



Awareness Cambodia
Invitation

Formally invites you to join
with us in

*The opening of the
Graduation House
Building Complex*

We are coming from the four corners
of the earth to meet and thank each one
of you who has played such a significant
role in making this dream become a
reality.

Dates: 7th & 8th September 2014

Country: Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Rsvp: Email: cambodia@awarecam.org.au

We look forward to our international
guests joining with us in Phnom Penh
as we celebrate this exciting
milestone.

Graduation House approaches completion

Our Graduation House building complex is finally nearing completion, and what a journey it's been! To mark the big occasion, we will be opening the building up for two days of celebrations (7-8 September 2014) and we extend a warm invitation to each one of our supporters to attend. It will be a unique opportunity to hear first-hand accounts from dedicated and gifted students on how our child development programs are changing their lives.

Graduation House is the final step in the education journey for our students and scholarship recipients – a place where students can stay and be cared for while they complete their tertiary or vocational studies.

We're all proud of what we have been able to achieve over the last 18 years and the new building is a great testament to this. But we would not have been able to realise this dream if not for the incredible commitment from our Awareness Cambodia team, the support of our Cambodian networks, the generosity of our local and international partners, and of course the guidance of numerous Cambodian government departments and their representatives.

We look forward to you joining us in Phnom Penh for the grand opening. If you would like to attend, please rsvp to cambodia@awarecam.org.au and we will ensure you receive all relevant information.



Khmer dance lessons Traditional Khmer dance lessons are happening each weekend at Sunshine House in preparation for the performance our students will give as part of the Graduation House opening celebrations. Costumes are being sewn and a professional Khmer dance teacher has been hired to prepare our little dancers for the big event. Traditional dances such as the blessing, coconut and fisherman dance are being practised enthusiastically and we have no doubt the performance will be a highlight of the ceremony. A special thanks to Siobhan Ferry for funding the teacher each month!



Awareness Cambodia Inc (ABN: 69 234 355 895)

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The Backbone of ACI – Our Volunteers

There is something so special about people who give their time and energy to help others – with no expectation of financial gain – whose reward is seeing the positive impact that they have had and the difference they have made. We are truly grateful for all of our volunteers, our heroes – inspiring individuals who, year in and year out, change the lives of so many in need. We can't profile them all, but we'd like to share a few stories with you.



Brenda Au – is a nurse and Health Manager at Sunshine House. Brenda, who lives at Sunshine House with her husband Paul and three children, is our longest-serving volunteer. With a desire to make a difference, Brenda moved from her homeland in Ireland to Cambodia and since January 2003 she has nursed children with HIV, mended broken bones and provided TB and hepatitis treatment for the new arrivals at Sunshine House. In short, Brenda is a loved and treasured member of our team.

Trudy and Tim James – are a Perth couple who packed up their belongings and headed to Cambodia to volunteer full-time with Awareness Cambodia in December 2011. In only three years they have learned to speak Khmer and can drive motorbikes and cars along the chaotic Phnom Penh streets just like the locals! Much-loved team members within our Phnom Penh office, Trudy and Tim are currently in Perth awaiting the arrival of their first child.



Dr Piseth – is a medical doctor who has volunteered at our Operation Nightingale clinics since 2006 (when the program started). In 2010, Gary was asked by Dr Piseth's wife to speak to postgrad uni students about our work and volunteering. Soon afterwards Dr Piseth contacted us and became our first Cambodian volunteer. Providing invaluable health care at our medical clinics, Dr Piseth continues to make a huge difference to the lives of the rural poor.

David Phipps – was sitting in the audience listening to Gary speak at a charity golf day in 2008. Inspired by what he heard, the retired engineer decided to visit Cambodia and see for himself the work we were doing. When he heard about our desire to build Graduation House he not only offered up his skills and gave us a donation to get the project off the ground, he took on the massive task of overseeing the construction of the complex himself. Every curve ball, problem and challenge has been sorted by David with grace and expertise. He has contributed endless hours of his time and regularly travels to Cambodia (using his own funds) to keep an eye on building progress. It's fair to say that without Dave's drive, expertise and commitment, the building complex would not be what it is today.



Awareness Cambodia isn't government funded and we rely on donations from mums and dads, schools, churches and corporations to help us realise our goal of rebuilding Cambodia's children. Our volunteers allow us to do so much for so little. They are the heart and soul of Awareness Cambodia and help us to change children's lives through empowerment, education and opportunity.



Awareness Cambodia
Rebuilding the Children of Cambodia

Making dreams a reality



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Dr Chenda Pays it Forward

Hi, my name is Dr Chenda and I have worked as a doctor with the Operation Nightingale project for many years. I obtained a scholarship (Australian Awards with DFAT) to pursue my Masters of Health and International Development at Flinders University in South Australia. At the beginning of 2014 after completing my studies in Australia, I returned to Cambodia and took on the role of Operation Nightingale Project Manager for Awareness Cambodia.

One of the aspects of my job I particularly enjoy is the opportunity to mentor Awareness Cambodia's medical scholarship students. These provincial students are studying medicine through the Graduation House scholarship program and I assist by tutoring and mentoring them. Furthermore, the students volunteer at the Operation Nightingale clinics each Saturday, gaining practical experience while learning the joy of 'paying it forward'.



Say Hello to Our Inaugural Scholarship Students

In early 2014 the next stage of our Graduation House project was realised. Four inspirational young women became part of the inaugural intake into our Scholarship Program. Scholarships are offered to disadvantaged (poor, rural and marginalised) young people who show academic excellence, aptitude and a passion for social justice. Two students are currently studying agriculture and two are training to be the doctors of the future.

