



2013 OVERVIEW



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 DFAT-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 DFAT 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. Please note that no evangelistic, welfare or political activities are a part of or funded by these aid and development projects.



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

2013 has been another significant year for Awareness Cambodia. As you'd appreciate, much happens over the course of a year that I won't address in this report, but I do want to touch on some highlights.

The most significant event this year is construction of the Graduation House complex. This will not only supply Awareness Cambodia with a secure, stable rent free administration and a training hub in Phnom Penh but importantly house 40 students while attending their tertiary education with the capacity to extend to 80 students in the future. Graduation House's construction represents a milestone in our primary purpose to "rebuild the children of Cambodia" and go a long way in helping see Cambodia's heart, dignity and opportunity effectively restored.

The Agricultural and Medical Scholarships selection process began in September 2013. The Agriculture Scholarship was awarded in late 2013 and 2 successful candidates relocated from the provinces to the current Graduation House premises. We welcome and congratulate Vorleak and Scorin on becoming our inaugural scholarship recipients.



This program develops from our belief that education is a crucial component in the fight against human rights abuses and poverty.

The scholarship awards the recipients financial support for their university degrees, including tuition and costs related to their studies. Awareness Cambodia also provides computers, facilities, and the guidance necessary for students to successfully complete their education.

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

(Continues)



A new website was completed this year with courtesy from Paul Pichugin. It includes a new fundraising initiative; an online gifts e-store. It proved very popular over Christmas. I encourage you to take a look and consider purchasing a gift on mother's day.
www.awarecam.org.au

Importantly I want to make special mention this year of a new sponsor, Mills Wilson Communication Consultants. Mills Wilson is providing pro bono PR expertise and we have seen our cause featured in a number of publications over 2013 due directly to their expertise. This gives us the opportunity



to concentrate on running programs and delivering the services that the Cambodian people so desperately need.

We also thank Global Development Group for its partnership and support. GDG assists us with monitoring, evaluating and auditing to ensure the projects are carried out to AusAID/DFAT compliance requirements. Their assistance with Graduation House has been deeply appreciated.

Finally we thank you, our supporters. Your financial support and interest in our work is greatly appreciated. Without you Awareness Cambodia's goals simply could not have been achieved over these last 18 years.

Gary Hewett ~ CEO/Founder



OVERVIEW FROM CAMBODIA



As the Cambodian Projects Director I oversee the projects and staff in Cambodia. I am pleased to note that Awareness Cambodia's Phnom Penh Central Office leadership team has continued its development over the past year. Kimna Khean (Financial Controller and Office Manager) has been joined by Srey Pov (Assistant Accountant). The central office has continued to enjoy the capacity building provided by ex-pat staff Tim and Trudy James.

Securing and retaining suitably qualified staff for projects in remote Cambodia has presented its share of challenges this past year. But combined efforts and dedication has resulted in improvement across all aspects of Cambodian project operations. We have developed in-house training particularly in Child Protection Policy as well as areas of project proposal, assessment, monitoring and reporting to DFAT representatives and Cambodian government departments.

I firmly believe that our Cambodian team are developing life changing programs that are breaking the cycle of poverty.

I am proud to work for Awareness Cambodia; working in partnership with Cambodian communities to rebuild my nation still traumatised by the genocide of the mid-1970s. This creation of hope and opportunity is important in my country as we rebuild our nation after the ravages of war and the atrocities carried out by the Khmer Rouge.



I finish with a thank you to each donor and supporter of Awareness Cambodia. From each life and child that we touch, restore, heal and educate – may I thank you on behalf of the Cambodian people.

Sopheak Pheng ~ Cambodian Projects Director

SUNSHINE HOUSE

Child intake to Sunshine House is steady. Deteriorating signage at Sunshine House has been replaced. A new basketball court has the Sunshine House boys all excited. In a province where our 10,000 litre water tank can be filled with roof water in 3 days, drainage issues are being steadily addressed.

Sunshine House continues to enjoy a high status with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Labor, Vocational Training and Youth Rehabilitation (MOSALVY) as one of the leading Cambodian orphanages.

Our Cambodian leadership team continues to give valuable input into addressing the challenges faced when working with our abused and damaged orphans. This year they highlighted the deteriorating education provided through the government rural schools and subsequent drop in our student scholastic achievements.

As a result Awareness Cambodia has had to make a difficult decision to transfer our Sunshine House students to private schools. This of course places added financial impost on the Sunshine House budget as well as some practical challenges such as transporting 50+ students to schools some distance from Sunshine House. Fortunately a grant was secured from the US, and Sunshine House now has a big, yellow school bus to transport our children to and from school. We are incredibly appreciative of this grant and what it means in terms of safety and security for the children of Sunshine House.



New school uniforms



School bus

HOLIDAY PROGRAM

A new initiative this year was the development of a 'holiday program' designed to run throughout the school holidays; it was held at Sunshine House. The House of Progress campus joined in a supportive role as leaders and mentors. The curriculum varied from sport to education, excursions and entertainment.



The two most popular activities of the holiday program were the sports sessions and excursion to the Kompong Speu museum where the children learnt about Khmer culture and viewed artefacts from the past.

