



Making dreams a reality



Awareness Cambodia
Rebuilding the Children of Cambodia

Awareness Cambodia Inc. Newsletter ISSUE 2 2013

Welcome to Awareness Cambodia's latest newsletter, where we aim to keep you updated on the latest news. There has been a buzz of activity over winter, including a website make-over, international teams visiting our 'on-the-ground' projects, and significant progress on our new Graduation House building.

We would also like to welcome Mills Wilson to the team, who are looking after our media and communications pro bono. Thanks so much for your generous support!

New Education Program Announcement

We're very pleased to announce the launch of a new education program. From next month, four select students from the country's poorest provinces will receive a majority-funded scholarship to complete tertiary studies in agriculture and medicine. These financial lifelines will help enable students from underprivileged backgrounds to reach their full potential to further assist much-needed services in rural communities.

Agriculture

About 65 per cent of the Cambodian population is engaged in agriculture, which makes up around one-third of the country's economy. Productivity in the sector is very low, with about 35 per cent of the rural population also below the poverty line. Awareness Cambodia (ACI) is looking to boost this sector by funding 80 per cent of university fees for select students – in partnership with Tim Purcell Cambodia Scholarship Fund (TPCST).

Once graduated, students will be appointed work within a provincial project for two years, before receiving a bonus to help kick-start their career.

Medicine

There is a great need for quality doctors in Cambodia, especially in rural areas where medical services are so hard to come by.

The scholarship program is designed to enable underprivileged students who show academic excellence to complete medical studies at the International University in Phnom Penh.

Their scholarships include study materials, food, electricity and accommodation until the students successfully complete their degree. It will also allow students to complete an internship with ACI's Operation Nightingale program, or another provincial medical project, where they will work alongside experienced medical specialists. Costs per student are estimated to be \$38,500 over seven years – or around \$5500 per annum. We are asking for the generous hand of anyone willing to help us make a bit of history in Cambodia.

If you would like to financially support this pilot program, email Charmaine on cambodia@awarecam.org.au.



Awareness Cambodia Inc (ABN: 69 234 355 895)

email cambodia@awarecam.org.au **address** Unit 2/48 May Street, Bayswater, Western Australia

mail PO Box 3040, Bassendean DC, Western Australia **telephone** +61 8 9370 1457 **fax** +61 8 9370 4657

www.awarecam.org.au



Awareness Cambodia
Rebuilding the Children of Cambodia

Making dreams a reality

Helping hand for Khmer primary school students

It was all smiles and laughter when more than 1,500 Cambodian students received a special delivery from Awareness Cambodia (ACI).

Over two days, backpacks filled with life-changing school supplies were distributed across three primary schools in Cambodia's poorest province, as part of ACI's Case for Change educational program.

Case for Change coordinator Jessica Hull said for some children, this was the first gift they had ever received.

"The look on the kid's faces is so gratifying. Seeing their huge smiles as they sling the new backpacks across their shoulder for the first time is truly moving," Jess said.

It was certainly a team effort to raise the \$15 needed for each backpack, with students from Atwell College, Wesley College and Lake Joondalup Baptist College, and businesses Crown Money Management, CRS Australia, Interact Club Freshwater Bay, Kayu and Kennerlys leading fundraising efforts.

Fundraising included quiz nights and money-for-chores including cooking, cleaning and dog walking. Jess says she's looking forward to seeing more innovative fundraising ideas next year.

"Since 2008, we've touched the lives of around 3,000 primary-aged children, and in 2014 we're looking to raise the bar again to reach out to a further 2,000."

