

# Sarnelli House

NEWSLETTER

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# MERRY CHRISTMAS 2023!

Merry Christmas to all! It has been quite a year. We are taking in new babies, whose parents abandoned them because they found out they had AIDS, or were taking drugs and drinking during pregnancy, and upon realizing that their newborns had severe brain problems, they dumped them fast. The government gave us these babies to raise. Babies were abandoned in empty houses; some were bagged up and wound up in dumpsters or tossed on a train headed to Bangkok or someplace far away. When we received three of them, we were immensely grateful we had Kate Introna here as our nurse. We also have volunteers from the Netherlands; Ben Ummels is an assistant physiotherapist and he and his wife Angelique work with the five disabled kids. I also fared well with their presence, since I was bedridden with the effects of either Covid or the three Moderna injections, and they are helping me recover. One of the two, Covid or Moderna put me down, and it has taken me months to recover, and get to the gym again and practice walking and doing things by myself.



These kids have been living at the House of Hope nursery, but it has become apparent that it is not fitting to have these poor kids laying on a mat being trampled on by older children playing around them. In the village of Don Wai, we have an abandoned bakery used to teach older kids baking bread, cakes, etc. We moved the bakery to Nazareth House where they have a big, modern kitchen. So we are going to turn the bakery into a home for the children with disabilities. They will have better care there. We will change the windows, the doors and a put in a big front road, and a big cemented floor for the babies when it rains. We need to add bathrooms for the kids and staff, and a big bathing area for the babies. We have to renovate the storerooms in the back in order to keep our supplies high and dry. Thai people from cities, towns and schools all around Sarnelli bring pampers, formula milk and all kinds of other good things for the babies and kids.

On another front, we had a bumper crop of rice this year. The kids will eat well! We have built a state of the art chicken coop, just finished, and a lovely lady and her daughter from Hawaii, Sheree and Levani, are sending money to buy chicks, and feed for them, our piglets, cattle and fish.

We are blessed to have Brian O’Riordan, from Cork, Ireland, husband of Kate, our nurse, on our staff. He does a super job of fund raising and making reports, and also tending to the education of our kids. And we are very grateful to have loyal and hardworking Thai staff who show great patience and love to our traumatized kids.

Finally, I’d like to wish you all a blessed Christmas, and all God’s graces and blessings for the New Year!

Fr. Mike, the children and staff

