

Baan Saan Rak

HOUSE OF LOVE



DEAR BAAN SAAN RAK FRIENDS.

To start this Newsletter, we would like to greet everyone who has cooperated and become part of our foster home since our foundation in September 2003. The following Newsletter is the 10th since its creation in 2015, on which we would like to tell all the readers some news and our most important activities and projects between October 2019 and March 2020. On this pages you will find photos, stories and short articles about BSR life, becoming a witness of children and family growth, being part of their presents. We hope you like it and keep supporting us.

BAAN SAAN RAK TODAY.

Nowadays BSR is the home of 30 children between 7 and 21 years old, shaping a beautiful family of brothers and sisters who care, teach and love each other. Most of this 30 children lives in BSR home, located in Maelao 30 kms south of Chiang Rai, but some others have had to leave away to continue their studies, keeping under care and custody of BSR despite the distance. Thanks to this care, all children have a family and all their basic needs covered thanks to the absolute commitment of Jit, mother and model for all of them, but also thanks to sponsors and volunteers who help supporting us with donations for their studies, food, clothes and basic needs. Baan Saan Rak or House of Love (literal translation from Thai Language) keeps full children custody and protection, giving them love, support and the basic tools to rebuild their self-esteem and trustfulness. But also to believe and build their own future, fostering each best skills, boosting their social integration through giving them the same opportunities that any child deserves.



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At this moment there is 19 children living in our home located in Maelao, attending to different public schools on the district from Monday to Friday. Into them, the 9 boys and 10 girls, learn, share and laugh, building their future along with their class mates and teachers.

The other 11 children live away of BSR foster home, in Phayao, Bangkok, Chiang Rai or Chiang Mai, because they had to migrate and move on, following the Universities or High Schools which has their chosen studies specializations. Any way they visit us very often because this will always be their home and family.



WELCOME TO THE FAMILY MOCHITA!



In November we had a great surprise because Mochita Saekuy arrived to our home. Our little new sister has 7 years old and comes from a Lahu* native community located in the northern hills of Muang Chiang Rai province. We always feel very happy each time our family grows, that's why we welcome every child with open arms and warm hug because we know they need support and tons of love. We enjoy to welcome girls and boys of every age, teach them all what we know and give them an environment of love and protection where they can grow healthy. Only that way they can build their own path with the values and tools we learn together along the way. The innocent and kind look of our children give us energy and strength to keep going every day, happy to walk all the path together. Welcome Mochita!! We certainly will do this place your home and family, and make you feel comfortable surrounded by love and smiles.



* *Lahu* community tribes has more than thousand years old in the area. Original from the south of China, they migrated centuries ago, building small villages spread along the north of Thailand. Is one of the communities who better keep nowadays its traditions and culture.

LOY KRATHONG, THE FESTIVAL OF RENOUNCE AND SUPERATION.

Loy Krathong festival is held every year in Thailand, and even though each region has its own way to celebrate it, there is some things common everywhere: Candle light, water and spirituality meaning. Along the first fool moon of November, children and all Thai people built small banana leafs craft boats decorated with flowers, candle lights and incense, to offer them to the river that waters our fields and allows life in our valley. Even though this tradition started in Sukhothai province, nowadays is celebrated in the whole country, whit special importance and meaning in our region, because this festivity join us together. Also is a celebrating and praying time we respect and teach to new generations with love. We throw this offerings to the river as a symbol of renunciation and overcoming of all grudges and bad thoughts, so we can begin a new year without them. We all love this magic night because those little craft boats we throw down river honor our ancestors and let us enjoy the beauty of our land and culture.



JIT STUDIES FOR A BETTER BAAN SAAN RAK CHILDREN HOME.

As you all might know, Jit is a very committed and brave woman who has never stopped studying and learning, to give her best for BSR family. As a social worker, she has been tireless about learn new knowledge and technics to have a better management and develop of her beautiful Project. So this time we want to highlight that Jit finished a Workshop in Suksasongkraw Maechan School about sustainable leadership, organize and made by our great collaborator SE Asia Foundation.

