



LUMOS FINAL REPORT

Lauren Dekleva, LUMOS Scholar

Chiang Mai, Thailand 2017

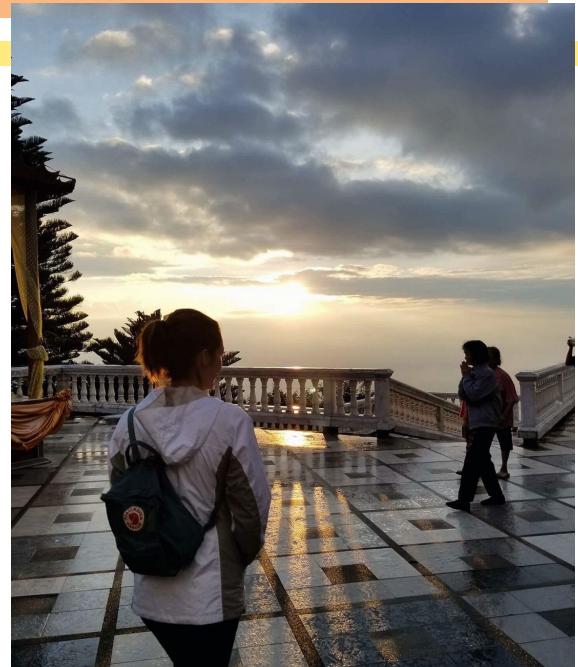


URBAN LIGHT

SAWADEE KA!

HELLO! MY NAME IS LAUREN DEKLEVA, AND THROUGH THE LUMOS TRAVEL AWARD, I SPENT SIX MONTHS IN CHIANG MAI, THAILAND INTERNING FOR URBAN LIGHT, AN INCREDIBLE ANTI-TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION. URBAN LIGHT IS UNIQUELY POSITIONED AS ONE OF THE FEW ANTI-TRAFFICKING NGOS TO WORK SPECIFICALLY WITH THE OFT OVERLOOKED POPULATION OF YOUNG MALE VICTIMS. THEIR MISSION IS TO EMPOWER THEIR COMMUNITY OF AT-RISK MALE YOUTH TO LIVE A LIFE OUTSIDE THE GRASP OF EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING,

THROUGH EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE, HARM REDUCTION, OUTREACH, PREVENTION AND LEGAL SERVICES. EVERY DAY, I WORKED IN THE URBAN LIGHT YOUTH CENTER, LOCATED IN THE HEART OF CHIANG MAI'S NIGHT BAZAAR, TO AID IN REBUILDING, RESTORING AND EMPOWERING THE LIVES OF THESE BOYS.





Urban Light provides a variety of services to male victims of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation.

The Urban Light Youth Center is a drop-in center open Monday-Friday from 10am-5pm. Located in the heart of Chiang Mai's night bazaar, it's a safe place for our boys to come and eat, learn, rest and feel at home.



EXPECTATIONS VS REALITY

Expectation #1: The Boys of Urban Light are survivors of sex trafficking.

Coming into my placement with UL, I had no idea what it would be like to work with male victims of trafficking, as my experience was limited to female survivors. I also didn't know what their current situation would be like: were they currently being trafficked? Were they somewhere in between? Or had they left their exploitation entirely, headed towards a bright future? I had much to learn about the Urban Light Boys.

Reality #1: The Boys of Urban Light each have different and complex stories, and while each of them are survivors in the adversity they've faced, most of the boys that Urban Light works directly with are currently victimized and trafficked.

So who are the Boys of Urban Light?

They are Chiang Mai's most vulnerable, as young as 7 and as old as 30. These are some of the factors that contribute to their exploitation:

They're **ethnic minorities**. Often families from the hill tribe villages will send their boys – as young as 11 years old – to find work and opportunity in the city. It is important for these boys to contribute to the survival of their family by sending money back home for food, siblings' schooling, shelter, etc. But, because of their minority status, these boys face immense discrimination that keeps them from accessing work outside the bars. They also come to the city without skills, resources, or street smarts, and thus fall into trafficking.





They're **stateless**. Many of UL's boys are not formally registered to any government, even if they were born in Thailand. This means no paperwork, hardly any protection under the law, and most difficult of all, no identification card. Without an ID, no one will hire them, and it is thus impossible for them to find reputable work.

They're **refugees**. Many are refugees from Burma, escaping political upheaval and violence there. This is also an ethnic minority that faces discrimination in employment.

They're **orphans and homeless youth**. Many are without any family at all, and from a young age, are completely responsible for their own survival.

They're **substance users**. When boys find themselves in the bars at a young age, lured in by owners with promises of work and opportunity, they are often offered drugs. These drugs keep them going during work, keep them performing longer, and, once they're hooked, keep them coming back to the bars for more.



Expectation #2: This example of trafficking looks like the narrative I'm familiar with.

I expected to hear and see a lot about brothels and red light districts and pimps and young boys being chained to bedposts in basements. And especially given that the traditional portrayal of a victim of sexual exploitation is typically female, I truly had no idea what to expect with male victims.



Loi Kroh Rd is the closest thing to a red light district in Chiang Mai. There used to be a more established district, but years of busts and raids have forced it underground. Now, boys are sold for sex all over the city.

Reality #2: While cases of this depiction of trafficking certainly exist, the coercion experienced by the majority of UL's Boys is much more complex and nuanced.

Who are they exploited by?

The majority of customers are Western men. Many are seemingly just everyday men: fathers, teachers, "sex-pats," doctors, dentists, lawyers, etc. Even worse, these men often try to justify their actions, falsely convincing themselves that they're "taking care of" and "providing for" the Boys.

Thais are also sometimes customers, and occasionally women as well.

Where are they exploited?

All over the city: massage parlors, karaoke bars, show bars, street corners, tourist attractions, internet cafes (as technology continues to advance, more and more trafficking happens online), construction sites, etc.



Tha Pae Gate is a popular tourist spot, and the entrance to the Old City. But for young boys and their predators, it's a well-known spot to arrange transactions.

So why don't they just stop?

In many of the boys' cases, coercion looks different from the sensationalized view of trafficking victims that we're accustomed to. They're not chained to the bars or locked up in a dingy basement somewhere. They have "freedom" in the sense that they can move around the city, but mobility does not equal true freedom.

Sometimes they have pimps, sometimes they're "owned" by the bars, but generally speaking, there are a whole different set of constraints that dictate their opportunities and keep them from "just stopping."

On one hand, many boys are bound by family obligation. This is a bit of a foreign concept for Westerners, but in Thai culture, a child is responsible for contributing and taking care of the family financially. As a result, children in the hill tribe regions and communities surrounding the city are taken to tourist areas late at night to sell bracelets and flowers and other trinkets. Then, at around 12 years old, they are sent to the city more permanently to find work, and that's when they get sucked in to sex industry. This expectation for kids to support their families is enough to keep kids out of school and in the bars. In many cases, our boys act as a sort of sacrificial lamb for their siblings – "I do this so my little brother and sister don't have to."

