

## UNAU DAY 2026

**Organized by:** Centre for Community Initiative (CCI)

**Date & Time:** June 26, 2026 | 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

**Venue:** Auditorium, Gospel Centenary Hall, Hebron Veng, New Lamka

### I. INTRODUCTION

The term unau in the local context refers to siblings. This day was dedicated to recognizing their often-unseen role as caregivers, advocates, and lifelong companions to their brothers and sisters with disabilities. UNAU DAY 2026 was observed to honour the siblings of children with disabilities, the unau who love their siblings in a way the world rarely sees. The program brought together approximately 200 well-wishers including parents, siblings, educators, students, and government officials.

Rooted in the legacy of Ginmawsawm Tonsing, the theme "Day of Sibling with Disabilities" reflects TMI's commitment to inclusion and to honouring the care and resilience found within families. While UNAU DAY has been celebrated for years, 2026 was marked by a new milestone. For the first time, CCI presented the Social Inclusion Award to villages who included their own people with disabilities in daily life through acts of love. This UNAU DAY reminded us that 'unau' is not only the sibling at home. When a village chooses to include persons with disabilities through good deeds, it too becomes a good sibling to them.

### II. OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT

UNAU DAY 2026 was organized with the following objectives:

- 1. To honour siblings** of children with disabilities, recognizing their role as caregivers, advocates, and lifelong companions.
- 2. To celebrate achievements** of students with disabilities, including academic success through the Ginmawsawm Tonsing Award and community inclusion through the Social Inclusion Award.
- 3. To create a platform for expression** by showcasing student talents through music, poetry, and sign language, affirming that every form of communication matters.
- 4. To strengthen community and government support** for disability inclusion, as reflected in the presence of the DC and local community groups.
- 5. To promote dignity and hope** by reframing success around independence and participation, reminding families that every milestone is worth celebrating.

### III. PROGRAM PROCEEDINGS

The event was conducted by Physiotherapists **Ms Hatngaikim** and **Ms Goungaihlan**, with Sign Language Interpretation by **Ms Parnei Vaiphei**, Special Educator. **Mr Pausuanlal Guite**, Manager (MARC), CCI, delivered the Welcome Address.

## Special Song - "Lean on Me"

Immediately following the Welcome Address, four TMI students—**Chingbiakdik and Lensongou from Early Education Sec-III with visual impairment, Tyson Lungousang from Secondary with cerebral palsy and Khumlalven from Higher Secondary with cerebral palsy**, assisted by a teacher, presented the special song "Lean on Me." The performance set the tone for the day, echoing the event's message that siblings, families, and communities are called to support one another.

## Student Presentations



TMI students presented several Special Items throughout the program. A defining moment was the presentation of a poem written by **Elizabeth Chongzammawi @ Buongnu, a Higher Secondary student with cerebral palsy**. The poem was read aloud by her friend, **Jangmonchung @ Boithang, a Secondary student with locomotor disability**, while two other students, **Chiinneihoi and Mangdeizou, who are Level-C students (equivalent to Classes VI–VIII) with hearing impairment**,

interpreted it in sign language, with the poet Elizabeth seated between them. This demonstrated how each individual expresses differently and how all forms of expression matter.

## Ginmalsawm Tonsing Award

Before the *Ginmalsawm Tonsing Award* distribution, **Sir Biakson**, a teacher at TMI and former recipient of the award, shared his life story. He spoke of his journey to TMI and reflected on how families of children with disabilities measure happiness differently. *For parents of children with disabilities, happiness is when their child can go to the toilet alone, tie their shoelace, or button their shirt.* He reminded the audience that we are made to help one another.



Ms Zabeth Ngailianvung, PO (NCF), hosted the Ginmalsawm Tonsing Award Distribution. **This year, the award was presented to Mr Thangchonsei Kipgen for succeeding in HSLC and receiving a 5000+ Citation, and Ms Taithangmawi for succeeding in HSLC and receiving a 5000+ Citation, in**

**recognition of their perseverance and achievements. Mr Thangchonsei Kipgen** was present to receive his award in person. **Ms Taithangmawi** could not attend as she has joined a school for the blind outside the state to continue her education. We are truly grateful to both awardees for their hard work and determination as they move forward in their journeys. **Their stories affirm that every life matters, and that living with a disability does not mean one stops pursuing dreams or loving life.**

### Special Tribute

**Chinghoih Guite**, who once volunteered at the school, sang "*Amazing Grace*." This was a song Malsawm deeply loved during his time with us. The song conveyed our journey - from a humble beginning to where we are today.

### Social Inclusion Award

The *Social Inclusion Award* was presented by **Mr Paul Rozarlien**, PC (Advocacy), to two community groups:

(i) **ECA, Mission Department, K. Salbung** was also recognized. Two leaders received the award on behalf of the department, honored for their support of TMI student **Tyson**, who was present at the event. The department had earlier contributed time and resources to build a washroom for Tyson, improving both his independence and his family's quality of life. Their effort reflects practical, community-based inclusion.



(ii) **YPA Bungmual Unit** was recognized for its inclusion of **Mr Chinkhanmuan, Mr Malsawm, and Mr Lamsuanpau**, three persons with disabilities. The three individuals have been actively involved in church programs, social gatherings, and even informal get-togethers, demonstrating a commendable level of inclusivity. Their participation has not only brought joy to those around them but has also encouraged others with disabilities to participate more actively in community events. The unit's efforts serve as a model for other organizations to follow, showcasing the benefits of inclusive practices. The enthusiasm and excitement displayed by the three individuals during the award ceremony were evident, and their involvement has undoubtedly had a positive impact on the community.



