The month of February saw many activities focused on love, self-esteem, healthy relationships and confidence.

Twenty-one students joined in activities to celebrate Valentine’s day.

Games were played, including ‘human knot’ where students had to untangle themselves without breaking the connection between them. This signified how we are all connected in relationships.

Celebrating major holidays helps our students feel loved and cared for. It also provides an opportunity for staff to meet with students and talk to them, providing mentorship and building relationships that are essential to our work.

Most of our students face difficult situations at home. Celebrations like this allow our students to relax, have fun, and be kids!
This month, Luck, Ketsara, David, (our Social Work Intern) and one of our scholarship students had the opportunity to conduct outreach to an Akha village.

They taught the local women how to make soap, a skill that they can use both to provide for their families and also to sell in the future to increase their income.

14 students aged 10-20 attended a training on loving yourself, aimed at building self-esteem and confidence.

Luck ran an activity for our older students during which they traced an outline of their bodies and write all the things they like about themselves. Other students were then encouraged to write what they liked and admired about each other on the outlines.

Self-esteem and confidence are essential to building resilience in our students.

67 ethnic minority women were taught how to make soap from eco-friendly, accessible materials.
The bi-weekly Girl’s Clubs continue to be a very popular activity.

This month’s activities focused on positive thinking.

Positivity is one of our core values.

We believe that positivity, even in the midst of difficulty, inspires hope, and hope inspires action.

We try to foster positivity as much as possible, but having the specific opportunity to do so is a rare chance to talk about its value explicitly with our students.

We launched our first Boy’s Club in February.

Aimed at teenage boys, the goal is to ‘empower boys to become honest and respectful young men who have the courage to give fair treatment to both men and women’. We look forward to more meetings to come!
Keeping with the theme of love and relationships, Khae and Ning ran a training on healthy relationships.

Healthy relationships are essential for building resilient communities.

10 students attended a training on healthy relationships

Unhealthy relationships and family break-down are serious risk factors for trafficking. Furthermore, traffickers often prey on those who have experienced abuse and manipulation.

Giving our students the skills to identify healthy and unhealthy relationships helps encourage positive relationships of all kinds.

Khae also conducted outreach group therapy at Agape Foster home for 17 students that live there. This helps them process their emotions in a healthy way and build relationships.
Sustainable Development

In February Worn and Bu taught about Eri silk production at a local school for around 35 students.

This program helps teach the students about Eri silk production so that they can use this knowledge after they have graduated. This helps fight talent flight and could help students and their families generate more income.

Worn also met with our local weaving groups to discuss patterns, colors and materials and to talk about new products for Shop Seri.

in addition, Worn took three of our local villagers to Chiang Mai to share about their experience with Eri silk production with the Eri Silk Network for Northern
English and Math Tutoring

This month 22 students received 15 hours of English tutoring. Subjects focused on feelings, emotions and Valentine’s day. Exposure to English at a young age helps to open up opportunities for our students as they get older.

Meanwhile, 15 students received 12 hours of math tutoring.

Extra support in academic subjects helps our students get better grades, keep up with their classmates, and succeed in school.

Visitors to PPRC

This month 49 students from the Institute of South East Asian Affairs came to visit Pong Phrae Resource Center and learn more about the work of The Freedom Story.

We also hosted Sam and Leakna from the AusCam Freedom Project, an NGO based in Cambodia working on prevention and providing scholarships to at-risk girls. It was a great chance to share ideas, collaborate and get to know each other more.