On the other hand, they have zero family to begin with, and as a child, are 100% responsible for their own survival. Without any community or support system to look after them, they have to take care of themselves. They're too young to work, or have no identification to work, and so they must engage in survival sex. This means they'll go home with someone just so that they can eat a hot meal and sleep in a bed instead of under a bridge.

And underlying all of it, these boys are trapped in a patriarchal society that looks away. They are despised by their community, which refuses to understand their narrative in context or acknowledge a male victim. They face countless stigmas, contributing to their invisibility and vulnerability. They are considered the lowest rung of society, usually perceived as homeless, dangerous, the worst of the worst, drug addicts, thieves and criminals. Abandoned by their community, they have no resources, no one to advocate for them, no one to humanize them.



Expectation #3: My role will be structured and consistent.

I thought there would be more structure in my role, but also somewhat understood that as an intern at a smaller international NGO, I would probably fill many roles in my six months.

Reality #3: Every day is its own adventure!

Truly, one of the only things that was the same day-to-day was LUNCH! Everyday at exactly noon, at least one boy would wander up the center stairs, saying *gin kao! Gin kao!* - which is literally translated as eat rice. And each day, the staff would join the boys on the first floor for a delicious Thai meal, cooked fresh by the center manager, Khem. I had the job of randomly assigning clean up tasks with a cup of popsicle sticks labeled with numbers. The boys were often hilarious at trying to avoid drawing a numbered stick!



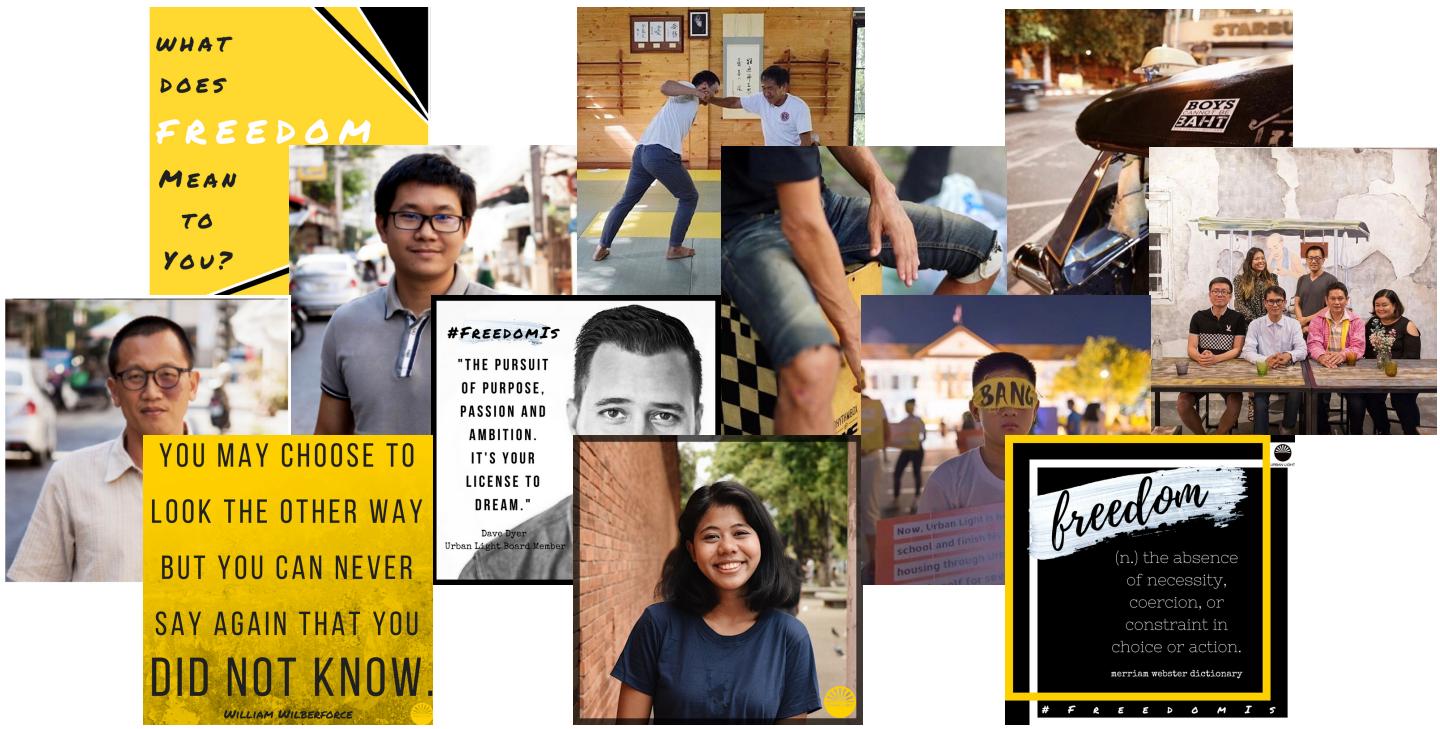
As a drop-in center, it's hard to plan - above all, you have to be patient, flexible and adaptable. Each day was different, and could be quiet and tame, or crazy and busy and loud! There was no predicting it - as a volunteer, I just had to go with the flow.

But even with this uncertain and sometimes erratic schedule, I had plenty to keep me busy!



Social Media

I created content for Urban Light's social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter), targeting daily posts to our audience to grow our following. I took photos, designed graphics and created email campaigns to increase UL's online presence.



