



Awareness Cambodia
Rebuilding the Children of Cambodia

Give the gift of education – become a scholarship sponsor

At Awareness Cambodia we believe in the power of education. Education creates opportunities and gives hope for a brighter future. In October 2013, we introduced our University Scholarship Program and since then 6 young underprivileged rural students have been given the chance to pursue their dreams of university education.

Awareness Cambodia is currently running radio adverts in rural Cambodia, seeking applications to our scholarship program. The scholarships program is designed to enable students from underprivileged backgrounds, who show academic excellence, to study at university. The program has been an incredible success so far, with students taking up studies in medicine and agriculture. The scholarships provide a real lifeline for young people to chase their dreams and empower themselves through education.

Our current medical scholars are now in their fourth year and studying with diligence. Dr Chenda, who oversees Operation Nightingale, is proving a valued mentor for our young students. As the students are advancing through their study years Australian medical specialists are now being invited to join with Dr Chenda in providing mentoring support.

Both of our inaugural agricultural scholarship girls are now in their fourth year studying at the Royal University of Agriculture. They have taken our newest scholarship student, Sokonthearoet, under their wings by showing her the ropes at Graduation House as well as at university.

As anyone with a degree would understand, studying at university comes with financial costs. But the results speak for themselves – our students are supported in their education journey with the understanding that once they have achieved their qualification, they will ‘pay it forward’ and use their skills to benefit their community.

There are a number of academically gifted children in rural Cambodia who would benefit from being a recipient of a scholarship – but we need your help. We need committed scholarship sponsors to enable us to continue the program.



Lork

The power of education in action: *Lork's story*

Lork comes from a family of six brothers and sisters. Lork's mum died when he was young, leaving his father – a farmer who has struggled physically since losing his left arm during the Khmer Rouge's reign of terror – to raise the children.

After remarrying, Lork's dad started a new family. As is common in Cambodia, the children of the first wife or husband are often not welcome in the new family. Lork and his siblings struggled to survive and they were forced to leave their homeland to find work so that they could continue their studies.

Awareness Cambodia Inc (ABN 69 234 355 895)

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As a 9th grader, Lork remembers being asked: What is your dream? Without hesitation he declared: "I want to be a doctor". He successfully passed his lower school exams but had no way of being able to continue to study in high school. Lork decided to move to Siem Reap, as he had heard it had a good government school and he was sure he could find employment to support him while he studied in upper school. Fortunately he found a job where he could work half a day and continue his high school studies in the afternoons. Lork was alone during this time and was lonely, but he studied hard – always striving towards his dream to study medicine.

Due to his diligence he was rewarded by coming 1st in his class and being named one of the top students for mathematics and chemistry in his province. Two months later he passed the national examination for medical school entrance in Phnom Penh. With more than 4000 applicants and only 360 being selected, Lork's selection meant his dream was about to begin.

In January 2016, Lork was awarded an Awareness Cambodia scholarship, which provides his tuition fees, a nurturing home at Graduation House and food to eat. Today Lork is in his 4th-year studying medicine at the University of Health Science in Phnom Penh and is incredibly grateful to Awareness Cambodia for help making this dreams come true.

Lork is loved by all and is a delight to have around Graduation House where he is thriving. He volunteers at local hospitals and is always helping the other students. When he graduates in 2021 he plans to give back to the community by working in Operation Nightingale for a few years.

Skorin's story

Skorin comes from Kampong Chhnang (a small province 91km from Phnom Penh) and has two sisters and three brothers.

In high school, Skorin studied hard and was rewarded with good grades. Passionate about planting trees, while studying biology at school she decided she wanted to continue to learn more about plants and their uses in agriculture.

Unfortunately her parents couldn't afford to send her to university to follow her dream of studying agronomy. But she heard about Awareness Cambodia's scholarships and knew this was her opportunity.

Skorin's parents were overjoyed when she was awarded her scholarship and she has been working diligently for the last three years to make them proud.

When asked what she loves most about living at Graduation House, Skorin said returning from university after a long day and enjoying a home-cooked meal. Living at Graduation House has made moving from the province to the 'big city' a smooth transition and she appreciates having the freedom to study whilst enjoying the care and support of those around her.