If you would like to be involved, email Jess Hull on jess@awarecam.org.au



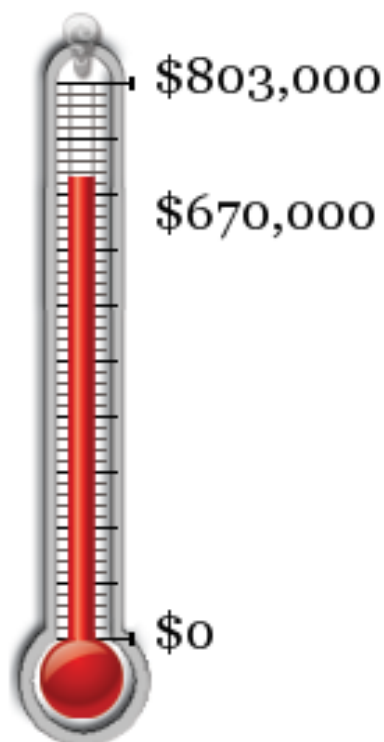
Awareness Cambodia Inc (ABN: 69 234 355 895)

email cambodia@awarecam.org.au **address** Unit 2/48 May Street, Bayswater, Western Australia

mail PO Box 3040, Bassendean DC, Western Australia **telephone** +61 8 9370 1457 **fax** +61 8 9370 4657

www.awarecam.org.au

Graduation House Takes Shape Thanks To Your Help



**Graduation House
Fundraising
Thermometer**

Construction works on Graduation House are continuing to take shape, with floors in all three buildings and piles complete. It's an exciting time for us with the piling exercise providing additional strength to increase the Graduation House's accommodation section from four levels to six. This means more students will be able to attend university through the program!

We have currently fundraised \$670,000 to continue this building program debt-free, and need a further \$133,000 as we enter the middle phase of construction.

If you would like to house the next generation of leaders please make a donation, (with the donation form on the last page).



\$133,000 to go!



It's All Study At HOP

It's been an intense time at House of Progress, with our Year 12 students preparing to sit their high school exams. To assist their transition into university and their ultimate profession, we hosted a career advice seminar. The program debuted last year and in 2013 we opened it up to all the House of Progress students, to begin the journey of choosing a career path.



Awareness Cambodia Inc (ABN: 69 234 355 895)

email cambodia@awarecam.org.au **address** Unit 2/48 May Street, Bayswater, Western Australia

mail PO Box 3040, Bassendean DC, Western Australia **telephone** +61 8 9370 1457 **fax** +61 8 9370 4657

www.awarecam.org.au



Perth College Students Visit Sunshine House

We often have partnering schools from around Australia come and visit our projects.

This year, a team of 14 Perth College students came to Sunshine House.

Zali and Emma describe their experience:

"From the moment we arrived, children and staff welcomed us with open arms, with each day a highlight. Some of the highlights from the trip include:

- ◆ Watching a sow give birth to 10 piglets at the Eco Farm
- ◆ Playing endless games of 'tag' (the most popular game with the kids)
- ◆ Painting the girls dorm hot pink
- ◆ Joining a beautiful community of children singing together with such gusto each evening
- ◆ Cooking a humongous pile of sausages and onions for a traditional 'Aussie Barbecue', which the children ate with rice

It was truly an incredibly special moment when we watched the children's faces as they opened their birthday presents from the Perth College community. Even though they were receiving the gifts, their trust and genuine nature taught us much about what it is like to be generous without judgement."



International Teams Making a Difference

Each year we have a number of international teams visit our projects to assist with maintenance and medical work.

This September we will be welcoming a team of medical professionals who are donating their expertise to assist with our Operation Nightingale program.

Students from Swan Trade Training Centre and a variety of trades-minded volunteers will also be visiting as part of their annual visits.



Give Hope

Hopegiver is monthly-partnership program which allows donors to contribute to the long-term change facilitated by our projects. The program is based on a direct debit system making it convenient, efficient, tax-deductable and helps us budget. And of course, you are able to cancel whenever you like.

By becoming monthly partner you will receive:

- ◆ An end of financial year statement for tax time
- ◆ regular news updates
- ◆ An overview of what your donation has supported

If you believe in the injustice of poverty and want to make a difference, become a *Hopegiver*.



