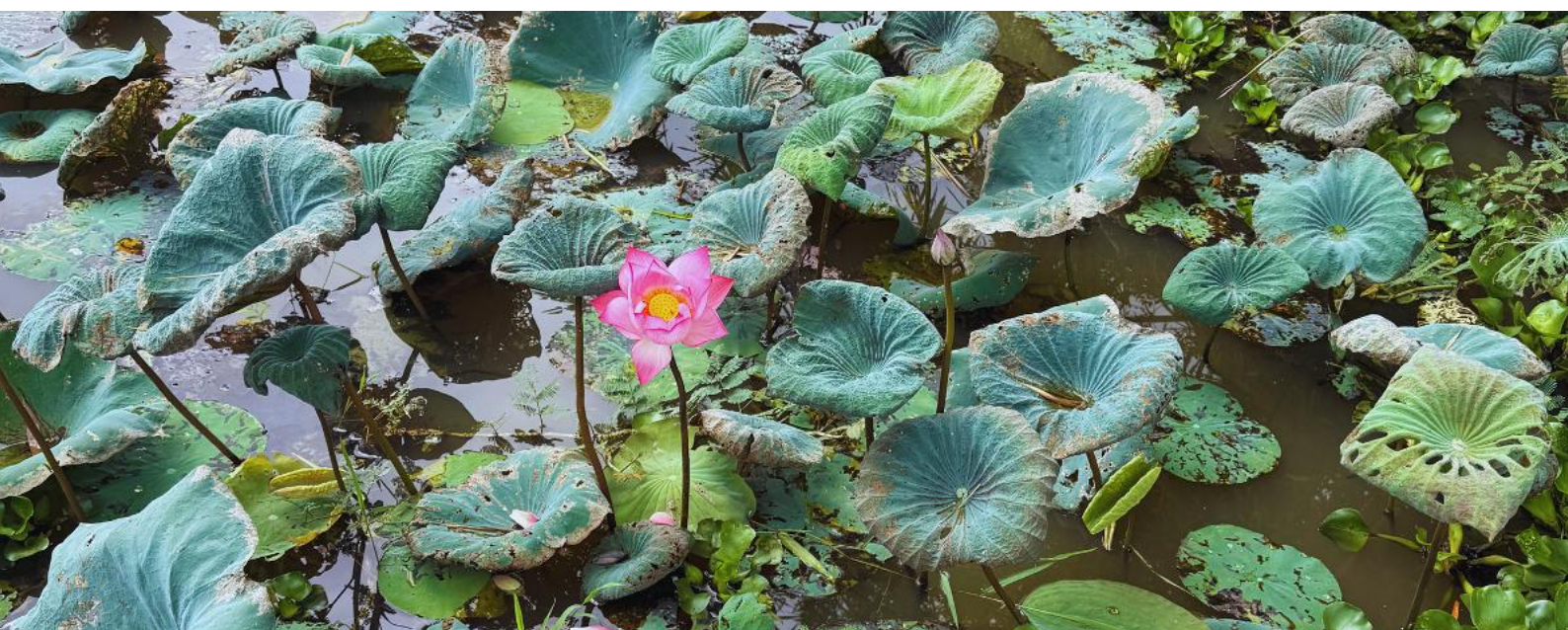


# BAAN DOI - Home and Healing Center for Children

supporting children and families in Northern Thailand



## A Year Shaped by Change

Planning the coming 5 years, we decided to focus our outreach work on the support to children and families in Mae Sai district, allowing us to strengthen our local Child Protection Network and work more closely with communities and partners.

Another important milestone was moving our office back to our Children's Home. By renovating our first children's house, we created a shared workspace that brings our team closer together and improves collaboration.

We also welcomed more children into both of our programs. Some found a loving home at BAAN DOI, while others received support to remain safely with their families and continue their education.

We were also fortunate to welcome Tina and Fritz, two German journeymen, who volunteered with us for two months and became wonderful friends to our children and staff.

