

GROWING CAMBODIA – ACTIVITIES REPORT 2019

This is the sixth Annual Report for Growing Cambodia Inc. and thank you for taking the time to read it.

The purpose of our registered Australian charity is for the relief of poverty and assisting those who are disadvantaged in rural Cambodian communities by encouraging a better and more sustainable quality of life through education and the enhancement of their health and well-being.

The principal activities of Growing Cambodia did not change during the last year. We continued to support the provision of English lessons in four rural villages. Three of these villages are located near Siem Reap.

However, from 1 July 2019, classes at Kok Beng are now only held at the Primary School. The Kok Beng community decided that we could no longer use the Pagoda – this was an extremely disappointing decision as the Pagoda was where Growing Cambodia first started supporting English lessons and where many volunteers have visited. We are fortunate that the Primary School continues to allow us the use of two of their rooms in the evening for the older children.

There are approximately 140 students attending the school at Beng Village while a further 280 students study at Oroluos – these classes are held in buildings in the villages.

Growing Cambodia continued to fund English classes at Koy Meng Primary School – a government school in the Banteay Meanchey Province - where approx 140 primary school students are learning. There has been another request to teach English at the secondary school which we will need to consider if we wish to expand the programme.

All the English classes would not have been possible without the local managers and teachers at the schools helping Growing Cambodia deliver the lessons. Many thanks to :

Mr Sopheak Phay
Ms Vattey Ouch
Mr Sovann Kay
Mr So
Mr Sorya
Mr Hor
Ms Ratha
Ms Mekong
Ms Sreynith
Ms Sem Reaksa
Ms Samphoas
Mr Chanthorn
Ms Rany Chhoeurng
Ms Saifong
Mr Hut Vuthy
Mr Khen Neang
Ms Neath

Unfortunately with the closing of part of the programme at Kok Beng we had to say goodbye to Ms Saifong, Mr So, Mr Hut Vuthy, Ms Neath and Mr Khen Neang – thank you all for your wonderful and much appreciated contributions. We are fortunate that we have such a very dedicated and hard-working team devoting themselves to teaching fellow Cambodians.

Growing Cambodia pays the monthly salaries to our three school managers – Mr Sopheak , Mr Sovann and Mr So - our local accountant Ms Vattey Ouch and the twelve teachers . The wages paid to our managers and teachers are then spent locally which further supports local business and the local economy.

The “Fill the Bag” campaign, launched to enable poorer students attend or stay at government schools, continued on this year with 42 students being provided with scholarships.

Another very successful Trivia Night was held in May at Newhaven College. Great fun was had by more than 200 supporters and over \$24000 was raised. This amount included the raffle proceeds with the prize winners being drawn on the evening. Congratulations to Kate Buchanan for being the inaugural winner ! A huge thank you to LJ and Megan for hosting the big annual event.

During the year, just like every other year, there were no administration costs meaning every dollar raised was spent on our activities in Cambodia.

A final special thanks to Jane Bown who looked after our Facebook page – Jane is unable to devote the time at this stage of her life which we fully understand and appreciate – thank you Jane for such a wonderful job in increasing our exposure to both existing and new supporters.

Thank you to the volunteers who gave up their valuable time to assist at one or more of the four schools in Cambodia as well as other volunteers involved both in Australia and Cambodia with the making and distribution of Days for Girls Kits to the girls in the villages. Thank you Deb Kerry for co-ordinating the volunteers.

Last but not least thank you to the Committee for your efforts – in particular Secretary Nola Kemp and Treasurer Lois Green for all their hard work continuously throughout the year.