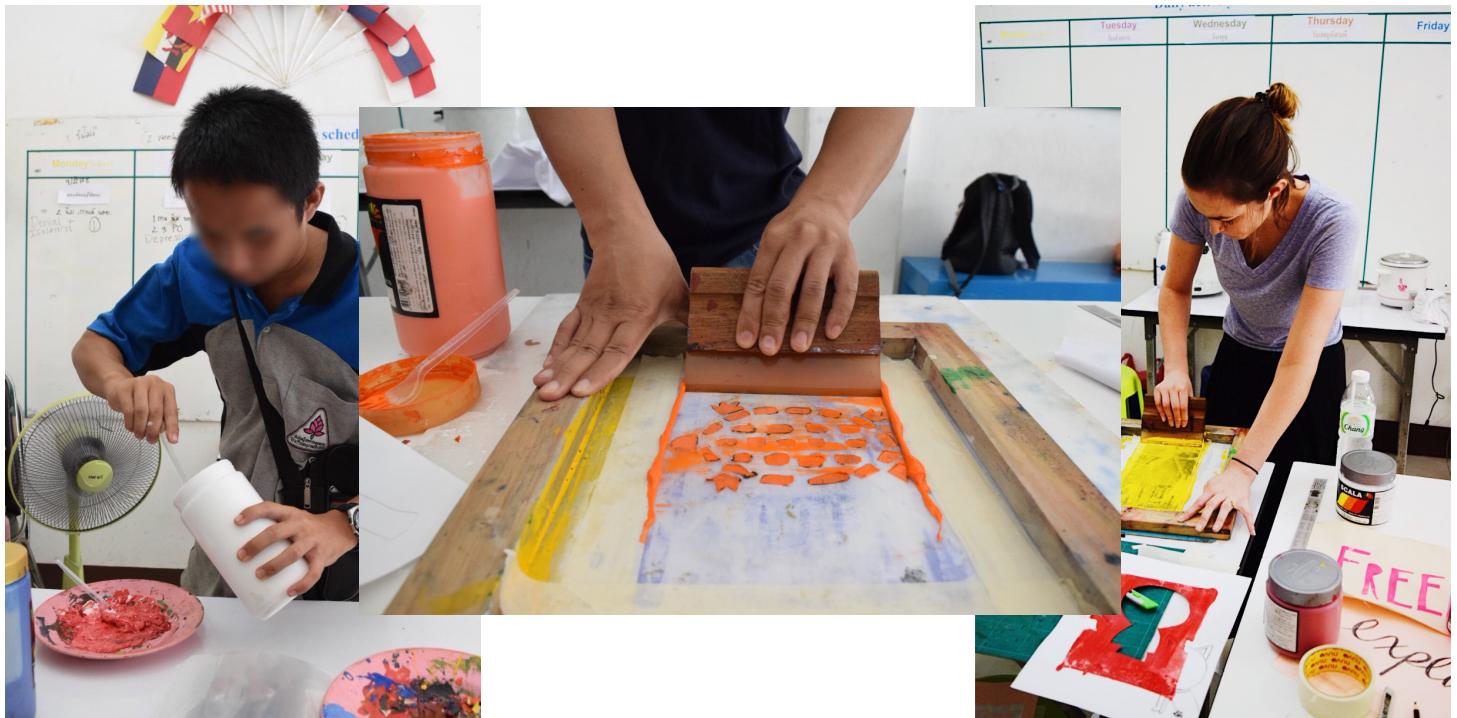
Social Enterprise: Greeting Card Project

One of my first projects at UL was working with one of the boys and the other intern to create holiday greeting cards! The boy was paid for his art, and we all worked together to come up with concepts and artwork for the cards, which would then be sold by one of our board members. Instead of cards, the artwork was turned into labels for a line of candles, which are currently sold on UL's Etsy shop.



Social Enterprise: Screenprinting Project

The Boys and I spent many hours learning how to screenprint from our partners at Art Relief International, all in preparation for the launch of a new social enterprise project. One day, UL aims to have a store marketed to tourists, selling screenprinted items like pillows and purses, all made by the Boys. I developed logos and designs for potential products. This project is being continued by UL's next interns!

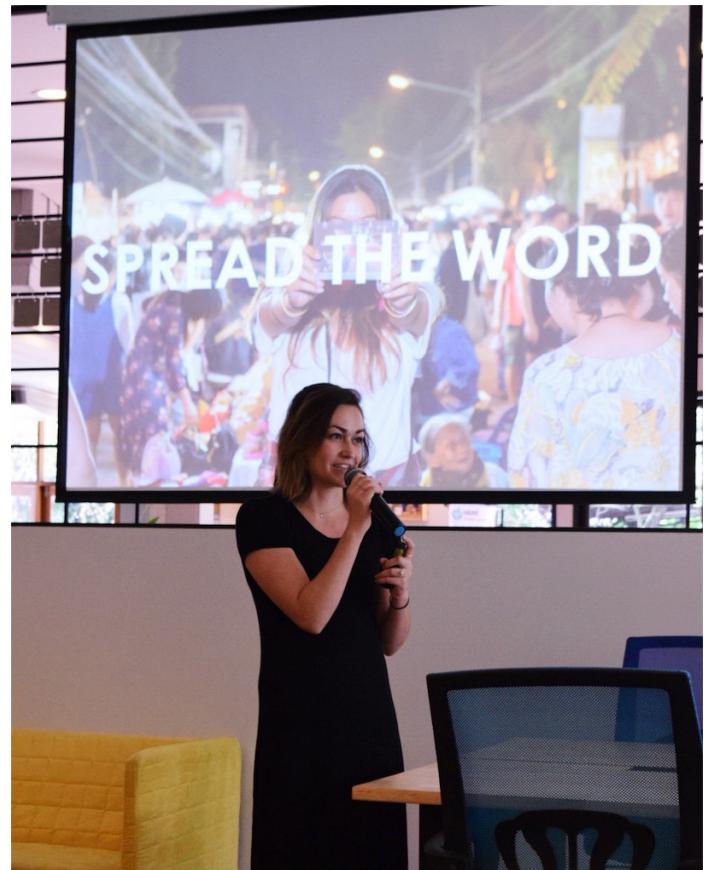


Awareness Outreach

I also helped and participated in awareness efforts and outreach events.

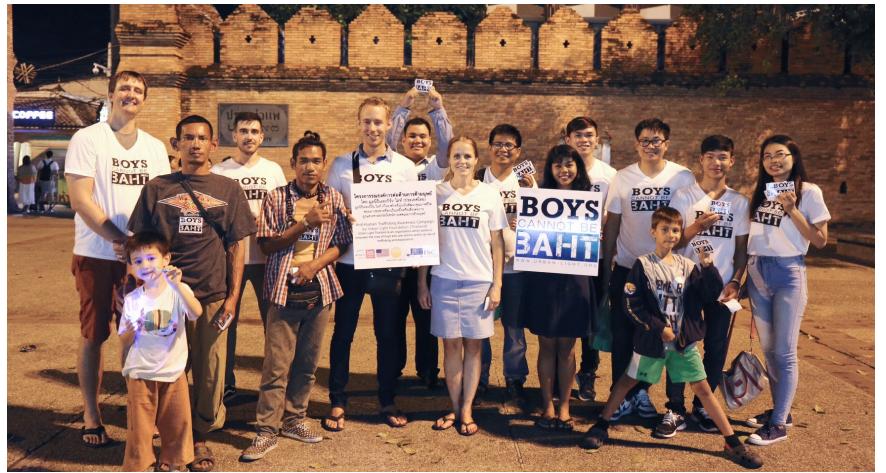
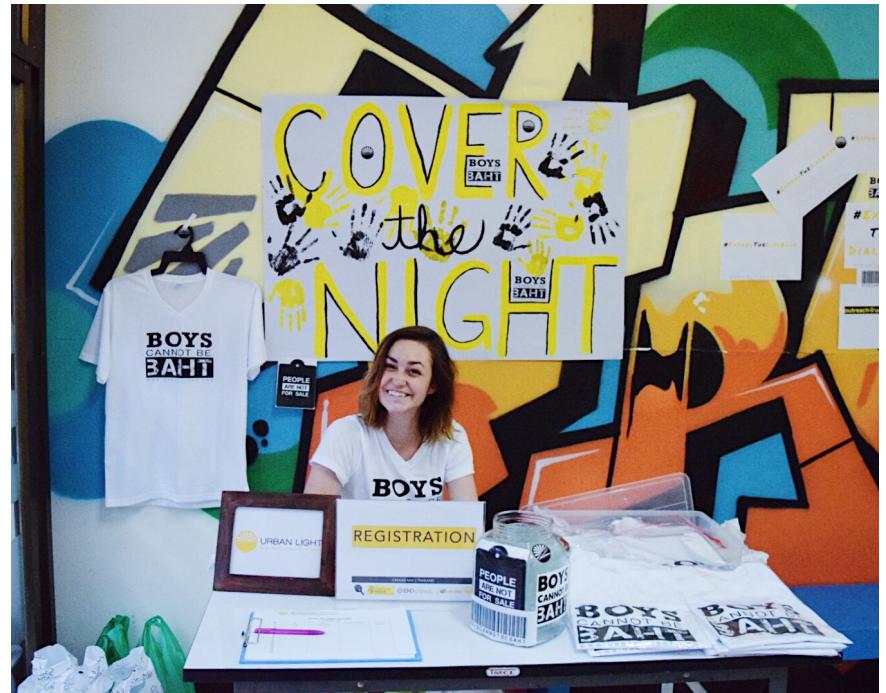
Whenever we had English speaking visitors at the center, I would give them a tour and an introduction to Urban Light before they met with our CEO. I was also responsible for giving presentations to visiting groups.

