

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



Director
Sumalee Milne

Ayui

F rom the director

January 2010
Chiang Rai, Thailand



First and foremost, I am very pleased to announce that the Foundation made the final payment for the land and two houses that we are located on, and we are now proud owners of the property. We would not have been able to achieve this if it were not for generous donations from the following: Sound of Bamboo Foundation, Mr Eddie Lugo-Vino, Mr George Daher (based in Chiang Rai), the Lions Club of

Gungahlin (A.C.T., Australia), child sponsor Diana Reid in Canada, and fundraising support from Ms Catherine Johnstone, selling chocolates. The Moller-Mawsons of Western Australia, one of our child sponsor families, made and sold homemade jam, and had to produce more to keep up with the demand. More donors are acknowledged in our Thank You page.

FOUNDATION

As the cold weather set in for the Northern Thailand winter, the children came back from term break at the end of October to start their second and final term. We have now been able to locate relatives to stay with during school



holidays, for those whose parents are not currently living in Chiang Rai, so that we can lock up the hostel and have no expenses during school breaks. The children's school closed for one week for the Christmas and New year break. Just before they left, we did another annual clothes donation to a nearby village. The houseparents are expecting their third child (their first is adopted), and the doctor has set the due date for mid-February, so we will have another girl joining the Ayui family in 2011.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our sponsors, supporters and friends all the best for the New Year - good health and happiness to everyone!



★ ★ Home Sweet Home



boy's house



inside boy's house



girl's house



inside girl's house
(Housemother Tip in girl's house)

After we re-located in November 2009, we succeeded in raising 2 million baht - an excellent price for two large houses - and by November 2010, we could finally call the place ours. There is a large garden area, for sports, activities and cookouts, a large vegetable garden in the back, and we are located within walking distance to the market, and just a 15-minute drive to the children's school and into the town center. On behalf of the twenty Akha children living there, I would like to express our gratitude to the financial supporters who enabled us to pay off the house, including

a few of our child sponsors who made donations when they heard we were nearing our deadline but had not yet raised the total amount. Here are some pictures of our home...



computer room



dining room



kitchen

★ ★ Visitors ★ ★

We had a combined birthday party for the two Mays (Oronong and Gulagarn) on November 27, and guests included professional masseuse Winnie Cain from the US, Mathieu Francoeur and Sylvie Power from Canada, Toni Alzamora and his friends, Anita and Montse, from Spain. Housefather Lek made sticky rice in hollow bamboo sticks that were roasted by the fire, and the children enjoyed a few games.



★ ★ Annual Clothes Donation

With a few boxes left over from last year's donation and more second-hand clothes that people here had donated throughout the year, we held our second annual clothes donation at Baan Jalae village, Mae Yao sub-district, where a few of our children come from. We loaded up the truck and arrived in time to enjoy a delicious Akha lunch. Then all the children helped to find clothes to fit the villagers. At the end, before piling back into the truck, the hostel children sang a few meaningful Akha songs for the villagers. Most importantly, the Ayui children learned that it is also good to give instead of just receive.

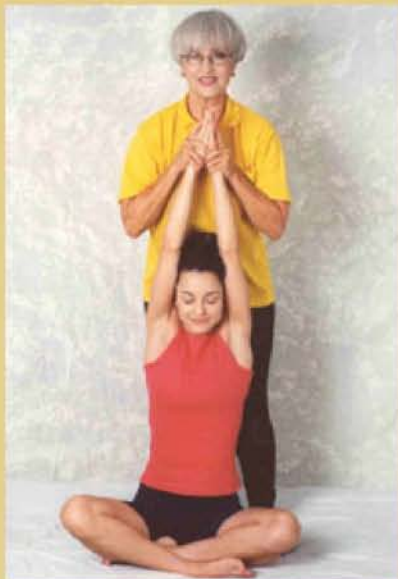


Bupa and Sriwan having fun



Washing dishes





★ ★ ★ Fundraiser

We are offering a Thai traditional massage workshop at Baan Ayui from 7-18 November 2011, taught by Ms Winnie Cain (left), one of the first instructors of Thai massage in the United States, who has been a licensed massage therapist for over 20 years. (see www.massagethai.com) The 10-day course, for B8,900 per person, includes a visit to an Akha village. **Contact us for details.**



★ Thank you ★

- ★ We would also like to thank the following for donating towards our House Fund during the last three months: Dr Naren Chellappah, Mr Hugo Toro, Mr Theo Ten Brummelaar, Canberra Grammar School, Vanessa Heg, Pamela Atkinson, Roy Hudson, Khun Naree Fascionelli, Khun Varittha Khamsribush, and two other donors in Australia who wish to remain anonymous.
- ★ Thank you, also, to child sponsors Joan Ten Brummelaar and Marc Carter, Chris Payne and Diana Reid for stepping up and helping with the house payments.
- ★ At the end of every year we must also thank our volunteer workers: Dave Thomas for updating our website, Tinnakorn Nugul for producing our newsletters, and former volunteers Annette Piloni and Bruce Millar in Australia for continuing to speak about us at local fundraising events.
- ★ Thanks to Amy Coonradt-Seymour for helping do the accounts these past few months, and to Matheiu Francoeur for designing a postcard and stickers to help raise funds.

If you would like to visit or support us please contact:

Sumalee Milne - ayui.foundation@gmail.com - www.ayui.org



Thank you for thinking of us.

Without regular funding, we rely solely on small grants and donations and, therefore, try to keep expenses as low as possible. If anyone is able to support the hostel for a month at a time, our monthly average expenditure is B45,000 or US\$1,500. All donations welcome.



Donations transferred to

Australian bank account:
Bendigo Bank
Acc no: 133516195

Thai bank account:
Siam Commercial Bank
Acc no: 5072669424

Tax deductible donations in Australia cheques to: Rotary Australia Overseas Aid Fund
(46/2007-8) Ayui - & mailed to: Garry Gunnell, PO BOX 807, Strathfieldsaye VIC 3551
(with donor's address clearly written)

