



Awareness Cambodia Newsletter | Edition 3 | 2021

A word from our CEO: our roof appeal was a huge success!



It's hard to believe that it has been more than 18 months since the devastating impact of COVID-19 struck around the globe. Like many, I had hoped that by now things would have returned to normal, or at least a "new normal" but, sadly, this is yet to eventuate.

As the pandemic continues to cause concern, suffering and disruption, I hope this message finds you well.

Unfortunately, Cambodia hasn't been able to contain its COVID numbers. Infection rates are now approaching 1000 per day and the death toll is on the rise.

The Cambodian Government has placed substantial restrictions on movement, schools and universities remain closed, and mandatory vaccination has now been introduced in certain sectors.

COVID certainly has presented more than its fair share of challenges for all our students and staff. Our in-country Director, Malinda, and her 2 babies contracted the virus, but I am extremely happy and very relieved to report they are recovering well.

Many of you would also be aware of the "roof appeal" to repair water damage issues at our Graduation House Complex.

The great news is that, with your help, the fundraising target has been fully reached. What an amazing team effort!

Awareness Cambodia Inc (ABN: 69 234 355 895)

email cambodia@awarecam.org.au **address** Unit 2/48 May Street, Bayswater, Western Australia

mail PO Box 3040, Bassendean DC, Western Australia **telephone** +61 8 9370 1457 **fax** +61 8 9370 4657
www.awarecam.org.au

It means, together with funds from a generous grant from the USA, we will be able not only to resolve the water damage to both rear buildings but get started on similar water damage to the walls of building 1.

Problems with water are a constant battle in countries like Cambodia where torrential rain is frequent and buildings aren't usually designed to meet those challenges. But our repair and rectification work at GH should see our buildings become more water-tight.

I must say I never cease to be amazed by the selfless support of the Awareness Cambodia "family", particularly during these extraordinary times.

My personal thanks go out to everyone who has played their part in making this possible. I am thrilled that the repair work is under way.

So, on behalf of all our students, staff, Kim and myself, once again a heartfelt thank you to each of you; our much-valued partners and friends.



Dr Gary Hewett, CEO/Founder

Child or monthly sponsorship brings hope!

The love and commitment of a sponsor can make all the difference to a child's future. That difference can be YOU. For more information, please phone our office on (08) 9370 1457.

In the meantime, head to our YouTube channel to see how Awareness Cambodia is changing lives for the better. Education brings lasting change!



www.youtube.com/user/AwarenessCambodia

Meet 2 of our Sunshine House "sisters"

At Awareness Cambodia we think of all our students and staff as "family". And we love sharing the stories of the "brothers" and "sisters" that have grown up at Sunshine House and how they are making the most of the opportunities being in our Child Development programs has offered.

We are so proud of how far they have come – and excited for what the future holds for them!

Nari – from orphaned infant to law student

Just shy of 2 years of age, Nari's father passed away. The devastation of losing her parent was cushioned by becoming a part of the Sunshine House family. And she, and her big sister Sovandy, have been a part of our family ever since.

For almost 18 years, Nari has grown up in safety, supported and cared for by her "den parents" and loved by her sister and all her other "siblings".

Today, the bright, beautiful and bubbly 20-year-old is living at Graduation House in Phnom Penh and studying law at a local university.

A popular student and housemate, Nari completed her first year of study earlier this year.

COVID-19 restrictions mean she no longer travels to the campus by bicycle, as she had done previously, but attends classes virtually – online, using the great facilities at Graduation House.

Awareness Cambodia Inc (ABN: 69 234 355 895)

email cambodia@awarecam.org.au **address** Unit 2/48 May Street, Bayswater, Western Australia

mail PO Box 3040, Bassendean DC, Western Australia **telephone** +61 8 9370 1457 **fax** +61 8 9370 4657

www.awarecam.org.au



Nari is a vibrant 20 year old

Although she misses making the 30-minute ride to the campus to catch-up with friends in-person, Nari hasn't let studying online affect her work – she is achieving great results. Disciplined and passionate, Nari is determined to realise her dream of becoming a lawyer. And we can't wait to see her do it!



Nari and her sister the day they arrived at Awareness Cambodia

Srey Touc's sights set on a medical career

The prospects for orphaned and abandoned children are not always that great in Cambodia. For many, dreams of becoming a doctor would be "pie in the sky", but not for Srey Touc.

Taken in by Awareness Cambodia as an orphaned 11-month-old, her future looks very bright.



Srey Touc is a determined 16 year old

Friendly, responsible and always willing to help out (especially with the cooking), the 16-year-old is currently in year 9 and studying at a private school in Kompong Speu province while living at Sunshine House.

Excelling in her studies, Srey Touc brings home impressive grades in Khmer Language, Chemistry, Morality, Physics, Biology and Mathematics. She took out 2nd place in her class this year.

Although the school is currently closed due to COVID, this ambitious young woman is dedicated to her online studies. Awareness Cambodia makes it possible for Srey Touc to actively engage in the online classes by supplying all the equipment and resources she needs.

Awareness Cambodia Inc (ABN: 69 234 355 895)

email cambodia@awarecam.org.au **address** Unit 2/48 May Street, Bayswater, Western Australia

mail PO Box 3040, Bassendean DC, Western Australia **telephone** +61 8 9370 1457 **fax** +61 8 9370 4657

www.awarecam.org.au

But it isn't all about study, Srey Touc is also a keen footballer and loves to play with her friends. And she has a lot of friends, because she is generous and kind!

It's attributes like those that will help Srey Touc become a great doctor – which is her dream. She says she wants to help ill people in her community.

We have no doubt she will do just that – and we will be there to support her along the way.



Srey Touc as a baby

Srey Touc says: *“Thank you for everything that Awareness Cambodia has supported me since I was a baby.*

I'm happy that I have opportunity to be here and grow in this warm house.

I commit to stay with Awareness Cambodia, until I achieve my dream to become a doctor.”

If you share Awareness Cambodia's belief that real change can be sustained by investing in people, not just in programs, then partner with us to invest in young Cambodian lives. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible in Australia.

If you would like to donate online, please visit <https://accovid19-gdg-j515.raisely.com/>

Alternatively, please complete the enclosed donation form and return it to us by post or email:

Awareness Cambodia Inc
PO Box 3040
Bassendean DC
Western Australia 6942

Telephone: (08) 9370 1457

Email: cambodia@awarecam.org.au



Tax deductible receipts for gifts over \$2 with a preference for project J515 or 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 69 234 355 995) partners on these projects with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993), an Australian DFAT approved NGO.



Awareness Cambodia Inc (ABN: 69 234 355 895)

email cambodia@awarecam.org.au **address** Unit 2/48 May Street, Bayswater, Western Australia

mail PO Box 3040, Bassendean DC, Western Australia **telephone** +61 8 9370 1457 **fax** +61 8 9370 4657

www.awarecam.org.au