



Awareness Cambodia Newsletter | Edition 3 | 2020

A message from our CEO and Founder

Let's just say that 2020 has been an interesting year. COVID-19 has impacted the lives of people around the world and the fallout is still being felt. With so many people experiencing straitened times, charitable donations took a back seat for many regular givers. Despite the economic strains, I am so grateful that so many of our supporters were able to donate to our end of financial year appeal.

Every dollar donated helps us change the lives of the underprivileged in Cambodia. Every dollar helps restore the smile to a child who has been abandoned or fuels the dreams of a child who is discovering the joy of education. It supports our mission and helps to ensure we can continue to deliver the programs and services needed to improve the lives of those for whom we care.

For every dollar you have given and continue to give, I give you a thousand thanks.



Gary Hewett

and the Awareness Cambodia team

How's the serenity? Perfect at Sunshine House!

COVID-19 restrictions saw schools closed and physical distancing requirements put in place by the Cambodian Government. As the safety, health and well-being of our students and staff is our number one priority, we also implemented measures to safeguard those in our care, temporarily closing both Sunshine House and Graduation House.

Now that the number of COVID-19 cases in Cambodia is falling, the restrictions are easing. Although the schools and universities are still closed, we have been able to call our senior high school students back and they are catching up with school work (online) to prepare themselves for the end of year examinations.

The House of Progress girls returned from stays with extended family in the villages, and spent some time in quarantine at Sunshine House. Our House of Progress boys are currently at Graduation House and studying online for their end of the year examinations.

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Returning to Sunshine House was a joy for our girls. Not only do they have incredibly fond memories of their time there, they loved the peace and tranquillity! Having been with extended family since Khmer New Year (April), where most have been confined in small yet surprisingly chaotic households, the space and natural setting of Sunshine House was a godsend.



Our girls have now moved to Graduation House. They are in high spirits and are all looking forward to the new season. Next year some of them will be heading to university, others into vocational training, while others still will embrace careers as they head into the workforce and make their mark.

This is such a precious time of their lives, despite COVID-19, and we are delighted that they have spent this time at Sunshine House – the place of their childhood dreams.

Sunshine House is a place where they always want to come back to. We have no doubt, in a year or two when they return for reunions after taking their places in society or when simply catching-up with the life-long friends they have made here, they will be reminiscing fondly about the great times they had at Sunshine House during COVID-19.

From a stick house to a STEM student, things have certainly changed for Nin Chen

Nin Chen lived in a tiny stick house with his sisters, brothers and dying mother. His siblings had to look after their home, their mother and also Nin. They wanted a better life for him, so his sister brought 8-year-old Nin to us. While it was hard to leave him, his siblings knew we could provide Nin with a better environment and give him the future he deserves.

Today, nine years later, Nin Chen has grown into a young man working hard to achieve his goals for a bright future.



Quiet and gentle, Nin is not one to shout or fight. He gets along with everyone and is happy to help out. He is in Grade 9 this year and busy preparing for his end of the year exams. His Awareness Cambodia family are incredibly proud of Nin, who is currently one of the top students in his grade and a real academic achiever. Mathematics and Chemistry, to his fellow students, are difficult subjects, but Nin is happy to always lend a hand by tutoring his fellow Awareness Cambodia 'brothers and sisters' in these harder subjects.

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Stay connected

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.

Sponsor a child today with Awareness Cambodia

Child sponsorship is one of the most effective ways to transform a vulnerable child's world, as well as the communities they live within. We work hard to ensure your money goes where it's most needed – a secure home, food, clothing, health, counselling, education and vocational training.

Every child we rescue, every child we bring into the Awareness Cambodia family, every child we empower through education, love and support, is a child who will grow into a self-reliant adult. Help us continue to change vulnerable lives through our child sponsorship program.



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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

Creating brighter futures - with your generous support.

Your support

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 to: **Awareness Cambodia, PO Box 3040, Bassendean, Western Australia 6942.**



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