We interviewed our current scholarship students to find out a little more about themselves and what it's like moving to the 'big smoke'.



Skorin - Agriculture Scholarship

What province are you from? How far is your home from Phnom Penh?

Kampong Chhnang, three hours from Phnom Penh.

Why did you want to study agriculture?

I really enjoy learning about the land and wanted to learn more and increase my skills.

What do you want to do in the future?

I want to help care for animals.

What do you like about staying at Graduation House?

The chance to study at university, good food, very friendly people.

What type of music do you like?

Christian music, Korean, English and Khmer music.

What do you like to do for fun?

Joking around with friends. They tell me that I make them happy when I have fun with them.



Nita - Medical Scholarship

What province are you from? How far is your home from Phnom Penh?

Kampong Cham, three or four hours from Phnom Penh.

Why did you want to study medicine?

A lot of reasons. Doctors can help all people and help society progress. Being a doctor means I can support myself, my mum and my grandma. I can also keep working with Operation Nightingale to help the Cambodian community.

What do you want to do in the future?

After gaining some experience working in a hospital, I would like to open my own clinic in my home province and help poor people.

What do you like about staying at Graduation House?

I enjoy Graduation House because the other students are always very friendly and helpful.

What type of music do you like?

I like romantic songs. Also the Khmer pop song 'Mouse Loves Rice'.

What do you like to do for fun?

Talking, chatting and joking. I like football but I am not very good! I wanted to say that I was so excited to win this scholarship and I am so very thankful for all at Awareness Cambodia and their supporters.



Say hello to our inaugural scholarship students continued



Vorleak - Agriculture Scholarship

What province are you from? How far is your home from Phnom Penh?
Siem Reap, seven hours from Phnom Penh.

Why did you want to study agriculture?
I have always liked this subject.

What do you want to do in the future?
I want to make a business in my homeland, to have a farm to grow vegetables and have animals.

What do you like about staying at Graduation House?
All the people are friendly. I like everything – the food, my room, I don't know, all of it!

What type of music do you like?
Rock music, old Khmer, Beyoncé.

What do you like to do for fun?
Talking with friends and I like singing.



Malinda - Medical Scholarship

What province are you from? How far is your home from Phnom Penh?
Kampong Speu, two hours from Phnom Penh.

Why did you want to study medicine?
My dream is to be a doctor and help poor people.

What do you want to do in the future?
Be a good doctor and have my own clinic.

What do you like about staying at Graduation House?
Very friendly people – I like everything about living there.

What type of music do you like?
Old Khmer singers, American music, Justin Bieber.

What do you like to do for fun?
Dancing, singing and joking with friends.

Who is Awareness Cambodia?

Awareness Cambodia is a not-for-profit, overseas aid organisation directly assisting some of the poorest and underprivileged lives in Cambodia.

Established in 1996 by Perth dentist, Dr Gary Hewett, Awareness Cambodia was birthed in response to the incredible suffering of the Cambodian people after the genocide under the directive of Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot.

With the generous support of many around the world, Awareness Cambodia aims to educate and equip up-and-coming Cambodian generations through distinct health, education and childhood development programs.

These programs – targeted at the poorest province of Kompong Speu – don't simply raise funds, but instead equip future generations and their ongoing needs. This is why we are now seeing orphan children completing university degrees in fields such as civil engineering, design, architecture, accountancy, English literature, business and economics.

We see Cambodian culture as a unique national treasure, with all efforts taken to ensure it is preserved. It is not our policy to 'Westernise' Cambodian children, relocate them to other parts of the world, or subject them to the indignity and dependency of overseas handouts.

Awareness Cambodia's distinct approach embraces education and health as a means of indigenous empowerment. Our team is dedicated to sustainable long term programmes designed to break the cycles of poverty, abuse, illiteracy and neglect to create a 'better future' with a sense of hope and opportunity.





Learning English Opens Doors

Tanghuot Teng is Awareness Cambodia's for English as Second Language in Primary Schools (ESLPS) Coordinator in Kampong Speu Province. Learn more about how this 28 year old is inspiring young Khmer students across the province:

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself; my name is Mr Tanghuot Teng. I am 28 years old and was born in Takeo Province, Cambodia. When I was six years old I started primary school. My school was about three kilometres from my house and I would travel there by foot every day with my childhood friend who lived close by.

When I finished primary school I moved to high school, which was about 15 kilometres from my house. The road was very difficult. I would rise at 5:00am every day to prepare to go to school. It would take one hour and 20 minutes by bicycle to reach the school. My family has seven members, including my parents, four brothers and my grandmother. Unfortunately, when I was studying in grade 12, my father died. It made my family situation very difficult and it was hard to live and study because we had no income. I started to earn money by teaching English to support my education until I finished high school.

When I passed my exam in grade 12, I got a good result and eventually received a scholarship to study at university. I undertook a Bachelor's Degree in English in Phnom Penh.

In January 2014, I started work at Awareness Cambodia as the Coordinator for English as Second Language in Primary Schools (ESLPS) in Kampong Speu Province. We have four schools and 12 teachers, and more than 550 students. At present we are teaching grades 4 to 6 at the government primary school, as they do not provide English subjects and our program is the perfect complement to the education curriculum.

I firmly believe that our project will help children in primary school gain English language skills which will see their future opportunities greatly increase.





Making dreams a reality



Awareness Cambodia
Rebuilding the Children of Cambodia

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

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT



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