



Event Report

Title: UNAY DAY 2025

Date: June 26, 2025 (Thursday)

Time: 11:00 AM

Venue: Malsawm Ability Resource Centre (MARC), Pearsonmun, Lamka-795006

Organized by: Centre for Community Initiative (CCI)

Reported by: Lam Khankhup Ngaihte (Intern)

Objective:

1. Promote awareness about the critical role siblings play in the lives of persons with disabilities.
2. Foster a deeper sense of connection, empathy, and mutual understanding between siblings.
3. Encourage inclusive family participation that uplifts both the child and their support system.
4. Provide a platform for families, educators, and community members to acknowledge and honor the contributions of siblings.

Expected Outcome:

1. Strengthened emotional bonds between students and their siblings, encouraging deeper empathy, understanding, and companionship.
2. Increased awareness among families, staff, and volunteers about the importance of sibling support in the development and well-being of children with disabilities.
3. Enhanced confidence and social interaction skills among the students through inclusive and joyful participation in the event.

Expected Impact:

1. By nurturing sibling relationships, the event aims to build lasting sources of emotional strength and stability for children with disabilities.
2. UNAU Day contributes to fostering a compassionate and inclusive community where families, educators, and volunteers work together to uplift and support one another.
3. The celebration raises awareness about the often-overlooked role of siblings in caregiving and advocacy, potentially inspiring more sibling-inclusive programs and support systems.





4. Students with disability are likely to show improved self-esteem, social confidence, and motivation when they feel supported by their family members and celebrated by their community.

- **Introduction**

On June 26, 2025, the Centre for Community Initiative (CCI) hosted a meaningful and heartwarming event titled **UNAU DAY** at the Malsawm Ability Resource Centre, located in Pearsonmun, Lamka with the theme *"Forever Allies: Me and My Unau Against All Odds,"* the event celebrated the enduring bond, strength, and resilience shared between siblings particularly in the lives of children and young people with disabilities. Unlike other years, the event was entirely organized by the Interns

- **Welcome Address**

The program commenced with a warm welcome address by Mr. Thangsuanlian, Manager (Finance & Admin). He extended his heartfelt gratitude to all the attendees for their presence and support. In his speech, he highlighted the significance of sibling relationships in shaping compassion, understanding, and lifelong support—values deeply rooted in the vision of the initiative.

He then spoke about the origin of UNAU Day, explaining that it began as a small gathering to bring together children with disabilities and their siblings as in this often harsh and unpredictable world, parents are usually the first to pass away. In such circumstances, siblings become the primary source of support and care for one another. Therefore, the event was organized to encourage and strengthen the sense of responsibility, compassion, and lifelong commitment that siblings have towards their brothers or sisters with disabilities.

Finally, he acknowledged the efforts of the organizing team, caregivers, and family members, and expressed his appreciation for the unique bond shared between siblings, especially in families of persons with disabilities. His words set a tone of warmth, unity, and reflection as the event unfolded.

- **Background**

UNAU means sibling in the local dialect. Since 2011, they have been observing Unau Meet a get-together of children with disabilities and their siblings on June 26 every year. In 2018, they renamed it Unau Day, making it a full celebration dedicated to the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.

Unau Day is a unique and heartfelt event designed to deepen understanding and empathy between siblings. Through joyful group activities and shared experiences, siblings are sensitized to the daily challenges their brothers or sisters with disabilities



face. Engaging in tasks that open their hearts and minds to each other's worlds. These moments foster lifelong compassion, shared responsibility, and pride.

The impact has been powerful: siblings now walk together with pride, inclusion, and love bringing their siblings to social spaces, supporting their growth, and easing the lifelong worries of parents.

- **Events**

Following the welcome address, the program continued with lively action songs led by Miss Aching (Assistant Teacher). During this, students were paired with their guardians or siblings, joyfully dancing together. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and laughter, and it was truly heartwarming to witness the pure happiness on the students' faces.



Next, Mr. Khumlalven, who is currently studying in Class X at The Malsawm Initiative (TMI) and his group, Chingnunhoih Guite (Intern) and Manglalmuan Neihzial (Intern) captivated the audience with a soulful rendition of *"A Million Dreams"* by Hugh Jackman and Michelle Williams. Their gifted voices and talents left the crowd in awe and added a beautiful musical touch to the celebration.

Then, the entire staff, including both teaching and non-teaching members, came together to present a lively and energetic group action song performance. It was truly a delightful and thrilling sight to witness. The atmosphere instantly lit up with joy and laughter as the audience, especially the children, cheered with excitement. Their faces beamed with happiness as they watched their beloved teachers dance and perform on stage.

After all the special performances, an open time was offered for any parents or guardians who wished to share a few words. This heartfelt segment allowed family members to express their thoughts, gratitude, and reflections, further deepening the spirit of connection and togetherness that marked the day.

- **Vote of Thanks**

Mr. Pausuanlal Guite, Administrator of The Malsawm Initiative (TMI), also addressed the gathering with a heartfelt message. In his speech, he expressed deep gratitude to the



parents for their constant encouragement and trust, to the dedicated staff for their tireless efforts, and to all the interns and volunteers whose enthusiasm and commitment played a vital role in making the event a grand success. He emphasized that it is through such collective support and shared purpose that the spirit of the Malsawm Initiative continues to grow—nurturing not just the students, but also the community that surrounds and uplifts them. His words were a reminder of the importance of unity, appreciation, and working together toward a more inclusive and joyful future. He concluded the program by offering thanks to the Almighty God, giving Him all the glory and honor. With that heartfelt note of gratitude, the first session of the event ended.

- **Games and Activities**

"Throw the Ball" game was conducted, where students were paired with their siblings. Guided by Sir Suanthang (Special Educator) and Miss Biakhoih (Intern), the activity was not only fun and interactive but also fostered teamwork, laughter, and mutual encouragement among the pairs. The game served as a beautiful reminder of how play can deepen connection and trust.



This was followed by an exciting musical chair competition, also facilitated by Sir Suanthang and Miss Biakhoih. The rounds were thoughtfully organized to ensure inclusive participation across all sections of the center, in the following sequence:

- **Home Based Care Beneficiaries**
- **Early Intervention Beneficiaries**
- **Early Education 1, 2, and 3 students**
- **Level A, B, and C students**
- **Class X students**
- **Staff members**
- **Parents**

Each group enthusiastically took part, bringing a wave of joy and camaraderie with every round. The cheers and support from the audience created a warm, celebratory environment, making everyone feel valued and included.



- **Highlight of the Event**

Under the Malsawm Ability Resource Centre (MARC), students from The Malsawm Initiative (TMI), the Early Intervention Unit, and the Home-Based Care Unit, along with their siblings, created beautiful, handcrafted art pieces showcasing their talents. These artworks were proudly displayed during the program, adding a vibrant and meaningful touch to the celebration.

- **Conclusion**

The event was highly impactful and was a heartening celebration of sibling bonds, inclusion, and community spirit. With the theme ***"Forever Allies: Me and My Unau Against All Odds,"*** the event beautifully highlighted the vital role siblings play in the lives of persons with disabilities. Through joyful performances, shared moments, and heartfelt reflections, the day brought together students, families, staff, and volunteers in a spirit of unity and love. It not only celebrated relationships but also reinforced the values of empathy, resilience, and mutual support. As the event ended, it left everyone with a renewed sense of connection and a shared commitment to continue standing by one another against all odds.