



# BAAN DOI Newsletter

Nr. 18 / December 2017

## Content of this issue:

My name is One – BAAN DOI through the eyes of a youngster.

Why do people in the partner associations support BAAN DOI?

BAAN DOI's prevention work in the Mae Sai district.



## Dear BAAN DOI Friends,

Has half a year passed already? Yes, time flies by, since we are so busy with the daily tasks and challenges.

The letter from one of our teenagers “One” that appears in this issue shows what she’s thinking about her future. The prospect of a good future is also important to us. Our goal is to give our children the chance to live a life integrated into Thai society. Next to having citizenship this includes good education.

Not all the children in the BAAN DOI programs have good grades like “One” which limits their chances for a higher education. More and more we realize that many of our kiddies are already adolescents and will soon take their lives into their own hands. Already at BAAN DOI they practice independence and learn to make their own decisions.

Self-determination is an important goal of our prevention program to prevent new HIV infections and teenage pregnancies. Our colleague Saowaluk Junvong explains how we implement the prevention program in the Mae Sai district in cooperation with schools.

Along the way we have great, dedicated companions. In this issue we present people from the partner associations. A few of many, many supporters. A HUGE THANKS to you and everyone else!

We wish you all

**Merry Christmas**

*and a Happy New Year*

*Graziella and the BAAN DOI Team*

*The BAAN DOI Management Team*



## Hello, my name is One\*

BAAN DOI supports the children so that they have the prospect of a healthy development and good education. Like this they get the chance of self-determination and financial autonomy.

This is the best way out of the vicious circle of poverty, poor education and risks such as human trafficking and drugs.

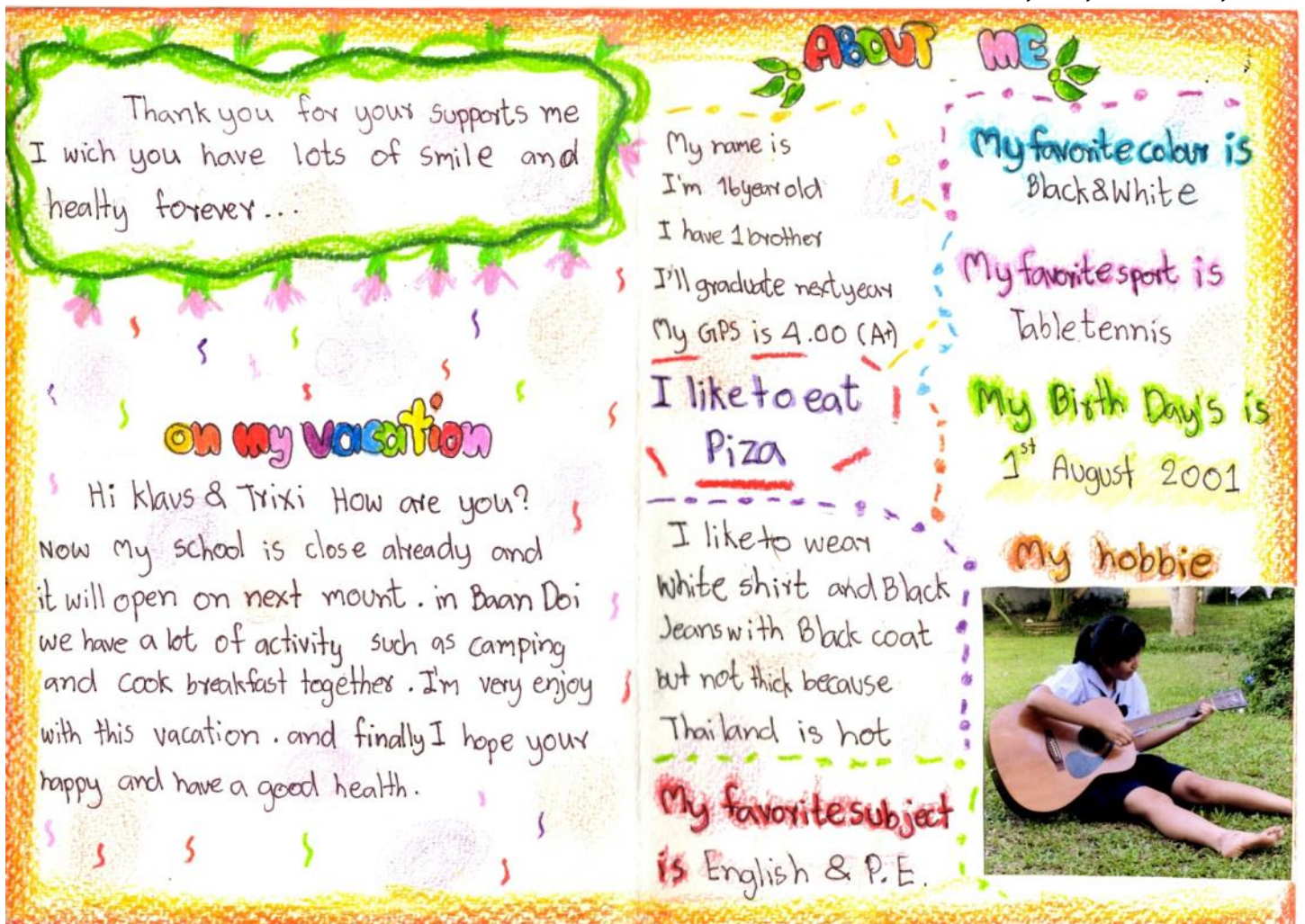
Hello my name is One\*. I am 16 years old. I have one younger brother. I live in BAAN DOI. At the moment I am studying in grade 9. Next year I have to take a test to continue my studies in high school in Chiang Rai. Right now I am not sure yet, what and where I want to study because I am not sure about my dream yet. I have a lot of dreams like becoming a guide, architect or designer.

