

Dear Bamboo Schoolers,

This week Satheet and I went to Ban Khon Khuen in order to assist on the school's construction site.

Here, Franki and Shay are finishing their volunteering time with Bamboo School and will be leaving us by the 3rd of May.

They both have been outstanding volunteers and were able to adapt to the village Lao-lifestyle almost effortlessly. Both of them managed to learn quite a bit of the Lao language in order to be able to communicate with our construction workers and the villagers of Ban Khon Khuen. This gesture showed a lot of respect towards the community in which they have been living for almost 4 months and has been highly appreciated by the villagers. Since these two are leaving us, we would be left without any construction volunteers if it wouldn't be for Marco who is from Switzerland (speaks Swiss German) and has agreed to volunteer with us for at least a month. We are happy to have him join the team and he has already been a great help to our construction workers since his arrival in Ban Khon Khuen. At the construction site we (the girls), have been painting the in- and outside of the wooden window frames and walls, whilst the guys have been busy putting on the internal roofing parts of the classrooms.





As per our medical volunteers we will also say goodbye to Mohsin who has been volunteering with us for 1,5 months. We, and especially the hospital, thank him for his contribution during his volunteering with us.

Keen to know the highlights of our other medical volunteer, Pat (nurse):

Here's an insight into her busy schedule volunteering time with us:

"This week at the hospital brought a variety of cases. One case in particular, I assisted the staff attending to a village woman in a truck accident. She had blood dripping from her mouth and we found a hole in the top lip. A tooth punctured the lip and went from inside to out. The staff doctor prepared to stitch the external cut after cleansing it. I noticed that she did not plan to numb the site before placing the stitches. I recommended that she used some numbing medicine, Lidocaine, before repair. I pointed out that the patient could tolerate the procedure better. She would get better closure of wound if the patient was not feeling each needle stick required for effective closure. She did agree and the patient only had to feel one needle prick of Lidocaine and she did tolerate the repair very well. The patient also sustained multiple bruises and had severe pain in her left upper arm. I found out that she had wrapped her arm around a side support in the truck during the accident. She was trying to keep herself from falling into a water buffalo in the truck during the accident. She was in pain and was not offered medication in the Emergency Room. I suggested that she receive some IV pain Med as she did have IV fluids in place. She was given the Tramadol after I requested that for her and she did seem more comfortable. The other encounter I remember this week is staff thanking me and Bamboo School for the disinfectants we distributed to the staff. One of the midwives personally thanked me for educating and reminding them about the importance of consistent use of the disinfectants. She requested that I continue to make recommendations for improvements in their medical practice and procedures. She was so grateful for my input, it was so nice to hear. It is humbling to think what one person, one organization can accomplish!"

We wish you all a happy start into the week and hope to keep you updated with further exciting news!!!

As for the volunteers leaving we can only say: great job and Kop Chai lai lai!!

Isabel Montano
General Manager