

Dear Friends, Doners, Supporters,

In 2017 Baan Gerda continued to help children with HIV. At the moment (the village of) Baan Gerda is providing homes to 58 children and 8 foster mothers.

Furthermore we provide medical help and general support for 30 other children living with extended families in many different locations in the country.

This year two children became new members of our community: a baby boy whose mother developed HIV and a 7 years old girl who was abandoned by her mother and had to stay with a mentally ill relative who frequently hurt her. She is also HIV positive and was brought to us by the Department for Social and Human Welfare.

Living and Future

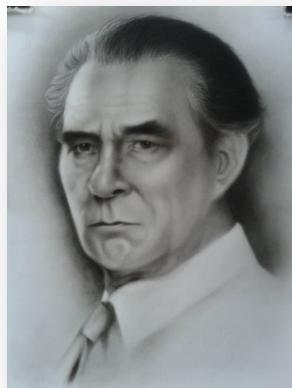
Helping young people to live and creating opportunities. Every human being has different interests, talents and dreams. We always try to find out and provide what is best for each individual. Some of our members want to carry on with their vocational training at a college. We fully pay for tuition, accomodation and the basic costs of everyday life. Currently there are 12 teenagers in this group. We support them for two years, and after successfully finishing the course they can find jobs to live independently. Some, however, go on with their studies to reach better qualifications for better careers.

Success

Is a blind young man who came to BG at the age of 6. At that time he could still see something, although very little. Because of HIV he later lost his eyesight completely. Tok Tak is intelligent and has always had a very optimistic attitude. He became very sad when he could no longer be educated at a normal school. We tried to find a place at a school for blind people, but he was not accepted when it became known that he

was HIV positive. But in May 2017 we heard about a place in Bangkok called "Development Center for Blind People". We contacted them and asked if they would accept Tok Tak without mentioning his medical situation. Very luckily he was accepted. He learns to read Braille, use a computer and traditional Thai massage. His teacher is very impressed with his intellectual capacity. Tok Tak can now read whole books.

*Some of the children are gifted
Su ... is a talented painter as you can see in the report.*



Fon is very strong and is trained in glass blowing. Please take a look at some of her works.



Health Care

All children are healthy to a good degree. They are actively supported and closely monitored. Regular blood tests are carried out to detect any deterioration.

Problems

It is quite normal that various problems occur in a project like BG. It is our duty to save lives and help children in need. Our team works very hard to solve the problems that have to be tackled in order to provide what is best for the youngsters in our community.

Yet without the long lasting and generous supports from all of our friends, donors and organizations BG wouldn't have become such a remarkable and joyful place for these orphans.

We, the people working here, and all our members are deeply grateful for all your numerous efforts and great practical supports.

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

