



Welcome to Awareness Cambodia's latest e-newsletter, where we share all our latest news.

There has been a buzz of activity over summer with so many things happening. We reached an incredible milestone with the opening of Graduation House complex – the support we have received has been amazing and the students are so appreciative. Suffice to say the hard work was well and truly worth it!

We've also enjoyed having a number of international teams visiting our projects 'on-the-ground' projects, and it is fantastic to see the significant progress we are making in all our projects. We've prepared a snapshot of what's been happening – so read on. And of course, if you have any queries please don't hesitate to get in touch (see our contact details below).

## An education for all – Graduation House grand opening!



It was standing room only when over 55 international guests joined a throng of locals to celebrate the official opening of Awareness Cambodia's Graduation House complex on 7 September 2014 by Secretary of State of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour, Vocational Training and Youth Rehabilitation, His Excellency Nim Thoth.

The opening was attended by dignitaries from around the world, including representatives of the Cambodian and Australian governments, corporate and not-for-profit sectors, business and community leaders. Simon Fellows, First Secretary and Deputy Head of Mission Australia, read a letter of support from Australian Foreign Minister, the Honourable Julie Bishop.

### Fast Facts

- Graduation House comprises three buildings with the highest point at 14.72 metres above ground level.
- Features over 2200 square metres of tiling.
- 500 cubic metres of concrete was needed to construct the building.
- The building has been specifically designed to accommodate an additional two storeys to house another 40 students as numbers increase.

Nearly 4 years in the making, this million dollar, state-of-the-art facility – the largest of its kinds in Cambodia – is a home-away-from-home for our students undertaking further vocational or academic studies at campuses in the capital, Phnom Penh. Many of the students have been supported through our child development projects at Sunshine House and House of Progress and today are at the final stage of their educational journey – Graduation House, which is helping to empower them to take their places in Cambodian society.

Continued page 2.

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

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The site is now home to a four-storey complex across three separate buildings: an administrant on block for staff training and meetings; and two residential facilities – one for students, the other for international volunteer staff. The student building features a communal kitchen, dining area, recreation space, computer lab, laundry, outdoor kitchen and garage on the ground floor. There is an additional common area on the top storey.

Each room is home to two young people and features a single bunk bed, two study desks, a built-in cupboard, an en-suite and storage space.



## Message from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, The Hon Julie Bishop, on the occasion of the opening of Graduation House, Phnom Penh – 7 September 2014



I am very proud of the efforts of two organisations from my home town of Perth – Awareness Cambodia and the Australian Rules football club, the West Coast Eagles (of which I am a former director) – that have led to this opening ceremony today, and grateful for the support the project has received from Cambodian Government Ministries and many others.

Education plays an important role in both personal growth and in enabling individuals to rise above poverty. Young people who are fortunate enough to benefit from Graduation House and Awareness Cambodia’s ongoing support at the tertiary level will have exciting opportunities open up to them and I am confident they will go on to make a positive contribution to the future of Cambodia.

Education is also an important tool for establishing people-to-people links and research collaboration between countries. From the 1950s students from Cambodia studied in Australia under the previous Colombo Plan. I recently announced Cambodia’s participation in the New Colombo Plan which will provide opportunities for Australian students to live, work and study in your country and build networks and friendships that will last a lifetime.

I offer my warmest congratulations on the opening of this new facility which will provide a secure environment for students to flourish and achieve their goals.

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Every year the Awareness Cambodia family has an incredible time celebrating Christmas. Last year staff and kids from across our child development projects – Sunshine House, House of Progress and Graduation House – came together for a different kind of Christmas party - a day at the beach! An amazing time was had by everyone – with lots of food, beautiful clear water and loved ones to share it all with, what could be better?



A huge thank you goes to our amazing staff who coordinated and prepared a wonderful day. Of course without our donors the Christmas beach party would not be possible, so a big thank you to you all! Such a special day was had by all and wonderful memories were created for our children and students.



## School Backpacks, Stationery and a Smile!



Case for Change would love to partner with your school or business. For every \$15.00 donated we are able to purchase a school backpack and fill it with school supplies such as stationery. In return for your generosity, we can put your school or business logo on the front of the backpack.

Since the program's launch in 2008 close to 5000 backpacks have been distributed to local Cambodian primary schools. These schools also participate in Awareness Cambodia's English Second Language for Primary Schools (ESLPS) program – which is part of our holistic education strategy.

In addition to school stationery, each backpack also contains a toothbrush and a tube of tooth paste so we can help promote good teeth habits (a gift that will last a lifetime). Each class receives lessons on tooth brushing and eruptions of giggling and smiling always ensue!

If your school, business or organisation would like to help us to bring about change in rural Cambodia through education, please contact [jess@awarecam.org.au](mailto:jess@awarecam.org.au) and become a partner in Case for Change.

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### Mother knows best

Want to give a truly meaningful present this Mother's Day? Forget the chocolates, candles and flowers – give the gift of health and education to a Cambodian child in need. Mothers know that these are gifts that last a lifetime!

Gifts from our online store come with a card announcing that you have made a very special purchase on a loved one's behalf. Imagine the look of surprise and delight on your mother's face when she finds out that a child with AIDS in rural Cambodia will receive essential vitamins with her compliments!

With 20 inspiring gift ideas to suit a variety of budgets, our online store is a one-stop shop. Simply choose your tax deductible gift, pay securely online or phone our office on 08 9370 1457 and we'll send you a card to personalise and give to your loved one.

For less than the cost of a box of chocolates you can keep a child safe from mosquito-borne diseases with a mosquito net, while a blood test can lead to a child receiving lifesaving treatment.

Visit our online store or call our office now and give mum a gift that gives twice!

*Food for thought: Last Christmas instead of giving friends and relatives more unwanted jocks, socks and yet another scented candle, our supporters purchased over \$2000 worth of blood tests, vitamins, bicycles, school packs, mosquito nets and so much more that made a real difference to the lives of Cambodian children.*

### Recommend us to a friend!



We really enjoy staying in touch with you through our newsletters and social platforms – and we would love to reach more people with our stories of hope. So please share our Newsletter with a friend and let them know they can connect with us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, visit our website [www.awarecam.org.au](http://www.awarecam.org.au) or view our videos 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 (Hopegiver) 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.

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