At the moment my life is busy and a bit stressful because I am thinking a lot about which school I should choose to continue my studies and I am worrying about the tests. But I am happy because my friends and the adults at BAAN DOI motivate me. I have been living in BAAN DOI for over 7 years. Everything I get comes from BAAN DOI. Every baht that I receive for going to school comes from BAAN DOI. I also receive a lot of support and counselling about con-

tinuing my studies. I feel lucky and I feel that I have everything I need. I am not more disadvantaged than others, because BAAN DOI has been supporting me the whole time. My younger brother is developing slowly and he has a blood disease but BAAN DOI also helps here with the costs for the doctor and the medicine. BAAN DOI takes care of my brother very well. I will continue to do my best at school so that later I have a good job and can save money so that in the future my brother and I don't need to have a difficult life. If I have the chance I will come back again and support BAAN DOI.

\*Child Protection is important to us. Therefore we changed the name.

A card of One for BAAN DOI friends.





*A flea market benefitting BAAN DOI*

## **Interview with Michaela and Lizzy from Baan Doi Austria**

### **What do you do for BAAN DOI?**

**Michaela:** After BAAN DOI was founded, I had the chance to travel to Thailand, visit the children's home and experience it with body and soul. After that, the Baan Doi partner association Austria was founded. I have been the secretary since the beginning. Barbara's sister Maria founded the craft club Golling, where I am also active. Here we work together once a week and produce handicrafts that we sell at various Christmas markets

**Lizzy:** Since the establishment of BAAN DOI, I try to support the project. I've been involved in Christmas markets over the past few years and have been selling BAAN DOI handmade products imported from Thailand. Also, I have participated in some flea markets. Every year in "Kuchl" there is a big event, where we offer home-made cakes, drinks and other small dishes and where I am very happy to help.

### **What is your motivation?**

**Lizzy:** It feels good to do GOOD. Especially if you feel the truthfulness and cordiality of the BAAN DOI team. Every member of the association is happy to work for this project.

**Michaela:** It is a matter of personal concern to me that BAAN DOI and the members are well. Especially since I was there

and saw so much warmth, patience, energy and commitment.

### **How do you experience your commitment?**

**Lizzy:** Working as a team in the partner association Austria is always very nice because many people easily and happily work together and in the end you can see the result of the teamwork with every Euro.

**Michaela:** It always amazes me how many people have heard of BAAN DOI. I enjoy it a lot and have fun attending the events. It fills me with pride to be able to participate in such a great, true heart project.

### **What do you wish for BAAN DOI?**

**Michaela:** I wish BAAN DOI, the project and the people behind it that they are seen even more and become known in many places. To the team in the children's home, I wish lots of strength, energy and stamina. I wish the children good health and sun in their hearts and that they will find a job in different projects and places in the future.

**Lizzy:** I hope that BAAN DOI will be supported by even more people, so that the necessary financial resources for the future-oriented, holistic support of the children and adolescents can be provided.



Barbara, the founder of BAAN DOI, was able to count on the support of her family and friends from Salzburg right from the beginning.