The children participated in a feedback session to find areas the program could be improved in for next year.



Kompong Speu - museum

HOUSE OF PROGRESS

House of Progress is the home for Awareness Cambodia's orphans attending upper high school. Sport remains an important part of House of Progress campus. We field a number of teams in local sporting competitions and tournaments. This year House of Progress students designed their own Awareness Cambodia sports logo to incorporate into their new sports uniforms.



House of Progress is currently situated in a rented facility on a 10 year lease. The lease is due to expire in 2 years' time. Awareness Cambodia is looking to purchase land in the coming years to build a purpose built complex for our HOP students. Awareness Cambodia's long term strategy of ensuring each campus within the Child Development Projects (*Sunshine House, House of Progress and Graduation House*) is a non-rental property will be fulfilled when we begin the HOP building project.

To assist the student's transition to university, Awareness Cambodia hosted a 2 day career advice seminar. The program debuted last year in 2013 and this year we had our first students attend from the general community. The seminar is proving to be a huge help in alleviating stress and concerns of moving to Phnom Penh to begin tertiary studies.



GRADUATION HOUSE

While every aspect of what we do has its challenges and rewards, one of the most satisfying outcomes is produced through the final stage in our child development program - Graduation House. At Graduation House, Awareness Cambodia is seeing a growing number of orphaned children who were rescued and taken into Sunshine House in the year 2000; now completing university degrees in fields such as civil engineering, design, architecture, accountancy, tourism, English literature, business and economics. Rescue with Awareness Cambodia is not an event it's a process and it's a process that can take decades.

Also with strong support from Australian professionals, Awareness Cambodia is taking in scholarship students from disadvantaged rural backgrounds (students outside our Child Development programs) to study agriculture and medicine at University. These students reside alongside our Child Development students at Graduation House.

Chenda (Graduation House Manager) has also taken significant steps forward in her English, reporting capacity and student management this year. We're all proud of her development throughout the course of the year.



Graduation House BUILDING COMPLEX



Graduation House Project is fast taking shape as three substantial buildings; the administration and training complex, student accommodation and messing complex, and the staff accommodation complex. The foundation piling for all three structures has been completed. All major concrete pours for the three floors have been completed. Walls for the three floors have been bricked in and plastered. Two tiled roofs have been completed and the ceilings in all three buildings have been installed. The electrical conduits and wires have been run. Plumbing pipework installation is almost complete. Rendering and plaster is now complete.

Tiles, fittings and paint colours have been selected and the laying of tiles is almost completed. The design for the sewerage and waste water system has been completed and equipment specified. A standby generator is in transit to Cambodia.



The 4 storey student structure has been designed and built with the capacity to later remove the roof and add a further 2 floors. This 6 storey building will then have the capacity to house 80 + students at any one time. Those final 2 floors will be needed as we award more rural scholarships. To remain debt free, the next 2 floors will not be added until funding is secured.

The Aussie dollar has depreciated against the greenback and a number of unforeseen additional expenses increased our original building estimate. With \$160,000 remaining to be raised so the building can be completed debt free; this is an amazing achievement by our incredibly generous donors.

We are hopeful that Graduation House construction and fit out will be completed by the end of May 2014. Awareness Cambodia has scheduled - The Graduation House opening (in Cambodia) for the **7th September 2014**.



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

With the outstanding success of the Graduation House project and the new Graduation House complex almost complete, we have extended the program by offering scholarships to poor, rural marginalised young people who show academic excellence and a passion for social justice.

With strong support from the Tim Purcell Cambodia Scholarship Fund and Australian medical professionals, Graduation House welcomes 4 scholarship students from disadvantaged rural backgrounds to study agriculture and medicine at University.

MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP

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

With a belief that a person's desire and ability to heal should not be determined by how much money they have, Awareness Cambodia is opening up opportunities for talented and driven Cambodians to pursue medical careers.



Taking a holistic approach to care, education and health, Awareness Cambodia has developed a medical scholarship program to help train medics of the future.

The scholarship is designed to help alleviate poverty in Cambodia by enabling students from underprivileged backgrounds, who show academic excellence and aptitude for medicine, to complete medical studies at the International University in Phnom Penh. A partnership between the very successful Graduation House program, the International University, senior Operation Nightingale doctors and medical specialists in Australia, the program is preparing to take in its first two students.

New doctors from the province need to 'give back', so upon graduation scholarship recipients will be contracted to work with Operation Nightingale or approved provincial medical project for a couple of years.

AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP



Our first 2 students, Vorleak and Scorin have been accepted into the Agricultural scholarship program at Graduation House. Families have been interviewed, documentation signed, both students are now enrolled at their relevant University and studies are underway.

While staff reported their English levels were “reasonable”, both students have begun part time studies at the Australian Centre for Education (ACE) to develop their English language skills. This is something we’ve decide to add to all Graduation House scholarship programs and are convinced it play an important part in student’s future development and effectiveness in their chosen field both in Cambodia and potentially overseas.

