



# FAMILY CARE CAMBODIA

2016 First Quarter  
Activity Report

## Ground Breaking News!

Welcome to our first quarter news update! We've had a great start to 2016 and are watching a dream come true. At the HFHL village learning center in Kampong Speu, we finalized the architectural plans and broke ground for construction of a 2 story, 4 classroom building for an IT lab, Preschool class, and 2 English classrooms. Next to it we are building another structure for a meeting hall, small office and library.

Until now, we have been conducting classes for over 100 children daily, using our staff rooms. Once the school is finished, those rooms will be converted to dorm rooms for fulltime teaching staff, visiting interns and volunteers.



*Ann breaking ground - January 20th*



*Principal Thida & students watch foundation digging*

An unexpected endowment from our dear sister, Mary I. Poos, who passed away last July, enabled us to take on this project. Thus the buildings will be dedicated to her memory. She was an academic and scientist dedicated to research and development in the field of nutrition. Providing educational opportunities for children, especially young girls, is a fitting tribute to her legacy.

The construction is being done by a local work crew and in the traditional rural Cambodian style, sans machinery; except one backhoe to dig the foundation. So it is

being "built by hand" more or less. We have a team of 17 workers on the job, usually wearing rubber slippers for shoes, straw hats and scarves to protect them from the heat and dust, and climbing scaffolding made from planks and branches with their bare hands and feet.

As of this moment the buildings are 80% complete and we hope to "cut the ribbon" by June!



*Workers preparing rebar for foundation pillars*



*80% finished as of April first!*

## Investing in Children to Build a Better World

If there's one thing we are passionate about, it's helping children develop their full potential in a loving and nurturing environment. For us at Family Care Cambodia that can happen in a variety of ways. Like making regular visits to rural schools, shelters and learning centers in the "art-mobile" (our small staff car packed with art supplies!)

It can mean engaging traumatized children in group sessions for play, drama, music and art until they feel relaxed and free to be themselves. How wonderful to watch them discover their value and infinite worth! It requires consistency, gently reaching and teaching day after day, week after week, until children gain confidence, a love for learning and a will to thrive. Does it achieve long-term results? Yes, indeed! On a recent visit to the protection shelter we had the privilege to meet with 7 young women that we've supported & worked with for over a decade. All are high school graduates and now working towards degrees in law, social work and finance!



*Reducing stress and encouraging creativity*

Bringing out the best in kids also includes their physical health & motor development. It's so important to provide the time & space for them to run, jump, climb and play in the fresh air and sunshine. We'd like to express our appreciation to the staff & student volunteer teams from World Challenge. They helped to build a soccer field and a playground with seesaws, swings,



*So proud of our girls studying for their college degrees*

playhouse, picnic benches and climbing bars, at the village learning center. Once the soccer goals & nets were installed, 20 more kids from the surrounding villages enrolled in daily classes. It's by far the most fun place to be for miles around!

*"I believe that investing in children's development from the earliest age is the single most important contribution we can make to the health & wellbeing of a nation."*

*J. Weatherill*



*Playhouse, climbing ladder, swings and soccer field built by World Challenge volunteer teams*

## Promoting Literacy and Language Skills



One way to promote a desire to read and foster a love for books among children, is to engage in the timeless art of story-telling and help primary schools in the remote, rural areas build up student libraries. This quarter we were able to do both! We were invited to a primary school in the Ang Joh district of Kampot, to hold a “Learning Fun” day for 300 students. We held an outdoor story time and shared the story of ‘David & Goliath’ with the big flannel board. Mr. Chen Long did a dynamic running translation as Ann told the story of the youth who overcame a giant with a slingshot and a rock. It had the kids on the edge of their seats! We donated 50 colorful children’s storybooks, with Khmer & English text, to the school library and another set of 50 books to the district High School for their library as well.



In Kriang Jaek district, of Kampong Speu, we donated a set of 30 books to the headmaster of the local primary school and discussed ways to help the school implement a weekly hour of English instruction for the 4th-6th grade students. When we have the extra help of interns and volunteers at our Learning Center, we offered to share some staff to help teach at the public school as well. This quarter, our willing team of volunteers from World Race kicked the program off with good success.

In Siem Reap the students in our English program continue making rapid progress through the Little Reader software program which is incorporated into the daily curriculum. Native English speaking volunteers helped students use what they’d learned with outdoor games.

Thanks to all of our friends, partners, supporters & volunteers for making this a great quarter!



**Family Care Cambodia is a non-profit, volunteer organization. The activities you have just read about were made possible through donations from businesses and concerned individuals. If you would like to help sponsor our projects, visit our website, [www.familycare.org/network/family-care-cambodia](http://www.familycare.org/network/family-care-cambodia).**

*We look forward to hearing from you!*

*Alex and Ann Soldner*