

**“Cambodia’s people are  
the heartbeat and future  
of their nation”**

Awareness Cambodia Inc. Edition 1 Newsletter 2019



## Lork’s heading towards a stellar medical career!!

Now in his 7<sup>th</sup> year studying medicine, Lork has big plans. Not content to realise his life-long dream of becoming a doctor, he set his sights on winning a much-coveted specialist position – and did!

One of our 6 current medical scholarship students, Lork sat Cambodia's National Specialist Examinations, where just 5 positions were available.

Up against other 300 hopefuls – many of whom were already registered doctors! – Lork’s diligent study and months of preparation paid off. He came 3<sup>rd</sup> out of the group sitting the examinations, with his outstanding score of 99% earning him 1 of the 5 prized specialist positions.

Lork is still deciding between an Ophthalmology or Oncology speciality. His dream had been to be an ophthalmologist, but he senses the greater need is for oncology specialists as Cambodia begins to treat cancer patients within its hospitals (previously patients had to travel outside of the country for treatment).

Ever-grateful for the support for his under-graduate education that he has received from Awareness Cambodia, Lork recently wrote to founder and CEO Dr Gary Hewett to formally ask for support for his post-graduate studies: (cont...)



*"...Now I'm back with my very successful result, I make you proud. I'm so thankful and grateful.*

*Now I finished that exam already, I passed it with very good score 99/100, I got top three over hundred applicants. I've been through hard work, less sleep, I never forget to bring you my success. I know this not just my success but it's the great success for you, NGO, my people and my country as this is not the school exam but it's the state exam with high standard and the most complicated one, so that's why thousands have failed. Thank you so much for your financial support and care, Awareness Cambodia is the biggest part of my success!!*

*Actually, I'm going to take another four years from now to be specialty, I've chosen Oncologist because there are many doctors specialised Ophthalmologist already in Cambodia. And I think Oncologist can help to save more people's life and it's the opportunity for me to improve Oncology in Cambodia. I realised that being a doctor is not working my own, but I give all my best effort and knowledge to fulfil the past that our country is really lack for in order to improve it with good impact to save my patient....*

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...I hope that you will be happy and excited to hear about my result and I really hope that we can celebrate that together as family."

The post-grad, specialist program will take Lork a further 4 more years of study. He hopes to win a scholarship to study in France in his 4<sup>th</sup> year of the specialist program.

He truly is an extraordinary person. With his ability and work ethic, we believe Lork would be an outstanding trainee in any country's medical system. And we are, of course, delighted to continue supporting this exceptional young man with big plans for his future!

## The power of education in action

Born in rural Cambodia, Lork is the 5<sup>th</sup> child of six siblings. His mother died when he was 13 years old, leaving his father – a farmer who has struggled physically since losing his left arm during the Khmer Rouge's reign of terror – to raise the children.

After remarrying, Lork's father started a new family. As is common in Cambodia, the children of the first wife or husband are often not welcome in the new family. Cast out, Lork and his siblings struggled to survive and were forced to leave their homeland to find work so that they could not only live but also continue their studies, which, even at their tender ages, they knew was important for their futures.



As a 9<sup>th</sup> grader, Lork remembers being asked: What is your dream? Without hesitation he declared: "I want to be a doctor". He successfully passed his lower school exams but had no way of being able to continue to study at high school.

As he had heard there was a good government school in Siem Reap, Lork decided to move to the city, as he was sure he could find employment to support himself while he studied in upper school. Fortunately, he found a job where he could work half a day and continue his high school studies in the afternoons. Lork was alone during this time and was lonely without his siblings around him, but he knew the sacrifice would be worth it if he studied hard and strived towards his dream to study medicine.

Due to his diligence he was rewarded by coming 1<sup>st</sup> in his class and being named one of the top students for mathematics and chemistry in his province. Two months later he passed the national examination for medical school entrance in Phnom Penh. With more than 4000 applicants and only 360 places to be filled, Lork's selection meant his dream was about to begin.

In January 2016, Lork was awarded an Awareness Cambodia scholarship, which provides his tuition fees and a nurturing home at Graduation House. Today Lork is in his 7<sup>th</sup> year studying medicine at the University of Health Science in Phnom Penh and is incredibly grateful to Awareness Cambodia for making this dream come true.

Loved by all, Lork is a delight to have around Graduation House, where he is thriving. Instilled with a desire to help others and 'pay it forward', he volunteers at local hospitals and is always helping the other students with their studies. Lork has just been accepted into a medical speciality program and will continue his scholarship with Awareness Cambodia.

## HopeGiver – partner with us

Financially, we have had a challenging few years at Awareness Cambodia. We understand that our needs compete with those of other worthy charitable organisations, along with donors' own financial priorities. But the simple fact is, we rely on the generosity of donors to enable us to continue to provide the life-changing, life-enhancing and, often, life-saving services and programs that we do. If you value our work and are in a position to support us, please consider becoming a monthly partner.



Our HopeGiver program ( <http://awarecam.org.au/monthly-partnership-program/> ) is a monthly partnership program that enables donors to help us make lasting changes by providing regular and on-going financial contributions to our work. While one-off donations are always appreciated, having financial support certainty through the monthly giving partnerships allows us to effectively plan for the best use of our limited resources.

You can arrange your regular contribution through a direct debit or allow us to deduct your donation from your credit card each month. It is convenient, efficient, tax-deductible and helps us budget. You choose your level of support and, of course, you can cancel any time you like.

Monthly Giving to Awareness Cambodia helps us to make positive changes to the lives of some of Cambodia's most vulnerable. With a simple donation, we can continue to change lives, just like we did for Lork.

## Creating brighter futures – with your generous support

Choose an option that suits you:



Call:

**+ 61 8 9370 1457** and one of our staff will assist you in making a credit card donation.



Direct credit:

<b>Account Name:</b>	<b>Awareness Cambodia Overseas Aid Fund</b>
<b>Branch No. (BSB)</b>	<b>016-363</b>
<b>Account:</b>	<b>1074-66951</b>
<b>Bank:</b>	<b>ANZ</b>

There are a number of ways that you can make a difference to the lives of children in our care. Please visit our website to see how you can partner with us in 2019 to “rebuild the children of Cambodia”. [www.awarecam.org.au](http://www.awarecam.org.au)



Tax deductible receipts for gifts over \$2 with a preference for project J515 or 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 69 234 355 995) partners on these projects with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993), an Australian DFAT approved NGO.