In addition I, with a other few staff members, gave monthly presentations to groups of digital nomads traveling with the organization Remote Year.



Some of my favorite tasks were assisting with awareness events. Our first event, **Cover the Night**, took place all over Chiang Mai. We invited our family and friends to join us on a Friday night as we went out to some of the busiest places in the city (Night Bazaar, Nimmanhaemin Rd, Tha Pae Gate) armed with t-shirts and stickers. We spoke with tourists and locals all night, explaining that boys could be victims of sex trafficking and how Urban Light helped them.

In one exchange, our center director Dear was speaking with a man who told her that he had just bought sex from a boy the night before. He was confused, explaining that he didn't force the boy to do anything, and the boy didn't seem like he was being exploited. Dear explained the forces of poverty and family obligation outside the man's awareness that influenced the boy and made him vulnerable. After their conversation, the man took two stickers. I cannot imagine being in Dear's shoes and coming face to face with a john like that, but it's so awesome that UL was able to reach and educate him. That is the purpose of these events.





Awareness Outreach: #FreedomIs Event

One of my favorite projects was the #FreedomIs flash mob event. Urban Light needed to do a flash mob in 2017 to fulfill the requirements of a grant, but we didn't have time to put together a musical dance number. So, Chloe (two-month volunteer), Alex (Founder and CEO) and I brainstormed and came up with #FreedomIs: an awareness installation and event exploring the meaning of freedom in the face of modern-day slavery. Chloe and I then implemented the project in only three weeks.

JOIN URBAN LIGHT FOR

FREEDOM IS

an awareness installation and event
exploring the meaning of freedom in the face of modern-day slavery

 URBAN LIGHT

DEC 3 | 7:45 PM | SECRET LOCATION RELEASED CLOSER TO DATE

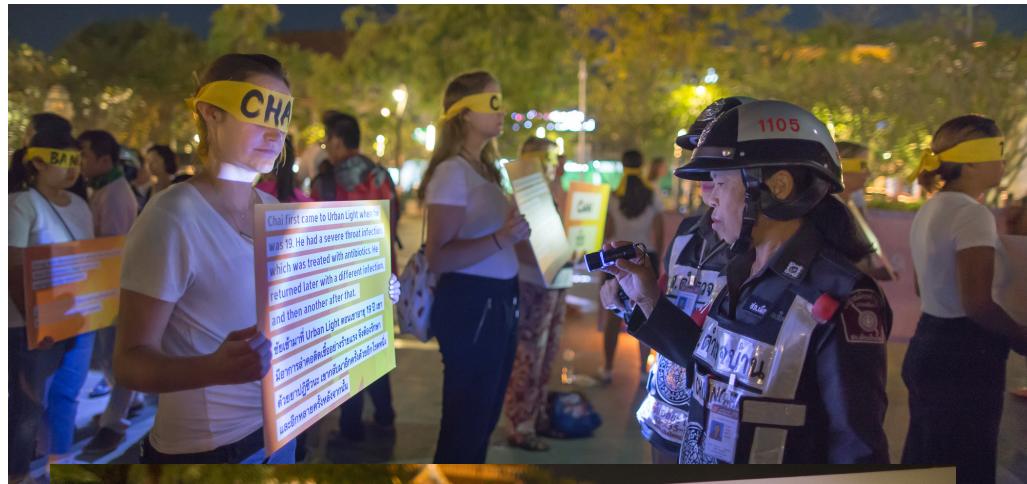
The idea was essentially a human maze, formed from 64 volunteers in a large square at Three Kings Monument by the busy Sunday Night Market street. Onlookers would begin by writing what freedom meant to them on a large canvas. They would then travel through the maze, reading the stories of our boys on each row, printed on signs held by the volunteers. Volunteers wore blindfolds, inscribed with the name of the boy they were representing. At the end was another canvas, this time with messages from our boys on what freedom meant to them.

The project was so much work: wrangling up huge amounts of volunteers, designing and printing the logos and signs and marketing materials, writing out instructions and putting together packages for our volunteers. But it was so worth it. It was certainly a risky idea, but it paid



off. The event was so moving and powerful, for both our volunteers and the onlookers that participated. And it created a lot of visibility for our Boys, who often go unseen. We even had some police officers walk through the exhibit, which was a huge deal; anything we can do to alert to police to the struggles of the Boys, and to humanize them, is a victory.

In many ways, it was a sort of parting gift to Urban Light. They now have the materials, and know what it takes to pull it off. The event could easily be replicated.



Center Life

These were all amazing projects that I was a part of at Urban Light, but my most important job by far was building relationships with the boys and helping out around the center. I, alongside the staff, was responsible for making the center a fun, safe, restorative place for the boys to be themselves.

This was accomplished through...

Health workshops - Almost every Wednesday, either UL's doctor, Dr. Matilda, or psychologist, Pop, would lead a health workshop for the Boys. Topics ranged from the Five Stages of Grief (pictured) to dengue fever. I would sometimes help by teaching a few of the words in English.



Music - From jam sessions to informal lessons to sing-alongs, there was almost always some form of music in the center.

As a musician, I loved connecting with the boys this way. I got to hear them sing so many Thai songs, as I played along on the ukulele. They also knew a few songs in English ("Sign of the Times" by Harry Styles and "Attention" by Charlie Puth) which I knew very well by the end of my six months.



Games - The Boys loved playing UNO so much, I wrote an entire blog post on "How to Play UNO in Thai." I'm sure I played hundreds of games of UNO at UL, and it was always a great way to bond with the Boys. There were a few in particular that were obsessed with it. Other popular games were Jenga, Skipbo, dominoes and ping pong.