In this newsletter, we invite you to meet our team, our children and friends, the people who make BAAN DOI such a special place.

Thank you for being part of our journey.  
With warm regards,

**Barbara & the BAAN DOI Team**

## Content of this issue:

How children find a new home and family and what awaits them at BAAN DOI - Home and Healing Center for Children.

Introduction of our renewed office work space and the people, who guarantee our organization is running smoothly.

Fritz Streng, a journey man from Germany takes us on his Adventure in South East Asia and talks about his time at BAAN DOI.

## A Home to Grow, Learn and Belong

This year, BAAN DOI welcomed four new children into our Children's Home. Each child arrives with their own unique story and challenges, but all share the same need for a safe, loving, and stable environment in which they can grow.

When a new child arrives at BAAN DOI, they are warmly welcomed into our community. They are introduced to the people, the house, and our daily routines, while an older child acts as a buddy to help them settle in and feel at home.

BAAN DOI is much more than a children's home—it is a family and a place where children can feel safe, valued, and loved. Our goal is to provide every child with the care, protection, and opportunities they need to build a brighter future.



Our team of four dedicated child-care takers called Tik, Pop, Wanchai and Nooi ensures that every child receives individual support.

Each staff member takes responsibility for one of our four key areas: Education, Health, Civil Registration, and Life Skills Development.

Together, they monitor each child's progress and well-being, ensuring that every child is cared for in accordance with our Child Protection Policy and international child protection standards.

Healthy nutrition is an important part of our daily life. Most of our meals are freshly prepared using organic ingredients, many of which are grown on our own organic farm.



Our child-care takers work in shifts of 7 days. 2 child-care takers at a time provide 24 h care for full seven days until the shift changes and the other 2 child-care takers come in for their week. This has been the best routine to create a stable environment for the children.



Weekends are filled with creativity and fun. Since 2022, a family of local musicians has volunteered their time to teach keyboard, guitar, ukulele, drums, traditional Northern Thai instruments, and dance. These lessons not only nurture the children's talents but also build confidence, discipline, and joy. Community life is at the heart of BAAN DOI.

Every other week, we spend a day together at our organic farm. Mornings are dedicated to meaningful work—planting rice and vegetables, weeding, maintaining the farm, or helping with small construction projects. The afternoons are a time to relax and enjoy nature. Fishing, swimming, drawing, making music, and simply spending time together are among the children's favourite activities.

All children living at BAAN DOI attend local schools. On weekdays, they leave for school at around 7:00 a.m. and return home in the late afternoon.

Home is a place where they can relax, study, play, and simply be children in a safe and nurturing environment. Every child shares responsibility for caring for one another, their home, the animals, and the surrounding gardens.



For the children BAAN DOI becomes much more than a safe place—it becomes a home where they can heal, grow, and look forward to a future full of possibilities.



## A new office for a stronger team

This year, we reached an important milestone by renovating our very first children's house and transforming it into our new office. For many years, we rented office space away from the Children's Home. Having our entire team working on-site now allows us to collaborate more effectively, respond more quickly to the children's needs, and spend more time together as one team.

The new is a place where ideas are shared, plans are made, and the daily work of protecting and supporting children comes to life. With four functional rooms, the building provides the space our organisation needs while remaining closely connected to the children we serve.



At the heart of the office is a spacious common room. During the day, it serves as a meeting room for staff discussions, partner meetings, and training sessions. In the evenings and on weekends, the room belongs to the children. Here they can do their homework together, hold children's meetings, play games, watch movies, or simply spend time with one another.



Jitkunya

Three additional rooms serve as offices for our team. The first office belongs to our child-caretakers. Besides being their workspace, it is where all confidential records and development plans for the children are securely stored.

From here, they coordinate the children's daily routines, monitor their progress in education, health, civil registration and life skills development, and ensure that every child receives the individual care they need.



Chanisa

The second office is shared by Jitkunya and Chanisa, our social workers. They coordinate the Outreach Child Support (OCS) Program and maintain close relationships with schools, hospitals, local authorities, and other members of our Child Protection Network.

