

SUNRISE CAMBODIA

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2018

A note from Geraldine Cox AM

Another three months have flown and I am thrilled to be giving our supporters the latest Sunrise update. Okun (thank you) for being a part of this journey and offering your generosity and compassion every step of the way. It was a very busy time but I am nevertheless grateful that you helped us achieve so much during this time.

Erin Lillis from Lacoste organised to have me present at the 2017 Frontier Awards in Cannes, France, resulting in a \$22,000 donation from the Women in Retail Travel. This not only made the 30-hour flight each way to Cannes worth the trek, but also helped to make our community development projects in Siem Reap and Kampong Speu possible. I recently spent some time in both provinces and the difference all our supporters have made is incredible. The staff and the Sunrise community send their warmest okun to our generous donors.

Our friends from Project Gen Z, Liz Volpe and Andrew Morello, gave the Sunrise students yet another wonderful opportunity to rise up to the challenge and test their brainpower during the *Dare to Dream* workshop in October. This is an event that the children look forward to and to see good sportsmanship amongst them all is truly wonderful. Thank you, Liz and Andrew, for everything and I look forward to another successful event later this year.

In Melbourne, I presented to a large group at the *Melbourne Food Experience*, all of whom made me feel very welcome. Later,

in Sydney, I felt honoured to be invited by the CEO at Google Australia, Jason Pellegrino, to present to a group of management staff from several multinational companies, including Facebook, Amazon, Twitter and Hotmail.

I then returned to my hometown, Adelaide, where I eagerly attended radio interviews and meetings with sponsors. I then spent some time reconnecting with family and friends before making the journey back to Cambodia.

I am always indebted to generous friends who welcomed me into their homes - Jim and Yana Glaros in Adelaide, Patricia Blamey in Sydney and Samantha Shepherd in Melbourne. It's wonderful to be able to be actively participating in fundraising for Sunrise and to have friends to support me where they can.

Enjoy all the Sunrise news and I hope 2018 is a positive and fulfilling year for you all.

Love and light,



Geraldine Cox AM
Founder, Sunrise Cambodia



SUNRISE SUCCESS SREY LEAK

When a Sunrise student shows a particular interest in any area of their learning, we are always willing to lend a helping hand. The driver for this is their success stories, which makes us so proud to be able to support their interests and assist in honing their skills in the best possible way.

Srey Leak, who is from the very poor Kampong Speu province, is a Sunrise student whose life took a major turn at the age of 12 when she first came into our care.

Not only was she a very competent student academically, but she also showed a natural ability in playing soccer. As a result, she was selected to represent Cambodia at a national level in girls' soccer, competing in Malaysia, Vietnam, Japan and Laos.



Above: Srey Leak taking the lead and coaching the Sunrise girls soccer team.

Okun (thank you) for being the change-maker. Your determination to make a difference has had a profound, life-changing impact on the Sunrise community. We are so proud to be sharing this journey with you.



Above: Aunt Sophal is all smiles as she reflects on the positive impact Sunrise Cambodia has had on the wider community.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Life at Sunrise Cambodia

The Story of Aunt Sophal

The story of Aunt Sophal is one of our most compelling Sunrise stories, which would have never happened without the support of our generous donors.

Despite working hard every day, Sophal – whose husband passed away from hepatitis in 2015 – could barely afford to feed her five children, let alone send them to school. Her job was to collect traditional Khmer medicine to sell, but the rainy season made it impossible to make a living for a large portion of the year. She also worked on a farm to supplement her income, but this was still insufficient to support her family's needs. Sophal's family was one of the poorest in the Thnol Tor Teng Village, Kampong Speu province.

Sunrise Cambodia in Kampong Speu was able to lend a helping hand after hearing of the family's circumstances from the local community leader. The focus was to help improve Sophal's situation through sustainable community development projects that not only benefit her family, but her local community as well.

Sunrise assisted by identifying a block of suitable land and successfully represented her and her family's interests to be granted a perpetual use of the land. Sophal can

now harvest crops on the property with confidence. Her family previously resided on public state land, which could be repossessed by the government at any given time. A generous sponsor offered to fund the construction of a standard-sized property for the family and the children's school tuition, providing financial relief for Sophal. Sunrise was able to provide Sophal with the appropriate resources to facilitate the harvesting of crops, thereby establishing a secure source of income for her family and providing better nutrition for the community.

Okun (thank you) to all our supporters for being a part of the Sunrise journey. This community project, amongst others, would not be possible without your generosity, compassion and support.



Above: Aunt Sophal and her family outside their home in Kampong Speu, which was donated by a generous Sunrise sponsor.

A Mother's Perspective

Having a young child and trying to manage a busy work schedule is something that a lot of mothers can relate to. With the additional challenges posed by a low income, extra assistance becomes invaluable.

23-year-old Oul Seng Hai is a young mother who works at a garment factory in Takhamo Town, Kandal. Her daughter, Yim Seng Hor, currently attends Mama's Daycare Preschool. Oul's husband is employed as a construction worker and, despite having two incomes, they still find it challenging to make ends meet.