Friday Excursions - At least every other Friday, the staff would take the Boys on an excursion, designed to be fun and show them the fullness of life outside of the streets. They were so fun - we went to the movies, the soccer field, the music store where they could jam in the practice rooms, an Aikido dojo, the badminton courts, the park, the pool and, as an end of the year celebration, the houseboats on the beautiful Mae Ngat Dam (pictured).



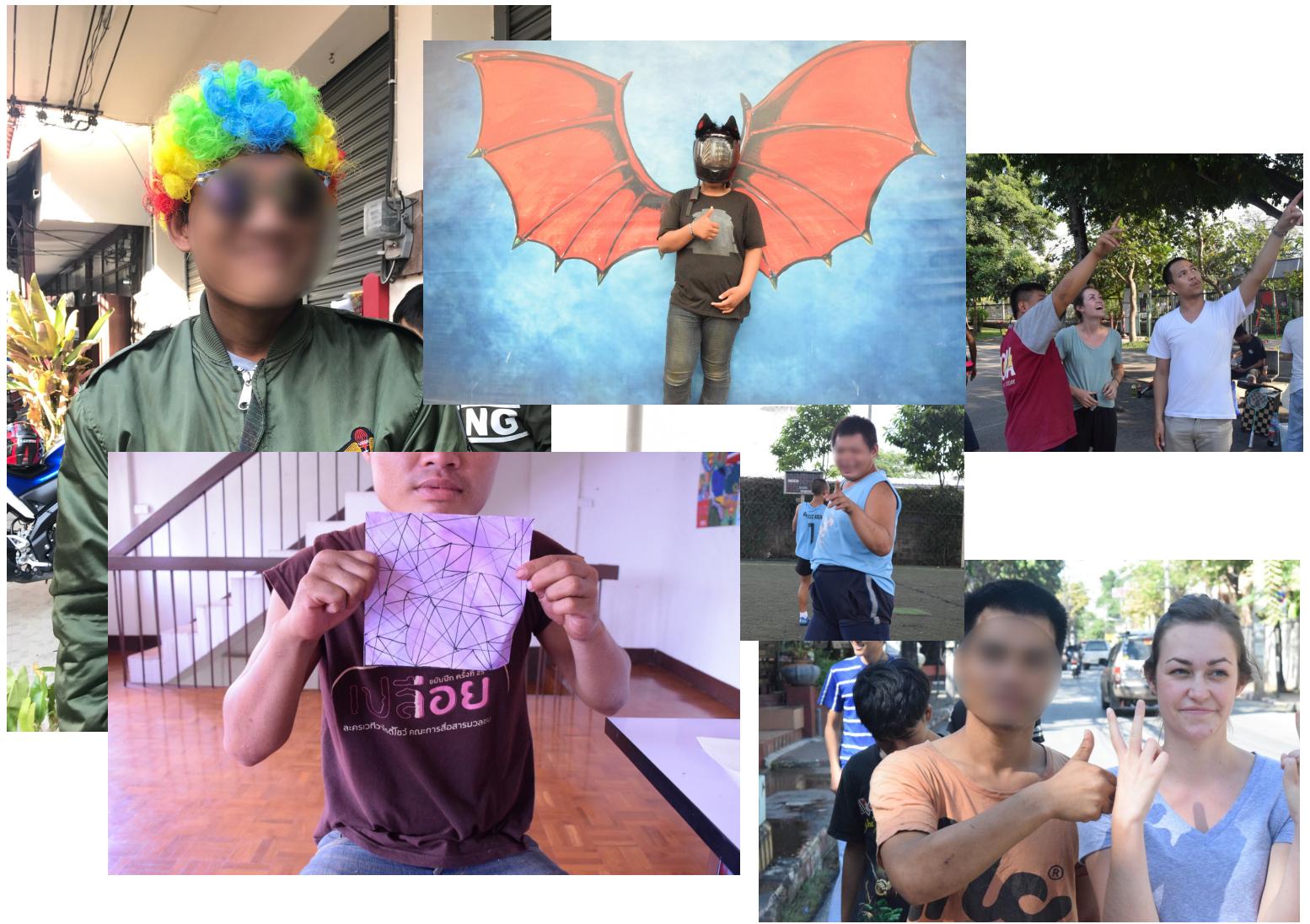
Art - Every other Thursday, Art Relief International would come to the center and give an art workshop. I would also do art activities with the Boys on our own time, like when I led an origami krathong workshop at the beginning of Loy Krathong/Yee Peng Festival (pictured).



Tutoring - I would sometimes do informal English lessons and tutoring in the center, using flashcards, notebooks, or sometimes books that the Boys brought. Often, it would also turn into them teaching me Thai words too!

Building relationships! - But of course, nothing beats just hanging out and goofing off! These boys always made me laugh.





Creating a safe space -

The most important thing about the center is that it meets the Boys where they're at. Sometimes, that means engaging with the boys - playing games, having fun and building relationships. But sometimes, that means leaving them alone. Sometimes, they just need a place to rest after being on the streets or working all night.