Around half of their working time is spent in the office documenting casework, planning family visits, preparing reports, and monitoring and evaluating the outcomes of our programs. The other half is spent in the communities, visiting families, supporting children, and strengthening local child protection systems.



Fon &amp; Hong

The third room is shared by our accounting and administration staff. Fon, our cashier, is responsible for the financial management of BAAN DOI. She oversees budgeting, processes payments, prepares financial documentation, and works closely with our accountant Hong to ensure transparency and accountability in every donation we receive.



Lyn

Lyn, our administrator, coordinates much of BAAN DOI's communication in the Thai language. She prepares official correspondence, submits reports to government agencies, organizes visas and work permits, and ensures that the many administrative processes behind our work run smoothly.

Although each team member has different responsibilities, we all work towards the same goal: improving the quality of life for vulnerable children and families in the Mae Sai area.

## 5 Months in Southeast-Asia and 2 at BAAN DOI

Travelling as journeymen in Southeast Asia is very different from travelling in Europe. Hardly anyone here has ever heard of the centuries-old tradition of the Wanderschaft.

Our distinctive clothing certainly attracts attention and admiration, but who we are and why we travel this way is difficult to explain. Even with the help of a German-Laoian translator, the concept remains almost impossible to convey.

Young Europeans who voluntarily learn a trade, leave home for several years, travel without a mobile phone, and make their way through the world relying on their skills? In many parts of Southeast Asia, this is simply beyond people's imagination.

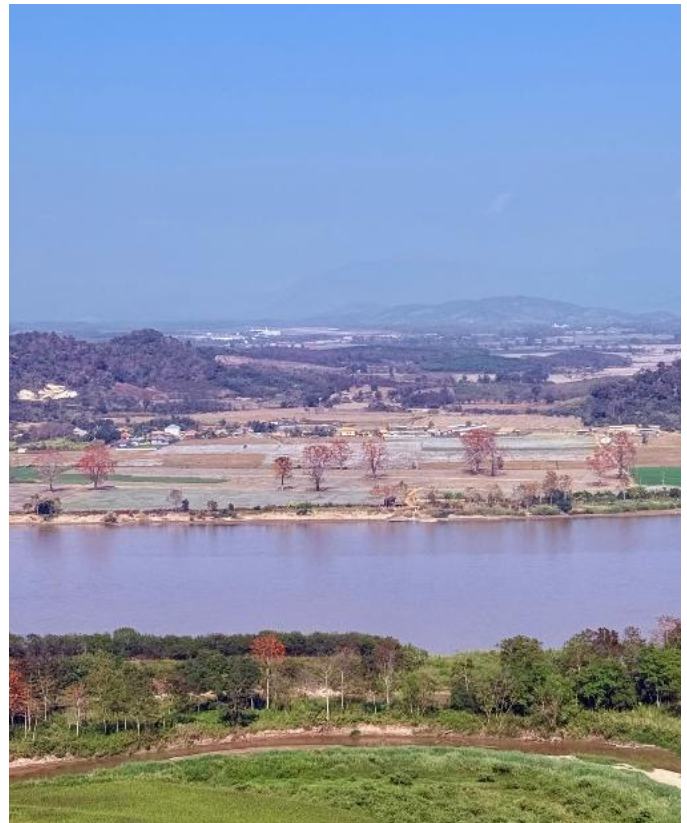


There, we encountered the richness of local cultures in unforgettable ways: celebrating Chinese New Year with a family in southern Thailand, complete with ancestral ceremonies and ant curry; joining a village festival in Laos with AI-generated Lao psytrance, towering loudspeakers, and endless dancing; spending five extraordinary days celebrating Khmer New Year in a fishing village; and finally, volunteering at BAAN DOI Children's Home in Thailand's northernmost province, just a few kilometers from the Myanmar border.

“Even though people in this part of the world are not familiar with our way of living, the journey works. In fact, the most meaningful experiences happen away from the well-known tourist destinations, where people and communities are not dependent on tourism.”

