



OCT - DEC 2020 | VOLUME 4

Keep Girls Safe

PROJECT OF ADRA THAILAND



Feature Story

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Greeting

Happy New Year everyone! We hope 2021 will be a year full of hope and faith that the world will get better from the pandemic (COVID-19) as some countries begin vaccination.

At KGS Shelter, we celebrated Christmas and New Year with celebrations at the shelter and at a restaurant. The girls enjoyed the festivities and delicious food.

Other activities the girls have been involved in include: community service, improving the organic vegetable garden, selling popcorn to a local café, etc.

Enjoy reading more about what KGS is currently doing below!



Families receive capital for investment

No start is ever too small as we realize from the beneficiaries of the Keep Girls Safe Project “Community Small Grant” activities. Many of the girls in the shelter come from among the hill tribe community who face a higher degree of poverty than other communities in Thailand. Many within the community engage in agriculture as their main economic activity and a household based handicraft production while other are daily laborers. With a cycle of poverty repeating we found out that the community and particularly the girls find themselves in need of a breakthrough to make a decent living for themselves and their families.

The KGS project as part of its engagement in the community recognized that little support can help those already engaged in business activities to grow their income base and improve their quality of life. With this, the project provided a grant of THB 10,000 (equivalent to approximately \$330) to four families to strengthen their already existing businesses activity.

Each recipient is supported to grow their business and visited regularly to monitor the progress as well as receive advice on how to further grow their income. In return they are each expected to return a portion of their profits to the project which in turn will be used to support another within the community.

One of the recipients is a lady who ran a noodles stand vendor where she sells Khao Soi and Tai Yai (Shan) chickpea tofu. She would take her items to the miller which would cost her 150-180 THB each time she went. With the grant she was able to buy a small mill machine which has helped her save on her costs while at the same time increase her profits. She believes that with this she will be able to provide for her family much better.

“Helping one person might not change the whole world, but it could change the world for one person”

- Kodali Tanuja

Work-based Education Trip

“ Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner”
a Chinese proverb

KGS not only provides a safe environment for the girls but also promotes and encourages a rounded learning process of the body, mind and soul.

With the support of CP ALL, a trip was organized to explore the work based learning opportunities that could be benefit the girls and communities from which they come. Along with 14 others from 7 foundations in Chiang Rai and Chaing Mai, Mailey, one of the shelter girls currently in grade 9 went on a five day trip to Punyapiwat Institute of Management and Punyapiwat Technological Collage in Bangkok.

The activity was sponsored by CP ALL which has through its education division offered more than 54,000 scholarships for youth over 15 years through their work based learning approach. This is the start of a collaboration which ADRA will continue to work on with CP ALL as collectively we respond to the needs of the community. Following the trip Mailey has decided to pursue an education in Retail Business Management at Punyapiwat Technological College.

More Community Outreach

Although the year started off shaking with COVID-19 causing restriction to activities, we are pleased that we were able to end the year on a high by delivering a workshop on Human Trafficking prevention, Child’s Rights and Child protection for communities. This workshop was delivered in collaboration with The Freedom Story, a local NGO. Workshops were conducted in Huay San Klang, Huay San Gao and Pangkhon, Huay chomphu. 176 people attended the training.

Ekamai International School Bangkok together with KGS

As we entered winter, we warmed hearts through service activities with Ekamai International School (EIS). They loaded two pickups with clothes, toys, books, blankets, stationery, etc. and delivered them from EIS in Bangkok to Meamam School, a remote school hidden in the mountains of Meatang District, Chiang Mai. Meamam is a temporary boarding school where students spend four to five nights at the school. Their homes are deeper in the mountains. Early Saturday morning or on school holidays, older students will take smaller ones with them and trek across mountains and creeks to get home. KGS took this opportunity to share books from the book donation activity of October 2020 in addition



Noteworthy Activity

Expanding Organic Vegetable Garden

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the world stood still as students stopped going to school and those who could worked from home while many others lost their livelihood. At KGS we took the opportunity to make the most of the time we had in the shelter and focus on developing the life skills. The girls were actively engaged in the shelter garden where they worked hard to prepare the ground for planting, preparing vegetable beds and preparing manure to be used in the garden.

We plan to plant chili, Chinese kale, onion, cilantro, morning glory, mushroom, cauliflower, cabbage, coriander, bok choy and Pumpkin. Not only for our own consumption but much of it will go to the markets for sale which not only will generate some income for the shelter but also gives the girls a sense of pride for the work they have done being able to see the fruits of the labor from preparation to harvest and sale.

Our target is to expand the garden even further so we can earn from the sale of produce. We also in need of help so we can have the greenhouse, build the fence, buy quality seeds, etc. To help us realize the expansion, we are fundraising through gogetfundme with a target of USD 8,000. You can join us by making a contribution today!

<https://gogetfunding.com/help-girls-grow-organic-garden/>

Sport Days, Christmas and New Year Activity

Before Christmas, the shelter had arranged the internal sports day for girls, we divided the staff and girls to 2 colors, Green and Red. We were honor to have Pastor Prasert as the judge. The event went very competitive, fun and we can feel the bonding among girls themselves and with the staff.

KGS girls were blessed by a group of private donors to take them to have a Christmas dinner and go out to see the giant Christmas tree. The girls voted for Pizza, so we took them to the Italian Restaurant in town, for some girls, this was the first time in their life eating in a fine dining restaurant. We encouraged them to try other menu items in addition to pizza, such as: salad, pasta and lasagna. This was good practice for girls in table manners and using dining utensils.



Annual Shelter Assessment

As required by the Department of Social Development and Human Security, the KGS shelter underwent an annual assessment in order for the shelter permit to be renewed. The assessment covered health and safety, physical plant and building safety and other standards. KGS is pleased to report that all the requirements were met with compliments and is identified as a good example in shelter management among other shelters in Chiang Rai.



Future Event

Due to the 2nd wave of COVID-19 in Thailand, although Chiangrai is not restricted province as there is no new cases for a month, outdoor activities that involve a group of people are limited from the local government. Besides, working on the next phase plan, continuing community outreach, and looking after the expanding organic garden.

It's a challenging time again for KGS to do community work, some community do not allow outsider to enter their village. However, there are communities that open for outsider but need to be a local that not come from restricted area. With a high precaution awareness, KGS staff plan to visit and follow up the families that received the granted. Also, we are continuing selling the fresh vegetables to local market and for anyone who loves organic vegetables.

More information about the project please follow our social media



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