



**When asked about Awareness Cambodia's main focus over the last 20 years, one area stands out – education.**

During Gary's first visit in 1995, Cambodia was a picture of poverty, chaos and absolute devastation left behind by Pol Pot's regime. In the 1960s and 1970s, the Khmer Rouge systematically wiped out 25 per cent of the population, including women and children, with a specific target on the most educated in their nation. The legacy of the genocide carried on for decades afterwards.



Seeing a nation so traumatised and in need, the obvious question was: 'where do you start?' With over 50 per cent of the population under 14 at the time, the solution became clear; let's rebuild the children of Cambodia. And what better way to achieve that than filling the education vacuum created by Pol Pot's devastating social engineering policies.

Since then, education has become the heart of all that is Awareness Cambodia.

In response to seeing vulnerable young children being exploited, we established the first of our child development projects – Sunshine House – in 2000.

By 2006, House of Progress was up and running. Here students completed their upper high school education, developed life skills and prepared for a tertiary education.

And in 2009 the first group of children to come into our care took the final step in their education journey – moving to Graduation House in Phnom Penh to commence university studies.

Today, the children in our child development programs are joining a growing number of healthy young adults who take up and complete university degrees in fields such as civil engineering, design, architecture, accountancy, tourism and hospitality, medicine, English literature, business and economics.

And our education emphasis doesn't stop there – extending into the Kompong Speu community (one of Cambodia's poorest provinces).



Our medical program – Operation Nightingale – operates seven medical centres that provide primary health care to the local community. We employ highly trained Cambodian doctors (with international post-graduate degrees and ongoing annual mentoring from Australian medical professionals) to provide medical care and vital health education.

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

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Through our community education programs, we continue to link education programs and educators (including the Western Australian Department of Education and Training) to 20 local schools. In addition, our programs and giving opportunities enable individuals, businesses, schools and other organisations to play a role in helping to provide education services to the community.

These programs were introduced against a backdrop of only 1 in 10 girls making it to Year 8 and only 4 in 100 girls going on to years 11 and 12. Sadly, in many parts of Cambodia, especially rural areas, the idea that education is unnecessary for girls remains. And this, when also coupled with generational poverty and a lack of basic services in schools, prevents girls from continuing their schooling. The average rural Cambodian school has 600-800 children, no running water or toilets, and can't afford books and stationery.

Instead of ignoring these facts, we saw an incredible opportunity for people in privileged positions like ours to bring about real change. So we made a commitment to put basics, such as toilets and running water, into government schools. We also run English Second Language courses at the government schools for some 500 children in years 4, 5 and 6, providing them with the essential language skills they will need to take advantage of the high school curriculum. And through our 'Case for Change' program local children are given a backpack and school supplies. While our 'giving' options also take an education focus, allowing generous supporters to provide everything from art supplies to a music teacher to enhance the education journey of underprivileged children.

Recognising the potential education has to alleviate poverty amongst Cambodia's poorest, we introduced a scholarship program to enable students from underprivileged backgrounds to complete medical and agriculture-related studies at university. By taking part in these scholarships, the students develop the capacity to effectively contribute to programs, projects and services that can contribute to their country's productivity and social development.

All of these programs have been launched with a firm conviction that EDUCATION is powerful and a basic human right. It is through education that Cambodia's most vulnerable will be empowered and play a part in the future of their country.



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## THIS MONTH, WE'RE GIVING YOU FIVE REASONS TO DONATE TO AWARENESS CAMBODIA

### #1

#### **We're small, and proud of it.**

Being small makes us effective, agile and responsive. We know the communities we work with, and avoid unnecessary administration. We build relationships with businesses and a number support us with pro bono services (accountant, auditor, lawyer, public relations consultants and graphic designers), which allows us to use your generous donations to provide services in Cambodia, where it is most needed.

### #2

#### **We believe education is a gateway out of generational poverty.**

The evidence is clear – whether it's orphaned children or the rural poor, education is empowering. Through education, Cambodia's most vulnerable can have a voice in their society.

### #3

#### **We empower and enable.**

We believe in building *independence*, not dependence. Within our child development and education programs, we listen to each child's dreams and goals, and help make them a reality by providing long-term educational and vocational training.

### #4

#### **We believe in community.**

We see our role as a supporting one. We could never, and should never, replace community, culture and tradition. We believe that when you build up a child, you're building up the *entire* community.

### #5

#### **Our care is holistic – we are in it for the long-haul!**

We strive to meet all of a child's needs, from education, health and nutrition to counselling and vocational training. We have been on the ground in Cambodia since 1996 – that's over 20 years impacting lives and creating brighter futures. The children who first joined us in 2000 have graduated with degrees and are now young professionals. They are marrying and starting families of their own. We couldn't be more proud of the progress these young people have made !



**Donate now!**

"all donations over \$2.00 tax deductible within Australia"

Awareness Cambodia provides a holistic range of services to help vulnerable Cambodian children and their local communities in impoverished areas. Rescue, education and medical services are at the heart of what we do – and a helping hand is always welcome (ours is a not-for-profit humanitarian aid program that is able to operate due to the generosity of our supporters). Please consider making a donation to our cause, so we can continue our mission – empowering people through care, support and, most importantly, education.

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Awareness Cambodia  
Rebuilding the Children of Cambodia

## DONATION FORM

Please return by post/email

Name.....

Business Name .....

Street.....

Suburb.....Postcode.....State.....

Mobile.....

Email:.....

**One-off Donation:**    \$1000 ☐    \$500 ☐    \$250 ☐    \$100 ☐    other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Monthly Donation:**    \$250 ☐    \$100 ☐    \$60 ☐    \$40 ☐    other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to become a Monthly Partnership Program (Hope giver) Sponsor \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to become a child sponsor: \$55 per month (general, health and education) ☐

Donation for the most urgent : \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Options

Mastercard ☐    Visa ☐    AMEX ☐

Card Number

Cardholder:.....Signature:.....Expiry Date:.....

***Please pay by return Fax/Post/Email***

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

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT



Tax deductible receipts for gifts over \$2 with a preference for projects J515 & 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 69 234 355 895) partners on these projects with Global Development Group, an Australian DFAT-approved NGO.

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