



## Celebrating 20 years – Our CEO reviews two decades of impact



I am delighted that Awareness Cambodia can share another exciting milestone with you – the celebration of 20 years of dedicated service to Cambodia’s most vulnerable (1995–2015).

I first set foot in Cambodia as a volunteer dentist in 1995, little realising the experience was to become a watershed moment in my life. The scene was reminiscent of a horror movie: the stifling heat and haze simply adding to the dust, sweat and discomfort as young children with threadbare clothes lined up for treatment. My young patients appeared physically stunted for their age and beyond sad, but it was a look on their faces that stayed with me long after I had travelled down the Mekong. Those eyes – almost without emotion – and faces hardened beyond their years by the trauma of existence in such a hell, this vision lingered on my mind. How could I simply pack my bags and walk away? Turns out I couldn’t. Awareness Cambodia was born and the rest is now history.

Today as a result of your support, and the Awareness Cambodia team, defenceless Cambodian children who have been exposed to all kinds of abuse and exploitation are rebuilding their lives. The poor are accessing excellent healthcare and Awareness Cambodia is educating the most vulnerable.

On behalf of everyone at Awareness Cambodia, I thank you for your support and partnership over the last 20 years and look forward to continuing our relationship for as long as the children of Cambodia need us.

*Gary*



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## Wen Giving Foundation: helping us save

Awareness Cambodia's effectiveness in bringing change to the lives of the poor and marginalised in Cambodia relies heavily on the incredible generosity of our partners.

This invaluable support was once again highlighted earlier this year.

Last year Dr Chenda, Awareness Cambodia's Operation Nightingale Coordinator, reported that breast and cervical cancer are the leading two causes of death among Cambodian women. Although both diseases are largely preventable, unfortunately almost half of the Cambodian women are presenting too late to receive life-saving treatment.

While these diseases are devastating many across the world, cases of these late-stage cancers are particularly prevalent in provincial Cambodia, where the women have limited access to medical services and health education. Another contributing factor is the disproportionate financial burden that medical care imposes, with several studies indicating that the poor and marginalised use 30 to 50 per cent of their income on health care.

Awareness Cambodia recognises healthy mothers lead to healthy families. As mothers play a significant role in ensuring the health and well-being of the provincial Cambodian family their physical and mental health are crucial to maintaining a functional family unit.

What could we do to combat these devastating, but preventable, diseases in our communities?

One of the answers we came up with was to dedicate one of our Operation Nightingale programs to early detection of these diseases.



The two-year pilot program would involve an initial group of 1,440 rural women (aged 17 to 65) being screened for the cancers and taking part in education sessions at our existing Operation Nightingale clinics. The aim of the program is to raise awareness about breast and cervical cancer, and increase early detection rates in order to reduce the death toll from these diseases. One of the key resources needed for this program was a reliable vehicle with an on-board refrigerator (to safely store and transport the pathology samples to enable accurate testing to be carried out).

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While we are delighted that the number of clinic sessions we are able to deliver has doubled in recent times, transportation to and from the clinics has become challenging – particularly in remote regions that have poor road conditions and are difficult to access.

Unfortunately, the vehicle we use for Operation Nightingale clinics is no longer suitable and the doctors have been forced to use personal vehicles to access the clinics. This was not sustainable.

By financing Dr Chenda’s position Mei was already an invaluable supporter of Operation Nightingale, but soon after hearing of the critical need for a vehicle to provide women’s health services in remote Cambodia Wen Giving Foundation agreed to not only fund the purchase of the vehicle but also provide the running expenses for the first two years.



Our heartfelt appreciation goes to the “WEN giving” team for making this incredible sponsorship a reality and to Mei Wen for the Foundation’s incomparable support of this new and critical initiative that will help save the lives of provincial Cambodian women.

### Recommend us to a friend!



We really enjoy staying in touch with you through our e-News and social platforms – and we would love to reach more people with our stories of hope. So please share our Newsletter with a friend and connect with us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, view our videos on youtube or visit our website [www.awarecam.org.au](http://www.awarecam.org.au)

### Looking for an EOFY tax donation recipient – look no further!

Make Awareness Cambodia your charity of choice this financial year. We are making significant changes to the lives of vulnerable children in rural Cambodia by providing rescue, health and education services.

As a not-for-profit humanitarian aid organisation we rely on the generosity of our supporters to help us provide these services.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible and if you make the gift before 30 June 2015 you can claim the deduction this financial year.

In a global world, we are all interconnected; help us continue to make a positive and long-term difference to lives of Cambodian children.

**DONATE BY PHONE**



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**Awareness Cambodia**  
Rebuilding the Children of Cambodia

# DONATION FORM

Awareness Cambodia Inc.  
PO Box 3040 Bassendean DC,  
Western Australia 6942

Please return by post/email/fax

Date: \_\_ / \_\_ / 20 \_\_

Name.....

Business Name .....

Street.....

Suburb.....Postcode.....State.....

**One-off Donation:** \$1000  \$500  \$250  \$100  other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Monthly Donation:** \$250  \$100  \$60  \$40  other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to become a Monthly Partnership Program (Hopegiver) Sponsor \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**I would like to become a child sponsor:**

\$55 per month (general, health and education)

**I would like to donate to the Graduation House building program \$ \_\_\_\_\_**  
(most urgent need)  
Capital Works Program

**Payment Options** Mastercard  Visa  AMEX

Card Number

Cardholder:.....Signature:.....Expiry Date:.....

**Please pay by return Fax/Post/Email**

Cheque (Please make payable to 'Awareness Cambodia Overseas Aid Fund')

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT



Tax deductible receipts for gifts over \$2 with a preference for projects J515 & J675 are issued by the Awareness Cambodia Overseas Aid Fund (ABN 15 815 273 527). If projects are overfunded, funds may be applied to other approved project activities. Awareness Cambodia Inc. (ABN 69 234 355 895) partners on these projects with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993), an Australian DFAT-approved NGO.

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