BSR born as a Jit's personal initiative on 2003, welcoming 8 children in social risk into her own house, and today has a strong support network which keep growing thanks to sponsors, friends and volunteers who accompany Jit in her Project of give more and better opportunities to children with a hard childhood. We will always be grateful that you had decided to give your whole life to this project, and let us be part of it. A huge hug Mama Jit, full of love and admiration from all the children.

BUILDING OUR OWN FUTURE.

In Baan Saan Rak we are always supporting and enhancing our brothers and sisters to develop their maximum capacities, and also learn new skills. So we always encourage Kai, Kan and Belé when they decide to go to sport and military schools. In there they have demonstrated to have an exceptional physical conditions and tons of capacities and energy to give.

This remarkable conditions were demonstrated with the award received by Kai for his performance as student in Chiang Rai Military school.



With all his happiness and enthusiasm, Kai gives his helpful and generous heart to the protection and care of all of us. Congratulations for this important recognition!

We also want to congratulate our beloved Kan who keeps preparing himself as a sports professional, competing in cycling races. We cheer you Kan!! You know that we'll be with you until the end!



At last but not least we want to highlight the huge effort of our brother Belé, who won a trophy in Athletics the past December. We hope that all that hard work and energy takes you as far as you want!

Congratulations to all of you brothers, your achievements will always be a model and a boost to the rest of the family, that's why we cheer you up and send you a big hug from Maelao home.



A PRETTY HOUSE NEED TO BE MAINTAIN

Something that children know well is that a comfortable and lovely home has to be tidy and clean. Who has visited our home can uphold that, even though this is the house of many children in the middle of their growth development, cleaning and embellishment of our house has always been a very important element, we do through rotating tasks. So one group of children of different ages take care of cleaning one week and another group do it next one. Cooking and washing have the same system.





This shift system allow us to rotate every activities and maintain our home clean and pretty. Every one collaborate and fulfills its role because we know this are not only an esthetic task but an important thing because a clean house avoids diseases, infections and keep us strong and healthy.

But not everything is about sweep the floor and cleaning because we also do a lot of things to keep our house beautiful. That's why on January we painted bedrooms and library walls to maintain BSR shiny and pretty. Would you like to come and visit our home? We'll be waiting for you with open arms and a neat house. We are sure that you will surprise when you see how beauty our house is.

THANK YOU SPONSORS, DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS!



Like we already mentioned on previous Newsletter, BSR daily sustenance is possible thanks to diverse efforts which allowed us to finance and support this beautiful home. Most important and permanent effort is Jit's determination on this project because she take care of all children's needs. But is also very important the role of sponsors and volunteers. On this Newsletter we want to thanks to ever sponsor, collaborator and volunteer who have come to our home to give us love, happy moments and support. Their trust, compromise and donations are fundamental for children's material and emotional develop, so we appreciate from the bottom of our heart to every family, company, NGO, association and groups who have come to share great moments with our family. Specially we want to thanks the three volunteer teachers from NOUSOL NGO, who came for three months to Baan Saan Rak to share with us and teach English to children, along with teaching in rural Baan Tamao school, where many BSR's children attend for their education. Thank you all for your love, dedication and trust. We hope you want to keep visiting us to watch us grow and strengthen our relationship as a lovely family.



WE DEFEND OUR RIGHTS WITH ART.

Since we are little boys or girls, BSR family teach us to paint with the traditional Batik technic. As long as we grow up and we get better with this technic we create better and better pieces of art. Have you see them? Handicraft and traditional art is a cultural value that we love to preserve and transmit along different generations, because reaffirms our local identity and join us as brothers and sisters.



That's why this time we dedicated our Batik paintings to express our worries about environment and the love we feel for life and nature.

Like most of our friends already know, Batik is for Baan Saan Rak a presentation card, a way to thanks, welcome and an invitation to know better each other, but also a gift when we have to say good bye. Thanks to cheer us up to keep going and enhance us to continue creating and making art!!!



