



Making dreams a reality

Our Scholarship Program begins!

Since starting our Graduation House project in 2009, 21 young people have been sheltered and supported through their tertiary and technical training journeys. We are proud to help the leaders of tomorrow to achieve their education goals and take their place in Cambodian society. Our commitment to further education continues to grow, with the Graduation House Complex nearing completion.

In 2014 the next stage of our project is realised with our Scholarship Program. We are offering scholarships for disadvantaged (poor, rural and marginalised) young people who show academic excellence, aptitude and a passion for social justice. In addition to having 80% of their course fee covered, students will receive study materials, food and accommodation until they successfully complete their degree(s), helping them realise their dreams of studying at university and setting themselves up for a brighter future.

With strong support from the Tim Purcell Cambodia Scholarship Fund and Australian medical professionals, Graduation House welcomes four scholarship students to the program. Two students will be studying agriculture and two will train to be the doctors of the future.

Our inaugural students are now living at Graduation House and have begun their university studies.

Meet our future doctors and agriculture specialists

Students pictured in front of their homes before coming to Graduation House.



Nita—Medical Student



Malinda—Medical Student



Scorin — Agricultural Student



Vorleak— Agricultural Student



Cambodia needs well-trained and passionate medics to help build a better nation.



Go Girls—feed the world!

Change is happening!

Thanks to generous donors and supporters we have been able to update some tired areas of Sunshine House and House of Progress – bringing plenty of smiles to the faces of our kids!

There's been lots of activity at Sunshine House lately:

Our thanks go to the team of 24 students and staff from Swan Trades Training Centre who not only built a performance stage and wooden cabinet for the audio system but also updated and improved the electrical systems. Our kids have been making good use of the stage – playing music, performing traditional Khmer dances and putting on dramatic shows.

Getting to and from school is now so much safer for our kids. The new Sunshine School Bus has made the journey much better for our students, who can now concentrate on their studies without worrying about travelling to classes. We've already begun making plans to build a new garage to house our yellow bus.



Also, the boys' dorms now have toilets on the upper floors – making any night-time calls of nature much easier and safer to answer.

Another enormous change happening is the renovation of the kitchen. We prepare over a thousand meals each week in our kitchen – so the old one was definitely in need of a makeover! The renovation included new tiles, work benches, sinks, cookers, a pantry and a new paint job. Amazingly, our staff managed to continue preparing meals for our students by working around the renovations taking place. With a new kitchen, everyone is sure that the famous Sunshine House Fried Chicken is going to taste even better!

Finally, the House of Progress received more than 20 lovely wooden chairs from the 2013 Impact team. The dining chairs are used not only during eating but also for English classes and meetings – making life a lot more comfortable for our students. A very big thank you to everyone who has helped us to provide these valuable resources.

We are pleased to announce we have partnered with **Entertainment Book** to raise funds for our projects.



By ordering your new Entertainment Membership, \$13 will go toward helping children in Cambodia to build a better life

For \$65 you will receive over \$20,000 worth of offers for Perth's restaurants, quality hotels, resorts and attractions valid through to 1 June 2015!

Featuring the Print Hall | Sentinal | Silks Restaurant | Coco's Restaurant | Witches Cauldron | The Atrium | The Fig Cafes | The Coffee Club | Woolworths | Virgin Australia | Emirates Airlines | Perth Glory and many more!

To reserve your new 2014-15 Perth Entertainment Membership please contact Awareness Cambodia on:

Phone: (08) 9370 1457 | email: cambodia@awarecam.org.au | go online to: www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/88599a

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www.awarecam.org.au

Come volunteer with Awareness Cambodia



Have you ever wanted to make a positive impact on some of the world's most vulnerable people? Have you always wanted to experience another culture while enhancing the lives of others? We have a unique and amazing opportunity for you to tick both of these boxes – become a member of our volunteer maintenance or medical teams.



We are always on the look-out for tradespeople to help us with specific tasks, but even if you're not a tradie you can join our maintenance team. Having a can-do attitude and a willingness to get dirty is all you need!

If you are a doctor, nurse, paramedic or allied health professional keen to utilise your skills and knowledge to improve the health outcomes of those who have minimal exposure to health care, please consider joining our volunteer medical team.

Both teams will be travelling to Cambodia from 12 to 26 September 2014. Applications close at 4:00pm (WST) on Friday 2 May 2014. Find out more today phone our office on +61 8 9370 1457 – it's an experience you won't regret.

Visit our e-store this Easter



Want to give a truly meaningful present this Easter? Forget the chocolate eggs and give the gift of health to a Cambodian child.

Gifts from our online store come with a card announcing that you have made a very special purchase on a loved one's behalf. Imagine the look of surprise and delight on their face when they find out that a child with AIDS in rural Cambodia will receive essential vitamins with their compliments!

With 20 inspiring gift ideas to suit a variety of budgets, our online store is a one-stop shop. Simply choose your tax deductible gift, pay securely online and we'll send you a card to personalise and give to your loved one.

Not only can you buy a unique gift for family and friends, but you can help make a real difference. For less than the cost of a box of chocolates you can keep a child safe from mosquito-borne diseases with a mosquito net, while a blood test which can lead to lifesaving treatment costs less than a fluffy toy bunny.

Visit our online store or phone our office and give an Easter gift that gives twice!

