



# FAMILY CARE CAMBODIA

2017  
Fourth Quarter  
Activity Report

## Rural Education Expansion

The final months of 2017 saw great progress for our rural education programs, thanks to our amazing & hardworking staff and the generosity of friends and sponsors. Here are some of the highlights:

We were able to purchase a van for the Learning Center in Kampong Speu, enabling us to reach out to distant villages and provide transport for children who live too far to walk or ride their bicycles. Many families were eager for their children to have a chance to attend both our preschool and English classes. Our student enrollment swelled to over 200 in a few short weeks. As a result we brought in 3 more staff to help with teaching, driving and classroom assistants. The licensing & registration for the school was granted, a signboard erected and school uniforms made.

Thanks to a grant from Mira Scholars, we opened a special advanced English class for 10th grade students, to prepare them for college or work after their High School graduation. Scholarships were granted to 30 of the top students from the local high school.

SV Charity sponsored new desks for the 2nd floor classrooms, an awning for the stairs and a covered parking area. This has greatly improved the safety factor as now all motorcycles and bicycles are kept separate from the children's play patio.

Australian volunteers from St. Mary Mackillop High School joined us, via World Challenge, and did a fantastic job of refurbishing the playground equipment, extending the parking lot, building a fence around the playground & sandbox, painting the school exterior, and building a chicken coop. They also reached out to the local community to help build a house for a poor widow with 3 young daughters, and bring food supplies to the elderly!



## Launching a Sponsorship Program for Rural Children!



The goal of our rural education projects is to provide quality education to children from low income families in remote, rural districts, where the need is great and the opportunities are few. Many rural households rely on subsistence farming or factory work to support their families with an average monthly income of under \$300, and in some cases considerably less than that.

Would you consider sponsoring a student for either preschool, English lessons or Computer training? We will be opening another Community Learning Center next month in Siem Reap, following our model in Kampong Speu. In both locations, you could sponsor a student for \$50 per quarter (@ \$17 per month), or \$200 for the year. There are many children waiting to enroll. A chance at quality education is a life changing opportunity for a rural child. If you are interested in joining our Rural Education Sponsorship program, please contact us for further details. Thank You!

## Back on the Air!

In November, Ann was guest speaker on FEBC's Family Radio program for Parenting & Child Safety hour. The topic this time was "*How to raise children with healthy minds and bodies.*"

We covered the physical aspects of serving nutritious food & avoiding junk food, getting enough sleep, and spending time daily in the fresh air and sunshine. We also discussed the need for caring



adult role models who impart values & moral training to children, and the dangers of being so busy that we allow the TV, iPad or Smart phone to do the babysitting. The station manager asked if we could join the broadcast regularly for the coming year and we are happy to do so. It is our privilege to support parents and teachers in their important work!

## Another Beautiful Christmas in Cambodia



On December 31st we had a Christmas/New Year party in Kampong Speu for the entire school. 150 of the younger children came in the morning and had lunch, then 50 of the teen students plus other villagers came for dinner. All together we fed about 400 people that day! Groups of students did dance performances and a Nativity Play. For many of the newly enrolled students, this was their very first Christmas celebration and their first time to hear the story of the birth of Jesus. The children helped to make most of the decorations and tree ornaments during art classes. We had games and prizes for tug-of-war, musical chairs, and bobbing for pears! Each children received a special gift with their own storybook, activity book, school supplies, donated clothes and toys, and some sweets. It was a joyous occasion!

Close to midnight, once all of the guests had left, we gathered together with our co-workers under a bright starry sky to celebrate our victories of the past year and share our hopes and prayers for 2018. It was a perfect ending to a wonderful year!



**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 or volunteer, visit our new website, [www.familycarecambodia.org](http://www.familycarecambodia.org)**

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