



# HELP + CAMBODIA

## 2021 Annual Report - Another Year of Turmoil

The 2021 year commenced with uncertainty and some trepidation as the Covid 19 situation continued affecting the world in many ways. However we continued to work with our friends in Cambodia to endeavour to alleviate some of their hardship.

In addition to our regular support for DCC an extra donation was sent for a food package distribution to the families most in need. Donations were also sent to Battambang Ophthalmic Centre to assist with repairs sustained during a flood and to Heartprint in Siem Reap to supplement their manager's salary. All these donations helped these worthwhile organisations to continue their valuable work.

DCC continued to provide education to the students in their community throughout the government implemented lockdown periods by providing online classes and at times worksheet distribution for students. The online learning format gave rise to public speaking competitions established by the school manager, Bophal and the senior students. The pupils participated enthusiastically and conscientiously. This initiative was well received by the HELP Cambodia committee who were full of praise for the efforts of all competitors.

The uncertain times we currently live in mean student numbers in DCC fluctuate a little as do our sponsor numbers. Currently 96 students are educated through DCC thanks to regular donations from 74 sponsors. DCC staff continue to provide supplementary education to students during trying times. By all accounts students are cheerfully and keenly adapting to new and different ways of learning during lockdowns and school closures but they are always thrilled to return to their normal classroom learning. 10 students were approved for the University Scholarship program: 7 students will continue their university studies and 3 new students will enter university after graduating from high school. The second DCC student to graduate from university has completed her Bachelor degree and plans to enter the public service.

After many hours of discussion and redrafting the committee finalised and distributed a Sponsorship Handbook which provides an explanation and guidelines for the DCC sponsorship program. A further amendment to this document will soon be made regarding the Gift Fund which was to be implemented this year. On further consideration it was decided to decommission the gift fund because in recent times it has become apparent that there are higher priorities for the use of available funds.

After consulting with Bophal (DCC's manager) and Nayhuoy (mail translator) it was decided to survey sponsors to determine whether they want to engage in regular communication with their sponsored student. To this end sponsors were asked to elect whether to be an active sponsor (wanting regular email correspondence with their sponsored student) or an inactive sponsor (preferring only an annual update email). We anticipate that this will result in email correspondence only for those wanting to make a stronger connection with their sponsored student and less emails for those not wanting such communications.

Despite ongoing Covid restrictions HELP Cambodia managed to hold two functions during 2021. In June an anniversary dinner was held at the Magpies Nest Restaurant to celebrate 5 successful years in the new DCC facility. Then in September after a few postponements we were finally able to hold a premier night for the

movie Respect. Both events were well supported and I want to again thank all those who contributed to these successes either by attending, donating raffle prizes or making generous donations.

On a very unhappy note, in October we farewelled our friend and committee member Marg Perkin. We were all greatly saddened by her passing but grateful she was able to join us on the last trip we took to Cambodia in 2019.



RIP Marg Perkin

The committee spent time through the year working on policy development in order to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission. This will continue into next year.

The long awaited website upgrade has finally been completed. This has been in the pipeline for quite some time and as with many technology-related things was no mean feat to accomplish. A huge thank you must go to Darren Wallace and the committee members who worked on this to finally get it completed. I encourage you all to take a look as it is now an up to date reflection of the organisation.

[www.helpcambodia.com.au](http://www.helpcambodia.com.au)

The HELP Cambodia committee has commenced discussions this year around future directions the organisation might take. To this end strategic planning is on the agenda for 2022.

Finally I want to say a big thank you to the many sponsors, supporters, donors and friends of HELP Cambodia who enable this charity to affect change in the lives of disadvantaged Cambodians. I also wish to express my sincere gratitude to the fabulous committee who have navigated what was yet another rather tumultuous year for HELP Cambodia Incorporated. It is your dedication and commitment to the cause which enables us to make a difference in Cambodia.