



CHRISTMAS 2025

Dear godmothers, godfathers and friends of Le Sourire,

I was lucky enough to spend this summer on the site of the association in the North of Thailand. Without expectations, I contacted Barbara to ask if she would give me the opportunity to discover Le Sourire and help however I could during those 10 weeks, which she accepted. To be able to integrate myself there as much as I could, I learned Thai language for 3 months, but I also intentionally didn't inform myself on how the place worked to be able to see everything with my own eyes.

Once I arrived in the small airport of Chiang Rai, we drove to the site of the association where I was quickly put to use by taking out the pig food from the truck to the warehouse and moving some bags of gravel to fill the potholes of the roads next to the rice fields, before using a machine to cut the weeds. The white t-shirt I wore that day still remembers those stains, but I enjoyed those activities a lot and I was able to meet the children at the same time.

The images and the information we receive through the website don't represent the context well. Try to represent yourself a beautiful place in the middle of the Thai jungle with ponds in its centre, rice fields, water buffaloes swimming whenever they can, pigs, cows, dogs greeting you and fruit trees scattered everywhere. All those things together are beautiful and peaceful in a way that it's hard to describe with only words and pictures.

In addition to all those things are the children, who are the core of this project. After school the children are driven home to do their homework, they then change their clothes and go to do the task they are assigned. It's during those moments that I was able to spend some time with them, for example by taking care of the pigs or walking among the rice fields. One of my favourite memories I will keep with me is when we went to harvest the longan fruits. We would get a truck with the children and pick the fruits for the dinner's dessert. The children were eating half the fruits they were harvesting, they were singing, dancing, going everywhere and having fun, just like children should.

Something I was impressed with is how responsible the children are. They organise themselves in committees, suggest some projects, help the younger ones who need it, are responsible for the animals and many other things. Some tasks are reserved to the older ones, like cutting the grass with a machine, and the younger ones look at them with admiration, asking themselves when they will be able to do the same.

I was able to get closer to the children and learn from them. The truth is that most of them come from difficult family situations, but this environment allows them to be happy and gives them good opportunities. The incredible efforts given by Barbara and Prapapone since the creation of this association are impressive. I have a lot of respect for those two women, that the children view as maternal figures, for what they built and the work they achieve with each child.



LE SOURIRE DE CHIANG KHONG

I sincerely want to thank Le Sourire de Chiang Khong and all the people at the centre for making me discover another part of the world. I left Switzerland without expectations, and I came back changed from this experience, I am already very excited to come back next year.

Antoine
26 years old

Thank you, Antoine, together with you and all the youth, the whole of persons known or unknown working for the Sourire we wish to all our friends a merry Christmas and all the best for the coming year which opens the doors.

