

I feel very privileged to have worked as a volunteer for Child's Dream, getting insight in this wonderful organization that has improved the lives of so many underprivileged children already. Be it by a lifesaving operation, by building a school with a real roof and walls (compared to the former tin plates and curtains) or by giving a grant to a high school student, it changes the lives of the beneficiaries enormously and gives the children a much better chance of contributing to their communities and to getting a happy life! The work on project reports, updating the new marketing-brochure and proof-reading the yearbook gave me a good understanding of the amazing work that Child's Dream is doing and I am happy to have been able to contribute to this meaningful work.

I am a Dutch woman living in Denmark with my Danish husband and two daughters, age 9 and 12. We both have good jobs, me as a marketing-coordinator and my husband as a teacher. We have a good life in Denmark, but last year, we felt like we needed a break to get some quality family time and to get some distance to put things in perspective, so we started to plan a 4 month leave. We had some good friends that recommended Chiang Mai to us as a good place to do this. And they were right! We love the city with friendly people, beautiful nature, interesting culture and great food.

I wanted to have more out of our time off and decided to do voluntary work and when I found Child's Dream, I knew I wanted to work here. Manuela was sceptical at first when I just showed up at the office announcing that I wanted to work for them as I could only be there for 2 months, but luckily she gave me a chance and put me together with Gene, who had no problem finding assignments for me to do and kept me busy the whole time. Everybody at the office gave me a warm welcome and I felt welcome and appreciated from the very first day.

In Thailand, "sanuk" is a very important concept which means fun, but also more than that, it's about striving to achieve satisfaction and pleasure from whatever you do. Everybody is working very hard at Child's Dream, but there is a lot of sanuk going on at the office where people joke with each other, help each other and have fun together. I was so lucky to experience a lot of sanuk at the job, but also on other occasions like Daniels great New Year party with funny games and interesting people, on a motorbike trip where we spent the night at Chae Son national park visiting hot springs and waterfalls, and after-work parties, to mention a few.

Thank you all very much for those wonderful experiences, I will never forget my time here and I hope that Child's Dream will continue to make a deep positive impact in the lives of children that definitely deserve it!

I wish you all the best, keep up the good work, Bibi

Pictures from our motorbike trip, January 2016 => page 2

