Term break means a busy month for the Resource Centers!

End of term break from school was a great opportunity for the Youth Partnership Program (YPP) leaders to complete their Micro Project.

The students used the leadership and teaching skills they developed over the year of leading YPP programs to help teach students in a local village about their human rights.

63 children in the village attended the two day training.

The YPP leaders split the children into two groups by age, teaching the younger children the 3-3-5 program.

3-3-5 is a way to teach children about their human rights and how to recognize sexual abuse.

For older children, the leaders taught about child rights and online sexual exploitation. Online exploitation is an increasing threat to children in Northern Thailand, and providing them with knowledge of its dangers is essential to prevention.
This was an unique opportunity to empower and strengthen local communities, equipping them with knowledge and skills to prevent trafficking in their communities.

For the seven YPP leaders, it was also an opportunity to learn how to propose, plan, and execute the project themselves. This increases their work experience and skills, better preparing them for work after they have completed their studies.

The leaders were excited, nervous and happy to be able to do the project.

“I like being a YPP leader because I like teaching the kids new things, and I want them to be able to apply this information to their life” explains YPP leader, Gung.

Developing leadership skills enables the students to be role models and mentors within their communities, giving them confidence and self esteem as well as encouraging them to value community service.
Cooking classes and competitions help students build relationships with peers and staff. They also try new things, therefore building confidence.

English and Math tutoring help provide extracurricular learning opportunities for our students, boosting their skills and confidence in these areas. Better performance in these areas helps our students have greater employment opportunities in the future.

Long breaks from school presented older students with the opportunity to tutor and mentor younger students in these areas, increasing leadership skills and investing in their communities.
This month the Girls Clubs, which meet weekly on Thursdays and Saturdays, continued to work through their curriculum.

This month they covered issues such as how to make healthy choices and self image. For the week focusing on healthy choices, the girls made a healthy meal and ate it together. Cooking and eating together, is a great way to build relationships and encourage healthy eating in the process!

12 girls from local schools and communities attend the groups.

The girls also celebrated finishing their first book. They played games, and shared about what they have learned and enjoyed in their meetings.
Outreach in Chiang Saen

This month, Lux, Khae, Nena and Aoun, Chiang Rai Resource Center Staff, travelled to Chiang Saen, in Chiang Rai to the Happy Home Children’s home to teach about healthy boy and girl relationships.

They were joined by 7 scholarship students who helped them organize and run the training.

They taught about healthy romantic relationships, how to respect each other, and how to choose a good person to date.

Khae asked each of the children to write a letter to their ideal romantic partner.

Lux lead an Art Mandala in the afternoon, helping them to learn about their senses.

Chiang Rai City Center

At the City Center, 36 students aged 10-22 accessed the after school program. Including 11 students who do not receive a scholarship from The Freedom Story. Accessing the Resource Center is a great way to build relationships and spread awareness of The Freedom Story.

6 students attended a basic photography training. This helps increase skills and experience for our students as well as providing them with a fun way to spend time.

Mentors went to visit 8 students at the Chiang Rai Rajabhat University campus. This is a great opportunity to build relationships and check-in with students. In the future, The Freedom Story staff hope to do more outreach activities at Universities, making it easier for students to meet with their mentors.
This kind of outreach equips local communities as well as building relationships between organizations in Chiang Rai, furthering cooperation.

Teaching healthy dating relationships is essential to giving students knowledge to protect themselves against abusive or detrimental relationships in the future.

Khao also met with 3 scholarship students to provide counselling. Counselling helps the children learn skills to manage their emotions, and build problem solving skills. As a result, children will be able to lead healthy and productive lives, as well as helping counsel their peers.

Mental health issues, and lack of knowledge of them, is a major issue in Northern Thailand, resulting in emotional and mental instability that can lead to vulnerability to trafficking.

Khao also attended case conferences at Chiang Rai Hospital as well as psychology training, and mandala workshops.
The organic farm is doing well, and with rainy season over, the organic rice will be ready to be harvested next month.

The organic farm provides a source of income for local farmers, increasing their independence and self-sustainability.

It also serves as an essential tool for spreading awareness, knowledge and information about organic farming. This helps improve the environment in Chiang Rai as well as increasing awareness of environmental sustainability and stewardship.

The Pang Lao weaving group, one of our weaving groups based in Chiang Rai, was also busy producing products this month, including this beautiful shawl.

Weaving groups provide another source of income, especially for stay at home parents and grandparents. This allows them to make more money to support their families while also being able to care for their children and grandchildren. Lack of time to care properly for children is an issue that contributes to risk of trafficking.

Additionally, gaining an additional income is a key way to build a more resilient community, as well as increasing independence.

We are very grateful for our weaving partners in the community, especially as we prepare for a busy season of selling SERI products in anticipation of the holiday season.