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## Dear Friends of BAAN DOI,

This past year was again a busy time. I have been to Austria and Germany and was able to present our work at different places and give our supporters an update on our work. We greatly appreciate the feedback and encouragement.

We are also pleased that so many people are active on behalf of our children and we would like to give our three partner associations a special place in this newsletter issue. How this support directly benefits our children tells us one of our children at the BAAN DOI orphanage and is described in the article about our Outreach Child Support Program.

We are happy to share that our new children's houses are finished! We are following the advice of our cook Pa (Aunt) Tu: "It is better to start something new and beautiful with the new year!" and have set the date for our house warming party on January 17, 2015. We hope that until then we can receive enough donations in order to complete the furnishing of all the rooms. Also, we wish to welcome many guests and BAAN DOI friends to the ceremony!

It is known that especially on Christmas wishes are to become true...

*Enjoy reading and a Merry Christmas!*

Barbara Meisl, Director

*Our children and youth celebrating Loy Krathong*



## The daily life of a boy at BAAN DOI orphanage.

My alarm clock rings. It's 5.30am. I get up, make the bed, brush my teeth, wash my face, and put on my school uniform. Our caretakers Meui and Teaw prepare breakfast while I sweep the room and the house. For breakfast we usually have rice with vegetables and eggs, meat or fish. At seven o'clock, I take my medicine and then I get on my new bike and ride to school. The school is not far, only a 5-minute ride. Before class, each student has a task such as sweeping the school grounds or cleaning the classrooms and toilets. At eight o'clock, we sing the national anthem and meditate. After that, we go into the classroom. I am in 4th grade and my favorite subject is math. I like to go to school because I have many friends there. The teachers are nice - well, sometimes not so nice.

After school, I return to BAAN DOI. I change my clothes and go to the garden. There I have a vegetable patch where I have planted cabbage, which I like to eat. If there is time, we play or do sports together before dinner. My favorite thing to do is jump on the trampoline. I am happy when the bell rings for dinner. Aunty Tu cooks really well. My favorite food is rice with chicken. After dinner, I have to do homework. Meui and Teaw help me if I do not understand something. At 7pm, it's time to take my medicine again.

On Friday and Saturday evenings, we can watch a movie - on Friday it's in Thai and Saturday in English. I don't understand the English so much, but I go every Sunday morning to BAAN DOI's English school so that I can improve. It is a lot of fun and I want to study English so that I can travel to foreign countries or teach others.

Saturday is cleaning and washing day at BAAN DOI. We wash our clothes by hand. In the afternoon, we have free time or we make key holders, go to the library, or go climbing.

Once a month, Meui takes me to the hospital to pick up my medicine. I like to go to the hospital. The doctors mummy Lek and aunty Yim are very nice. They always remind me that I should take my medicine on time.

I feel comfortable at BAAN DOI and I'm happy here. Most of all, I like my caretakers at BAAN DOI ...



*Meditation before class*



*Gardening*



*English class*

Watch BAAN DOI's recent documentary, found on our Homepage [www.baandoi.org](http://www.baandoi.org) under "About us," to learn more about how and why children like this boy come to BAAN DOI, and about what we provide to these children.



## Orphans in Need in Chiang Rai Province



*Initiatives during a meeting with our youth from the outreach program*

*The hut of one family*



*BAAN DOI staff giving advice*



*Training on self-esteem*



From the village leader of a neighboring village, we learned that a child is at high risk and needs help. Bela, a 9-year-old Burmese girl, takes care of her father who has AIDS. In their family, only the two of them are left. Bela cannot go to school every day because her father needs her. They have no residence permit and no documents to prove their identity. Luckily, the village community has provided them with a place where they can stay.

In emergency cases like this, the BAAN DOI Outreach Child Support Program provides the family with essential supplies. The first task is to build a trusting foundation and then decide together about the future of the child.

Unfortunately, Bela is not the only case. Especially for children without protection of an adult, illegal status or the lack of identity proof puts them at risk to fall into the clutches of traffickers and in danger of exploitation, child labor, and prostitution. Our Outreach Child Support Program aims to intervene to protect these vulnerable children.

The BAAN DOI Outreach Child Support Program allows orphans who are affected by HIV / AIDS to continue to live with their relatives and at the same time to be well taken care of and to receive education and medical care. Most of the time, these families live in very poor conditions and cannot afford to take their children to the hospital on a regular basis or to send them to school.

BAAN DOI supports the children not only financially, but also with assistance and advice to the family. Particularly diligent students receive the Program's support in achieving a university degree, which should sustainably secure the path out of poverty.

25 families are assisted by the Outreach Child Support Program.

The aim is to assist orphans affected by HIV / AIDS in order that they can live with their relatives.

The Program offers the following: four times per year a meeting with all the children, two times per year contact with teachers and family home visits.

In addition there are trainings on child rights, health, and education.

Free English classes at English Star.

Higher education for diligent students.



