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## Dear BAAN DOI Friends,

How quickly everything at BAAN DOI develops and changes, sometimes you only realize this after you have been away for a while. This happened to me when I came back to the orphanage after a 6-week stay in Switzerland (to give 23 presentations about Baan Doi). Within just 6 weeks a greenhouse with hydro system has emerged, the dining room was expanded and the “old” children’s house was painted in many colors.

Also recently we added a new staff member in the area of prevention and an additional care taker so that more children in the Orphanage and the Family Outreach Program could be accepted. To further develop BAAN DOI and to support more children, we need the continual support of many people. Thank you for being part of it. Please spread the word and tell your family and friends about BAAN DOI so that more and more people get to know about our work.

For this newsletter issue we interviewed Som, one of our “children” at the Orphanage who now is an intern at BAAN DOI.

We also want to take you to our “Magic Forest” and report about our play rehearsals during the summer holidays.

Stefan, who has been working for nearly two years with us, reports about the changes and developments at BAAN DOI.

## Enjoy reading

*Graziella for the BAAN DOI Team*

*We paint the “old” children’s house*



*The new greenhouse with hydro system*





*Som with one of our new BERNINA sewing machines, funded by Round Table Kreuzlingen (Switzerland) with the support of BERNINA International AG.*

## From a child in the Orphanage to a BAAN DOI intern



For us at BAAN DOI it is important that the children get a good education, adapted to their individual abilities, strengths and interests.

For those children who do not fit in the formal school system for a variety of reasons, we are supporting them in getting the best possible education.

*Som's real name is actually Amiu, but she has, like almost all Thais a nick name. She is 19 years old and derives from the Akha hill tribe. When she came to BAAN DOI two years ago, she was very ill and had no completed education. Now she is a trained seamstress and has an internship at BAAN DOI in order to gain more skills and experience. Graziella has interviewed her for this newsletter article.*

Graziella: When and why did you come to BAAN DOI?

Som: I came to BAAN DOI in September, 2014. At that time I was in the hospital and had no one to take care of me and also no money to pay for the bill. A nurse wanted to help me and contacted BAAN DOI.

Graziella: Where did you live before that?

Som: I lived with my father, my stepmother and my three siblings in a secluded mountain village, about 2 hours away from BAAN DOI by car. I helped my parents picking tea and had to work in the fields in all weather conditions. So I got sick.

Graziella: What was it like for you at BAAN DOI at first?

Som: In the beginning I did not like it so much. I had never been away from home and I was often sick. Therefore, I was very homesick. Also, we all slept in the old children's house. It was very narrow and I didn't feel comfortable.

Graziella: What did you do then?

Som: I had the wish to go to work and earn some money. My dream was to become an assistant nurse, but because I never attended school regularly and did not have a school degree, that was not possible. Walee (BAAN DOI staff member) arranged

for me to have an apprenticeship as a seamstress near Chiang Rai. I liked that very much. Sewing bags is my favorite.

Graziella: And then, after completion of the apprenticeship, you came back to BAAN DOI, right?

Som: Yes, and now it is much better. The new children's houses are completed. We have nice rooms and a lot more space. I have also taken over more responsibility and I am part of the team in the Orphanage. And above all, I am now healthy and strong.

Graziella: Now you have an internship at BAAN DOI in the childcare. What are your tasks?

Som: At BAAN DOI we have a 5-day week. I get up at 5am and make breakfast for the kids, support them with their daily tasks and give them the pocket money for school. When the kids come home from school I take care of them until they go to sleep. During the day I help in the home and garden and on weekends we organize activities.

I also want to bring in my skills as a seamstress and I have just started a handicrafts project with the children who are interested and show endurance. One day a week I go to school, because my degree is important to me!

Graziella: What does BAAN DOI mean to you?

Som: BAAN DOI is a very warmhearted place. My new big Family!



## „Magic Forest“

The elf children are dancing in the magic forest, they are happy and enjoy their ease.

But then something changes, there is unrest. The wolf is chasing the bride through the magic forest. Then suddenly the bride is after the wolf and gets him, after which they both fall into a deep sleep.

Rapunzel and Little Red Riding Hood, who had been great friends have a dispute about a boy and are abducted by the “3 Evil” (three bad guys).

The Ninja who lives in an underground hideout, gets the order from the good witch to free them. He joins forces with the two footballers but unfortunately the magic power of the golden football does not meet their expectations.

So they go for the fight together and meet a beautiful singer. But even her enchanting voice cannot save Rapunzel and Little Red Riding Hood.

The two schoolgirls try to free them by the power of their magic books, but no success.

