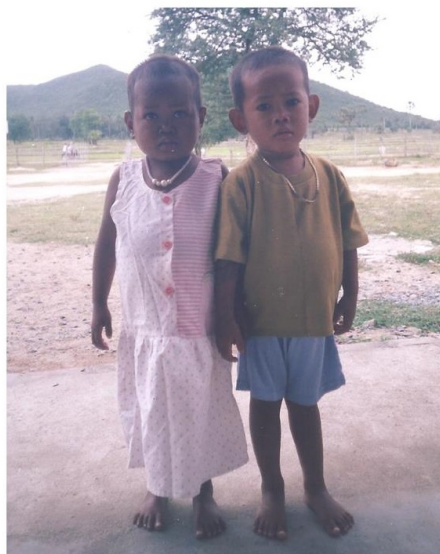


With your help we are building  
a better future



## BE INSPIRED - Child sponsorship making a difference – Srey Mao's story

When Srey Mao arrived at Sunshine House with her younger brother Thon in June 2001, she was a shy 5-year-old in very poor health. Having lost both their parents to AIDS, the children were abandoned by their extended family.



Srey Mao with her brother Thon on the day of  
their arrival at Sunshine House 2001



Srey Mao 2015

At that time, due to lack of education about HIV/AIDS, anyone diagnosed with HIV was deemed to be 'unlucky' or 'cursed' and completely rejected by their friends and relatives. Without Awareness Cambodia, Srey Mao's future was uncertain and bleak.

At Sunshine House Srey Mao was able to receive excellent health care, education and support. Most importantly, for the past 13 years, Sunshine House has provided her with a loving family and a home where she is safe, nurtured and encouraged to make her dreams come true.

Today Srey Mao is a confident, fun and cheeky 18-year-old undertaking hospitality & cooking training with Open Arms Cambodia. After completing the 1 year course, Open Arms helps students find jobs in very desirable workplaces – as they have an excellent reputation there is a high demand for its graduates. Srey Mao's dream is to become a chef in a top hotel. Passionate about cooking from a young age, Srey Mao always loved helping out in the kitchen and as an adult her love of cooking has only grown.

To find out how you can support courageous children like Srey Mao contact Charmaine at our Perth office on phone: +61 8 9370 1457 or email: [cambodia@awarecam.org.au](mailto:cambodia@awarecam.org.au)



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

**Email:** [cambodia@awarecam.org.au](mailto:cambodia@awarecam.org.au) **Address:** Unit 2/48 May Street, Bayswater, Western Australia 6053

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Lamberta and Kevin Groves have been child sponsors with Awareness Cambodia for many years. They have recently returned from a sponsorship visit where they met their sponsor children for the first time. It was a very special experience and this is Lamberta and Kevin's story:

I had travelled to Cambodia four times prior to this trip, but this one was very different, as we had chosen a trip to Cambodia to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

I love the "life" that we saw on the streets. It is as if you can observe life happening out in the open. You see people cooking, eating their meals, squatting and chatting, checking hair for lice, sleeping on the sidewalk, bringing their livestock into town, children playing and all on the streets.

Traffic is hilarious. If your lane of traffic is not moving, you just create another one, even if it is on the sidewalk!! We saw a "Cambodian" version of road rage. A moto driver, who had been weaving dangerously in and out of traffic, was clipped across the ears by another moto driver just to let him know it wasn't appreciated.

We spent a month in Cambodia, spending time in Siem Riep, Battambang, Phnom Penh, Sihanoukville, Kampot and Kep. There was so much to see and do. We chose to visit the "Kingdom of wonder" for many reasons: adventures; elephant rides; a quad bike tour of villages and rice paddies around Siem Riep; extreme buggy adventures in Sihanoukville; the Bamboo railway in Battambang; and a twilight Mekong River cruise in Phnom Penh. But, importantly, we sponsor two girls – Panina and Vatey – through Awareness Cambodia and we had never met them. We had both visited Awareness Cambodia's projects in the past, but not since we had become sponsors.

We couldn't wait to go to Sunshine House and meet the girls. On our way to Kampong Speu we stopped and bought morning tea for the children – brioche with condensed milk poured into the centre!! A favourite treat apparently.

When we arrived at Sunshine House, Panina was at the gate. We were moved by the sight of this little girl all dressed up to meet us. Both girls were introduced to us. Panina was so much more reserved than the lively, 3-year-old Vatey. We had lunch with them, sat with them and showed them photos on our camera. Sponsorship for us is a long-term commitment. We loved the girls even before meeting them, but this experience has deepened the place that they hold in our hearts. We communicated with gestures, photos and cuddles and, when necessary, the staff was there to translate for us.