BAAN DOI is located at the foot of Doi Nang Non, part of the mountain range known as the "Sleeping Lady," which forms the natural border between Thailand and Myanmar. To the east, the Mekong River separates the region from Laos.

This is the famous Golden Triangle, once one of the world's largest opium-producing regions. Although much has changed, poverty remains a daily reality for many families, particularly in remote mountain communities and across the borders in Myanmar and Laos. Visitors who only know Bangkok, Phuket, or Pattaya rarely encounter this side of Thailand.



Many families in this region continue to face enormous challenges. Limited access to education, insecure legal status, environmental degradation, human trafficking, and the ongoing conflict in neighbouring Myanmar all contribute to cycles of poverty and vulnerability.

Young girls are particularly at risk. Hoping for better opportunities, many leave their villages for the cities, unaware of the dangers of exploitation and trafficking that await them.

Fortunately, some of these children find their way to BAAN DOI.

Mae Sai, the northernmost district of Thailand, is home to the BAAN DOI Children's Home and North Star Organic Farm. It borders Myanmar and Laos, with the Mae Sai River forming the border with Myanmar and the mighty Mekong River marking the border with Laos.

For the past eighteen years, Barbara Meisl has lived and worked in Mae Sai, providing a safe and loving home for around 20-25 children each year while also supporting 60 vulnerable families through outreach programs. Together with a dedicated team of local staff and the support of partner organisations in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, BAAN DOI creates opportunities for children to grow up safely and build independent futures.

To provide healthy organic food for the children, BAAN DOI purchased a rice field in 2018 and gradually transformed it into a holistic permaculture farm with rice paddies, vegetable gardens, fish ponds, and fruit trees. In collaboration with BASEhabitat at the University of Arts Linz, several environmentally friendly guesthouses were built, and in 2025 the North Star Café was added to the project.



The vision is that the farm, guesthouses, and café will one day generate a sustainable income for BAAN DOI while also serving as a place where young people can gain practical work experience, develop professional skills, and prepare for independent living.

For two months, we had the privilege of being part of this project.

We helped build a new spa area, gave cooking classes, worked on the farm, and contributed to everyday life at BAAN DOI. Tina, a carpenter and fellow journeyman, and I were able to experience the fascinating process of bamboo construction from the very beginning, learning step by step alongside the team.

Our time at BAAN DOI showed us that true craftsmanship is about much more than building with our hands. It is about building trust, creating opportunities, and becoming part of a community that is changing children's lives for the better.

*Fritz Streng*



**A heartfelt thank you to Tina and Fritz for the wonderful time we shared. Thank you for your hard work, your skills, and your friendship.**

The North Star Organic Farm will soon reopen its doors to guests. If you're looking for an authentic experience off the beaten path, we'd love to welcome you.

