



AWARENESS CAMBODIA

"Rebuilding the children of Cambodia"

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The Final Building Block of the Awareness Cambodia Vision

Awareness Cambodia provides a lifelong model for each of our children. Our aim is to promote a considered and functional transition from orphan to university graduate.

Rebuilding the children of Cambodia through our 'lifelong model,' Awareness Cambodia makes a real difference by giving special attention to the most vulnerable. We provide shelter and care for orphans and protection for abused and trafficked children. We support those affected by HIV/AIDS.

However, Awareness Cambodia's vision runs deeper. Our children's homes; Sunshine House, House of Progress and Graduation House are also committed to the overall development of the Cambodian society, which will ultimately benefit all Khmer children.

Graduation House – update on the Building program

At present, Awareness Cambodia is renting a building in Phnom Penh, which functions as the head administrative office and Graduation House. It can only cater for a small number of university students. As the numbers are set to expand significantly next year, we are desperately awaiting a long term solution.

Awareness Cambodia has purchased suitable land in Phnom Penh. The geotechnical and topographical surveys have been completed. We have hired an appropriate company to design and construct the building. The floor plans and 3D modelling of the facility have been settled and the building specifications are complete. A contract will be signed next month, after which construction will immediately commence.



Artist impression of Graduation House

What you can do?

We need funds! This is by far the largest capital expense project undertaken by Awareness Cambodia to date. We are confident that this project will provide a strong foundation for our work in Cambodia for many decades to come. If you are able to donate towards the building of the Awareness Cambodia Centre, which will house our new administration hub and the Graduation House, we would love to hear from you.

Join us to help build a better future for Cambodia

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From the CEO

Kim and I are back in Perth after spending four of the last five months in Cambodia. It's been a productive time and as you'd imagine there's been plenty to do on our return. The thing that still amazes me after all our time back and forth to Cambodia is how each visit brings a fresh perspective to the things that really matter in life and the incredible implications when those things break down.

George Bernard Shaw, the well known Irish Nobel Prize essayist once wrote: **"A happy family is but an earlier heaven."** Something I'm sure resonates with all of us.

Sadly it's a life many Cambodians are yet to experience since families were systematically dismantled under Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge. And this trip once again highlighted the ongoing chaos in the Cambodian family.

Only a few weeks back our staff were approached by relatives of a young boy whose mother had left him and his brother many years earlier. The two boys had been staying with their father and step mother until recently when their father was incarcerated.

As many of you would know, Awareness Cambodia has a policy of taking in orphans that have lost both parents but in specific cases we do make exceptions. At first we felt that although definitely a sad story, it was one that did not fulfil our criteria. The boy was staying with them because the step mother wanted nothing to do with him - a common occurrence in Cambodia.

Sunshine House House of Progress Graduation House
Rescued Sheltered Educated



Awareness Cambodia reducing suffering by **providing options** for forgotten children



www.awarecam.org.au

Our website
has undergone
a transformation.

Stay on top of the latest
updates or donate
securely online at

www.awarecam.org.au

Our sincere thanks go to Poe
Chen and Andrew Johnson
for their help in putting the
site together.

However the relative then went on to explain the reason their father was in gaol. It turned out the step mother had never wanted anything to do with either him or his brother and as a result one day the father came in and killed the boy's younger brother, while he fortunately managed to escape.

His relatives said they simply cannot look after him and sending him home wasn't an option. This was another one of the unthinkable events in Cambodian life that no child should have to experience.

On the other side of the coin, it's an incredible experience knowing while many of our children do come to Awareness Cambodia from tragic pasts, we now have the privilege of watching them enter their University education with a new sense of their worth and capacity to change Cambodia's future. Thank you for being part of that process.

Gary Hewett OAM
Founder/ CEO Awareness Cambodia
[Pictured: Gary with John Worsfold]



West Coast Eagles Visit

Report by Kim Hewett

On the 23 November 2010 the West Coast Eagles arrived at House of Progress. The team firstly met Graduation House student Lida, who shared her life story and her experiences at House of Progress. Next, they were given a quick tour of the facilities, after which it was time to take the long and bumpy road to Sunshine House.

The staff and kids were so excited to have a professional sports team visit and they eagerly awaited their arrival. The Eagles quickly settled in after an orientation talk and some supper. Then it was time for the evening concert. The Sunshine House kids and the Eagles team belted out plenty of songs, including Holy Grail by Hunters and Collectors, after which they retired for some well earned sleep.

The next morning I awoke to squeals of laughter. I looked outside my window to see the Eagles up at first light, with the kids running around, having fun and playing football with them. After breakfast, the older children and staff of Sunshine House approached the team for a game of volley ball. I noticed that the Sunshine House team were wearing their uniforms and seemed to take the game very seriously.

The kids just loved having the players there. When we arrived two days later, they were still playing football and singing 'we love Nik Nat Nui'. Brenda Au, Sunshine House's resident nurse, told me that there was a lot of discussion around whether Nik's hair was in fact hair or just a hat. It was a special time for the children of Sunshine House and it is certainly a memory that will last with them for a long time.



