

## **Sisters on Samui**

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Venue: Prana Resort

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Attending:

- : - Yvonne Roberts, Natalie Kamolwattanasoontorn, Sandy Cacchione, Tammy Wade
- : - Jane Brazier (Minutes)
- : - 28 ladies (inclusive of the above)

## **Agenda**

Welcome by Yvonne

General recap of:

- : - phenomenal and positive change in the past year within the SOS organisation and validation of the role of women in the world!
- : - much needed response to the covid crisis supporting island and each other
- : - huge thanks to other sisters stepping up as Juliette departed and Yvonne took a sabbatical.
- : - role of Marketplace shop to be a point of call for unwanted items, and a hub for different community events

## **Foundation Update: Tammy Wade**

Business Side recap with introduction of team and roles as they more accurately reflect the current set up under the new Thai directorship

Financial Report: Sandy Cacchione

- : - Account of monies raised and spent so far this year with significant fundraising events before the end of 2021 yet to come
- : - Particular mention re very low admin costs enabling as much money as possible to go to the initiatives. Pro Bono services of Thai accountant helping to keep within Thai law particularly appreciated.
- : - Figures relating to fundraising income and expenses are all detailed in the accompanying slides (which was presented on the day).

**Community Initiatives:- Feed Samui: Natalie K**

Gave enormous thanks to:

:- the volunteers for their help with food distribution and their adaptability as covid arrived. The priority then became how to keep volunteers safe whilst coming up with other means of keeping people fed!.

:- Macro and Bangrak Minimart for their support in providing food at the most cost effective prices (which are subject to variation!) .

:- Szilvia at Maya resort for providing a space to store various donations and pack food items.

Of note, the need for feeding is still current and expected to continue for approx. 6 months by which time it is hoped the island will recover. Now, new requests still arrive and other variables such as the recent terrible rain add to the need.

#### **Local Matters: Natalie K**

A number of local causes are given money and in some cases ongoing contact to support the families/causes.

#### **Green Sisters: Tammy Wade**

Provided an update on various initiatives to help people help themselves. In particular, the community garden has been a huge success - growing things and how it looks - the much depleted community enjoy it, appreciate it and have worked very hard.

Further initiatives will be considered when the schools reopen.

Thanks to support from EcoThailand, Lantern Project, Secret Garden, Chi Samui

#### **Marketplace Charity Shop: Tammy Wade**

Different purposes including:

:- to provide a place for dropping off unwanted items, particularly when people leave the island and have STUFF to get rid of. These are then sold to raise money.

:- sell locally made products with a percentage of the purchase price being donated to SOS (10-20%)

:- be a space for a variety of activities including talks, painting, creative workshops, working with individuals

In addition, the shop space is also there to provide very important social CONNECTION

#### **Fundraising and Events: Tammy Wade**

These also provide connection, fun as well as opportunities to raise money. Broad approach caters for different tastes as well as helps optimise opportunities. Huge thanks to Maya and Sandy who reached out to the Swiss Embassy and obtained a donation infant milk formula from Nestle (valued at 800,000 baht)

## **Communications and Social Media: Sandy Cacchione**

Sisters on Samui Foundation has a main facebook page as well as a local one for those on or coming to the island with queries. It also gives information on discounts for SOS members and hopes to provide a loyalty scheme for other businesses in the future.

Newsletter sent out by email (monthly)

Please contact Sandy or Tammy if you do not receive it and would like to

Brief discussion re the benefits of Google ads for non-profit - TO BE DISCUSSED FURTHER (Jenni Lipa & Tammy Wade)

## **Volunteers and Committees: Natalie**

Welcome and thank you to new committee members.

Special thanks to Juliette Burrows for her long service, who it is hoped will return next year

Looking for 2 volunteers to be Secretary and Education Programme Manager  
(Please contact if you are interested).

New Committees suggested for 2022 to include Membership Programme as we look forward to better days for the island

Any other business: Tammy Wade

Upcoming Events coming as we approach the festive season and as the island continues 'to open up'. Special mention to the medically trained personnel at the Miskawaan Clinic offering a variety of health promotion and well being treatments and services

Natalie requested each sister take a card from the xmas tree and purchase, wrap AND label a gift for a child in the community. Cost should be between 200-300 baht.

Any donations for the shop to be taken in on a Monday if possible as it tends to be quiet. Any usable washed clothing and household items are welcomed. (Opened foods, pharmaceuticals and electrical items cannot be donated)

Jenni Lipa paid homage to the sisters who had worked so hard over the past year to achieve the foundation status.

## **Q and A**

Cathy Curtis asked about the benefits of Membership

Idea would be for members to get discount on local places

It would also focus attention on the number of sisters and facilitate more active involvement.

Looking for a volunteer to head up this programme especially if they have prior experience of setting one up. If no else is able to do this, Tammy or Sandy will do so as a priority next year.

Tammy Wade: General feedback re the benefit of name badges (sticky labels for now!). All CONSTRUCTIVE feedback is much appreciated.

Donna Hurst: asked about work permits, visas, immigration and acting in a volunteer role

Tammy explained that as a foundation it should be possible to smooth the way for the volunteers to work by building a relationship with the new head of Samui Immigration and ultimately building up to a written protocol. This should give reassurance on both sides. Longer term, it may be possible to offer volunteer visas.

**Finale: Yvonne**

Covid lesson - Embrace all and appreciate each other!

Coming into 25<sup>th</sup> year, hoping to extend sisterhood to other family members including men and children.

THANK YOU - KOP KHUN KA