Skorin is doing exceptionally well at university and recently won an internship in her faculty, (Agronomy). The hotly contested 2 positions were sought by over 200 applicants. Skorin was thrilled to win a placement. The internship is provided by (Group for the Environment Renewable Energy and Solidarity) GERES and the (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) MAFF.

The study involvement is "Increasing Resilience to Climate Change" for farmers in rural Cambodia. The internship will contribute to support the implementation of field diagnostic using the participatory tool with MAFF staff under the guidance of GERES.

She is excited to be commencing her 4th and final year in September. With only a year left of university, she is looking to her future. Skorin would like to own a big farm having fields of mangoes and durian. Receiving the scholarship has really helped change her life. In her own words: "I'm living a life that I know so many Cambodians would only be able to dream about – because I was one of them only three short years ago".



Skorin

'Pay it forward'

It's bright, passionate students like Lork and Skorin to whom Awareness Cambodia wants to give the gift of a university education scholarship.

Are you a lawyer, doctor, engineer or other professional who appreciates what your degree has allowed you to achieve? Would you like to give the same opportunity to a Cambodian student?

Please consider sponsoring our scholarship program and help us realise our vision of empowering young people through education.

Find out more and the cost to becoming a scholarship sponsor email Charmaine at the office on cambodia@awarecam.org.au

Medical Scholarship Fund - \$450.00 per month

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 the 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 (which opens up university education to students who would otherwise have no opportunity to study at a tertiary level), the International University, senior Operation Nightingale doctors and medical specialists in Australia, began by taking in two students in 2014.

With the intention that the new doctors will 'give back' to the province, upon graduation the scholarship recipients will be contracted to work with Operation Nightingale or another provincial medical project for a couple of years.

To encourage scholarship 'ownership', Awareness Cambodia will initially provide 80 per cent of the university fees while the successful candidates will be required to fund the remaining 20 per cent. Awareness Cambodia will hold 20 per cent of funds in trust to be given to the scholarship recipient after completion of their post-graduate medical service with the organisation. The scholarship also provides study materials, food, electricity and accommodation until the students successfully complete their degree(s).

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Agricultural Scholarship Fund - \$350.00 per month

The Agricultural Scholarship purpose is to support poverty alleviation in Cambodia by enabling students from underprivileged backgrounds to complete agriculture-related studies; in doing this, these students can develop the capacity to effectively contribute to programmes, projects and services that can enhance agricultural productivity and rural development and welfare in the country.

Scholarships are offered to disadvantaged (poor, rural and marginalised) young people who show academic excellence, aptitude and a passion for social justice.



Kids get a kick out of Eagles' donation

The West Coast Eagles are no strangers to Sunshine House, having visited in 2010, 2012 and November 2015 [[WCE page](http://www.westcoasteagles.com.au/the-club/community/cambodia) <http://www.westcoasteagles.com.au/the-club/community/cambodia>]. So when news came that the team and on-field apparel sponsor Puma were sending a gift, the kids were overjoyed.

The arrival of 80 pairs of shoes was met with excitement and appreciation. Strapping on the football boots and running shoes, the kids couldn't wait to try them out by copying the moves of their hero footballers!

Eagle Mark Hutchings visited Sunshine House last year and was thrilled to hear of the club and Puma's donation.



"Visiting Cambodia was a life-changing experience," Hutchings said. "The kids at Sunshine House don't have much and will love these boots. It's great that Puma could help out. They will certainly put plenty of smiles on faces."

Long-time Eagles supporter and Awareness Cambodia's CEO Gary Hewett thanked the club and Puma for their generous donation.

"It's impossible to underestimate the happiness that receiving these shoes has brought to the kids at Sunshine House. "These sorts of things – shoes and footy boots – that we take for granted in Australia are invaluable to the kids. My sincere thanks to the Eagles and Puma for making this possible."



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Please return by post or email

DONATION FORM

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 (Hopegiver) Sponsor \$ _____

I would like to become a Child Sponsor: \$55 per month (general, health and education)

I would like to become a Child Scholarship Donor \$ _____

I would like to support Awareness Cambodia's - education programs :
(ESL) \$ _____ A Case 4 Change \$ _____

I would like to support Awareness Cambodia's medical stream:
Operation Nightingale \$ _____

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



Project Partner with 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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