On the pictures you can see how some of our older sisters express their world vision, worries and illusions with different colors and shapes on a painting cloth. Planet earth is suffering a crisis, and we have to feel responsible for that, told us Mudmee explaining her painting. In Baan Saan Rak we love and understand mother earth like a home, so we also suffer.



NEW BUILDING INAUGURATION.



At beginning of 2019, SE Asia Foundation gave us a notice that left us with the mouths open. They will donate a new building for BSR, with enough space and capacity for new bedrooms, a multipurpose room and a better place for studing and reading. When they gave us the notice we couldn't believe it, until the construction works started. The labor takes a few months but at the end of the year the building was almost finished. After several efforts dessing up the inside of the building to enable the bedrooms, the building were ready for its inauguration the last February 2020.

The party was a complete success! Smiles, games and floral designs made that afternoon a day we will never forget. All the friends and collaborators who supported us for many years came that day, so we wanted to thanks with all our heart and a beautiful welcome. But we would like to specially thank to Mr. Bill Taylor from SE Asia Foundation and Ms. Carol from Rotary Club of Mae Chan, who made this dream possible since the beginning. Thanks for your trust, support, love and for being constantly worried about us. BSR children have today a beautiful and safe home, with all the things they need to develop themselves and to pave their own future. Kop khun mak mak!!



CULTIVATING AND COOKING OUR OWN ORGANIC FOOD.

Baan Saan Rak is located in a low hills area of Chiang Rai province, a zone where rice, fruit and vegetable agriculture grows pretty well. That's why since the beginning of this Project we have the goal of feed all BSR family with local products, which has zero or minimum chemical products involved on its growing and harvest. And also that hopefully most the products we eat can be cultivated or picked in Maelao's farms and forests.





Our main source of food are the delicious vegetable we grow and harvest in Jit parent's farm. In there we grow all kind of vegetables that later fulfill of different flavors our dishes. But we also like the sweet potato picking from the forest. Sweet potato is a tuber that grows pretty well in tropical weathers like Thailand, so we love to do the picking on the right time. This tuber has a lot of health benefits and also is a wonderful energy source.

Children love sweet potato because is very tasty in stews and many other cooks.

When we collect all the ingredients finally we put our hands on the dough and start to create. Traditional dishes, our own creations, fusion food are just some of the many meals we cooked often. All of them are delicious and pretty healthy because we cooked them with passion and love. So come to our home and taste some real Thai meals cooked by ourselves!



WE LOVE OUR CULTURE, THAT'S WHY WE PROTECT AND CONSERVATE IT.

Akha tribes are one of the most authentic and well conserved culture in the north of Thailand. They migrated to this areas at the beginning of 20th century from China, and still most of the tribes keeps a nomad life according to the cycles allowed by a seasonal agriculture. We could assume that this is one of the reasons why this tribes preserve with such strength their traditions, rites clothing and customs, precisely because this is what they can carry wherever they go. Women with their traditional handcrafted cloths are the keepers and guardians of this heritage which they proudly pass to new generations. Beside they are who do the most of the activities that hold and sustain families, like farming, clothing handcrafts and everything what home tasks and children raising requires.



Many of our brother and sisters belong to this wonderful tribes which fills us with admiration. In Baan Saan Rak we welcome girls and boys from many different cultures, tribes and ethnic origin, and we all together learn the value of diversity and tolerance, exchange knowledge and traditions, and fill ourselves with its goodness. On the left photograph our sisters Janjira and Mudmee are making their own traditional cloths. On the up right picture we can see Janjira wearing one of this wonderful and unique traditional costumes. Absolutely amazing don't you think? Thanks for teach us about the value and how important are our native cultures!

Concluding this Newsletter N°10 we want to thanks again all the support, commitment 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 life, 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 or Spanish). Children needs are increasing because our family is growing, so we'll be happy to receive every kind of support to promote BSR children's future.
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¡THANKS A LOT!

Keep supporting us with your love and donations.