Oul feels very lucky to have been provided with extra assistance from Sunrise after being referred by the village chief of her hometown. After seeking permission to enrol Yim in our day care programme, her three-year-old daughter was fortunately accepted, allowing both Oul and her husband to work whilst their daughter is cared for. She can now focus on building a better life in the knowledge that Yim is well looked after in a safe, nurturing environment.



"Thank you Sunrise for taking good care of my daughter and providing education and a home-like environment. My daughter is curious to learn and likes to sing the English and Khmer alphabet whenever she is at home."

Oul Seng Hai

CELEBRATING GENEROSITY

12 Days of Christmas

Your combined generosity for Sunrise's *12 Days of Christmas Appeal* totalled to \$55,937.00, making it one of our most successful campaign initiatives. Of course, we owe much its success to your continued support for this vital work.

The drive to make a contribution reflects more than just our donors' commitment and belief in our cause. It shows that our donors are willing to create a positive change – and have taken the necessary action to make it happen.

This enables us to not only make much-needed improvements to our Learning Centres, but also makes a number of community development projects a reality over the coming months. This is what your support will achieve for the Sunrise community:



Buy 30 desktop computers to assist with IT education.



Renovate six classrooms to create a more pleasant learning environment.



Enhance a child's experience at school by supplying three sets of playground equipment.



Make a house a home for seven families by providing support for seven house renovations.



Buy cleaning materials and hygiene supplies for all three of the Sunrise Learning Centres.



Construct nine communal water pumps to supply communities with safe drinking water.



Buy four sets of first aid kits for all our Learning Centres.



Enhance a Cambodian child's understanding of their culture by supplying 132 Khmer textbooks in the library.



Buy 18 ceiling fans, creating a more comfortable learning environment.



Assist ten children with transportation to school by supplying ten bicycles.



Buy 750 school notebooks to help with education expenses and assist families by providing free schooling for their children.



Make clean drinking water more accessible for 50 families by providing 50 water filters.

Okun (thank you) for being the change-maker.

sunrisecambodia.org.au

PROJECT GEN Z WHO DARES, WINS

Project Gen Z's *Dare to Dream* workshop showcased 100 of our finest students' academic talent – all of whom took up the challenge and did us proud.

Project Gen Z was founded by Australian entrepreneurs, Liz Volpe and Andrew Morello. They partnered with Sunrise in 2015, where a team of successful entrepreneurs launched the *Dare to Dream* entrepreneurial workshop series for over 100 disadvantaged youths. The aim was to give them the opportunity to dream.

This was Project Gen Z's third event held in October. Their ongoing support remains invaluable to our education initiatives.

The Sunrise students "dared to dream" and took part in an entrepreneurial-style competition where they were challenged to set-up and launch their own small business with a budget of just \$100. Their enthusiasm was clear as they were thrown out of their comfort zone, yet were able to rise to the occasion; playing the role of a high-powered CEO, marketing guru or a talented sales representative. Each group had to come up with a marketing strategy

and then take it to the streets of Phnom Penh to compete in a selling challenge. The week ended with a grand finale event where each team made a sales pitch to the Project Gen Z judges to secure the win.

The winning team was *Team Sunshine*, who achieved sales over US\$300 in just two hours during the sales challenge. The overall winner, 16-year-old Doeun Srey Pich, was thrilled when she was awarded with a US\$1,000 grant for demonstrating great leadership and remarkable academic capabilities. The well-deserved grant will go towards furthering her education or to launch her very own business.

The atmosphere was electric and the Sunrise students showed wonderful sportsmanship towards each other. The Project Gen Z events have raised over \$300,000 for Sunrise Cambodia over the past three years.

Okun (thank you), Liz and Andrew, for all your support and the incredible energy that you bring each year. We look forward to seeing you again at Sunrise Cambodia later this year!



Above: A well-deserved win. A beautiful shot that truly captures the electric atmosphere that followed after Doeun Srey Pich was announced as the winner of *Dare to Dream*.

Dormitories to Support Education



Above: The Kampong Speu Learning Centre dormitory kindly donated by the Shelton family.

Sunrise is incredibly fortunate to have the generous support of the Shelton family; our committed sponsors who started their Sunrise journey back in 2009.

Their most recent donation enabled the construction of a dormitory for the children at the Kampong Speu Learning Centre. The centre is situated on Cambodian government school premises where 89 children aged between 10 and 18 attend. In addition to the local curriculum, students undertake English and computer lessons. There is also a soccer programme where we currently have five girls who are members of the Cambodian U16s National Girls Soccer Team.

Students who live a long distance from the school now have the option to stay overnight if their daily programme involves extra-curricular activities outside of normal hours. The Sheltons' generous donation has provided a comfortable place for them to stay as they continue their studies.

Okun (thank you) for making this very generous contribution to the Kampong Speu community.

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH SUNRISE

We love hearing from our supporters.

Please contact Sunrise Cambodia if you have any questions or would like to share stories and feedback. Our office hours are from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

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Sunrise Cambodia is a sustainable community development organisation with a focus on Cambodia's most vulnerable children and the communities in which they live.

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