



Empowering independence

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Motoring towards a life of independence – Chum’s story

At Awareness Cambodia we believe in the power of education to change young people’s lives for the better.

We are so proud of the many students that have passed through our doors and our programs, grasping the educational opportunities offered to them with both hands and pursuing their dreams.

To see children who were once abandoned, neglected and homeless turn their lives around with our support is truly uplifting.

It’s the foundation of our mission – to raise up vulnerable children and support them to achieve their goals.

In our newsletters we regularly celebrate those students who are pursuing their dreams at a tertiary education level.

We are delighted that so many in our care have gone on to complete their university studies and begin amazing careers in their chosen fields – including medicine, engineering, accounting and agriculture.

But our education programs are not only for the academically gifted – we are there to support those students who dream of more practical careers too. Students like Chum.



Chum as a young boy

Hailing from Ratanakiry province, Chum was 1 of 4 siblings being raised by their grandparents after their mother died from tuberculosis (TB).

They lived in extreme poverty, with no food or water, and the children became malnourished and anaemic.

Wanting the best for their grandchildren, 8-year-old Chum and his siblings were brought to Sunshine House, where they joined our family.

Before moving to Sunshine House, Chum and his siblings received health checks and much-needed preliminary medical care.

It was at this point that Chum was diagnosed with epilepsy and a physical disability in one hand and foot.

Some time after his arrival at Sunshine House, we also learnt Chum had a learning disability.

Fortunately, he has been able to access the specialised treatment required through Awareness Cambodia's programmes.

His health has improved significantly and despite the challenges, Chum's dreams of becoming a motorcycle mechanic to become self-sufficient are well on the road to fulfilment.

After taking a 6-month mechanics' course, Chum wasn't quite ready to enter the workforce.

But with his "can do" and "never give up" attitude he completed another 6 months' vocational training and recently graduated.



Chum now with Malinda, our In-Country Director

Today Chum is working in his 1st job as an assistant motorbike mechanic in Kratje province.

His job includes housing and he's well on his way to achieving his dreams – happy to be doing what he loves.

Chum is incredibly grateful for the kick-start Awareness Cambodia provided for his career and we're sure he'll be a roaring success!

Meet Ponleu - a young man with a plan



Abandoned by his father when he was only 8, Ponleu, his mother and brother were left to fend for themselves.

Plagued by chronic illness, it was difficult for Ponleu's mother to earn money and support her sons.

A near-fatal illness (which needed to be treated in Vietnam) when Ponleu was only 12 almost took his mother from him permanently.

Despite the setbacks and challenges, Ponleu was determined to persevere. And he did.

Studying in Takeo province, Ponleu graduated grade 12 at the end of 2021.

To fulfil his dream to study international relations, he knew he would need some help.

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So he turned to Awareness Cambodia and, after the strict application process, was accepted into our Graduation House program.

With his commitment to study, well-spoken English and positive attitude, Ponleu was an ideal candidate.

Through our Graduation House program Ponleu's university studies (a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations) are supported and he is provided with the care and facilities he needs.

Our staff are so proud of Ponleu, with his beautiful smile and positive outlook on life.

In just a few months he has become an integral part of the Graduation House family.

He is incredibly respectful of the staff and has made friends easily. The other students see him as a mentor and team leader.

Ponleu has the attributes that will take him far in his chosen career and we can't wait to see him shine!



Child sponsorship is one of the most effective ways to transform a vulnerable child's world, as well as the communities they live within.

We work hard to ensure your money goes where it's most needed – a secure home, food, clothing, health, counselling, education and vocational training.

Every child we bring into the Awareness Cambodia family, every child we empower through education, love and support, is a child who will grow into a self-reliant adult.

Help us continue to change vulnerable lives through our child sponsorship program.

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. Please complete the enclosed donation form.

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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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