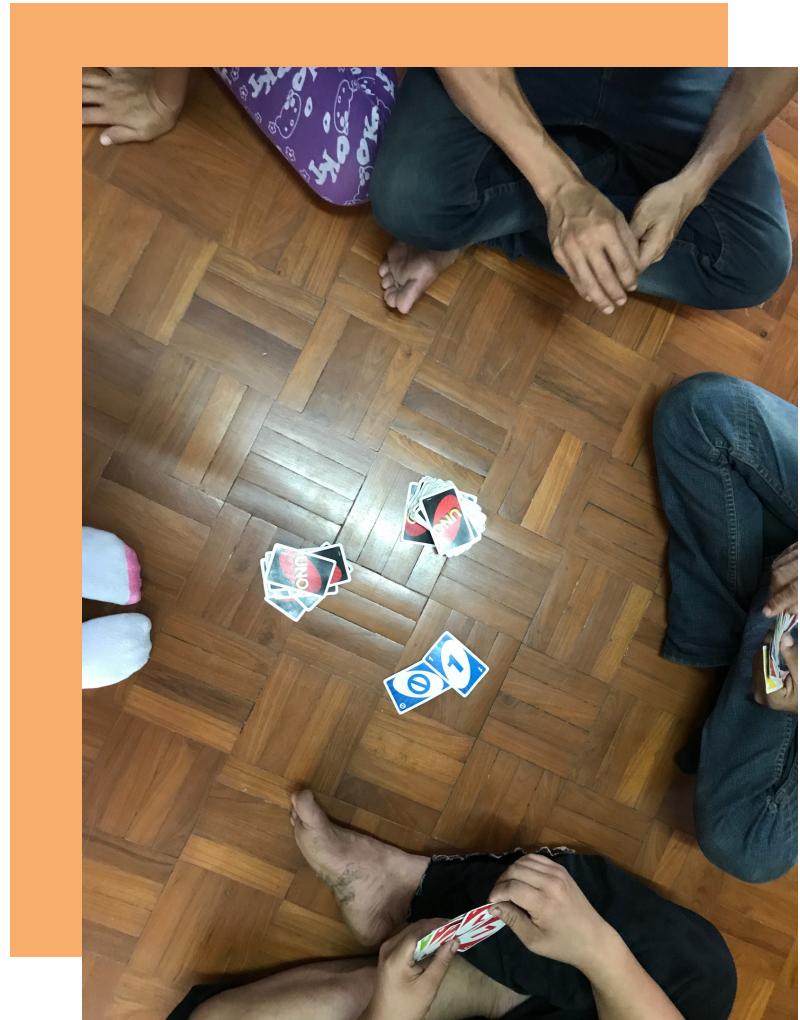
CHALLENGES

Language Barrier

By far the biggest challenge at Urban Light was the language barrier. At the beginning of my placement, I was constantly overwhelmed at the prospect of communicating and building relationships with boys. Being able to speak with them was obviously a huge part of my job! Not only that, but Thai, as a tonal language, is incredibly difficult to learn. For example, the word *sawng* means either two or *brothel*, depending on if your inflection is rising or falling. I was so discouraged at first.

But, slowly and surely, I began to adapt. There was a lot of trial and error involved - I once said hello to a Boy, and he responded with "you say that a lot..." (the other intern, Zuzu translated) - but with the help of Zuzu (I asked her so many questions), the staff, the boys (they *loved* teaching and correcting my Thai), my flashcards and my Thai teacher, A-jaan Lah, I began to learn.

The solution was multifaceted and required a lot of time and patience. Besides just learning the words, I had to figure out how to build relationships through other means, like games, music, art and charades. I also had to give up on getting all the tones right - for awhile, I was so afraid of getting it wrong, that I didn't try to say anything at all. I also picked up words and phrases day to day. Learning to play UNO in Thai was honestly the most helpful thing: it was through those many games that I solidified my colors, numbers and some basic commands and grammar.



It also helped that, for many of the boys, Thai is not their first language either. Many of them speak hilltribe dialects, and learned Thai when they came to the city. Since neither of us would be fluent, we could communicate in a hybrid English/Thai/hand motions kind of language.

By about three months in, I felt like I had enough Thai under my belt to have basic conversations. I remember when I had my first full back-and-forth conversation with a Boy, and how exciting and freeing it was. I had finally hit my stride!



I had to find other points of connection with the Boys... like photography!

Relationships

Relationships take a long time to build, especially when you're working with a traumatized individual that doesn't trust people easily. It could be really hard not to get discouraged or feel like a failure if the boys weren't receptive to me that particular day.

I had to learn not to take it personally (easier said than done!) if a boy didn't want to play UNO with me, or didn't respond when I asked a question. And even harder, I had to keep trying. I couldn't be intimidated by them, or fear their rejection. I had to learn that the Boys had so much going on outside the center - maybe he was up all night working, or hadn't eaten yet that day, or had a particularly traumatic experience. Maybe he just didn't want to talk to me. Either way, I had to be empathetic and patient and compassionate in order to build their trust.



In the same vein, I had to be perceptive of their moods and needs. Sometimes, the situation called for me to be persistent in engaging them - asking them to play games or draw with me. On the other hand, sometimes I needed to let them come to me. Often, if I started painting or playing guitar on my own, they would come join out of curiosity. It's also important to be flexible - the Boys had relatively short attention spans, and so if the only wanted to do an activity for ten or fifteen minutes, and then were done, it wasn't personal.

A good example of this challenge is **Tai**. Tai is one of my favorites, and my hardest won relationship. He is technically a former UL boy, who has gotten off the streets and now helps out around the center and serves as a role model to the boys. For the longest time, I didn't think he liked me. Every morning, when I came into the center, I would greet him in Thai. Occasionally, he would say hello back, but most of the time would just nod at me without looking up. He would sometimes become friendlier as the day went one, even joining me for a game of UNO every now and again, but I still wasn't sure how to read him.

After awhile, he started to warm up to me, until one day, suddenly, we were friends. He came upstairs into the office space, and in a high pitched voice that was supposed to sound like mine, he mimicked the way I said his name and other Thai phrases. From then on out, that was our "thing," and I loved it. We would have other conversations too, including one where I asked him how he was, and he responded mai sabbai (not good). I would ask him why, and he would loudly exclaim with a smile "no money, no honey!" He cracked me up, because sometimes the way he treated me was similar to my younger brother - if I made a joke, or did something silly, he would smile and shake his head at me, as if to say, "... you're not cool, Lauren."



The week before I left, Tai asked me at lunch what I wanted as a going away gift. Touched by the question, I told him I wanted a picture of him. He smiled and nodded his approval. Then, on my last day, he came up to me and presented me with a beautiful laminated photo of the late king and queen. Now, all Thai people adore and respect the monarchy, but Tai is something special. He views the king as the father he never had, and to honor him after his death, he walked from Chiang Mai to Bangkok (about a twelve day journey) twice. The king meant the world to Tai, so to receive this as a gift from him was a beautiful, meaningful gesture. I will treasure it always!



Boundaries

On the other hand, I also dealt with the opposite problem. Sometimes, the Boys were needier and formed attachments very quickly. In that case, establishing appropriate boundaries became the issue.

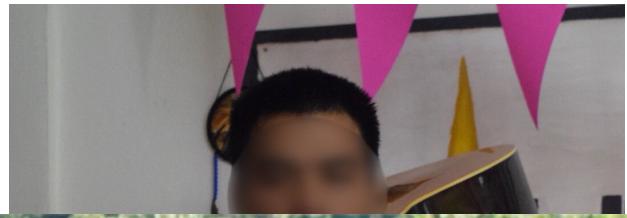
As a girl working with boys ages 14-26, it could be especially challenging. The Boys could be touchy or flirtatious or develop crushes. They typically don't have examples of healthy relationships, and so it was my responsibility to enforce boundaries to illustrate that. It was also important that I, as the volunteer, felt safe and comfortable.



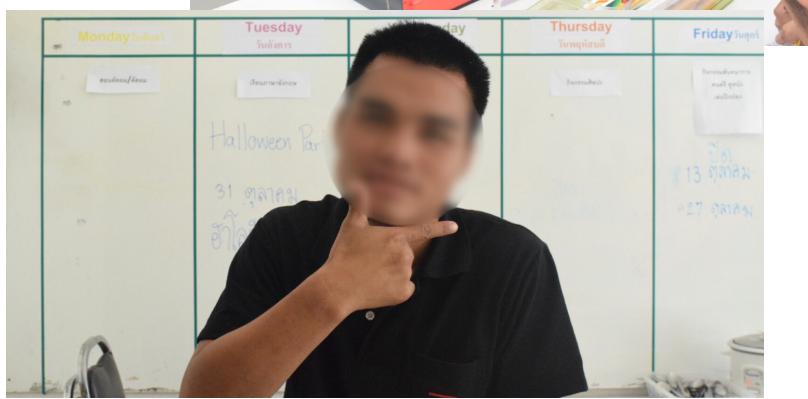
At first, I was willing to hold their hand for a moment, if they grabbed mine, because it meant that we were making progress. But then I realized they needed to know how to be friends with someone without any physical touch, so I began drawing clearer boundaries. They also sometimes tried to antagonize me or the other volunteers by cursing in English or telling us they liked one and not the other. With that kind of behavior, I had to shrug it off and act like I didn't care, and they would usually stop. The first phrase I learned in Thai was mai ao, or "I don't want!" and the second was mai bpen rai, or "doesn't matter/never mind." Both were useful.

