends and partners, becoming part of this community where everybody dream with a home full of happiness, support and great moments.

## NEW LOUNDRY MACHINE

When children come back home every day after school they know which are they obligations thanks to the weekly duty plan, tasks program who has been used for several years with great results. Sweep the floor, cook meals, clean the common areas, tidy up the rooms, are just a few of the multiple tasks that each children do after their 9 hours in the school. If we add homework and wash their cloths, is really little time they have to play, something really important for every children. On average each one spend more than 5 hours a week washing their cloths by hand into buckets and baskets, a lot of time wasted for a child who need to exploit his creativity painting or playing instruments, don't you think?

Schools require impeccable uniforms, otherwise the student is return to home immediately, but is difficult to keep it clean along the week so those uniforms change their color with dust and dirtiness because of the normal kids games. Looking this situation and the high number of children responsibilities, came up the idea of make easier for them the laundry duty.



Nousol, NGO from Cataluña which support BSR since our beginning, had the excellent idea of find a sponsor who donate an industrial laundry machine for children so did a research and got one. Just a few weeks after arrived a beautiful brand new machine into our house. Donation was made by *La Colla Geganterera de la Bisbal de l'Empordà*, as part of an international cooperation program. Baan Saan Rak thanks the donation because now children can have their school uniforms clean and use this time in something more important: being kids.

## PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

In the following articles we will show you some activities we had during April to September 2017, thanks to the compromise of friends and volunteers who gave us smiles and unforgettable moments. You can also see children growth, follow their adventures and keep in contact with us.

THANKS A LOT SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS



Like we already said in previous newsletters, BSR sustain himself like a family thanks to the tireless heart of Jit and the strong tie of brotherhood created by the daily sharing. Though there is another key element for the economic and motivational sustention. We talk about volunteers and sponsors. Along the years BSR has created a connections network with Thai and international organizations, receiving donations and volunteers from different countries around the world. This connections are very important because Baan Saan Rak do not receive any economic grant or support from the government, except for the school arrangement which allow children to attend school, so every donation is very important to finance basic supplies for our home.

Thanks to donors we can fund most of the expenses of the house but also we receive school supplies, cloth, food, toys and daily use materials, which help us a lot.

Along with the above, the pedagogic and emotional support given by the volunteers it's key for children's develop. They teach us language (English and Chinese) and also give us days full of happiness and love with a huge compromise like elder brothers.

In this Newsletter we want to give a special thanks to Anna, Laia, Paula, Raquel, Alicia, Mónica and Natalia, volunteers who came through Nousel NGO to share with children for a few weeks, teaching, sharing and filling with love and games the gardens of Baan Saan Rak.

In their visits we painted Batik, learned English, smile, sang songs and made a trip to Singha Park. Like a Summary, we spend wonderful times full of joy and laughs. Their support with English classes was also very important to develop new skills and know how to confront a global world with millions of foreigners coming to Thailand every year searching for touristic attractions, creating big business and a lot of jobs, great opportunities for entrepreneurship and children future.

Thank you very much to all volunteers!! Their huge heart and their trust gave us the strength to keep fighting for a better world for every children.



## HARVEST AND CLEANING TIME

Natural cycles are easy to find all around the world, but nowhere else monsoon season is such a busy time. In Thailand the rainy season brings a lot of water but also harvesting and cleaning time. Every season brings more than 200 ml of rain water monthly in Chiang Rai Province, from June to September. That is why the preparation is fundamental. Before the rain comes there are some important activities that have to be done. First, prune the branches of those trees which can fall over the roofs as a result of the strong wind and all the rain that falls in monsoon season. That is why children help cleaning gutters, clearing vegetation, cleaning water channels and some other preparations to avoid devastation or floods.



But there is still much more to do! Previous to monsoon also comes harvest season. At this time farmers of Maelao and the surrounding harvest fruits, cereals and vegetables from their farms, preparing fields to plant again after rain stops. This is the time where BSR children wear working clothes to harvest pods, fruits, tubers and vegetables which will be the base of their meals during the next months. At the end of these three heavy rainy months it comes the time to tidy up home. Mold, mud, fallen trees and ponds everywhere are the result of long months of heavy rain and wind. That is why it becomes so important to take the broom, soap and the shovel to remove waste, clean the walls, toilets and rooms. Even though it is a heavy job, children do it every year with a smile on their faces because they know that a clean house is a happy and cozy home.

## LET'S EAT FISH!

Thanks to private contributions, in February 2016 a pool was built where we breed fishes for children's meals and to be sold in Pakhodam Market, just 2 km away from BSR. Since the beginning of the idea, the project has been a success.

Children have taken over feeding and cleaning the pool through turns, watching the growth of many generations of fishes which finally has been part of their menu. It was in May when dozens of catfish had reproduced, becoming hard to handle and keep the pool clean.



