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Bangkok Voices: Volunteering In Bangkok

Posted on Jan 14 2015 - 4:13pm by Bangkok Girl







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Bangkok Voices: Do I Miss Bangkok?

When I first moved to Bangkok and didn't work, I filled my days by volunteering at PAWS. There are however many good causes in and around Bangkok that need help from people. Like Seek Magazine.

I am sure you will remember Becky as she has guest posted for me a couple of times previously, but this one is a little bit different:



"There are always good causes to give to. There are always good causes providing good



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services to people in need. I am normally one to donate to whatever cause is presented to me but one never stuck with me before. I would just give because I was asked, no real rhyme or reason that pulled on my heart strings until now.

What is SEEK and how did it come to be?

Upon arriving to Bangkok, my son then 18 months old went through a terrible regression with his development. He was speaking, he was social, he was a normal happy kid but then all of a sudden something happened. He just stopped. Stopped talking, looking at me, acknowledging me. We thought maybe he was just adjusting to the new culture and environment but after six months of "waiting it out" or saying "he will be fine. It's a phase." life only got more difficult and a lot worse for my son.

I had shared my son's story with Bangkok Girl Blog previously and you can read up on it in this post. Basically my son around the age of two was diagnosed on the autism spectrum with PDD-NOS, Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified. This is basically a diagnosis of "there is something wrong here developmentally but we aren't going to label him full blown autistic." This was very hard on our family but we are strong, and we rely on our faith in God's plan to get us through so we were determined to do what we needed to in order to make life better for our son.

During this journey, I found Google to be my biggest enemy but it was the one place I kept coming back to for information. As Killi's doc, Ali, says "Google is a sea of information about one inch deep" and boy isn't that the truth. I would Google "why does my son do X, Y, or Z" and I would find "forums" of moms answering other moms questions. I am a mom. I am no fool. I know without a doubt just because I had a child it doesn't mean I have any clue about his brain or why he does things that he does nor do I think I have the ability to comment on someone else's child's development. There are professionals, who go to school for a long time to figure that out.

I was overwhelmed and I would go to his doctor and say things like "well I read on Google.... What does that mean!?" Thank the Lord, Ali is a very patient man, I am sure my "Google says" got on his nerves. He was always kind and would give me a very well thought out and easy to understand answer as to why my son was doing whatever it is he was doing for the day.

After many months of therapy, one of my expat friends put the thought into my head that I should start a magazine about development. I thought about it and it seemed like a good idea since the "forums of moms" were super annoying to me but I knew that I would need backup. I went to my son's doctor and asked him if he thought professionals would be receptive to this new concept- an online magazine full of articles about everything that has to do with children from professionals for parents written in layman's terms. He thought it was a great idea and that is how SEEK Magazine began.



A good cause worth supporting

The idea of a good cause hadn't occurred to me until we hit a slight snag during my son's therapy. We went to submit our invoices to insurance and all of a sudden the policies had changed and so started the battle with the insurance to cover our costs of therapy. I realized there are a lot of parents out there, who are in desperate need of help for their child but do not have the financial means to make that happen. Originally, I just wanted to share out good information for parents to read at no cost just something to help others but then I realized I could do so much more with this project to help other children from around the world in need.

At SEEK, we are creating the leading online community and resource center providing published works from professionals and personal experiences from parents, while creating an interactive open discussion about the different aspects of human development with an additional focus on developmental delays. We are working towards our non-profit status through the state of South Carolina (all paperwork has been filed), followed by applying for 501(c) designation (tax exempt non-profit organization) with the Internal Revenue Service. The reason for all of the nonprofit and tax paperwork is so when we start looking for sponsors and donations from business and individuals from around the world, we can provide them with a tax deduction when they financially contribute. With the funds given, we will create a scholarship fund for children in need of early intervention therapy for developmental delays.

Why early intervention?



Early intervention therapy is crucial in making a difference in the life of the child who has developmental delays. I will forever be an advocate of early intervention because of the differences we have seen in my son. When we started therapy, he would not communicate in anyway except screaming or crying. He would not even look at us but now after a year and a half of therapy he is a social butterfly and is talking up a storm! Because of these changes and seeing where he was in the beginning of 2013 to where he is now the end of 2014, I know that I want to do everything in my power to help other families' experience the same success and give them the hope in knowing it will eventually get better. Sometimes we just need someone to tell us that there is light at the end of the tunnel even if it does seem far off, I want SEEK Magazine to be that beacon of hope, information, and knowledge for all who come to our site.

We are still adding a lot of content but we would greatly appreciate your support by following us on social media and sharing the stories and articles you find on here with your friends and family. This nonprofit will only get off the ground with your support!

If you would like to contribute in anyway, please let me know by emailed editor@seekmagazine.org"

Thank you Becky, if I had more experience with children I would be writing for you in a heartbeat!! Please show your support and follow @seek_magazine on twitter or even better write an article!

If you would like to contribute a guest post to Bangkok Voices then please email me at bangkokgirlblog@yahoo.com

2 Comments so far. Feel free to join this conversation.



Hello Becky

I remember your other post and was very moved by it. What an amazing achievement to start a magazine and place for others to share their own experiences and also seek help. I am also a believer in early intervention. I hope you will continue to make strides with your work and also share your progress from time to time with all who read this blog. Good luck xx



Becky

January 15, 2015 at 12:44 am - Reply

Goodisongirl- thank you so much for those kind words! I really appreciate the support! This isn't just a Bangkok magazine we have readers from around the world so share the facebook page with anyone you might think could us the info the more people we help the better! God bless!

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About Me



My name is Anna and I am a British expat living in Bangkok. This blog is about my Bangkok experiences: eating, drinking, shopping, sightseeing and being an expat in general, together with any trips I am lucky enough to make around the rest of Thailand and SE Asia. Please feel

free to send me an email: bangkokgirlblog@yahoo.com

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