

*We make dreams come true*



*Newsletter from ELCT Diakonia Department*

*June 2018*



*“It doesn’t matter who you are or where you come from.  
Every child deserves a good beginning.  
This will give them the hope and confidence needed in their life”*

*Lutheran Christian Foundation of Thailand*

Dear friends and supporters.

You are today holding the second edition of our Diakonia Department's newsletter 2018. In this newsletter, you can read about what we are doing in our different projects, and stories about people who get support through our projects.

We are very thankful for your support. Your support makes it possible for us to help Thai people in need.

If you want more information about our projects, please contact Miss Nipaporn Kunaruk

[aomlove2412@gmail.com](mailto:aomlove2412@gmail.com) or Ms Anne Storstein Haug on [annesh@nms.no](mailto:annesh@nms.no)

Kind regards

Nipaporn Kunaruk and Anne Storstein Haug on behalf of the Diakonia department

### ***Home of Grace- a shelter for pregnant women in a difficult life situation, Bangkok***



From the beginning of this year until now, 20 mothers have stayed in Home of Grace. One of these girls is Nong Me. When she came to Home of Grace she was 7 months pregnant already. She did not know who the father of her child was, and when we got to know her we understood why; she was a prostitute, working in a bar in Pattaya. When she came to Home of Grace she had planned her future already, she wants to give her baby away for adoption, and then go back to continue her life as a bar girl/prostitute. She makes good money there and this make her able to send money home to her family every month.

During her stay in Home of Grace she started to think different, and when her baby girl was born, she decided to keep her, and to make a change in her life. Home of Grace helped her to connect with a centre in Pattaya, who works to help girls who wants to get out of prostitution. Nong Me went there to stay with her baby. In this centre, she gets work training and she learns how to bake. Baking was something she started to love when she lived in Home of Grace, where volunteers and Missionaries taught her how to bake. Her dream is to open a bakery in the future.

She is very thankful to Home of Grace who helped her to get out of prostitution and to get a life where she can stay together with her daughter.

### ***Immanuel hostel- a dormitory in Phibun, North-East Thailand***



Immanuel hostel is a dormitory placed in Phibun Mahangsan in Ubon Province. The hostel gives girls from underprivileged families a place to stay while they study at high school level in Phibun.

Secondary students who need school support can apply for a scholarship through Immanuel hostel. This year 19 secondary student were granted a scholarship. These children stay home with their family.

This school year 3 new students came to stay in the hostel. Altogether 21 students stay in Immanuel hostel this year. One of them is Orn.

Orn is a high school student. Her parents got divorced when she was only 8 days, her mother left, and Orn stayed with her dad after that. He remarried when she was 3 years old, but unfortunately, he died after some years. Orn then went to stay with her grandparents, they were poor and struggle to get enough income to take care of Orn. When Orn finished primary school, she got the opportunity to stay in Immanuel hostel. Orn had a dream to study further and this made it possible. Her mother had not met her daughter after she divorced Orn's father, but when she heard that her daughter lived in Immanuel, she asked if it was possible to meet her. Orn was happy to get to know her, and they had a good meeting. Today they have a good relationship and her mother is helping her with some of her expenses.

### ***LaOn Siam- a dormitory for hill tribe children in Chiang Rai***



LaOn Siam is a dormitory placed in Chiang Rai. It gives children from Lahu and Akha hill tribe a place to stay while they study at secondary- and high school level in Chiang Rai city.

This school year four new students came to stay in LaOn Siam. All together 14 students stay in LaOn Siam this year. One of our students just finished high school. Her name is miss Na. She comes from Ban Rai Pattana, from an Akha tribe, and here is her story: "I have been living in LaOn Siam since 2012, and I stayed there until I finished high school in 2017. After I finished I got the opportunity to study further in Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Applied Economics. I'm very thankful for the

opportunity to stay in LaOn Siam. My family are poor and did not have any capacity to support the education for me and my two siblings. When I lived in LaOn Siam, they took care of all my expenses, which made it possible for me to study. I had a good time when staying in LaOn Siam. We were all like brothers and sisters. We learned so many things, about education, family, planning our life, how to be a good member in the Thai society and we learned about Jesus Christ. The staff was always there ready for consult and give me advice. I want to thank you all for the opportunity to stay in LaOn Siam for 6 years, and for giving me a further scholarship which gives me opportunity to study on a bachelor level. Thank you very much.

### ***Hope for families- provide support for families in need.***



This April, the staff in Hope For Families project (HFF), went to Nan province in The North of Thailand to arrange a seminar for children and parents who are participating in HFF Scholarship program. More than 100 children and parents attended the seminar. They came from different villages like Ban Den, Huay Ton, Huay Mee and Na Pong.

In the seminar, they talked about the importance of education. A big challenge in these villages is that children leave school at a very young age, many children only finished primary or secondary school before they

leave.

One reason for this is that they do what their friends do, if their friends leave school, they want to leave too. The staff asked the children to think about their dreams and their future, and encouraged them to continue at school, so they can get an interesting and good job with a decent salary.

The staff are very thankful that there are three young scholarship students from one of the villages, who are studying to become nurses. They are all good role model for our scholarship students, and hopefully they can inspire other children to study further as well.

The staff also got the opportunity to give parents and children some financial training. They taught them about the value of money and about planning their economy. To use their income in a good way so it benefits the whole family, and improve their living condition.

***Home of Praise and Home of Praise Immanuel- two nurseries in Klong Toey community, Bangkok.***



This year we have had exciting new changes both in Home of Praise Immanuel and Home of Praise. Home of Praise Immanuel (former Immanuel Day Nursery) has been running for more than 40 years, and until 2018 the nursery was open for children 3-6 years old. This year, however we did a change when it came to the age, and the nursery is now open for children age 1-5 years old. This because of the new legislations from the Thai government that offering education from 5 years old to all.

Home of Praise opened 16 years ago, and offer children 6 months to 3 years a place to stay during the weekdays. This year we were able to extend Home of Praise nursery. Because of a generous donation we were able to buy the neighbouring site and build a two-floor building containing two more classrooms. This gave us an opportunity to enrol more children. Until now we could only give our children a place to stay until they turned 3, now after the new department was finished, we can give them a place to stay until they are old enough to start in a government preschool at age 4/5 years.

Most of our children live in very small houses or shelters, often a whole family in one room. Hardly any space for a toddler to run around. So, for them, an opportunity to come and stay in Home of Praise and Home of Praise Immanuel are like "paradise". We like to say that we want to be an oasis in the community. Both nurseries aim to give love and care. We want the children to feel safe and loved. We provide a healthy lunch every day, including fruit and milk.

***We are thankful for all kind of donation***

***Account information:***

Lutheran Christian foundation.  
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