

## THE STORY OF AOM

---

With a smile that lights up a room and a heart with a lot of love to give, Aom is one remarkable human being. She came to BTN after her mother abandoned her when she was young, her father separated after Aom was born and was never to be seen again. Her mother has been in contact over the years but will never tell Aom where she is and will not take her back into care.

Due to her circumstances, Aom will finish high school when she is 20 years old. She did not get the start to her education that other young women her age did and so she is now 4 years behind where she should be. She should have been getting ready for university at the end of last year but instead has another 6 months before she completes high school and go to university.

Next year she will step up into one of the leaders of the children to give her more responsibility around the home. She loves playing with the younger children and is constantly keeping a lookout to make sure they stay out of trouble. Her home at BTN fills her with joy as she is surrounded by brothers and sisters that give her a sense of being part of a community, her own tribe beyond the heartache and loneliness that she experienced in her early years.

Aom is very shy and expresses herself through painting and art. She loves to paint landscapes and most recently pop art which she had to submit for an assignment for school. This love of painting has opened Aom's eyes up to graphic design and she has a desire to continue her learning in this space when she graduates from high school. She would like to follow in the footsteps of Mook who is now living and working as a graphic designer in Sydney.

We are currently working with some valued partners to identify opportunities for Aom to explore her passion for graphic design. This is what we do at Hands, because every child in our home matters. Every child in our home deserves the opportunity to reach for the stars.

---