Food for thought: Over Christmas instead of unwanted jocks, socks and yet another scented candle you purchased \$2000 worth of blood tests, guitars, school packs and mosquito nets for children in need.



Meet Somphos

Report: Trudy James

I'd like to introduce you to Miss Somphos Yah, one of our Graduation House students and all-round delightful young woman. Somphos arrived at Sunshine House in 2000 and turns 24 later this year. She finishes her university studies in Economics in October this year, becoming our third student to graduate! She took some time out from her busy schedule to share a bit about herself with me.

What have you been doing for part-time work?

I've been working as a Teacher Assistant at Asian Hope International School for two years.

What is your plan for when you finish university this year?

I am now thinking about what kind of job I want to do. My qualification is broad, so I can work in many different areas. All I know right now is that I want to work in an organisation that helps people and has the same values as Awareness Cambodia.

What do you like to do for fun?

I don't have much time for fun, as I am busy with study and work. When I do have time I enjoy spending time with friends, watching movies and reading.

What music do you like?

Romantic songs (English and Khmer), rock 'n' roll, Chris Brown, Hillsong and Selina Gomez.

What is the best thing about living at Graduation House?

Sharing a room with my sister (Sophi), watching TV and our very comfortable sofa!

What is it like sharing a room with Sophi?

I love it! She cleans a lot – more than me! We have a bit of fighting – normal sister stuff, but not very much – we mostly get along well.

What are some favourite memories of growing up at Sunshine House with Awareness Cambodia?



Hopegiver—help us each and every month

Our strategic long-term goal is to transform communities in Cambodia. We do this through our health, education and child development projects. *Hopegiver* is a partnership program which allows donors to help us make changes that last by making monthly financial contributions to our work.



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. By becoming a monthly partner you will receive:

- An end of financial year statement for tax purposes
- Regular news
- An annual overview of what your donation has achieved

Give hope to those in need – help us to make positive changes to the lives of some of Cambodia's most vulnerable people. With a simple donation you are helping us to educate, rescue and heal.



English Second Language

Our English as a Second Language in Primary Schools (ESLPS) project is providing primary schoolchildren in rural areas of Cambodia with the English language skills they need to get ahead. Since 2011, the ESLPS project has worked closely with the local Education Department to develop a program that provides students with a solid foundation on which to build their English literacy. The program is now in four schools, reaching more than 500 students in grades 4, 5 and 6, and preparing them for further studies in secondary school.

In early 2014 we welcomed our new Project Coordinator, Huot Teng, to the team. Having studied English at university, Huot is an experienced educator and administrator, he taught students at a number of international schools and supervised teaching staff. Huot is responsible for overseeing the running of the project, liaising with the Education Department and building the capabilities of the local Cambodian teachers.

Each month the students are tested on their skills, where there is a lot of friendly competition to rank highly – especially as the top achievers are rewarded with a special prize. We've found that anything featuring 'Angry Birds' is particularly popular!

As English becomes more widely used and more important in Cambodia, our ESLPS project will help to prepare young Cambodian children to achieve a high level of education and establish a secure future for themselves and their families.



Graduation House update



It's with great anticipation and real excitement that we extend an invitation to you to attend the opening of the Graduation House Building Complex.

We hope you will be able to join us on site in Phnom Penh to celebrate this monumental milestone in our history.

Sunday 7 September 2014 – Opening Ceremony
Monday 8 September – Sunshine House tour and concert
Please RSVP to Charmaine at our Perth office: Phone +61 8 9370 1457

Graduation House is helping to educate Cambodia's next generation and we are proud to support the leaders of tomorrow.

You can help us to complete the Graduation House building by making a tax deductible donation to the project, please see back page.



Front and side view of the Graduation House building project

Christmas Party Fun

Parties at Sunshine House are always super-fun and our Christmas Party was no exception! I love parties where everyone joins in together – all the kids get dressed up in their special clothes and there is always an air of excitement and anticipation.

With everyone from across all our projects (Graduation House, House of Progress, Sunshine House, ESLPS, Operation Nightingale and Central Office) invited, together with some of the children's relatives who were able to come along, it made for a HUGE party.

Our House of Progress Manager, Vanna Nheb, put together a wonderful celebration concert which was hosted by Pisey and Samnang – two of our Graduation House students. The program was jam-packed with singing, traditional Khmer dances, a Christmas nativity play, dancing and much more, making sure that all of our children and students were able to take part in the festivities. The highlight for me was seeing the young girls (8-9 years old) from Sunshine House performing their first official Khmer traditional dance – all dressed up with make-up, their hair done and wearing traditional outfits. They were super-cute AND did a great job.

After the concert came the gift-giving, which, of course, was a highlight for staff and students alike (who doesn't like presents?). Lunch followed shortly after with an incredible and very delicious spread prepared by the Sunshine House and House of Progress staff. And let me tell you, it was truly a feast fit for a king!

Our thanks go to not only our amazing staff who made our Christmas Party a great success, but also to our generous donors, without whose support the celebration would not have been possible. I have no doubt that this special day has created wonderful memories for all of our children and students – for which we thank you.





Making dreams a reality

DONATION FORM

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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

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Please pay by return Fax/Post/Email

Cheque (Please make payable to 'Awareness Cambodia Overseas Aid Fund')

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT



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Awareness Cambodia Inc (ABN: 69 234 355 895)

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