Awareness Cambodia Inc (ABN: 69 234 355 895)

email cambodia@awarecam.org.au **address** Unit 2/48 May Street, Bayswater, Western Australia

mail PO Box 3040, Bassendean DC, Western Australia **telephone** +61 8 9370 1457 **fax** +61 8 9370 4657

www.awarecam.org.au



Who is Awareness Cambodia?

Awareness Cambodia is a not-for-profit, overseas aid organisation directly assisting some of the poorest and underprivileged lives in Cambodia.

Established in 1996 by Perth dentist, Dr Gary Hewett, Awareness Cambodia was birthed in response to the incredible suffering of the Cambodian people after the genocide under the directive of Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot.

With the generous support of many around the world, Awareness Cambodia aims to educate and equip up-and-coming Cambodian generations through distinct health, education and childhood development programs.

These programs – targeted at the poorest province of Kompong Speu – don't simply raise funds, but instead equip future generations and their ongoing needs. This is why we are now seeing orphan children completing university degrees in fields such as civil engineering, design, architecture, accountancy, English literature, business and economics.

We see Cambodian culture as a unique national treasure, with all efforts taken to ensure it is preserved. It is not our policy to 'Westernise' Cambodian children, relocate them to other parts of the world, or subject them to the indignity and dependency of overseas handouts.

Awareness Cambodia's distinct approach embraces education and health as a means of indigenous empowerment. Our team is dedicated to sustainable long term programmes designed to break the cycles of poverty, abuse, illiteracy and neglect to create a 'better future' with a sense of hope and opportunity.

Rescue

Rescue is not an event it is a process



Freedom

Freedom with no future is another form of slavery



Empower

Education gives the marginalized a voice in their society



Sreyleac and Ratana
Then 2000



Sreyleac and Ratana
Now 2013

You Simple Donation Is Changing Lives!

We wanted to say a special thanks to you, our donor, who has made such a huge difference to so many young lives.

Our childhood development programme began in 2000, when children came to Awareness Cambodia who had lost their parents to AIDS and were sheltered, clothed, and in many cases enjoyed the first solid meal they'd had in months.

Sreyleac and Ratana Hak, were amongst the 1st children we welcomed into the Sunshine House family. They were siblings and arrived in October 2000 after losing both parents. 13 years later, Sreyleac is living at Graduation House and is soon to complete her first year studying at Western University. Her younger brother Ratana hopes to graduate from high school this year and has a dream to study Electrical Engineering when he moves to Graduation House. See just how far they have come!



Awareness Cambodia is proud to partner with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993) in projects J515 & J675. Global Development Group (GDG) is an Australian AusAID-approved NGO carrying out quality humanitarian projects and providing long term solutions to poverty. GDG provides governance and assists in the areas of planning, monitoring, evaluating and auditing to ensure the projects are carried out to AusAID requirements. Tax deductible receipts for gifts over \$2 with a preference for these projects 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)

email cambodia@awarecam.org.au **address** Unit 2/48 May Street, Bayswater, Western Australia

mail PO Box 3040, Bassendean DC, Western Australia **telephone** +61 8 9370 1457 **fax** +61 8 9370 4657

www.awarecam.org.au



DONATION FORM

Name.....

Business Name

Street.....

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

Phone.....Mobile.....Fax.....

Email:.....

One-off Donation: \$1000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ other \$ _____

Monthly Donation: \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$60 ☐ \$40 ☐ other \$ _____

I would like to become a Monthly Partnership Programme (MPP) Sponsor \$ _____

I would like to become a child sponsor:

\$55 per month (general & health) ☐ \$60 each per month (tertiary) ☐

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

If the funds raised exceed project requirements then funds may be directed to a similar project. Donations made within Australia are tax deductible.

Awareness Cambodia Inc (ABN: 69 234 355 895)

email cambodia@awarecam.org.au **address** Unit 2/48 May Street, Bayswater, Western Australia

mail PO Box 3040, Bassendean DC, Western Australia **telephone** +61 8 9370 1457 **fax** +61 8 9370 4657
www.awarecam.org.au