



GROWING CAMBODIA NEWSLETTER

March 2025

Hello Growing Cambodia Supporters

Welcome to 2025 and a new year of activity at our Cambodian schools. The Committee started the year with a strategy day to plan our work and help us achieve our purpose of facilitating a self-sufficient and sustainable quality of life for rural Cambodians through education and the enhancement of health and well-being.

We look forward to sharing news of our progress throughout the coming year.

Report from our local manager

In this report, we would like to share some news from the manager of our local NGO, Sopheak Phay, about recent activities at our schools, including how the new computer room and minivan at Beng are being used. **As many of you know, these initiatives resulted from the significant fundraising efforts and donations made by Independent Pharmacies Australia and its employees and associates.**

We think Sopheak's report will give you a real feel for the life-changing work that we are able to do, thanks to your interest and support.

On behalf of the GCO, I would like to provide you with information about the 4 schools including our students, scholarship students, our new volunteer, our new minivan and other activities that GCO has done so far.

Beng school

Mrs Reaksa Sem, who is our full-time English teacher, is now back at work after her 3 months of maternity leave.

We tested the students who study from 2pm to 4pm and were able to place them into the correct level. This included the students that we collect from the villages in the minivan.

We have 28 to 35 students in each class. Now that our students are in the correct levels, our teachers are finding it easier to teach the students. We divided the students who we collect from the villages to go to the library to do their homework, read books and draw pictures while they are waiting for the minivan to return them to the village. There are 45 students who have completed their computer course in Word and Excel. GCO has provided them with the Certification.

Mr Orn, who is our computer teacher, has opened a new term for the computer lessons. As the students are younger in the 2-4pm classes, it will take them longer to learn their computer skills.



English and Computer classes are full of students from 2pm to 7pm.



Our new minivan driver is a good man. When he drops the students at the school, he also helps to do repairs around Beng school, such as cleaning, repairing lights and checking the water system. I have asked him to do these repairs around the school, as well as driving the students.

He started working as the school 'bus driver' from the beginning of January. The driver collects 78 students from different villages. He loves his job as a bus driver.



GCO now is so well known in the district because the head commune has shared our learning center information to all the villagers. Now they know more about GCO providing free English lessons and computer skills, as well as the minivan to collect the students from the villages and bring them to school.

We had some sad news about one of our school committee members at Beng school who passed away. He was a man with a golden heart. He planted all the trees and built the fences around Beng school. We sent our condolences to his family and we donated \$50 to his funeral on behalf of GC.

Our teenage students have done great work in their study both in English and computer skills. We provided a letter of appreciation to the top 3 students. We used some of our study supplies to give them prizes.



The top students in each class at Beng. There are now over 1000 students attending the 4 schools.





There are a few classes where students have finished the level. Our teachers are arranging the certificates to provide to them.





Oroluos school

All is good at Oroluos school. All teachers have done a very good job.

Koy Meng school

The new teacher at Koy Meng school is a good teacher and is working out well. There are 35 to 45 students in her classes.

Her classes are very popular for young teenage students learning after they finish at the government school at 5pm.

Some classes are conducted by Mr Chanthorn and Ms Rany and students have also completed their levels. The teachers are preparing the certificates of completion to provide to them.

Kok Beng School

Everything is going well here with the students and teachers. There were some lights broken in the classrooms but our teachers have fixed them already.

University student information

Mr Orn, who is our computer teacher at Beng school, has enrolled to study IT at Build Bright University. Luckily, he passed the entrance exams and got a huge discount from the university.

We have 21 Sponsored students at University with two more students that have not started university yet. They will start their courses in the middle or end of March.

We are so excited that two of our sponsorship students got good jobs. Two of them studied accounting at Vanda Institute. They graduated in their studies a few months ago. One got a job as an accountant in a big shop and another got a job as a stock runner in a company.



Latest Volunteer

In January, we had a new volunteer, Kylie, who visited Beng and Oroluos schools. She assisted our teachers and students in their English learning. She was very helpful during the week she was with GCO.



Thank you so much for taking your time to read my report. I hope that this report will help you all to understand more about our schools. WISHING YOU ALL THE BEST!

Requests for funding

Included with Sopheak's report were some requests for additional funding. He has alerted us to:

- a need for laminators at the Beng and Oroluos schools so that the certificates presented to students can be laminated for protection from damage. Two laminators would cost A\$160.
- a need for 5 new tables and repair of a further 25 tables at Kok Beng school. While the school at Kok Beng is a government school, we would like to make a contribution of A\$250 towards this need.

If you are able to make a donation to help us meet these requests, please contact:

Steve Davie, Chair at steve@growingcambodia.org.au

Owen Bentley, Treasurer at owen@growingcambodia.org.au



High Tea 2025

Around 50 ladies attended our third High Tea fundraising event in February, which was again supported by the doTerra matching funding program. Our friends at doTerra, Deanne Howard and Jen Carroll, also gave hand massages to around 30 fee-paying recipients.

As always, a fun afternoon was had by all, with everyone contributing in the form of food, beverages, raffle prizes, gifts, set up and clean up and lots of laughs. Items sold included raffle tickets, art work, boomerang bags, cutlery holders, bowl warmers, jigsaw puzzles and teddies.



Growing Cambodia are thrilled to have been successful in achieving

[The Match Program](#)
doterrahealinghands.org

Thank you to everyone who pitched in to support our Cambodian schools. We raised **\$5009.50** in total, which together with our matching contribution from doTerra amounts to \$10,009.50. Feedback from attendees has been outstanding, so we will look to run a similar event in 2026. If you would like to be added to the invitation list, please email our Vice Chair **Nola Brooks** at nola@growingcambodia.org.au.

How you can help

All donations to Growing Cambodia are tax deductible and we have no administration costs in Australia. We ask that you consider making a one-off donation, a donation for a specific cause and/or a regular monthly donation. Our bank details are:

Growing Cambodia Inc
BSB 633 000
Acct 150148583

Please then email us at enquiry@growingcambodia.org.au and we will send you a receipt.

"Facilitating a self-sufficient and sustainable quality of life for rural Cambodians"

www.growingcambodia.org.au | enquiry@growingcambodia.org.au |