It's also important to note that they are such good-hearted boys. Even when they crossed the line or tried to push my buttons, as soon as they realized that they'd gone too far, they would apologize and make sure everything was ok.

Nok is the boy who I probably spent the most time with, who I learned the most from and who was also the most challenging to work with. He is very intense in his facial expressions and the way that he spoke



challenging. It just depended on the day!

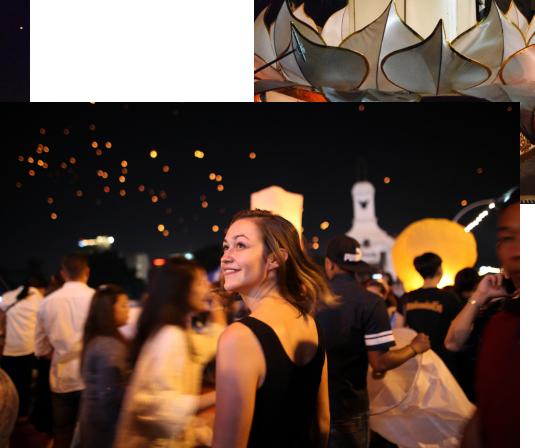
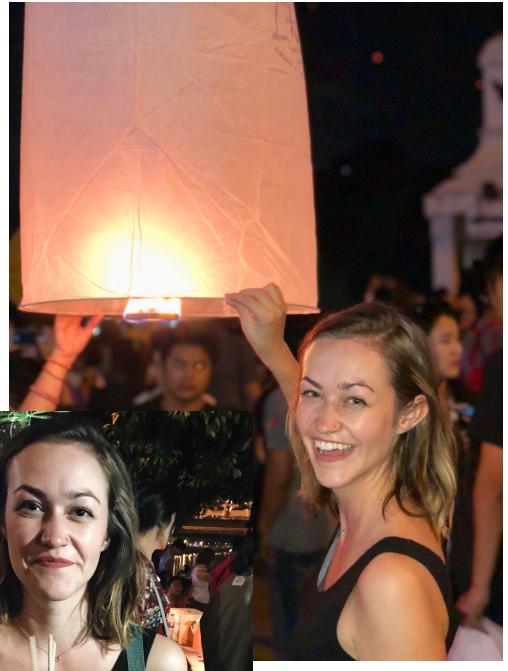


THAILAND



Loy Krathong/Yee Peng Festival

The Loy Krathong/Yee Peng Festival took place in November, and was an amazing cultural experience. For Loy Krathong, people purchase or make small boats, called krathong, made of banana leaves and adorned with flowers. They also add a candle, incense and sometimes money. Then, on a night of the festival, they take their krathong down to the Ping River, light the candles and let them go. For Thai people, this is the floating away of bad luck and humanity's darker nature. For some, it is also done in honor of the traditional water goddess. Yee Peng festival is the release of the floating paper lanterns. These lanterns symbolize good luck, and many festival participants write their wishes and prayers on their lanterns.





Temples

As a majority Buddhist country, Thailand is covered in beautiful, ornate temples. Some are from ancient Lanna (northern Thai) kingdoms; others have been built within the last ten years. The most notable temples to me were Wat Phra That in the Doi Suthep mountains and Wat Rong Khun, the White Temple in Chiang Rai.



People

I learned so much about Thai people and culture. Thai people are some of the friendliest on the planet - the nickname "land of smiles" is very accurate. They have a very high willingness to engage with foreigners, even when their English isn't strong. They are also very appreciative of any effort you make to speak Thai, and love to help you learn about their culture.

They are not confrontational or aggressive, preferring to "save face" - this even means that if you ask a Thai person for directions, they may give you some even if they don't know what you're talking about! They love Thailand, love their food and love their king. Family and social status are often very important to them.



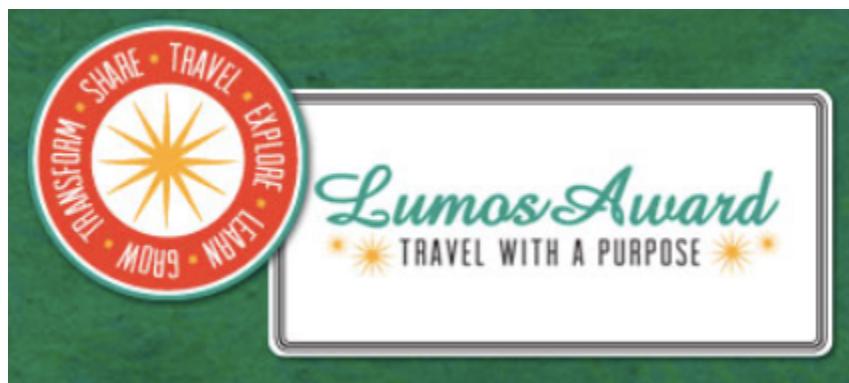
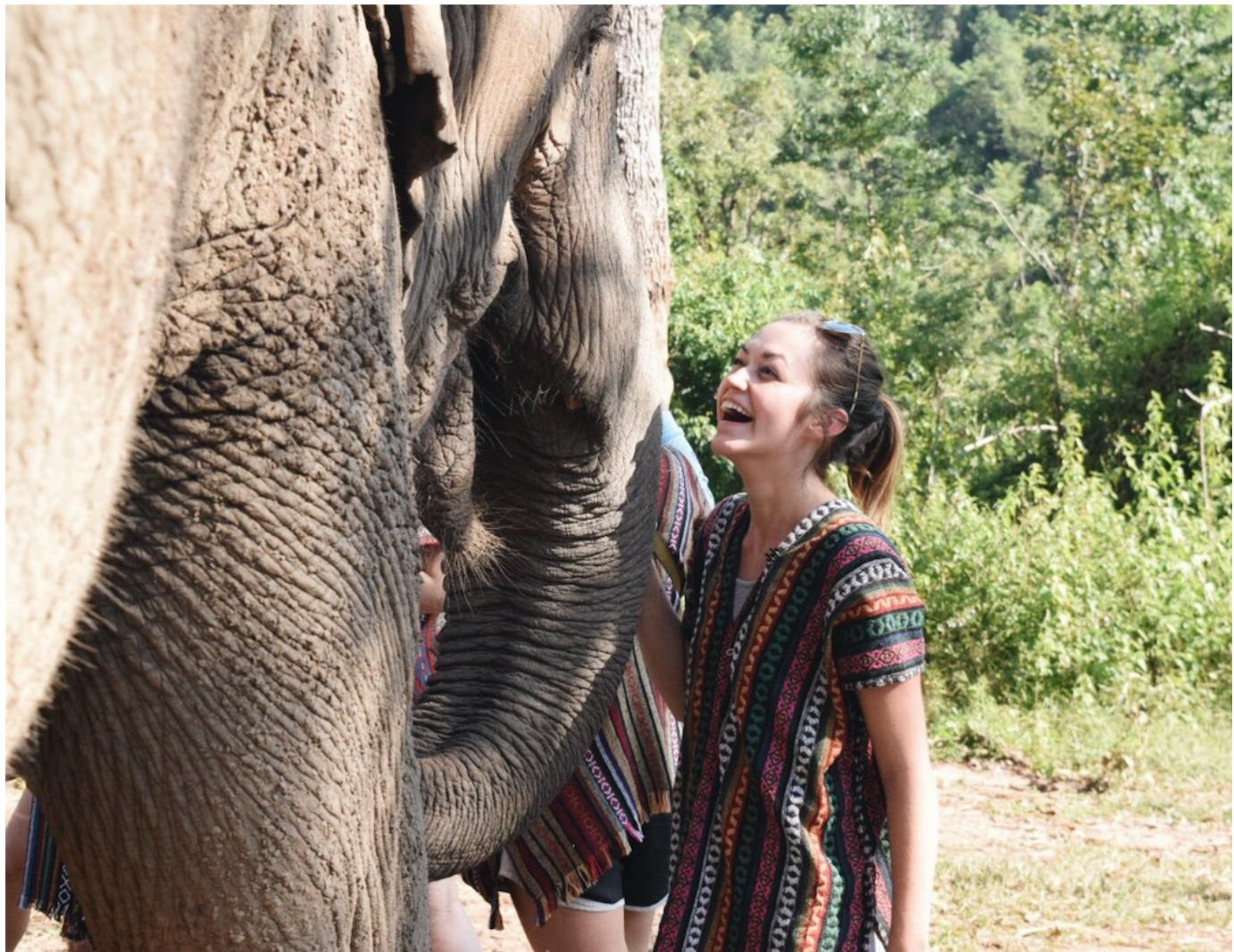