Reports are that our inaugural students have got off to a conscientious start. Our Graduation House Manager (Chenda) is already impressed with their cooperation and work ethic.

We look forward to watching how the scholarship programs develop in these early stages and look forward to good reports over the coming 12 months.



will

EDUCATION IS POWER

Awareness Cambodia EMPOWERS orphans & children





OPERATION NIGHTINGALE

Awareness Cambodia established its medical program (Operation Nightingale) in 2006. Operation Nightingale continues to treat more than 2000 rural Cambodian villagers (of whom about 50 per cent are children) through its four medical centres. Patients are impoverished and already fighting to overcome challenges associated with illiteracy and poor nutrition when they come in with medical issues.



Operation Nightingale employs well-trained Cambodian doctors and medical staff to deliver health care for the community. A further 1000 patients are seen at the rural mobile medical clinics, which for many is the only time they have ever seen a doctor. Run by volunteer Australian medical professionals, the annual two-week program visits the medical centres (where the volunteers also help to up-skill the local practitioners) and travels out to rural areas to provide much-needed medical care.

Initially run in partnership with the provincial health department, Awareness Cambodia's first centre now operates independent of government funding and oversight. Last year, in recognition of the centre's importance to their community, poor local villagers 'passed the hat' to pay for building extensions – highlighting the positive impact that this grassroots program has had on the local community.



Greg Martin (Australian team leader volunteer) was much appreciative of Bunchat (past Eco Farm Manager) who returned to Sunshine House to volunteer his skills for this year's team.

Russ and Janet Landreth (USA co-ordinators) lead their third and largest 'all American' maintenance team. The children at Sunshine House still enjoy the "iconic" playground courtesy of the American team from past years. This year they installed a ceiling in the administration block and continued the endless need to paint and repaint Sunshine House due to the harsh sun.

Annual school teams from dedicated schools such as Perth College continue to fundraise and immerse themselves into life at Sunshine House.

Swan Christian College's Vocational Training group has once again outdone themselves this year, installing more electrical services and building an outstanding demountable stage in the multifunction area.

ESL - Primary School English Second Language

While committed to academic excellence for children in its child development programs, Awareness Cambodia also works hard to improve personnel, instruction and materials in local primary schools.

One of these programs, English Second Language (ESL), works with the Kompong Speu Provincial Education Department Director Sam Samantha to deliver English education to year 4, 5 and 6 primary school students. This is significant as no other government primary schools in provincial Cambodia teach English.



Currently almost 1000 primary school students at four government schools benefit from the program monthly. Three English teachers at each of the ESL schools also benefit from employment and up-skilling in English education ('training the trainer'). In addition to the recruited ESL teachers, Awareness Cambodia hires and trains English educators in the Kompong Speu district to infuse the academic content with fresh energy and new perspectives.

Awareness Cambodia understands an educated community can bring about powerful social and economic change. Education can improve the lives of marginalised children and families trapped in deep generational poverty.

Learning can be life changing for a Cambodian child.

A CASE FOR CHANGE

The “Case for Change” education project continues to gain increased support within schools and businesses. This July saw the distribution of over 1500 school backpacks which equips underprivileged students in Cambodia with basic but life-changing school supplies.

Awareness Cambodia is proud to build bridges between hundreds of Australian school students and their peers in the poorest province of Cambodia. Students from Atwell College, Wesley College and Lake Joondalup Baptist College raised thousands of dollars for A Case for Change in 2013.

“We have been involved with Awareness Cambodia for five years, and it is rewarding to provide Cambodian students of a similar age with the same opportunities we enjoy in Australia every day. “Awareness Cambodia does a terrific job and it is an honour to partner with them once again this year.

Mr David Gee Wesley College Headmaster

Our sincere appreciation goes to our corporate sponsors; Crown Finance, Kennerleys, Kayu and the staff of CRS whose support made a significant difference to how many children we could affect. Public donations also made up a significant contribution to this year’s final total. For every \$15 raised it is allowing Awareness Cambodia to fill backpacks with school supplies for 1000s of students in Kompong Speu schools to continue their education.





“It’s truly life-changing for young children in Cambodia, with many struggling to gather enough money for the basics we take for granted here in Australia – pencils, pens and a school bag.”

Dr Hewett (CEO Awareness Cambodia)

Since the program’s launch in 2008 backpacks have been distributed to more than 3,000 students at local government primary schools in Cambodia. These schools also participate in Awareness Cambodia’s English Second Language for Primary Schools (ESLPS) program as part of a holistic education strategy.



Awareness Cambodia

www.awarecam.org.au

Awareness Cambodia – Australia
cambodia@awarecam.org.au
 (Tel) +61 8 9370 1457

**PO Box 3040, Bassendean DC
 WA 6942
 AUSTRALIA**

Awareness Cambodia – USA
info@AwarenessCambodiaUSA.org
 (Tel) +1 949 498 9494

**PO Box 74385
 San Clemente, CA 92673
 UNITED STATES**

Awareness Cambodia - Cambodia
cambodia.office@awarecam.org.au
 (Tel) (855) 23 982 392

**PO Box 2131, Phnom Penh 3
 CAMBODIA**