**[northstarfarmstay.com](http://northstarfarmstay.com)**

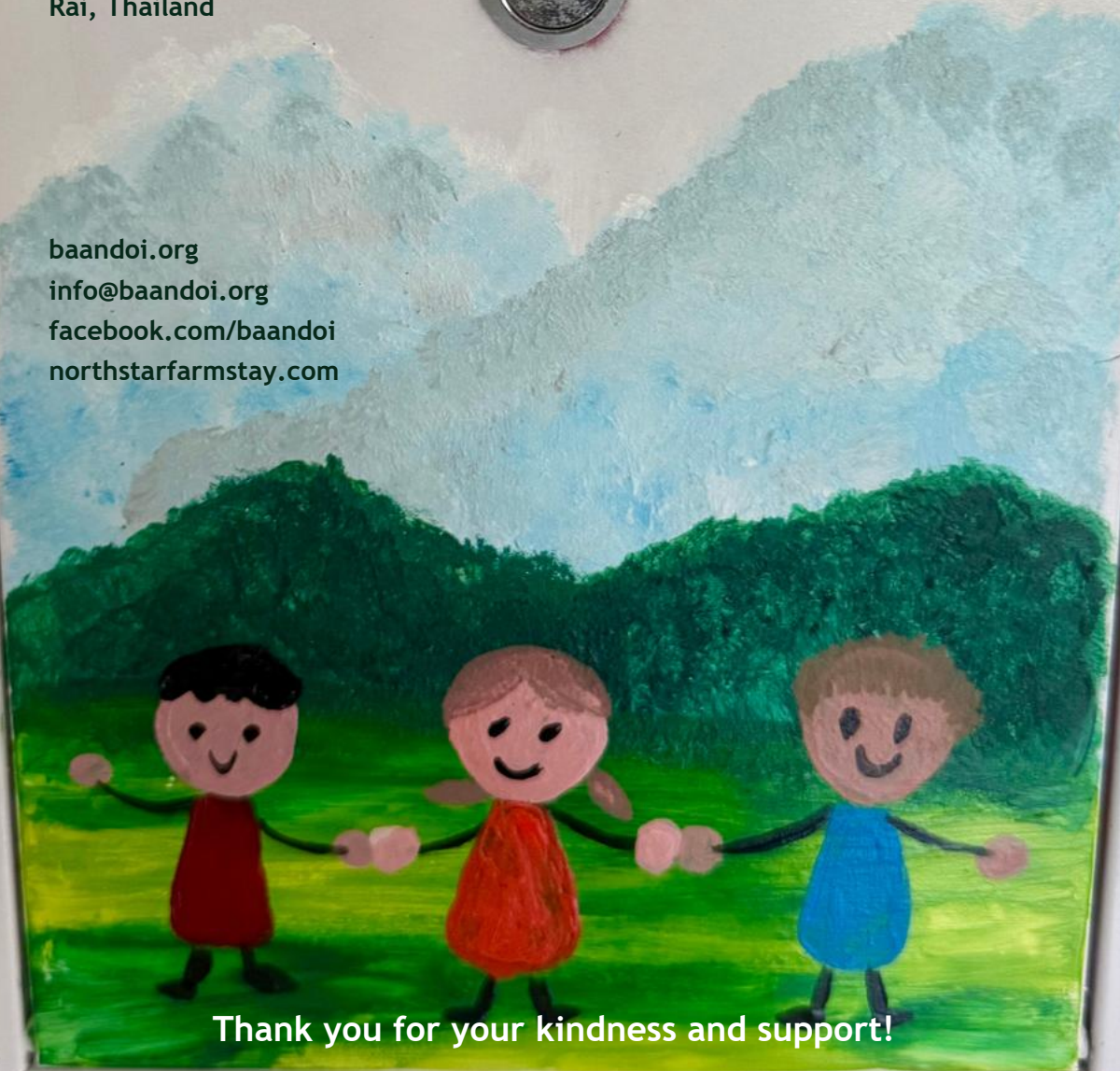
# ฉันอยากบอกว่า...



BAAN DOI – Home and  
Healing Center for  
Children  
Mae Sai, Provinz Chiang  
Rai, Thailand



baandoi.org  
info@baandoi.org  
facebook.com/baandoi  
northstarfarmstay.com



**Thank you for your kindness and support!**

BAAN DOI Germany  
Bodensee Bank Lindau  
Account holder:  
BAAN DOI Deutschland e.V.  
BIC: GENODEF1LBB  
IBAN: DE84 7336 9821 0100 4187 30  
Your donation is tax deductible

BAAN DOI Austria  
Raiffeisenbank Golling a.d. Salzach  
Account holder: BAAN DOI Austria  
BIC: RVSAAT2S017  
IBAN: AT76 3501 7000 0012 8645  
Tax deductibility on request

BAAN DOI Switzerland  
Graubündener Kantonalbank  
St. Moritz Account holder:  
Förderverein BAAN DOI Schweiz  
BIC/SWIFT: GRKBCH2270A  
IBAN: CH94 0077 4010 2850 2080 0  
Your donation is tax deductible