Time with the girls was the highlight of our month-long anniversary celebration. We also stopped in town and visited the young people at the House of Progress, Awareness Cambodia's upper school students' home. It was great to see them, as when I had last visited Cambodia they were the children at Sunshine House and now they seemed like typical teenagers anywhere. I loved seeing the soccer trophies they had won, as it indicated a healthy competitiveness. Seeing these children succeed in life brings us a lot of joy. Upon returning to Australia we had a photo of the girls and us put on canvas and it is hanging in our lounge in a central position. We were sad to leave Cambodia, but it was time to go home and get back to work and dream of our next trip. It was a celebration that we will always remember.

Become a child sponsor or learn more contact Charmaine at our Perth office on phone: +61 8 9370 1457 or email: [cambodia@awarecam.org.au](mailto:cambodia@awarecam.org.au)

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## Open your heart and change a child's life

Page 3.

A child sponsor is a special person – someone who has made the decision to personally invest in the life of a child in need. Through sponsorship a child's life can be totally transformed. Our sponsorship program helps to provide food, clothing, a home, school uniforms, school fees and medical treatment for orphaned and abandoned children.

We understand the indispensable role that a family unit plays in shaping a child's life, so we employ local Khmer women to function as surrogate family figures and caregivers at Sunshine House, House of Progress and Graduation House. We create the family that these vulnerable children so desperately need.

### General child sponsorship

By becoming a general child sponsor, you help us to provide our Child Development programs. Your sponsorship helps to fund our day-to-day expenses including electricity, carers and the preparation of over 2000 meals per week.

### Health sponsorship

By becoming a health sponsor, you contribute towards a

child's health care costs. We have an onsite nurse who, in consultation with doctors and specialists in Phnom Penh, monitors our children's medication and general wellbeing.

We do not discriminate when taking in young orphans and have in our care children with HIV/AIDS and children with disabilities.

Through health sponsorship you are helping improve the quality of life of our little ones.

### Education sponsorship

By becoming an education sponsor, you help us to give a child the opportunity to learn; and an education is a vital key in breaking the poverty cycle that plagues so many Cambodian children's lives.

Your sponsorship helps to buy uniforms and books, and supports general school costs. Reliable schooling in Cambodian government schools can be a challenge and, as we want our children to have the best possible education so that they can take their places in Cambodian society, we have made the difficult decision to move our children to a private schooling system. Your sponsorship helps us to provide a well-balanced education – giving our children the opportunity to fulfil their potential and live their dreams.

For less than \$2 a day you can change a child's world. To find out more contact Charmaine at our Perth office on phone: +61 8 9370 1457 or email: [cambodia@awarecam.org.au](mailto:cambodia@awarecam.org.au)



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## Hopegiver – partner with us



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 that enables 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.

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. Become a Hopegiver or learn more contact Charmaine at our Perth office on phone: +61 8 9370 1457 or email: [cambodia@awarecam.org.au](mailto:cambodia@awarecam.org.au)

### Mi—Vocational Training Graduate

We are thrilled to announce our very first Vocational Training GRADUATE; Mi SAN. Mi graduated from his full time Electrical training course this past July. Mi has been busy studying at the well respected Dy Sovanarith Voactional Training School for the past 18 months. His course incorporated 12 months of teaching & a further 6 months of supervised workplace training.

Since graduating, Mi has returned to his home province of Svay Rieng (not far from the Vietnam border) to gain more experience as a qualified electrician, working towards his long-term goal of having his own electrical business.

A further 3 students recently started Vocational training courses in music, hospitality & cooking. Graduation House is a hub of activity with university students coming and going, scholarship students rushing about and our vocational students enjoying learning new courses. Its an exciting time at Graduation House as our students continue to develop, graduate and take on the world.



### Stay Connected



We really enjoy staying in touch with you through our Newsletter and social platforms.

Connect with us on Facebook, through our website [www.awarecam.org.au](http://www.awarecam.org.au) and on youtube.

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Awareness Cambodia  
Rebuilding the Children of Cambodia

# DONATION FORM

Awareness Cambodia Inc.  
PO Box 3040 Bassendean DC,  
Western Australia 6942

Please return by post/email/fax

Date: \_\_ / \_\_ / 20 \_\_

Name.....

Business Name .....

Street.....

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

**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) ☐

**I would like to donate to the Graduation House building program \$ \_\_\_\_\_**  
(most urgent need)  
Capital Works Program

**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 (ABN 57 102 400 993), an Australian DFAT-approved NGO.

**Awareness Cambodia Overseas Aid Fund (ABN 15 815 273 527)**

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