



FAMILY CARE CAMBODIA

2016 2nd Quarter
Activity Report

The Dream Becomes Reality!



We are happy to announce the completion of the Village Learning Center in Kampong Speu: a 2 story building with 4 classrooms and a 1 story building with a meeting hall, office and library. Dedication Ceremony was held on June 26th.

About 100 guests attended, including members of our family, 15 Village Chiefs, the Commune Chief & his deputy, our teaching staff, students and their parents. Representatives from the different student classes each made a presentation of song,



dance or speeches that they'd composed in English. Ann gave a short speech while Raksa gave a running translation in Khmer. Then we invited everyone to gather round as we cut the ribbon. The Commune chief did the first snips, then Ann's sisters who had flown in from the USA. Next were Raksa & Thida, with Alex & Ann doing the final cut, with cheers from the audience! Refreshments were served in the Hall, where we'd set up a table with Mary's portrait and her honorary plaques. An engraved marble stone was placed at the front of the building with the following inscription:

Dedicated to the Loving Memory of

Mary I. Poos PhD. 1948-2015. A brilliant academic and our beloved sister who devoted her life to scientific research and who endowed the resources to build this School to advance education for the children of Cambodia.



Siem Reap Free Education Project Field Trips, New IT programs, and more!

Hundreds of primary school children are benefitting from our free education projects in Phum Thnal and Sandan schools in Siem Reap. This quarter, the 6th grade students took a 3 day field trip to Phnom Penh and on to the Phnom Tmao Wildlife Sanctuary and Zoo, courtesy of Wildlife Alliance. The children first had a fun and educational seminar on Cambodia's wildlife at the school. Then, along with parent and teacher chaperones, they boarded buses for a fun-filled weekend seeing the sites in the capital and taking a guided tour of Cambodia's biggest wildlife park. After returning home the students wrote English anecdotes and essays about their adventures.



Photo Captions

Above: Happy students and teachers on the bus to the zoo.

Left: Alex leads a speaking and essay class.

Right: Students display their field trip anecdotes.



This quarter we also introduced new learning software to augment our language and IT programs. Thanks to a referral from the Early Education for Every Child Foundation (EEECF) we were able to receive and install the "Country" social studies program. It's a wonderful tool to teach young students the history, geography and culture of countries around the world, and to promote understanding and acceptance of others. We are integrating it into our English classes.

And...our 6th grade students now have the option to learn the Photoshop program during their IT classes! This software program is widely used in photography, graphic arts and publishing businesses throughout Cambodia. By introducing it at the primary school level, we hope to be open a wider range of career opportunities to our students, many of whom statistically speaking, may not have the chance for higher education. But old mindsets are changing! Some families who had decided not to continue their children's education past 6th grade, have changed their minds when high schools reached out to their kids with scholarships due to their knowledge of English & IT. Nothing succeeds like success!

"Childhood is a small window of time to learn and develop at the pace that is right for each individual child"



"Country" social studies software program and 6th graders learning "Photoshop"

Building Happy Memories with Girls at the Protection Shelter

Did you know that building happy memories from positive experiences is the best way to replace traumatic memories of past hurts? This year, for Khmer New Year, we organized a celebration for the 25 resident youth at the CCPCR child protection shelter. It was the girls' secret wish to have a pizza party – a rare and special treat. A big thank you to Ms. Leah, director of DK Schoolhouse, for sponsoring pizza for the event! Thanks also, to Mr. Morten, from Denmark, and his young children who, on their own initiative raised the funds to get the girls a radio, speakers and a rechargeable flashlight for when the power goes off! We set up a big balloon dart board and filled each balloon with small prizes like stickers, tiny toys or money. The game was super fun and a great time was had by all!

Then on Children's day, we spent the afternoon in a variety of outdoor games that had us all laughing until we cried. The staff cooked a very delicious holiday supper of local specialty dishes. The final event was a "Lucky Dip" draw for individual gifts. A few days before the party, we'd received a large box by post full of nice handbags, purses and trinkets, sent by friends in Japan. Perfect timing! The girls each drew a number which corresponded to a wrapped gift on the table. They decided to watch and wait as each person picked their gift and opened it for all to see and admire!



A Harvard research study on child development tells us that every child is one caring adult away from success. Every child who winds up doing well has had at least one committed relationship with a supportive adult. So identify at least one child and consistently and intentionally invest time in that child. Spend time doing what matters to them because they matter to you. One meal at a time, one conversation at a time, one game at a time, one thing that matters to them at a time.



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.

*We look forward to hearing from you!
Alex and Ann Soldner*