



BAAN DOI Newsletter

No. 17 / June 2017

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Family meeting

The 1st BAAN DOI Sportsday



Dear BAAN DOI Friends,

While outside the monsoon rain is flooding the road, I sit here in the office and am happy about the 17th edition of the BAAN DOI newsletter. The articles make it once again clear to me, what we have built up in the last eight years here in the north of Thailand.

The Orphanage is becoming more and more beautiful and is a good place for the healthy development of our children. The Outreach Family Support Program supports more and more children who live with their relatives. The prevention program has started doing awareness work.

This makes me proud and grateful. I am also very grateful for the valuable support BAAN DOI has been receiving.

In this issue, we show how we have worked to create a beautiful environment for the children. We also show the value of the Family Outreach Support Program for the children and adolescents and their relatives supported in the program. And we describe a typical Thai sports event.

Enjoy reading and have a nice summer

Graziella for the whole BAAN DOI team

PS: If you want to find out more about BAAN DOI - Home and Healing Center for Children, the programs, the team and the possibilities to support, you can do this on our newly created website. Under www.baandoi.org you can find all the information and the access to the BAAN DOI documentary.

The BAAN DOI Management-Team





Ressourceroom, Heartroom and Fishpond

The BAAN DOI Orphanage - a place to feel good



The supporters of BAAN DOI know that the good physical and mental development of our children is very important to us. Therefore we are very happy to present the new buildings.

Since the beginning, the infrastructure at the BAAN DOI Orphanage has constantly been expanded and extended. In the last years we have inaugurated the new children's houses with sufficient sleeping places, the kitchen and the dining room have been extended and an access road has been built. Also the water supply was completed with the large tanks and the drinking water filter system. The BAAN DOI infrastructure is now fully functional. Now we can look after the "beautiful details".

In order to strengthen our children in their development, we have built two new buildings out of clay in the BAAN DOI Orphanage. The first round clay house (about which we have already reported in the last newsletter) serves as a resource room, where the children can learn at their own pace with Montessori and other stimulating materials, according to their abilities and needs. Currently we are in the process of evaluating the needs of each individual child and equipping the room with materials. The beau-

tiful space is not only used for learning, but also for meetings and yoga classes. Children and staff look forward to the morning Sarvangasanas and Bhujangasanas on the weekend with Yoga teacher Barbara.

The second clay house is very dear to us. Not only because it has been built in a heart shape and is therefore called "Heartroom", but mainly because our psychologist will be working there with play- art- and other forms of therapy. Through these therapies the children will be able to work through trauma and developmental blockages which will strengthen their self-esteem and their ability to attach and express themselves.

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Many thanks to all the supporters who have made this possible.

Special thanks to the Swiss Foundation Karl-Zünd, the BAAN DOI partner associations Austria, Germany and Switzerland, as well as AVL LIST GmbH.





BAAN DOI kids playing on the new playground (left)

The kids help painting and enjoy the heart-room (below)

After the completion of the buildings in the BAAN DOI Orphanage, a yearly dream of Barbara, Graziella and the children could be realized: The playground for our children was planned and implemented with the help of our friend, the French landscape architect Goustin Bodin, who lives in Bangkok. The children were also able to contribute their ideas and wishes and helped with the construction. All are enthusiastic about the great climbing tower, the possibilities to hide, the slide and above all the tree house. Of course, the beloved trampoline was also integrated. And best of all, thanks to the roof construction, our children can now jump, swing, slide, climb or hide in the mid-day and during the rainy season.



Thus with the beautiful clay houses, the last year expanded fishpond and the playground we have now created a beautiful place for the BAAN DOI children. A place to feel good, to play and develop healthy mental, emotional and physical growth.



We are very pleased that BAAN DOI is getting more and more interest. In March, 23 pediatricians from 13 countries visited us as part of their training at the Chiang Rai Hospital. BAAN DOI was presented by the doctors and the team in Chiang Rai as a role model.





The supported children, adolescents and relatives at the meeting of the Outreach Child Support Program Familienför-

Familymeeting at BAAN DOI

In May we had our fourth annual meeting for the families in the *Outreach Child Support Program (OCS)*.

After welcoming the children and adolescents together with their families, they got a brief overview by our project leader Yingtaew Supranee, who pointed out the rules and changes in the program. Our team leader, Saowaluk Junwong, emphasized the importance of education for the children and youth. In addition, we were able to congratulate the two brothers Phat and Korn who graduated from university. They are now completing an internship and applying for a job.