*The committee of Baan Doi Switzerland*

## Charity Dinner in St. Moritz, Switzerland

On October 23, our partner association Baan Doi Switzerland put on its first big fundraising event. Holding a charity dinner was thought to be a fun and effective way to spread the word about and raise money for BAAN DOI.

The charity dinner was held in St. Moritz at the Thai restaurant in the Hotel Laudinella. The Thai chef Neng and her crew succeeded to genuinely care for the guests.

The Baan Doi Switzerland Board organized a varied program that informed and entertained dinner guests with news about BAAN DOI and the construction of the new children's houses. Radio Grischa DeeJay Susanne Stöckl interviewed recent visitors to BAAN DOI orphanage - Jomar Stieger and Susanne Reisinger - and elicited quite interesting reports to share with the guests.

Guests had a chance to view BAAN DOI's documentary film, which showed how important BAAN DOI's work is for children in the northern Thailand region. At BAAN DOI, they have a supportive home environment and the chance for a promising future.

The boys Gian and Flurin were highly motivated to sell key holders and Christmas cards designed by BAAN DOI children to raise funds for the orphanage. With the raffle and affordable prices, these items raised significant additional support. Thus, a successful evening was complete with bellies full of fantastic Thai

food, heads full of information about BAAN DOI, and hearts filled with the sense of having done something good.

*The hotel director and the kitchen crew*



*Susanne Stöckl interviews Jomar*



*The BAAN DOI children say thank you*



„The children are very happy and what I have learned is, that you can live happily without a lot of belongings and luxury.“

Jomar during the interview

## The Angels from our Austrian (Kuchl) Craft Club



„I am happy to produce and sell my handmade work to support BAAN DOI.“ Hannes Pichler

There are other places around the world where angels are not idle but working diligently in order to make the BAAN DOI children happy and to help raise money to build them a safe home.

Our helpers from the BAAN DOI Craft Club in Kuchl, Austria met almost every week this past year and were very creative and motivated in making handicrafts and small gifts. In addition to beautifully decorated lavender bags and crocheted Christmas tree decorations, there are even matchboxes in costume.

Especially popular are the biscuit and semolina pudding mixtures with dried organic apples and almond chips – they are beautiful to look at and really tasty.

Next to the regular sale locations such as Aqua Salza Golling Spa and the shop “Tischkultur Meisl” in the village of Golling, these handicrafts made with heart and soul are being sold this year at various Christmas markets throughout Austria.

*Many thanks to the BAAN DOI Craft Club in Kuchl and to all of our diligent angels.*



During the weekly craft evenings



Beautiful material handled with love



Diligent angels

Announcement of Christmas markets where the products from the craft club are sold:

Golling Egelsee,  
December 14

Kuchl, December 20

*The handicrafts made with love are sold on different Christmas markets.*





## Santa Claus Visits BAAN DOI

Modern times at BAAN DOI orphanage. Santa Claus and his Little Helper arrived this year not on a carriage but on a motorcycle. Who would have thought that in their large bag there were not only Christmas hats filled with lots of little treats, but also a donation check of 2,000 Euros from our partner association Baan Doi Germany?

"With this donation, we can fund the furnishing of two new children bedrooms," said Barbara Meisl, Director of BAAN DOI, who is delighted. The highlight for our children, though, was the boat trip tickets that Santa Claus brought. They thanked him with a beautiful Christmas poem recited in German language!

Santa Claus's gifts were made possible by an initiative of Joachim (Jo) van der Linde, chairman of Baan Doi Germany, at his 60th birthday party. With the motto "donations instead of gifts," he invited all of his friends and acquaintances to support BAAN DOI.

At the end of October, Jo left with his friend Norbert from Germany to travel to South East Asia. Following the footsteps of Marco Polo, they traveled on the Silk Road through Central Asia before they got on a plane in China to come to Thailand to visit the BAAN DOI project.

On December 6th, Santa Claus went with the children to Tha Ton, a small town in the province of Chiang Rai on the Mae Kok River. There, three boats were waiting to take them along the waves of the river through the tropical landscape of northern Thailand. The BAAN DOI children and their caregivers had a lot of fun on the boat tour.

Traveling makes them hungry, so at the end of the tour Santa and the kids went for a noodle soup meal at one of the small night markets in Chiang Rai. Then, they all returned happily to BAAN DOI, of course not without a big THANK YOU to Santa Claus and his Little Helper for this unforgettable experience.



*Donation to fund the furnishing of two new children's houses*



*Boat trip on the Nam Kok*

„For me, working for BAAN DOI has in the last three years become a very important part of my life. Therefore, it was my heart's desire to raise funds for the new children's houses of BAAN DOI, rather than receive gifts at my birthday party in October 2014.“

Joachim (Jo) van der Linde

# Thank you very much



## Merry Christmas



BAAN DOI – Home and  
Healing Center for  
Children

Mae Sai, Chiang Rai  
Province, Thailand

[www.baandoi.org](http://www.baandoi.org)

[info@baandoi.org](mailto:info@baandoi.org)

[www.facebook.com/  
baandoi](http://www.facebook.com/baandoi)