But they do not surrender. With joined forces, the Ninja and the football players go into the battle with the “3 Evil” while the witch bundles the strengths of the three princesses, the singer and the schoolgirls for the spell.

It works, the “Super Power” wins. The “3 Evil” are put to flight, Rapunzel and Little Red Riding Hood are free again. At the same moment the bride and wolf wake up from their deep sleep and when the fairy queen arrives the party in the magic forest can start and all celebrate wholeheartedly.

Marcus Richter from Vienna (Austria) has spent 5 weeks at BAAN DOI and rehearsed the piece with the children. It was important to him that the kids get involved from the beginning and they could all choose their characters and the costumes by themselves. Lyrics and dance steps were worked out together.

The Narrator led the guests through the 7 stations of our theater piece in the garden of the BAAN DOI Orphanage. 25 actors were on stage, all BAAN DOI kids wanted to be a part of the play, Stefan took over the role of the wolf and Marcus was the fairy queen.

A lot of energy flew into our piece from all sides and it was a process in which we were repeatedly reminded that the result is not the most important, but the time spent together.

As every year during the summer holidays from mid-March to mid-May, we provide a varied program for our children. We learn English or how to use a computer or computer program, we go cycling, or swimming, do handicrafts, baking and cooking together.

A special highlight this year was the rehearsal of the theater piece “Magic Forest” together with Marcus Richter from Austria.



Dance practice for the theater play



We were singing, dancing, playing, laughing and crying, quarrelling and reconciling and we learned so much.

The aim was to find the right balance between practice and rest periods, about how motivation could be boosted even at 40 degrees Celsius, how the children could be instructed to identify themselves with their role and to feel well with it ... how to overcome shyness ... and all that has been well done!

The time together and the performance were absolutely beautiful.

Thank you Marcus for your super power and your love for all of us!!! Thanks to Ae for the great costumes and mask! Thanks to Marc for the magic forest graffiti, and Fiona for the photos.

Thanks to all who contributed!



"At first I did not understand why we were rehearsing over and over again and sometimes with 40° Celsius it was just too hot. But then I realized that Marcus was just there for us and had the desire that we enjoy the time together. That motivated me. When the demonstration was over and we had mastered it all very good, that was a really great feeling."

*The narrator*





*Stefan with the BAAN DOI boys at his farewell evening*

## Nothing is as constant as change

"Graziella and I consider ourselves really lucky to have such a great team on our side where each one puts in their heart. Stefan came to Thailand after his Charity Bike Tour for BAAN DOI in 2013. He decided to help us for one year as a volunteer, which now has become two years.

Thank you for your work in the office and the free time activities with the kids! We miss you at BAAN DOI, so we look forward to November 2016!!!"

*Barbara*

"It's nice when your colleague is at the same time also a good friend with whom, you can share everything and be supported and positively reinforced."

*Graziella*

*The perception of time is indeed very subjective. For me the last 2 years have passed very fast, yet it is only a small part of my life. For the children and adolescents at the BAAN DOI orphanage two years may probably appear much longer.*

Children develop so quickly. For me it is a great pleasure to witness this development. Personalities become clearer, children develop into teenagers and strengths become visible. BAAN DOI has grown and now has more family members!

Also the infrastructure of the orphanage has changed during my time. With the new road it's easier and more comfortable to get to the orphanage. When I look around at the orphanage today, I see beautiful houses with eight bedrooms for the children. Even the dining room has been adapted and is now twice as large as before. With the autonomous water system we have not only clean water but also drinking water.

We also now have accomplished our goal of being able to grow organic vegetables all year long, even in the rainy season. A greenhouse was built, and the recently enlarged fish pond will not only provide food, but also be a place to relax.

There has also been newly created internal changes that may not be noticeable at first glance but have also contributed to all the improvements. BAAN DOI's child protection policy ensures that the children are safe around

the clock and that their rights are granted.

In order to provide the human resources to better take care of the specific needs of our children, the English school was closed after 3 years of existence. The youth counseling center SUN WAI SAI is now running without BAAN DOI's support. The Orphanage and the Outreach Family Support Program are further expanded and new staff members joined the team.

By all the new every day challenges something remained stable: the persistent commitment of the BAAN DOI team. Our common vision, to support children affected with HIV / AIDS in Chiang Rai province, is further carried out every day and motivates us to expand our work and plan new programs.

I once again will spend the summer in Germany and come back to BAAN DOI in November. My main work at BAAN DOI is in the administrative area. Most of that, I can do without being tied to a specific location. So I can achieve something I have always wanted: to pursue a meaningful and fulfilling work and to be mobile and flexible at the same time.

*Stefan Wagner  
BAAN DOI Volunteer*

# Thank you very much



BAAN DOI — Home and  
Healing Center for  
Children

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