

PATTAYA COMMUNITY SERVICE TRIP

by Grade 11 Students

Overall, this trip has in fact changed my perspective on how I view orphans, the disabled, street kids and old folks. In this trip I had a chance to connect and collaborate with different children and women. It made me realize that I should be happy for all the advantages I have in my life; mainly a family and good education. I am glad that I got a chance to be part of this Community Service trip to Pattaya, and hopefully there will be many others like this. **Sanjana Narang**



There are a lot of people that trespass our lives, many who we do not pay much attention even though we may “see” them every day of our lives. But there are others that seem to be impossible to ignore, those that stand out of the sea of people, and those that influence, inspire and take our breath away. This community service struck me with people, one especially, that touched me deeper than any other person’s words ever reached.

We had a satisfying and fulfilling day of playing simple games with children which nevertheless brought the most sincere smiles on their faces, and visiting the Old Folks home where I met grannies who, with their strong heart and spirit as they clapped along to our singing, completely made me disregard their age. The final activity of that night heated up the fire inside me. It was a sharing activity where a lady of the age of 29, born handicapped, told her life story. It wasn’t the first time I’ve seen her because she was around when we arrived at the center; however we only exchanged smiles. She is an unfortunate girl, born handicapped; even her mother couldn’t accept her and left. Luckily, she lived under the love and care of her father who tenderly raised her up to be a young lady of strong will-power and courage. However, time came where he too left her due to sick-

ness. She was on her own. She did not give in to her fate or fill up with hatred, but came out a much more able and courageous woman than before. She came to Pattaya handicap school and started a new life here. Today, she is able to fax, phone, type, and communicate freely in English with a mere self-education of only two years and handles two jobs. She is just amazing.

Although tears filled her eyes whenever she mentioned her mother and father, they were tears of the past, of her memories, the smiles that come with the tears resonated the hope and love she has for the world that had treated her a little too cruel. Her last words really spoke to me and touched me. She said she had one hope. All she wanted, was that one day, her mother would be able to remember her, to finally accept her. She hoped for a reunion. That was how big, how beautiful her heart was. There is so much such a seemingly small body can hold and give. That day, not only did I learn to treasure what I have, to strive harder than before, but also to forgive.

- Puhan (Hattie) He -

I was happy that I got to spend my break time efficiently to help other people. The most impressive moment for me in this trip was the sharing of Kun Nui’s story. I admire her for her cour-

age and determination. Even though she was born disabled, she had proved to the world that she is able to accomplish all tasks most people can. I walked away from this community service experience with joy in my heart and a sense of satisfaction that I have contributed to the lives and happiness of those I have encountered. Even though this trip lasted for only three short days, the everlasting memories will stay in my mind forever.

- Chawin Chatsirivichaikul -

In the near future, I look forward to visiting this place again. This experience made me feel like I can be of great help to other people by doing very simple things like bringing a smile to their faces, and making them feel like someone cares about them. It was amazing how I felt like I gained something even though all I did in this trip was give.

- Ahmarin N. -

This community service trip was the most eye-opening experience of my life. It exposed me to many important issues and many dilemmas in our world that I was not aware of. It gave me many valuable insights into the lives of those who are less fortunate than me.

- Patawut Bovonratwet -