

Creating hope *and*
opportunity



Awareness Cambodia Newsletter | Edition 1 | 2023

Oh we love to party! *A festive knees-up with Gary at Graduation House*

Christmas might not be celebrated by many in Cambodia (the main religion is Buddhism after all), but that's not the case at Awareness Cambodia.

We love the festive season and our annual Christmas party is a real highlight on our social calendar. Our students and staff like nothing more than getting into the festive spirit and celebrating the joy of the season – who doesn't love feasting, singing, dancing and presents?

And this year "Pappa Gary" was there to join in the festivities (he loves playing Santa!). Covid meant that Gary wasn't able to travel back to Cambodia for three years, so being able to be there on December 11 was a double delight – a homecoming and a Christmas party!

As ever, our Christmas party was a fun-filled day for our extended Awareness Cambodia family. Our children from Sunshine House were bursting with excitement and thrilled to be celebrating with their big sisters and brothers from Graduation House.



Sadly, some of the medical students weren't able to join us because they had exams or hospital ward rounds to do, so Gary took them out for dinner on another night.

But those from GH who could be there were in the party spirit – a couple of our scholarship students performed a song, while a few of the GH students had the audience rolling about in laughter as they danced to "Baby Shark" and did a comedy sketch.



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We sure have some very talented people in our family and many had prepared a performance item. Makara, one of our day staff, was our Master of Ceremonies and did a wonderful job introducing all the incredible acts.

Speaking of talent, Nostalgia, one of our volunteers, led a Christmas carol, accompanied by Vearak and Papy.

Gary also took the opportunity to share how much he had missed the students and how happy he was to be there (we won't mention if any 'dad dancing' went on!).

Now it wouldn't be an Awareness Cambodia party if there wasn't some amazing food – and Kimna, our office manager in Cambodia, didn't disappoint. The buffet she prepared was delicious, as was Nostalgia's scrumptious cake. And with the pizza organised by Gary, it was a fabulous feast enjoyed by all.

Bellies full, Makara called up the students one by one to receive their gifts – for which each was truly grateful. It was a joy-filled celebration for our students and staff, made extra special by the presence of "Pappa Gary". Plans are already under way for next year's party!

They may be retired, but there's no resting when these fundraisers are on a mission!

When Elizabeth Hird and her band of merry helpers from Bayview Gardens Retirement Village set out to raise money for Awareness Cambodia projects, they do it in style.

The Bayview Village Market Day on October 29 was a huge success. There were stalls brimming with wonderful treats including homemade jams and pickles, tasty morsels for canine fur-babies, and lots of handcrafted items to tempt buyers.



L to R: Elizabeth Hird, Carol Wood

Books and giftware were also for sale. And boy did they sell! The team raised much-needed funds for our projects in Cambodia.

But it wasn't the first time Elizabeth and the team had dug deep for our cause. The Village Market was the brainchild of Elizabeth and friend Janice Maxwell, who travelled to Cambodia to visit our projects in 2005.

Inspired by our work and determined to help us in our mission, the dynamic duo began running the annual market stall as a fundraiser. We are incredibly grateful for their support over the years.



(L to R) Carol Wood, Elizabeth Hird, Annie Tufts, Bronwyn Hale, Carolyn Salvog

We also extend our thanks to the management of the Bayview Gardens Retirement Village who kindly allowed the Market Day to take place, and to our friend Lamberta Groves, who helped to facilitate this generous donation.

Thank you all so very much!

*Don't let your empties go to waste
- toss them our way!*

Did you know that Saturday 28th January is Empties Day? What better excuse for gathering up all your 10c refundable containers and dropping them off at a Containers for Change depot in WA or Queensland.



Better still, why not donate the refund to Awareness Cambodia? It's as easy as 1,2,3.

1. Collect eligible containers
2. Take them to a container refund point
3. Donate your refund to Awareness Cambodia, using our Scheme ID C10288218

A little change can go a long way – thank you for helping us to make a difference!



HOW TO DONATE

Creating brighter futures - with your generous support.

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:

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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).



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