



SANGKHEUM CENTER FOR CHILDREN

Newsletter July 2011



Latest News

By Kong Vanthat

Renovation of English Classrooms

Education is one of our primary areas of focus at Sangkheum Center for Children. Currently, we provide English language classes for approximately 300 children, and we hope to expand our programming to include Computer Information Technology classes in the near future.

In order to enable this expansion and enhance our current English language program, we made the decision earlier this year to convert the old Silk Lab building into three classrooms. In late June, with help from a team of former students from Jerudong International School of Brunei, we completed renovations and now have three fully functioning classrooms for English language and computer training.

Special thanks go to Jerudong International School and their team for their donation and for the brightly painted classroom walls!



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Latest News

By Neth Sam Oth

Community English Program

English is an international language used nearly all over the world. It is helpful for Cambodian students seeking employment when they graduate from secondary school because most hotels, non-governmental organizations, tour companies, and restaurants need employees who have English language skills.

In our experience, most students in our target communities enjoy studying English and are always eager to participate in other recreational activities. For these reasons, Sangkheum Center for Children has opened two additional English language classes in the communes of Doun Keo and Khnath.



By attracting children to attend our English language classes, we hope to expose them to new concepts and to be able to work with them and their families in other areas. Some of the long-term goals for our community program are to:

- Help children continue their studies into advanced grade levels
- Alleviate children's illiteracy
- Reduce child labor and protect against child trafficking
- Help reduce poverty in the community
- Help eliminate domestic violence in families
- Encourage children to become active and productive citizens within their communities

COMMUNITY ENGLISH CLASS STATISTICS

Total

307 Students
10 Classes
14 Villages
2 Communes

Kouk Thmey

65 Students
2 Classes
2 Villages
Doun Keo Com.

Kouk Phnou

180 Students
6 Classes
9 Villages
Doun Keo Com.

Prey Thlork

62 Students
2 Classes
3 Villages
Khnath Com.

Library

35 English Books
57 Storybooks
13 School Books
Total 105 Books



International Children's Day

By Kong Vanthat

Every year on the first day of June, many countries around the world celebrate International Children's Day. This year, Sangkheum Center for Children celebrated the 62nd anniversary of International Children's Day by participating in an event held at Sampheap Thmei Restaurant.

Sponsored by Angkor Cable TV and the governor of Siem Reap, with collaboration from the Department of Social Affairs and the Department of Education, the event hosted over 1000 children from more than 20 international and non-governmental organizations, including orphanages, schools, and the wider community.

With the aim of raising awareness on child rights, child abuse, child labor, discrimination, and children's self-expression, the all-day event attracted children and their families through many fun activities.

Children from various organizations put on performances, and there were songs, games, and speeches by children and adults alike. There was also a feast of food and drink and the children were very excited to eat! Following lunch, the children had an opportunity to interact and play games with each other. Our children at Sangkheum Center ended the day exhausted and happy.



My Life As A Young Adult

By Heap Pok



Hello, my name is Heap Pok. I'm 19 years old. I study in grade 12 at Samdach Ouv High School. I will have my final exams in late July 2011. I have 3 brothers. They live in the countryside and they are farmers. They have their own families. My parents died when I was three years old. I came to live at Sangkheum Center when I was seven years old. At Sangkheum Center, I learned Khmer, English, computer skills, and traditional dancing from my teachers.

Whenever I was ill, I had good teachers to take care of me so I was happy to live at Sangkheum Center. But when I was 17 years old I left Sangkheum Center to live in the Young Adult House. I was very upset at first because I thought, "Who will cook breakfast, lunch, and dinner for me and who will take care of me when I am ill? Who will help me when I have a problem?" I didn't want to leave my teachers or Sangkheum Center.

But now it is very good for me because I know how to cook and how to live in a community with other young adults. I am happy living in the Young Adult House because everyone is good and friendly with each other. Sometimes we have little problems amongst ourselves but it's ok because we can explain everything to each other. We can learn from them and we know how to live and communicate with each other. Some of my housemates are training in hotels or companies, so now we know how to cook.

Every morning I wake up at 5am, and I clean around the house and do the dishes or tend to the flowers in front of our house. At 6am I start school and I come back at noon. If I come home early I cook for all of my friends, and if I come back later my friends cook for me. Five days a week, I volunteer at Angkor Hospital for Children in Siem Reap Town from 12:30pm to 4pm. From 4:10pm to 5:30pm I have computer class and then at 6pm to 7:30pm I have English class. Three or four times a week I work as a babysitter at 7:45pm.

Sometimes I am very tired with all of my studies and my job training because I don't have power in my body. But I like it because I want to find experience and know how to work. In the future I want to be a nurse because I want to help all of the children and all of the people when they are ill. I want to take care of all of the people in my country if I can. I especially want to help senior citizens in my country, too, and I want to help the development of my country. In the future I want to improve my life and know how to communicate in society.