The pool got dirtier and dirtier very fast because of the high number of fishes and their waste, so we took the determination to remove the fishes, reduce their numbers and rebuild the pool, fixing the deep damage of hundreds of fishes and hard weather.



We needed the help of all children to remove the water, clean the pool and moved the fishes, but the reward let us all happy.

Yumi!! we love fish, you can hear for all gardens and corridors of BSR. We love nature, we learned how to take care of every living thing and we appreciate a healthy meal breaded with our own hands. Soon we will have the pool full of fishes again, swimming in clear water, ready to be eaten or exchange with fruits or vegetables in Pakhodam rural market.



## TRIP TO SINGHA PARK AND KHUN KORN WATERFALLS



The arrival of the Spanish volunteers Paula, Raquel and Alicia in July, brought a lot of laughs, games and joy but the most special moments happened during the trip to the beautiful Singha Park and the wonderful Khun Korn waterfall.

Singha Parak is an agro touristic attraction focused in sustainable tourism. Into its 13 square kms there is floral exhibitions, recreational outdoor activities, a small zoo with animal species from all around the globe and keeps sport activities all year long with circuits to floral fields and an artificial lagoon.

It was not the first time that children came to the park but each time they enjoy it like it was. Games, singings and hiking through the meadows were accompanied with photos and selfies with the beautiful landscape behind. Like every child we also love nature and Singha Park is an ideal place to enjoy the abundance of green nature of Chiang Rai surroundings. Some of them preferred visit the flowers plantation, some other the animal zoo and a few ones decide to stay on the grass to play football, but the common spirit was the joy of an afternoon outdoor into this spectacular natural park.



To continue this magical day we jumped on the car who brought us here and we drove to Khun Korn waterfall, a gorgeous place located 30 km south of Chiang Rai. This place has the most amazing natural beauty thanks to be protected by the national park who ward and take care of water streams, the river and all the nature around. Khun Korn Natural Park is the home of unique flora and fauna where we could find colorful butterflies, tropical birds, different kind of orchids and is the home of mountain tribes who has inhabited this areas for hundreds of years. The beautiful waterfall has 72 meters high fall and a great natural pool just under the fall where we could swim with no risk. Like you can imagine this was the cherry on top of the cake for children. They swam, played and took pictures until their skin got wrinkled of so much water, spending a wonderful day in family. Thanks for the invitation and gave us an unforgettable day. We will always be please and happy sharing time with volunteers and new friends.

## BRINGING LIVE TO OUR TRADITIONS

Art tradition is something very important in every country and culture but in Thailand it seems to be even more sacred because of the strong relation between scenic representation with monarchy, the Budist gods and natural cycles. That is why children practice every year diferent dancing choreographies which allude the beginning of Thailand history. Students practice many hours a day happy to be part of the big show when family and friends come to see them. Baan Tamao School prepared this year a beautiful show where Meekha made a traditional dance choreography from the north of Thailand and Belé was part of the music and dance boys group. Like you can see in the photos, the show was a beautiful and colorful spectacle, accompanied with music, smiles and pretty customs. "Perform some of our dancing traditional show help us to rescue what we were to understand what we are", one of the teachers said. Those wise words is exactly why our family congratulate them and encourage all children to maintain this roots to our ancestors. All BSR family is proud of both of you, hoping to become models and give encourage to other children.



## DESIGNING OUR OWN CLOTHING STYLE

In previous articles we had already mentioned our huge and tireless creative spirit. Batik, watercolor, pencil, brush or aniline ink, it doesn't matter the tool or technic as long as colors and creativity express freely into some material. This time we made blossom mixture colors into T-shirts and cloths, creating the most beautiful hippie designs.

First we chose the white cloths. After we rolled them in small cylindrical shapes, tiding them up very strong with ropes and wool. This step was very important to give different designs on the cloths so we was very carefully to done it right. In another pot we heat water with different colors of aniline and only after the water was boiled we put the tided cloths into the pots. While we let the ink made his magic, we cooked our lunch mixing the pots oftenly so the cotton absorbed the ink smoothly. The result was fantastic!! Gorgeous multi-color cloths portrayed the most pychodelic hippie style designs.

The activity was a success because we filled with color old cloths we didn't even use, giving them life, color and new style. Once again our creativity expressed at most, bringing us beautiful and fun moments and recycling unused cloths. We want more activities that stimulate and encourage our creativity!! If you have any new idea, come to visit us or send us your activity through e-mail so we can try it here.



Concluding this Newsletter N°5 we want to thank 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 heart 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](mailto:jitbaansaanrak@hotmail.com) (Thai) / [sponsor@baansaanrak.org](mailto: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.



**THANKS A LOT!!**

Keep supporting us with your love and donations.

