



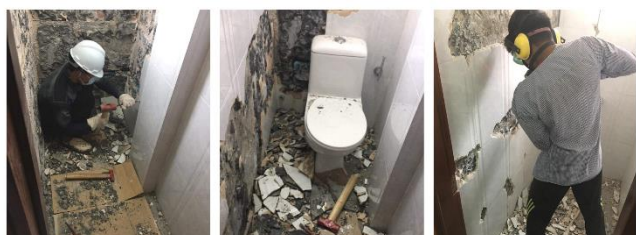
Awareness Cambodia Newsletter | Edition 4 | 2020

## Flushed with success!

### Graduation House gets 22 new bathrooms

With accommodation for 36 students and staff, Graduation House not only has a lot of bedrooms and offices, but a lot of bathrooms – 22 to be precise. And all those bathrooms were in urgent need of repair on account of the water damage the building has suffered.

Despite its great design and construction, Graduation House has borne the brunt of copious volumes of water lashing its external walls thanks to Cambodia's torrential rains.



*The renovations*

This has led to extensive crazing of the external render, areas where render has broken away and fallen, deterioration of the painted surfaces, and damage to internal wall paint.

Excess moisture in the walls had done our bathrooms no favours and they were certainly worse for wear.

If you have ever renovated a bathroom you know that it can be both expensive and time consuming. Can you imagine renovating 22 of them?

Thanks to an incredibly generous grant from The Linden Family Foundation, we didn't have to just imagine – we were able to do it!

After receiving the grant in December 2019, we set to work. The first six months of 2020 saw Graduation House resemble a bit of a worksite, but it has been worth it.

The water damaged floor and wall tiles were ripped out and replaced after the hard surfaces were waterproofed. The grant also enabled us to replace the toilets, showers and vanities and give the bathrooms a fresh lick of paint.

Importantly, the renovation works have meant that the excess wall moisture issue has been fixed and further water damage to the building has been prevented.

**Awareness Cambodia Inc** (ABN: 69 234 355 895)

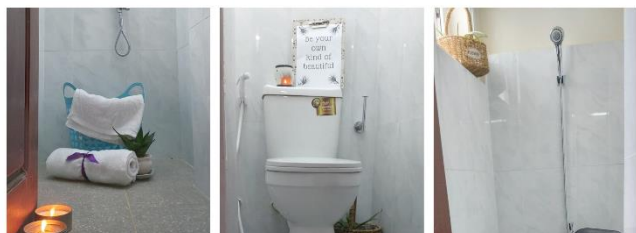
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So not only did the grant allow us to make the urgent repairs needed, it also resulted in an on-going issue being addressed which will save us lots of money in the long run. It was a massive undertaking, but the results have been just amazing.

*We are incredibly grateful for The Linden Family Foundation's support. We cannot thank you enough!*



*The finished product!*

## Making a difference for 25 years

In the past 25 years many charities and NGOs have come and gone in Cambodia, but Awareness Cambodia has remained an integral part of the Kampong Speu community and a leader in providing the services and programs needed.

So what is it about Awareness Cambodia that has allowed us to stay true to our ethos while evolving to meet the changing needs of our local community?

Our distinct approach focuses on education as a means of empowerment. Our team is dedicated to breaking the cycles of poverty, abuse, illiteracy and neglect to give families a chance to move beyond current limitations. Education helps create generational change.

It was 25 years ago that we dared to dream a dream – a dream of creating a new paradigm for the underprivileged in Cambodia. We wanted to develop a world of opportunity for the children in our care, a world where hopes and dreams could be realised.

This dream led to the inception of Sunshine House, House of Progress and the Graduation House project. Within these Child Development programs we have worked hard to create a 'better future' for our children – and the foundation for that better future has been a commitment to education.

Going far beyond delivering a rudimentary education, our programs are designed to nurture individual talents and allow our children to explore all the educational and vocational options on offer.

Our holistic approach has seen orphaned, abandoned and abused children who came to us 20 years ago grasp the opportunities afforded by education and pursue their dreams.

Today those first vulnerable children we rescued have graduated from university (with degrees in fields like civil engineering, design, architecture, accountancy, English literature, business and economics), completed vocational training and gained employment.

Having been instilled with confidence and a sense of achievement, they have taken their places in Cambodian society. We are thrilled so many have not only embarked on brilliant careers but also married and started families of their own.

We beam with pride as our Awareness Cambodia family continues to grow!



*Opening of Graduation House*

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So successful have our Child Development programs been that we extended our reach further into the community to provide educational opportunities for the rural poor.

Through our scholarship program, academically gifted young adults are able to study medicine and agriculture at university.

These graduates will hold important roles in the community: providing essential medical services or delivering the farm management skills so vital to a key industry for rural Cambodians.



*Some of our scholarship students*

Awareness Cambodia's Child Development programs are truly a unique model where holistic immersion is a catalyst for transformation – from danger and hopelessness to safety, opportunity and prosperity.

With an emphasis on empowerment through education we are helping to produce future leaders imbued with hope and a knowledge that they will play their part in transforming Cambodia.

## Srey Mieh – an Awareness Cambodia success story

Srey Mieh was 9 years old when she arrived at Sunshine House. A delightful child, hard-working and full of fun she was always surrounded by many friends.

She relished the opportunities Awareness Cambodia provided and Srey Mieh progressed through our Child Development programs keen to make the most of her education.

After studying at Western University for 4 years, she graduated with a Bachelor's Degree and moved into the community to start her career and live independently.

Today the 27-year-old is a teacher at one of the International Schools in Phnom Penh and runs an online business. In early 2019 Srey Mieh married Sam (an IT manager) and the couple now has a 5-month-old baby named Monireach.

A true Awareness Cambodia success story, Srey Mieh is fulfilling her dreams and paying it forward.



*Srey Mieh and her family*

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## 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**  
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**Telephone: (08) 9370 1457**  
**Email: [cambodia@awarecam.org.au](mailto:cambodia@awarecam.org.au)**

## 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.



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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.

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**Sustainability through investing  
in people, not just programs.**

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