Blog by Jacob Brennan (West Coast Eagles player)

Right now we are at an orphanage called Sunshine House which looks after kids from about four to 14 within the same program. It was a really, really bumpy ride to get here, but we were happy to arrive. We just had a nice tea including chips and rice...different, very different.

I'm currently in a room, don't know what you'd call it, little bunk rooms from like a holiday house. Woosha walked in and saw a rat on his bed so...welcome Woosh! Beautiful. Plenty of mosquitoes around so we're thankful for the mosquito nets on the bottom bunk. We've had to build up mini tents for people on the top bunk so no one gets malaria. That's the plan.

So we're off to do some activities now with the young kids before they head off to bed and I'm going to go play on the drums!

Should be a good experience because I am horrendous, no musical bones in my body.



CHRISTMAS PARTY 2010

Report by Kim Hewett

This year Gary, myself and our children joined with Sunshine House, House of Progress and Graduation House for the annual Christmas Party. Sunshine House was decorated with Christmas cheer and looked amazing! Fun, laughter and lots of food was had by all.

The children invited their extended families and friends to join in, with some making the trip from distant provinces. Even the commune chief participated in the celebrations! The day's program was made up of Christmas songs, games, a nativity play, the giving of presents and, of course, a Christmas lunch with plenty of soda to wash down a hearty meal. The staff at Sunshine House did an exceptional job planning and organizing a program that certainly made us proud.

A heartfelt thankyou goes to the donors who paid for the Christmas party. It was very expensive to bring in relatives from the provinces and to put on such a large party.

Thank you for your Christmas Party donations this year, you have helped make the day so very special for our children.



Dalin's Christmas Day

My name is Dalin and I am a child at Sunshine House. Sunshine House, House of Progress and Graduation House celebrated Christmas with a party on 18 December 2010, at Sunshine House. We were allowed to invite our friends from school and relatives to attend the party.

On the 17th, all staff and children have done house decoration, cleaning the surrounding places to be good looking and interesting. I have done a good job with the work assigned to me and my friends have also and we all prepared ourselves for tomorrow's program.



18 December 2010

In the morning, staff and children again cleaned the grounds and decorated the house and prepared the party for guests and relatives that came to join the party.

The Christmas Program started at 9: 30am:

- We sing songs
- Sok Heng explain the story of Jesus Christ's Birthday and the way He was born
- A play with acting out the nativity scene
- Khmer dancing
- At 11:00am everybody enjoys the party
- We share gifts and give to each other

I am so very happy with the Christmas Party. It provided me the time to meet my friends and build better relationships. The party was finished at 4:30 PM that day.

I write the letter to say thank you to Awareness Cambodia and the generous people who donated towards the party, We always celebrate the Christmas Party every year and it makes me very happy.

May you and Awareness Cambodia staff be healthy and happy.

Dalin Seng (child of Sunshine House)



Dalin is in year 8 and is an excellent student achieving 3rd place out of 42 students. Her favorite subjects are Khmer and mathematics. Dalin loves to sew clothes, read books, and play badminton. She is kind hearted, honest and compassionate and is popular amongst her peers and the Sunshine House staff.

IN MEMORY OF A LOVING NURSE

Report by Rene Deprazer

On Friday 28 January 2011, the staff at Royal Perth Hospital's Ward 11, Shenton Park Campus, held an afternoon tea during which they made a generous donation to Awareness Cambodia.

Last year, a much loved nurse of Ward 11's team, Kerry Coulter, tragically died in a car accident. Kerry had travelled to Cambodia to volunteer and had fallen in love with the country and its people.



Since last year, the staff of Ward 11 have been fundraising in memoriam of Kerry. Following a heartfelt tribute to Kerry by her fellow colleagues, \$2225.45 was presented to Awareness Cambodia.

These funds will benefit Graduation House and our young adults undertaking tertiary education. As Kerry was deeply interested in assisting the educational needs of Cambodia's children, it is felt that this is a fitting cause that Kerry would be proud of. We sincerely thank all of the staff at Ward 11 for their thoughtful donation and wonderful legacy.

Doctors and Nurses Volunteer



2010 September Medical Team

We have a Medical Team travelling to Cambodia on the 16th to 30th of September 2011. If you are interested in working in rural Cambodia at our Operation Nightingale medical clinics, then please contact our office for an application form.

Our Expression of Interest meeting will take place in May; shortly after which, we will choose our team.

Please contact our Perth office for a Medical Team Expression of Interest brochure.

AIDS and CAMBODIA

Cambodia was given a United Nations award for progress in controlling HIV infection. Adult infection is down from 1.2% in 2001 to 0.5% last year. There are still areas of concern with one in four injecting drug users infected and 15% of sex workers.

There are also concerns over an EU/ India trade pact which may restrict the availability of cheap generic antiretroviral drugs to Cambodia. However the achievement of reducing HIV infection has been widely applauded.

Medical Team

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New children join the Sunshine House family

In the last few months we have welcomed a number of new faces to our Sunshine House family; Nak, baby Samuel, Phajna, Chey Chan and brothers Pout and Minear. We look forward to watching them grow, develop and make a difference in their communities.

