



BENEATH

A BLUESCOPE ROOF



BLUESCOPE X FRIENDS OF THAI DAUGHTERS (FTD)

Friends of Thai Daughters (FTD) held an opening ceremony November 6, 2022, for their 14 rai Sunflower Thrivable Farm, about an hour north of Chiang Rai. Bluescope's generous donation of high quality steel improved the overall quality and expected "lifetime" of the massive roof on the main building. Bluescope also donated office furniture for the computer room.

FTD was founded 20 years ago and provides education, safe shelter and emotional support to girls at risk of being trafficked in Northern Thailand. While traveling through the area in 2002, Jane McBride and Patricia Zinkowski, discovered fifteen girls living in an abandoned school in the village of Doi Luang. The girls had little adult supervision and were trying to survive as best they could in an area known for human trafficking agents.

Each girl had a tragic story to tell. Many were AIDS orphans or had parents in prison. Most lacked ID cards, leaving them "stateless" and highly vulnerable to traffickers.

FTD was incorporated as a non-profit in 2005 and has, to date, helped protect and educate over 75 girls and young women through a family-scale program. 25 have gone on to graduate from university.

In 2015, the first Sunflower House was purchased in Chiang Rai. In 2016, they expanded to Chiang Khong on the Laos border. In 2019, the land for the Sunflower Thrivable Farm was purchased with the goal of supporting additional daughters and surrounding communities.

The opening day of the Sunflower Thrivable Farm showcased the property and FTD's vision for the future. Construction of the farm was very much a team effort. Together with labourers, the resident girls made 45,000 adobe bricks and were paid 30 baht per brick. The farm will have 22 girls in residence next school year and will offer camps, workshops and retreats to serve a further 250+ children from other organizations in the area.



FTD can now serve more people than before and offer a multitude of programs including organic farming clinics, natural building (adobe) workshops, sports and arts activities including swimming classes, yoga retreats, and pickleball camps!

The farm will be income-generating wherever possible. They currently have over 250 laying chickens and expect 200 eggs per day when they mature. Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp is ready to purchase all surplus. Plans for other revenue sources are germinating thanks to Khun Tom, the farm manager, and recent FTD university graduate Lutha who is the assistant farm manager. Future farm products include organic fish, fruits, vegetables and edible flowers.

Guests for the opening day of the farm included the head of the local village, other children's foundations from Chiang Rai, locals, friends, family, and generations of Thai daughters. They all gathered beneath the Bluescope roof, fulfilling FTD's vision of the farm as a community centre.