



Baan Saan Rak
HOUSE OF LOVE

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ASOSIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

- NOUSOL NGO
- ROSCOE PROJECTS
- SEPOM ASOSIATION
- RUAMMIT FOUNDATION
- MELAO COMMON COUNCIL
- ASIA CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION
- THAILAND SOCIAL SERVICES
- CHIANG RAI PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
- THAILAND MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



PROJECT SUMMARY

Baan Saan Rak or “House of Love” in English, is a Foster Care Home established in 2003, in Maelao, Chiang Rai Province, north of Thailand, near Myanmar border. We are a non-government and non-religious organization who take care of children in vulnerable conditions or social exclusion (orphans, broken families, extreme poverty, etc.)

Actually we offer a home for 33 children between 4 and 20 years old who comes mostly from thai-japanese families and Akha and Lahu tribes, even though the admission is open to every children who need a home, without make any difference on race, ethnicity or religion. Now most of them live in the foster home but some of them had to migrate to other cities to continue their studies, even though they are still linkage and under wardship of Baan Saan Rak.

RECEPTORS

Direct receptors:

- Children under exclusion risks, derived from social services and Ruammit Foundation.
- Children under exclusion risks and/or becoming from minority ethnicities who lived in Chiang Rai Province.
- Broken families without economic resources to take care of their children so they had to be brought to live in Baan Saan Rak.
- Children under exclusion risks coming from the proximities area of Baan Saan Rak, who lives a time frame or a season in the foster home, until their families can take care of them again, under stable and responsible conditions.

Indirect receivers:

- Every person who visit or become volunteer of Baan Saan Rak.
- Every person who has access to our website, social networks or audiovisual products.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

Foster and promote the inclusion, formation and empowerment of children in vulnerable conditions or social exclusion, through care and a stable home.

SPECIFIC OBJETIVES

- Provide the opportunity to have a decent life to orphans and children in need.
- Create a socio-educative place to foster the personal development of children.
- Provide the necessary resources to children so they can complete their academic formation.
- Coordinate with social services the integration of children in vulnerable and social exclusion to Baan Saan Rak.
- Advice and go along with families without resources so they can improve their conditions and be able to take care of their children.
- Prevent that children in vulnerable conditions and their families, get involved in criminal behaviors or mendicancy through support and formation programs.

BACKGROUND

Baan Saan Rak was established in September 2003 by Pimpam Kaseriwan (Jit), a Thai social worker who worked along her life in several organizations to protect women and children in need, until she decided to build her own foster care home in her home town.

When Jit began this project she associated with SEPOM organization which support Thai women who had been trafficked as prostitutes to Japan, and came back to Thailand with several psychologic and economic problems. Many of them came back with children they cannot take care of, reason why Jit decided to build an orphanage on the backyard of her family property. Because of the lack of resources and urgency of the situation, the first buildings was just bamboo huts to harbor and shelter the first children in need. Five years after, thanks to several private donations, Jit built concrete dormitories, kitchen and toilets for them.

Jit is the founder of this project and the only one permanent in Baan Saan Rak, taking care of all children needs. This means she gave herself completely into the education, care and formation of children, with the sole support of volunteers who comes sporadically, and older children who teach and take care of younger ones.

Now a day, thanks to donations and the support of several private organizations, Baan Saan Rak can finance education, meals, healthcare and basic needs of children, nevertheless jit has to use constantly her own resources to pay for the diverse and increasing needs of children.

Due to the size of Baan Saan Rak facilities, can receive 26 permanent children, even though can welcome a few more for urgent needs, but only for a short period until their families solved their situations.

9 children we welcome in 2003 today are about 20 years old so this year they had leaved from the Care Home to other towns and cities in order to continue their secondary or high school studies. Even though, Baan Saan Rak still take care of their expenses and educational needs, giving them the whole support until

they finish their formal studies and become independent grown up persons. In replacement of those 9 children who had gone this year (2017), another 9 young children came to live in the orphanage.

JUSTIFICATION

Baan Saan Rak is located in Maelao, a farming area at the north of Chiang Rai Province where several ethnic tribes, mainly Akha and Lahu live. This area is close by the “Golden Triangle” (Border where converge Thailand, Myanmar and Laos limits), a strategic place for commercial trades thanks to the Mekong River shores, but also one of the places with the higher rates of opium and heroin trafficking in the world because it became since the 19th century in the supplier and distribution point of this drugs to China and afterward, in the 20th century, to Europe and North America.

The “Golden Triangle” is also known because of their high rates of human trafficking for labor or sexual exploitation. More than 80% of those persons are women or young girls, cheated and forced to prostitute themselves in Thailand and other countries (Japan, EEUU and West Europe). Through many years, Thailand led the human trafficking rates in the world. After few decades and many efforts from the government to solve this crime, today this issue persist but in lower rates. Unfortunately in rural areas with high numbers of Akha and Lahu population, the human trafficking is still a problem unsolved. Children unregistered (from Myanmar and Lao) and farmers without school preparation still are in high risk of been captured and trafficked as human slaves.

In 18th Century after European colonization it was defined almost all the actual limits and borders in the South East Asia region. One of the problems was that this borders was made looking on their economic interest, without understand the geographic and cultural complexity of this zone, such as languages, ethnic origins or religion. This unconscious division made that many ethnic tribes become suddenly divided or trapped into countries with whom they got nothing in common.

Today those tribes has no rights to get an official identification, making them almost impossible to get access into the public education and health care, therefore most of their conditions are extreme poverty. In many cases this lack of help and extreme conditions create collateral damage as addiction to drugs, alcoholism, domestic violence, sexually transmitted diseases and mental disorders. Because of this hard socioeconomic context, many families cannot be responsible of their own children who suffer miss care or violence, provoking deep and irretrievable damages in their lives.

PHILOSOPHY

Through an integrative education we want to give the best educational tools to develop themselves into an adverse social context. Thanks to those tools they can build their own future and help their communities to overcome social exclusion, creating a more equal and fare society for all of them.

INTERVENTION METHODOLOGY

It is coordinate with social services of Thailand and other social organizations who work in the same area. As a result of that collaborative coordination they have clear identification of vulnerable and social excluded children. Some of those children are sent to Baan Saan Rak.

In those cases when family is under extreme poverty, Baan Saan Rak take care of their children giving them education, food, health care, cloths and a temporary home. Once their family improve their situation, and give prove of it, children come back to their family home.

In those extreme cases when children become orphans, their parents are in prison or had suffer violent abuses, Baan Saan Rak assume the complete ward and responsibility on them as the only tutor, and will be under our warship until they become adults (+18) and find a job which allow them to become independent. To those children we offer a home, food, cloths, education and all the support they need to complete secondary education, as minimum.

Before children arrived to Baan Saan Rak, many of them suffer psychological problems because of the extreme conditions they had in their homes. Regardless to help and overcome those traumas, the first months after their arrival we concentrate into their physic and psychological healing so they can have a gradual adaptation and acquire discipline into their lives.

All our activities are guided by the educational system “Learning by doing”, which includes:

- ✓ To grow their own vegetables for their meals.
- ✓ Timings table: Weekly activities which help to strengthen their behavior and keep armory into the home.
- ✓ Through and arraignment with local schools, they can attend to classes and receive education according to Thai system.
- ✓ We created a responsibilities board for each week on which everyone has a duty: Cook, sweep the garden, wash the dishes, tide up the common areas, etc.
- ✓ We teach manual arts so they can do post cards, paintings, bags and T-shirts with Batik technic. The product of their work is sold in Baan Saan Rak and some other shops in Chiang Rai.