Child Sponsorship



If you have ever visited a developing country, you will know firsthand how difficult life is for the majority of children. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the problems.

Awareness Cambodia is helping make a difference and we invite you to join our Child Sponsorship Program. We are going into places of injustice, poverty, abuse and neglect, and offering a home, a future and hope. Sunshine House, House of Progress and Graduation House are designed to transform the lives of each child. Child Sponsors receive a photo, profile and through letters and progress reports, you can see the transformation for yourself.



“ We, who have so much, must do more to help those in need. And most of all, we must live simply, so that others may simply live. ”

Ed Begley, Jr.



Monthly Partnership Program



One of our most consistent and daunting challenges we face is raising the funds to continue to make a difference in Cambodia. Helping with that mission is our Monthly Partnership Program (MMP) sponsors who donate a regular amount each month. It is an easy way of assisting, as you only need to commit to what is affordable.

Please consider becoming a child sponsor today!





Awareness Cambodia is proud to announce that we have already had a number of groups join the Case 4 Change in 2011. Please register your interest today if you want your school or business to be a part of this program.

The aim of Case 4 Change is to equip Cambodian youth with the tools they need to receive the education they deserve. We plan to distribute 1000 sets of school supplies and backpacks at Phnom Chield Primary School in Kompong Speu, which will meet the needs of every child in the local area. Every \$15.00 raised gives us the ability to purchase one set of school supplies and a backpack.

You can find further information on a Case 4 Change on our new website www.awarecam.org.au under the Projects tab. This includes a video which shows children from the Phnom Chield Primary School receiving their backpacks and school supplies during last year's distribution. Alternatively, you can drop our office an email and we will send you a hard copy pack which contains all the information you need to get started.



*Join us on
Facebook!*

*"Every educated person is not rich,
but almost every educated person
has a job and a way out of poverty.
So education is a fundamental
solution to poverty."*

Governor Kathleen Blanco

Ever considered volunteering in Cambodia?

Planning is well underway for the next Maintenance Team, which will be held from the 16 - 30 of September 2011.

If you want to be a part of this group, then please send us your application forms as soon as possible. Our Expression of Interest meeting will take place in May. Shortly afterwards, we will name our team members.

If you work as a tradesperson, or are willing to try your hand at manual tasks, then you are most welcome to apply. Please contact our Perth office for a Maintenance Team Expression of Interest brochure.

WELCOME to our new Cambodian Project Director

We welcome Sopheak PHENG who joined the Awareness Cambodia team in January 2011. Sopheak has taken up the newly created position of Cambodian Project Director. He will be busy overseeing the central office staff, directly supervising the Project Managers, and conducting regular staff development programs.

Sopheak, his wife Chenda and baby have moved from Siem Reap to take up this senior leadership position within Awareness Cambodia.

We are so thrilled to welcome him to the Team!



Awareness Cambodia Story

Awareness Cambodia is a not for profit, overseas aid organisation established in 1996 by Perth dentist, Dr Gary Hewett in response to the incredible suffering and poverty experienced by the Cambodian people after

the execution of 25% of its most intelligent under Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot. We work to relieve poverty and encourage development of life skills through participation in self sustaining projects.

Awareness Cambodia doesn't simply raise funds to pass onto other organisations; instead we initiated projects in response to ongoing needs. Together these projects form an environment that provides a seamless structure for orphaned Cambodian children to transition into well adjusted and self sufficient leaders, so necessary in rebuilding Cambodia's future. We also see Cambodian culture as a unique national treasure meaning all efforts are taken to ensure our presence doesn't simply result in these children being westernised, relocated to other parts of the world or being reduced to the indignity of a dependency on overseas handouts.

Effective training for indigenous staff, a non adoption policy, working in cooperation with local organisations and government departments as well as the inclusion of self funded business components in projects are key components in reaching our objectives.

"Awareness Cambodia is proud to be a partner for project 'J515 Awareness Cambodia- Stage 2' with Global Development Group, an Australian AusAID approved NGO carrying out quality humanitarian aid and development projects with approved partners to relieve poverty and provide long term solutions."



AWARENESS CAMBODIA INC

Together we can make a difference

Donation Form

(Please return by Fax/Post/Email)

Name

Street

Suburb

State

Post Code

Daytime Phone

Mobile

Fax

Email

One-off Donation

☐ \$1000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 other \$

Monthly Donation

☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$60 ☐ \$40 other \$

(please note that all amounts are in \$AUD)

☐ I would like to become a child sponsor

☐ \$55 per month (general & health) ☐ \$60 per month (tertiary)

☐ I would like to become a Monthly Partnership Program (MPP) sponsor

☐ I would like to receive the Awareness Cambodia newsletter

Payment Options

☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Amex

Card Number

Cardholder

Expiry Date

Signature

☐ Cheque (please make cheques payable to 'Awareness Cambodia Overseas Aid Fund')

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Thank you for your generous support

If the funds raised exceed project requirements then funds may be directed to a similar project. Donations made within Australia are tax deductible.
Awareness Cambodia Inc ABN: 69 234 355 895 Awareness Cambodia Overseas Aid Fund ABN: 15 815 273 527