

**The Pattaya International Ladies Club (PILC)  
visited the School for Life in Chiang Mai  
on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2006**

It is not every day that you meet a person that makes you wonder and that you feel a connection to right away. I have just had the great pleasure of meeting such a person. A woman called Khun Joy the director and one of the founders of School for Life.

Khun Joy is not an unknown woman in Pattaya. She came with the a group of her wonderful “kids” in April when they performed at the Asia University and later she brought the artist group from the school to give them an opportunity to have a exhibition at Gallery Opium. Khun Joy is the mother of 140 children from 3 to 18 years boys and girls all with trouble backgrounds and from risk groups. All children with the need of special care and guidance. You will notice from the first moment you meet her kids how special they are. With a self confident and self esteem which comes natural to them all. Khun Joy brings up the kids in a very strong family orientated unit. It is not for fun that she is called mother by all of them. Because that is what she is. The School for Life is NOT just another institution, but a real home and you can feel that right away.

The older children are taught how to take proper care of the younger kids. They have to go through a program before they can call them selves’ guardian angels. One part of the program is to live in a camp real back to nature like.

Every week the staff and children all meet to sort out problems that occur in every family. After I had meet Khun Joy and some of her kids I was deeply impressed by all her wonderful work with the kids.

PILC has for some time been working closely with Jesters Care for kids to try and help the children and staff at Ban Jing Jai.

We quickly found out that it was not enough to renovate their buildings or provide dental/health care. In our opinion we needed to help and support the children and staff by PILC providing staff training for the present staff at Ban Jing Jai. And we knew who to call. Khun Joy who right away offered her help and support to the staff at Ban Jing Jai.

So on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June PILC welfare team members and the director of Ban Jing Jai went up north to see for themselves the wonderful School for Life. It was a very interesting and eye opening experience and we all learned from our discussions. In the future Khun Joy will visit the Ban Jing Jai for other talks and training and it is the hope of PILC and Jesters Care for kids that we in the future can send a group of the older children from Ban Jing Jai to School for Life to be trained as guardian Angels.

School for Life also visited the Garden International School (GIS) when they were in Pattaya in April. The kids also has a positive impact on this school and the fact that Khun Joy for some time have been the mum for children from the tsunami area made the school decide to donate funds towards this special group of children. Funds which had been raised though a united effort from pupils, staff and parents after the Tsunami. Being an active parent at GIS I was asked to deliver the funds to Khun Joy and brought back with me a big thank you from the kids at the School for Life to the kids at Garden International School.

Helle Rantsen  
Chairman of Pattaya International Ladies Club