Her sister Lizzy and cousin Michael talk about their commitment and their motivation in the partner association Baan Doi Austria.

The many flea and Christmas markets do not only sell handcrafted products of the handicrafts club „Kuchl“, but also provide information about BAAN DOI and thus find new supporters.



*Charity Dinner in St. Moritz, Switzerland*

## *Susanne reports from Switzerland*



*Susanne Reisinger,  
Head of Partner Association  
Switzerland*

Leading the partner association Baan Doi Switzerland is an exciting and satisfying experience. In Switzerland, in the personal environment of Graziella, BAAN DOI is already well known and we are always amazed how many people have already heard of BAAN DOI.

The six-person board is very creative, there's a lot of female power, and we're always coming up with new ways to generate help for BAAN DOI. The idea of the charity dinner was probably the one that hit the nerve of the time. On the 3rd of November, we had our fourth annual "eat and donate" event. Over 80 people attended. That evening we were able to generate a large sum in support of BAAN DOI! We are proud of that and it motivates us to take on the work again next year.

The future of BAAN DOI is promising, too, and the idea of giving young people the chance of vocational education is awesome! Here in Switzerland, it is customary to have the choice of doing an apprenticeship after completing compulsory school. It's not that easy in Thailand. But I am convinced that there will be some possibility of vocational education for young people.

What is most suitable for BAAN DOI's target group in the north of Thailand is currently being developed by the team there. For this purpose, the needs are clarified,

projects and organizations that offer similar things, are visited, ideas are gathered and a network is set up. With this, the right training offers will be developed and the corresponding infrastructure will be created.

We in the Baan Doi partner association Switzerland are targeting companies that would like to support BAAN DOI. This is how we help the BAAN DOI team to make their vision come true.

At each board meeting we talk about how amazing and admirable it is that two young women created something so valuable out of nothing. But, in my opinion, it is not done with the establishment! Sustain and developing it, is what needs perseverance.

Hats off - and keep up the good work!

There are a total of three Baan Doi partner associations in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

If you would like to participate or would like to support BAAN DOI with a membership, you can find the information on the website under "Support".





Students doing prevention work supported by BAAN DOI at their school

## Prevention work at schools in Mae Sai



BAAN DOI realized early the importance of prevention work and set up appropriate programs. This year, students have been trained in order to do prevention work in schools in Mae Sai. Saowaluk Junvong is responsible for this work and gives us a report below.

One of the challenges was to persuade the schools to accept our offer. We succeeded with the help of the Ministry of Public Health. An invitation from this ministry is much more valuable. So, 11 schools in the Mae Sai district each sent 3 to 5 students to participate in the training.

On the one hand, our training was about teaching the content, on the other hand, about enabling the participants to pass on this content to their peers in their schools.

The content was about very specific life situations of the young people. Problems of having a boyfriend or girlfriend were discussed. Most teenagers want relationships and also want sex. The participants talked about the consequences that unprotected sexual intercourse can have. In role plays behaviors that help make the right decisions and practices to be able to say no were practiced. They talked about what are the pros and cons of condoms and the pill and in what situation which option is best.

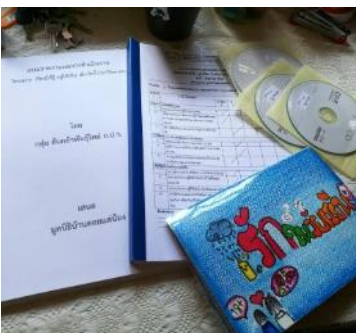
The pupils worked in groups to decide how to pass this information along to other stu-

dents. The trainees created a little booklet with a love story that communicates the contents of the training very nicely. An important part of the work is a survey on how the program has improved the knowledge.

I support the trainers through Facebook or LINE, which is the most popular way to stay in touch. The results from the surveys and the feedback from the teachers and participants show the positive effects of the BAAN DOI prevention program. In addition, I am very happy that we continue to receive support from the Ministry of Public Health.

In 2018, we will combine this prevention work with online safety courses. The young people here in the North of Thailand grow up in a rather traditional society that does not tolerate the topic of sex in adolescents and usually simply ignores it. At the same time, they have access to all content around the world via the widely available Internet. Through communication with modern media, adolescents can also expose themselves to increased dangers.

That's why we teach and explain the dangers. Through bigger organizations such as the "Kindernothilfe", we learned what child protection should look like in the digital age. We will be implementing our programs in 13 schools in Mae Sai.



# Thank you very much



BAAN DOI — Home and  
Healing Center for  
Children

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