My big dream is to visit some country like Canada, America, England, or Australia that I like, but I'm not sure if I can because I don't have time or money and I'm a student, and can't travel alone. Maybe one day...

My Life As A Young Adult

By Soeung Samnang

Greetings from Cambodia! I am Soeung Samnang and I am 19 years old. I am in the Sangkheum Young Adults Program. I moved from Sangkheum Center in September 2009. I live in a house and share a room with my friend. I have a very busy schedule during the day. Every day I get up at 6am, clean up my bed, and then I spend 15 minutes taking a shower. I have breakfast at 6:30.

My classes start at 7am. I am now in the 12th grade, which is the last grade of high school. I have to study hard. There are 12 subjects and I like mathematics and English the most. I finish school at 12pm. When I come back from school, two days a week I have to cook food for my friends. I need to go to the market to buy meat, fish, and vegetables.

I can cook some of the Cambodian dishes. I didn't really like cooking at the beginning and I felt nervous because I didn't know how to cook food, but after a while I tried to learn from my friends. I also asked Grandma Cook at Sangkheum Center and I attended cooking training for three months. Now I can cook plenty of Khmer food.

I usually have lunch at 12:30 or 1pm with my friends who live in the same house. After eating I have to wash the dishes and clean

the table. I can watch TV for 30 minutes after lunch, and then I prepare myself to get to the training at Angkor Hospital for Children from 2pm to 4:30pm. I train as a peer educator. I work with a group of children who have HIV. I assist the nurse with preparing activities and give medicine to the children. Sometimes I help with typing and entering data on the patient's history.

From 4:30pm to 5:30pm I attend computer class. Once I finish, I ride my bike to my English class, which is located in central Siem Reap and about three kilometers from the my training. I can relax for a while before the class starts at 6pm. I am in Level Six. I like my teacher and my classmates. The class lasts until 7:30pm and then I cycle back home with my friends.



Along the way to the house there are a lot of small restaurants or canteens where they sell food and drink. Sometimes I stop by some shops to eat and drink fruit juice. I arrive

home around 8pm, and then I rush for my dinner. I have another 30 minutes to watch TV before I take a shower. I usually review my lessons and prepare for the next day. I go to bed at 10pm.

On Sundays I usually visit my brothers at Sangkheum Center and I also participate in the Khmer traditional music training. After that I spend a few hours playing football with the children. In the future I want to be a doctor but it is really hard to get it, so I chose another career as a nurse. When I finish high school I will apply to study at the Nursing Training School in Battambang.

Future Plans

By Hannah Won

Greetings from Sangkheum Center! My name is Hannah Won and I have recently been appointed to the position of Alternative Care and Education Program Coordinator at Sangkheum Center. I have been volunteering on and off at Sangkheum Center since 2006 in many different capacities, and am thrilled to finally be a part of the full-time staff here.

While Sangkeum Center is a model program for other organizations like us, we are always striving to make improvements where they are needed, and we have many exciting changes planned for the next year.



First and foremost, we would like to focus even more on the quality of care for our resident children. We have already started the process of creating individualized care plans for each and every one of our 54 children so that we can work towards meeting all of their physical, mental, psychological, and socio-emotional needs. By utilizing the many resources available to us in Siem Reap and through staff trainings, we plan to set up a system within which to implement these new care plans.

Secondly, we are currently reviewing our various education and community outreach programs to set concrete objectives for the upcoming year and to determine exactly how we want to expand our programming. Ultimately we want to ensure that everything we do is driven by our desire to serve the best interests of the children in our care.



Lastly, we are revising our alternative care policies so that we can shift more towards family-based care from residential care. According to research from child welfare organizations such as UNICEF, USAID, and Save the Children, the benefits of keeping children with their extended family members and within their home communities greatly outnumber the temporary benefits of placing children in permanent residential care.

This shift will require years of careful planning and work, but we are excited to make the push towards what is now widely recognized as a better solution for children without adequate family care. By decreasing the separation of children from their families and communities, we hope to play our part in creating a community of healthy and well-adjusted children who can grow up to become active and productive citizens of Cambodia.





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Swift Code: ANZBKHPP

BENEFICIARY (BNF):

Account Number: 294523
Name: SANGKHEUM CENTER
FOR CHILDREN

Address: Siem Reap, Cambodia



Since 2001 Sangkheum Center for Children has been providing education, training, scholastic support, and care to disadvantaged children and youth in Cambodia. We strive to provide a brighter future for orphaned, abused, and neglected children who would otherwise be at risk of turning to a life on the streets.

We currently have 54 children in our resident care program, 105 nonresident children who receive school tuition and materials, and 300+ students from surrounding villages who attend our daily educational and recreational activities.

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