



COSA Newsletter

Happy Holidays



By: Cecilia Laseter

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www.cosasia.org
info@cosasia.org

From this point on, COSA would like to focus on who our girls are and who they would like to become rather than where they have been and what has happened to them in the past. All of our girls have lived through things that most of us cannot even fathom, even as adults. At Baan Yuu Suk they will be allowed to start fresh. With your help, our girls will be given the opportunity to think about their futures rather than their pasts and they will be able to grow into the productive citizens that they so desperately wish to become. With that said, we'd like to introduce you to the first six Baan Yuu Suk girls!



Dao is Baan Yuu Suk's newest and youngest family member (she's only 5 yrs. old). She had no name when we met her so we started calling her Dao, which means 'star' in Thai (plus she's from Chiang Dao). She loves eggs and papaya (not necessarily together...) and would like to be a chef

when she grows up. When asked what she would like people to know about her she said that she wants to be a good mother.

The first day that Dao came to Baan Yuu Suk she took her bowl of rice from the dinner table and sat in the corner to eat. When asked why, Dao stated simply that the adults always told her to eat in the corner. She now happily eats at the dinner table with everyone else.



Gan is a reserved, soft-spoken 14 year old Yao girl. She enjoys reading non-fiction science books and doing housework. Her favorite colors are blue and orange and she loves pad thai. In school she likes to play volleyball and work on her computer skills. Although thinking about her family conjures up sad feelings, her friends at the shelter

keep her in a happy mood. In fact, since moving to Baan Yuu Suk, Gan says that she hasn't been scared or worried about anything for the first time in her life.



Ning is a bubbly 12 (and a half, she insists!) year old Issan girl. She has spunk and a lovable, cheeky attitude. Like many girls her age, Ning aspires to be a pop star. She loves singing, playing the Thai flute and practicing traditional Thai dancing. When asked one thing that she would like

people to know about her, she unabashedly giggled, "I'm not beautiful, but I'm cute!"



Rah-Tee Six and a half year old Rah-Tee loves vegetables and the color yellow, which reflects her perpetually sunny personality. It is rare to see her without a smile on her face and a 'high five' or 'thumbs up' ready. She spends much of her day practicing her favorite activity, writing, and can often be found copying

letters over and over in her notebook. When asked what she would like to be when she grows up, she stated resolutely, "a mother!"



Fon Even though Fon's name means 'rain' in Thai, she is all sunshine and smiles. Her favorite colors are purple, pink, and blue and her favorite subjects in school are English and Thai. At home, she enjoys reading comic books and cooking her favorite meals: fried rice and chicken with basil. What's one thing Fon would like

people to know about herself? She's "strict but kind"; she likes to teach people how to do things the right way!"



Yooie Only 12 years old, Yooie is nonetheless the spokeswoman for the group of girls she came with to Baan Yuu Suk. As outspoken as she is, Yooie was almost speechless when asked what she wants to do when she grows up. She finally laughed

and mumbled that she "wants to do everything," but is particularly intrigued by fashion design and photography. Her favorite colors are white, blue, orange and black. Yooie was the star of the volleyball team at her old school and hopes to join the team at her new one. She also enjoys soccer and is currently working hard to become a better player. Yooie claims that she is always in a good mood, which is apparent to anyone who spends more than five minutes with her.



Most of our girls have never had a supportive family. The staff and volunteers of Baan Yuu Suk are providing them with their first taste of emotional support but they all need a 'financial' mother/father to help COSA provide them with the future they deserve. We're asking our compassionate supporters to please consider sponsoring one of our current six girls or a future child. Your financial support will cover the daily living expenses of your girl at the shelter including food, water, clothing, school fees and extra-curricular activities.

COSA manages each child's sponsorship personally, ensuring that your child receives holistic care throughout the year and security for the future. You will receive personal letters from your child and have the freedom to communicate with your child through COSA; allowing you to build a relationship and attain regular updates on your child's progress. Through Child sponsorship, your child will have the opportunity to achieve her full potential in life thanks to your financial support. Finding long-term sponsors for our girls gives us the financial ability to ensure the security of that one girl and the freedom to take in new, deserving girls. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please email us at info@cosasia.org and we will provide you with more details.

Your lens to social change



Mickey is looking for photographers or photo-enthusiasts to join his **"Your lens to social change"** photo tour. Mickey will lead you through the areas in Southeast Asia that normal tourists rarely see, exposing you to the inner workings of child

trafficking in an effort to raise awareness about the issues COSA and our girls deal with. Along the way, he will provide expert photography instruction. You can learn more at www.cosasia.org/yourlens2009.htm or browse Mickey's photography at www.choothesa.com.

The dates are still up in the air, but the first tour will likely take place in February and last about 20 days. The cost of the trip will go towards supporting COSA's mission and will cover the cost of visa fees, accommodation, domestic travel and some meals. If you're interested, send Mickey an email at mickeychoo@aol.com and he'll provide more details.



Baan Yuu Suk's family is expanding! We're thrilled to announce the birth of 10 chicks to Ralph and Alice!
Fresh eggs coming soon!

Newsletter Contributors

December saw the arrival of three volunteers, Finn, Yoomie, and Arjuna. Finn who will be at Baan Yu Suuk for several months did not take long in making the garden his responsibility. Several projects have been planned for the outdoor area, including a compost, orchard, outdoor dining area and outdoor shower.

The building of the compost was the first task on the list, and after visiting the local lumber supply, discussing and discarding ideas on the way back and finding out about the stubbornly reluctant character of nails made in Thailand, we found ourselves proudly examining a healthy, solid and organic-looking compost frame which soon enjoyed the company of the sweet smelling organic matter, mainly the tons of orange peel that had been extracted by everyone while working on the compost.

Four patches have been created for growing vegetables in one of the property's sunniest spots, every day you can see someone working or watering the soil and now we are all looking forward to purchasing the seeds and finally providing the first homegrown veggies for Baan Yuu Suk.



One of the most valuable skills for the children and staff of COSA is being able to converse in English. Not only is this helpful for their future, but also enables them to converse with volunteers. The children have continued to have regular English classes weeknights and together with children from the community on weekends. Fah has also been lucky enough to have private English lessons with

Finn every day after breakfast, and her eagerness to learn and speak English can be seen throughout the day!

Contributors: Finn Mempel & Arjuna Somanathan

Harbor House Update

Representatives from Harbor House finally agreed to meet with COSA last week for several hours and we're happy to report that they have agreed to sign the three sisters (Puyah, Ahnee, and Ah-der) over to COSA. They are still at the former Harbor House but were in the process of being transferred into a Hill Tribe Community as we initially suspected. The paperwork will still take 3-6 months to process but at the end of their school year (March 2010) the three sisters will officially join the Baan Yuu Suk family!