



Sunshine News

February 2012

www.sunshinecentrecambodia.org

From the Director's Desk ...



Each day at Sunshine I hear the amazing sounds of children... I hear them reading, playing musical instruments, dancing, playing sports, singing, laughing and typing on the computer. They look healthy, clean, tidy, hopeful, confident and happy. I also see their parents attend the trainings arranged by Sunshine. They are proud to see their children doing so well.

The recent civil wars and other factors have left many Cambodians in poverty and traumatized. Many children live in harmful situations, with no access to education. Instead they have to find work, collect rubbish, beg for money, sell flowers, books or cakes, or work as housemaids. They are very vulnerable to abuse. Many of these kids become victims of drug addiction, child trafficking and exploitation, domestic violence, which, combined with illiteracy, gives them little hope for their futures.

My heart was so shocked to see those children become like that. Childhood should be a time for going to school, playing and learning and receiving warm love and care from their families. I am so glad to be called by God to work at Sunshine, so that I can be a small part to help these vulnerable children. Together, we work towards a better future for them.

Thank you very much for your involvement and contribution.

Channy NOP, Project Director

Christmas 2011

287 people attended our annual Christmas Celebration, including families and neighbours. The Centre was decorated beautifully with the children's work and Christmas trimmings. The guests enjoyed the celebration and the parents were so proud to see their children performing on stage.



Soccer Update

54 Sunshine kids currently participate in our Soccer programme. Our Under-10 boys are ranked 4th/10, Under-14 boys are 5th/10 and our Under-14 girls are 1st/10! WE ARE SO PROUD OF THEM!!

Thank You

Despite the heavens opening on St Matthew's November Cake Stall (Sydney), everything sold and \$1,300 was raised - providing sponsorship for another 3 children this year! Huge thanks, on their behalf, to all who so kindly baked and helped out.



"Does my support make a difference?"

Here's how it does:

MEET ONE OF OUR TEENAGERS ...

This is Sopheap.* Several years ago she was angry, rarely smiled and her unhappy feelings resulted in poor behaviour. She has 4 siblings, but no father to support them. In the past she didn't go to school because her mother couldn't afford it. Sopheap's Mum joined Sunshine to give her children more opportunities. However, the family's poverty had very deeply affected Sopheap. At one point, her behaviour became so difficult that Sunshine had to give her a strict warning and a three-month probation period. Staff followed her up and with counselling and encouragement.

The results of this intervention were quite remarkable. Staff noticed a huge change in her attitude and willingness to co-operate with her teachers. Her marks at state school improved dramatically and her motivation to study increased. It seemed hard to believe that this was the same girl! In the last two years, Sopheap has become a model student, whom the younger children look up to. She loves to attend church regularly, and often has a big smile on her face. Sopheap is in the top 10 of her grade 8 class. And she has a dream. She says, "I want to go university and have a good future. If I can be a tour guide or interpreter I can show Cambodia to the world."



(*name changed to protect identity)



MEET MARA'S MUM (MM) ...

Today, she is a successful small business woman. But when the family first arrived in Phnom Penh, it was a struggle to survive on the \$2/day that Mara's Dad earned.

In 2006 Mara and her siblings enrolled at Sunshine. With the kids at school all day and eating meals at the Centre, MM had time to start a small sewing business. From small beginnings, she has expanded her business and now rents 2 extra sewing machines! She also hires

employees during busy periods and is well known for her excellent sewing skills. Sometimes she even hires out her machines to neighbours when she isn't busy.

Life has changed a lot for Mara. She is a very bright grade 9 student and dreams of one day starting her own company. MM says, "I am so grateful that Sunshine supports my family, especially my daughter, and I am very proud to see her doing excellent work in class. I don't have much knowledge to educate my child, so I really appreciate Sunshine's help in giving her a brighter future."

As at December 2011, 22 of our families had their own small businesses - 16 sellers, 3 tailors and 1 nail artist. This represents a significant increase over previous years. Equally encouraging, very few families have required emergency assistance from the relief fund, indicating growing stability and independence.

Thank you for your role in empowering Sunshine children and families!

HANDY INFO:

Enquiries: newsletter@sunshinecentrecambodia.org or (02) 9144 7333.

Donations: The Sunshine Centre is proud to be a partner for Project **J529** with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993). Donations over \$2 are tax deductible in Australia & USA. Other countries can make non tax deductible donations via credit card or online banking. There are 3 options to make donations:

1. ONLINE via www.globaldevelopment.org.au/donations.php to Project **J529**.
2. DIRECT BANK DEPOSIT to Global Development Group, BSB 064118, Account 10200094 (Commonwealth Bank of Australia). Email info@globaldevelopment.org.au with details of your deposit, including Project **J529** and name / address for tax receipt.
3. CHEQUES payable to "Global Development Group: Project J529" posted to Global Development Group, 56 Goorari Street, Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113. Include name / address for tax receipt.

*If excess funds are received for this project, funds may be directed to other approved projects' activities.

*No evangelistic activities are a part of or are funded by the GDE project.



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for the world's poorest people