## Address by Chief Guest

Chief Guest **Pu Krishna Kumar IAS, DC/Churachandpur**, addressed the gathering with words of encouragement. He expressed appreciation for TMI's work and acknowledged the dedication of siblings and families.

His presence and recognition meant a great deal to the community. He assured the gathering that he would continue to stand with TMI and support its efforts in the coming times.



The program closed with a Word of Thanks by L. Thangsuanlian, Manager (FAO), CCI.

## IV. SIGNIFICANCE & OBSERVATIONS

### 1. Testimony of Parents and Siblings:



The love and support of parents and siblings was the real testament to our students' strength. This year's Unau Day proved that, with families turning out in full force to celebrate their loved ones with disabilities. The hall was overflowing with people, and the atmosphere was filled with joy. Everyone was beaming with pride, and it was clear that our students were surrounded by people who care deeply about them. We didn't need words to know how much this day meant to them. Their smiles and presence said it all. As we've celebrated Unau Day for years, this year's event reaffirmed that we're stronger together. It was a powerful reminder that every child, every sibling, and every family is valued and loved.



### 2. Theme Lived Out:

The opening song "Lean on Me," the multi-modal poem presentation, and Sir Biakson's testimony all reinforced the day's core message, we lean on each other. The event showed inclusion not as a concept, but as shared action.

### 3. Administrative Support:

We are grateful that Chief Guest Pu Krishna Kumar IAS, DC/Churachandpur took time to be with us and share words of encouragement. His assurance of continued support gives us hope that disability inclusion is finding a place in Churachandpur's wider conversations.

#### **4. Humanizing the Awards:**

Seeing **Mr Chinkhanmuan, Mr Malsawm, Mr Lamsuanpau** and **Tyson** in the hall, and hearing about Ms. Taithangmawi continued education at a school for the blind, connected the awards directly to real people and real progress. The joy of the awardees was visible and contagious.

#### **5. Redefining Success:**

The program gave language to the small, significant milestones that define joy for families of children with disabilities. Sir Biakson's examples- tying a shoelace, using the toilet alone reframed achievement in deeply human terms.

#### **6. Inclusion Practiced:**

With sign language interpretation, spoken word, music, student leadership across disability types, and accessible support, the event modeled the values it celebrated. Multiple communication modes were used not as accommodations, but as standard practice.

#### **7. A New Milestone:**

This year marked the first time CCI presented the Social Inclusion Award. Recognizing villages and colonies for including persons with disabilities sets a new direction for TMI and CCI, showing that inclusion is moving from the school into the wider community.

### **V. IMPACT OF THE EVENT**

- 1. Impact on Siblings/Unau:** UNAU DAY once again gave public recognition to siblings for their daily care, patience, and advocacy. Many shared that being honoured alongside other unau made them feel "seen" and valued. The event continues to give dignity to a role that is often silent and unseen.
- 2. Impact on Families:** Families connected through shared stories and celebrations of small, everyday milestones. This reduced feelings of isolation and gave them language to describe joy and progress. The DC's assurance of support also strengthened trust with the administration.
- 3. Impact on Villages:** A new milestone in 2026: The first-ever CCI Social Inclusion Award challenged villages and to see inclusion as their responsibility. News of the award also reached other localities within the town. Because of this, more people are now aware of inclusion, and we hope it will encourage more locality to take part in the future.
- 4. Impact on TMI/CCI:** UNAU DAY showed that TMI/CCI really practices inclusion. Students led the program using sign language, music, and spoken word. It also made TMI's partnership with parents, church and community leaders, and the government stronger. The new CCI Social Inclusion Award showed that CCI is now taking inclusion out of the school and into villages.

**5. Values and Spiritual Impact:** UNAU DAY reminded everyone that 'unau' is not only the sibling at home. When a village or colony chooses inclusion, it too becomes a good sibling. This reflected the core message of Christianity which is the domination religion in the district.

## **VI. CONCLUSION**

UNAU DAY 2026 demonstrated that inclusion is both personal and collective. From the opening notes of "*Lean on Me*" performed by students with visual impairment and cerebral palsy, to a poem shared through voice and sign, to the DC's assurance of support, the day showed that we are stronger when we stand together.

The presence of community groups, government officials, and families affirmed that the responsibility of inclusion extends beyond TMI's walls. The joy of three men with disabilities being honoured by their local YPA unit, and a young woman pursuing education outside the state, are testimonies that barriers are being crossed.

TMI and CCI will continue building this community where every form of expression and every milestone, no matter how small, is celebrated. The day was not just an event, but a declaration. *Unau* matter, every life matters, and we are made to lean on one another.

Today we honoured all the siblings who are a gift to our students. Malsawm was remembered in the families who keep showing up. To every unau, we see you. We thank God for your life.

**VII. Event Attendance Record (Partial):** While the hall overflowed with roughly 200 people, the attached handwritten sheets capture those who were able to reach the registration desk amidst the crowd. We value and honour the presence of every single person who came to stand with our unau, whether signed in or not.

**Prepared by:** Grace Ngainunmawi, Community Worker, MindLink

**Date of Report:** July 8, 2026