The twin brothers were very happy about the support of BAAN DOI during their studies. They wholeheartedly thanked us. "To get along with the studies, job, family and friends, it is important to set the right priorities. A lot of personal responsibility is required. Everyone has the chance and it is in their own hands whether and how to use it."

After this time together, the participants were divided into the activities. The younger children were engaged in our craft work by our child care taker Sandy, while the older children and teenagers took part in a workshop on "safe sex". Playfully and in lectures awareness work took place.

While the children were engaged in the activities our team had individual discussions with the children's caretakers. The caretakers gave details about home and school life. They discussed the challenges that they have overcome and those that they continue to endure. In the daily struggle

with illness and poverty, much is about how the family can be fed. Words like: "Thank you for being there for us. We have no one else." strongly affected us.

We were also touched by the statement of a 70-year-old grandmother about her 9-year-old granddaughter. "I am so proud of her because she always takes her medicine on time and she always helps me in the household. She really is my little sunshine! "

There were also some requests for additional support, such as the help to find a regular job or additional financial support for the school bus to the next city. From a grandmother, whose husband died only a few months ago, came the request whether we could accommodate her two grandchildren in the Orphanage.

Despite the many emotional moments, we remain professional in these situations and give feedback only after we have thoroughly examined the situation on site and have come to a common decision in the team. It is important for us to consider well, as we think it is best for the children to grow up with their families and relatives. Moreover, the places in the BAAN DOI Orphanage are limited.

It was a nice day together, a good exchange and we have again got an impression of the current situation of the children and families in the program. Now we know where the supported families stand. So we can accompany them a bit further.

The BAAN DOI Outreach Child Support Program enables orphans and half-orphans who come from very poor backgrounds to stay with their relatives while being well cared for and receiving education and medical care.

At the moment we support 42 children and youth in their families in the program.

The program supports the families with:

- Financial support for the education of the children and youth
- Activities and trainings under the program
- Monthly benefits for medicine and nutrition
- Guidance and consultation
- Scholarships for university



Very popular in Thailand: sportsday with parade

BAAN DOI's first Sportsday

A very personal report by Stefan Wagner (translated from German)

In my youth as an athlete I once took part at a sports day in Germany. What has taken place at BAAN DOI in April awoke old memories of a parade, which hardly anyone could see, highly motivated participants, an endeavored organization committee and a lot of fun during the competition.

For the parade, the two teams - pink and blue - have been preparing for days. So the children looked really phenomenal. Wow. The fact that we started late because of the make-up shall be mentioned just as an aside. This is Thailand. Beauty is more important.

First were the running competitions. I had meticulously prepared for the 400-meter run because I wanted to be the fastest runner at BAAN DOI. Start and finish were marked on the ground. When I asked the referees, I was a bit surprised. From the 400 meters there were only 40 meters left. The run is just called like that. As I said, this is Thailand.

After the relays and running for fun, there was next to other tug-of-war on the program. Completely new to me and really good was "chair ball", a kind of basketball, where the basket is held by a person on a chair. A lot of commitment without fouls. Great.

In the afternoon, there was table tennis, Takraw (a Thai national sport, where the netball can only be played with your feet and your head over a net), volleyball and



During the hot season the children in Thailand have 2 months holiday. During this time the BAAN DOI child caretakers arrange a varied program. Next to tutoring classes, computer classes, cleaning and gardening, there are also excursions and other activities.





football. During the competitions one noticed how much the children and the staff had prepared for during the weeks before. The games were a lot of fun for the participants as well as the audience, and the cheerleaders have given their all on both sides.

The children caretakers have thought about something great for the holiday program. "We let the others really sweat". Something like that must have been their thoughts, because, of course, they did not participate, but were the referees. But we did not let them get away so easily. And so, the three had to make a real effort during their own competition. During mid-day heat. So sweet can revenge be.

At the end of the day the winner team was selected. The parade, the competitions and the cheerleaders were judged - that is fair in a sport competition, right? I only say: this is Thailand.

My conclusion after the first BAAN DOI sports day: Really awesome. We all agreed, that must be repeated - but maybe not in the hot season. But maybe soon in the next holidays after the rainy season.

By the way, I was not the fastest. Mai pen rai - No problem. This is Thailand.



More impressions of the life of our children and adolescents in the Orphanage as well as the sports day can be found in the gallery on our website:

<http://baandoi.org/en/fotos>

Thanks a lot to Satiengpong Nernpon (Peter) and Fiona Theede for the beautiful fotos



Thank you very much



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