

**SUPPORT A CHILD
CHANGE A LIFE
IMPACT A COMMUNITY
TRANSFORM A NATION**



Awareness Cambodia Newsletter | Edition 1 | 2021

What could be better than a Christmas party? Two Christmas parties!

Miss having a Christmas party? No chance!

COVID-19 turned our world upside down in 2020.

Schools were closed, social distancing became a thing, travel wasn't possible, and everything was pretty much up in the air with no-one really knowing what would happen from day-to-day.

As the festive season approached, we were worried that we wouldn't be able to celebrate the way we always do with a big party.

What to do? Come up with a new plan of course!



We decided that instead of holding 1 big party for everyone at Sunshine House and Graduation House, we'd hold 2 parties! By holding 2 small parties we could celebrate the season but also keep everyone safe. Win-win. So, we held one party at Sunshine House in Kampong Speu and another at Graduation House in Phnom Penh.

Although the COVID restrictions meant we couldn't invite past students and their families to join us, we didn't let that disappointment dampen our enthusiasm to celebrate Christmas and we made sure our parties would be joyous.

Getting festive at Sunshine House

We knew our children at Sunshine House would really miss not celebrating Christmas with their friends, brothers and sisters from Graduation House, so we planned an unforgettable day jam-packed with lots of fun things to do and lots of scrumptious food to eat.

We started celebrations early with a colouring-in competition, followed by lots of games.

Food is a big part of any Christmas celebration – and at Sunshine House it was no different. Days were spent lovingly preparing all the yummy dishes that everyone feasted on for lunch. Eugene was on BBQ duties and our Sunshine House cook made her famous chicken curry and salads. In fact, our fantastic staff prepared so many goodies that there were left-overs available for days – the yum goes on!

Aside from a blow-out meal, what else is Christmas known for? Presents of course! Lunch devoured, the excitement rose when everyone headed back to the multi-function area to receive their Christmas gifts. A special gift was handpicked for each child and there was much joy and laughter as everyone relished their presents.

A wonderful day was had by all.

Graduation House's inaugural Christmas rendezvous

Usually on the day when we celebrate Christmas, the only sound you can hear at Graduation House is crickets, as everyone has hopped aboard a bus and we've taken a road trip to Sunshine House for a party. But not this time. Graduation House was a hive of activity as we held the first Christmas party on the premises.

Preparations for the party started early, and as the time to celebrate drew near you could feel the excitement in the air.



Festivities kicked off with Eugene sharing a short message, followed by the students performing two short plays. Our budding thespians gave excellent performances met with enthusiastic applause from staff and fellow students.

Then everyone got into the fun, joining in playing favourite games such as musical chairs, straws in a bottle and water balloons.

Next up it was time for the Christmas feast, with lots of food for everyone. Beef BBQ, chicken curry, roast chicken, salads... our teenagers and young adults have seemingly unfillable tummies and they heartily tucked into second and third plates of food!

Finally, it was time for everyone to receive a gift. After much ooh-ing and ahh-ing at each other's presents, our exhausted students collapsed at the end of a long day with appreciative smiles on their faces.



Thank you

Christmas is a special time of the year and we are able to share that joy with our students thanks to the generosity of a few very special supporters.

Every year their special donations help us fund our annual Christmas party.

From each and every child in our care we offer a huge 'akun' (Khmer for 'thank you') to each and every one of you, without whom our special Christmas party would not be possible.

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

***You beauty!* Chantha & Vorleak head to vocational school**

Lifelong friends Chantha and Vorleak shared many things as they grew up at Sunshine House.

Among these was a desire to work in the beauty industry. Our staff went on the hunt to find a suitable beauty school, and they located an excellent one in Phnom Penh.

Leaving the familiar and comforting surrounds of Sunshine House for the 'big city' to begin studying at the KOMISO vocational training centre could have been daunting for Chantha and Vorleak (*pictured below*).



But heading off to the beauty school together made leaving Sunshine House less overwhelming, as the friends have been able to support and comfort each other as they begin this exciting new phase of their lives.

When they first arrived at the vocational school, they were nervous and full of trepidation. As KOMISO is an in-house training school, Chantha and Vorleak did not move into Graduation House as many of our other vocational students do. But just because they are no longer under our roof, we don't stop looking after them.

Our staff regularly visit to encourage the girls in their training and as a result they have grown in confidence and are feeling right at home. Vorleak

is really enjoying learning hairdressing and Chantha's favourite subject is nail decorating.

Skills training classes are run 5 days per week where Chantha and Vorleak study hairdressing, nail decoration and makeup, and extra classes in maths are also provided.

Having been studying at KOMISO for several months, the school has commented that they are both great participants and are actively involved in lessons. The girls are set to graduate in May, ready to start their careers in the beauty industry.

Seeing Chantha, who arrived at Awareness Cambodia at 11 years of age, and Vorleak, who arrived at Sunshine House as a shy 10-year-old, growing into young women who are strong, self-reliant and capable is what Awareness Cambodia is all about.

We are so proud of these two young women and know they have beautiful futures ahead of them.

Turn your old drink containers into a cash donation



The Western Australian government has recently set up the Containers for Change program. And if you live in WA, you can turn your recycled drink containers into a donation for Awareness Cambodia!

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

It's as easy as 1,2,3:

1. Collect your eligible containers.
2. Take them to a refund point.
3. Donate your refund to Awareness Cambodia with our **Scheme ID C10288218**.

It's that simple. You recycle empty drink containers and we get some much-needed income. Thank you for your support. Together we are making a difference.

BE PART OF THE STORY

Share our journey, be inspired by stories of hope and stay up-to-date with our latest news, articles and activities.

As a way of keeping you updated in 'real time' on the difference that your donations are making, we regularly post on social media. Stay connected by liking our Facebook and Instagram pages and be the first to know what we're up to each day.



www.facebook.com/cambodiaawareness



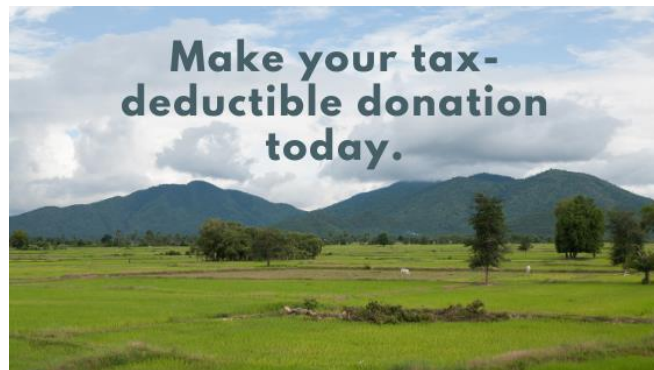
www.instagram.com/awarenesscambodia



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.



How to donate

Your donations ensure Awareness Cambodia continues to provide a holistic range of services to help vulnerable Cambodian children and their local communities.

Please consider making a donation to our cause, so we can continue our mission – empowerment through education. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible in Australia.

If you would like to donate online, please visit <https://awarecam-gdg-j515.raisely.com>

Alternatively, please complete the enclosed donation form and return it to us by post or email:

Awareness Cambodia
PO Box 3040
Bassendean
Western Australia 6942

Telephone: (08) 9370 1457
Email: 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