THAILAND, LUMOS AND URBAN LIGHT WERE EXPERIENCES UNLIKE ANY OTHER.

PROFESSIONALLY, I LEARNED SO SO MUCH ABOUT TRAFFICKING, COERCION, TRAUMA AND HOW BOYS ARE AFFECTED BY THIS ISSUE. I LEARNED THAT TRAFFICKING OPERATES DIFFERENTLY IN EVERY CULTURE, AND GAINED A THAI PERSPECTIVE ON IT. I LEARNED HOW TO SET BOUNDARIES, DECIPHER A NEW LANGUAGE AND ADAPT TO A NEW CULTURE. I LEARNED HOW TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES AND BE PERSISTENT, AND TO TAKE CARE OF MYSELF ON STRESSFUL DAYS. I LEARNED HOW RESILIENT, TALENTED AND KIND THE BOYS OF URBAN LIGHT ARE. I COULDN'T HAVE ANTICIPATED HOW BEAUTIFUL MY RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEM WOULD BE. MY FRIENDSHIPS ARE PRICELESS, AND I CONTINUE TO RECEIVE LITTLE TIDBITS FROM THEM THROUGH THE STAFF MEMBERS. I LEARNED HOW TO BE ADAPTABLE TO THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY YOU'RE SERVING AND HOW TO BE PATIENT AND SHOW COMPASSION.

I LOOK FORWARD TO USING THIS KNOWLEDGE IN MY CAREER AND CONTINUING TO WORK WITH SURVIVORS OF TRAFFICKING. I ALSO WILL BE CONTINUING TO WORK PART-TIME FOR URBAN LIGHT REMOTELY AS THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR.

THANK YOU, LUMOS!!!



LUMOS SPONSORING ORGANIZATION REPORT

Your Sponsoring Organization:

Cultural Canvas Thailand is my sponsoring organization. **Urban Light** is the organization where I worked and completed my placement.

Please briefly describe your level of involvement with your sponsoring organization. What kinds of things did they do on your behalf?

Cultural Canvas Thailand hosted me in a volunteer house, transported me to my placement everyday and provided dinner six days a week. The Director, Wad, met with the volunteers once a week to make sure everything was going smoothly. He was always on call for questions and assistance.

While you were in-country, did you need to call on them for any kind of emergency or medical assistance or help of any kind? How responsive to your needs were they? How effective were they in dealing with your needs?

Wad was incredibly helpful and responsive. We could reach him at anytime via phone or Facebook. He cares so much about the volunteers and their wellbeing!

My first week in Chiang Mai, I had a volunteer orientation with Wad and the other new volunteers. He explained Thai customs and culture, house rules and regulations and where to find things around the city. He made sure we got our money exchanged, helped us set up our Thai phones and sim cards and arranged Thai language lessons for the first week.

Wad also helped me when I thought I had dengue fever and needed to go to the doctor. He arranged transportation for me and checked on me throughout my recovery. He helped me buy bus tickets to other parts of Thailand, figure out my visa renewal process and answered basically every other question I had while in Thailand.

He was also very responsive to issues within the house. When the internet went out or an electrical socket stopped working, he always had it handled within the day. Once, construction in the neighborhood turned off the water for 24 hours, so Wad booked us rooms in a nearby guesthouse to stay the night.

Were there any issues or concerns you had with the placement they arranged for you?

I had no issues with my placement at Urban Light. I selected my placement there, and once the initial contact had been made, I was able to communicate with Urban Light directly.

If you paid a fee to the organization, did you feel you received good value for that money OR that the money was directed in the way you thought it would be? For example, if the organization is connected with a community organization of some sort, had you thought some funding would go to that organization?

I paid a fee to CCT of \$5,699, which included orientation, transportation, accommodation, food, health insurance and basic Thai language training. The fee seems comparable to other six month programs in Thailand, and I felt it was a good value. I received everything I paid for, and never felt that the money was ill spent. In addition, the program fee included a donation to Urban Light.

Would you recommend this organization to future LUMOS applicants? Would you have any reservations in recommending them? [Such reservations need not be criticisms; it could be something like if you wish to do X they are good, or if you have little experience abroad they are...]

I would absolutely recommend CCT to future LUMOS applicants; however, they are currently restructuring and expanding their programs, and are not currently accepting new volunteers until further notice. However, when they resume, they have a wide offering of programs and placements that would appeal to a variety of social justice interests.

I would also recommend Urban Light to future applicants who are interested in learning more about the complexities of human trafficking. UL volunteers need to be adaptable, patient, compassionate, flexible and able to commit for at least six months.