



# HELP + CAMBODIA

## 2022 Annual Report

2022 has been a quiet year in many ways for HELP Cambodia however some significant achievements have been made.

Much of the committee's attention was focused on strategic planning and the future of our organisation.

The school manager's wage was reviewed and increased to more appropriately compensate him for his managerial responsibilities. Bophal's commitment and dedication to educating and supporting the people in his community is extremely admirable and inspiring.

A successful golf event held at Wagga Wagga Country Club in February contributed almost \$2000 to our funds.

The pressure to fundraise was alleviated somewhat early in the year when our only corporate sponsor doubled his sponsorship. Tony Tsiolis from AstronTech now sponsors 20 students. We were thrilled by this additional contribution and are very grateful to Tony for his generosity.

There are currently 92 students being educated at DCC and we have 75 paying sponsors. This includes 2 students sponsored by Wollundry Rotary and one student sponsored by Inner Wheel Wagga Wagga & Wollundry (a Rotary affiliated women's service organisation). We particularly value the ongoing support we receive from both these organisations.

Early in the year sponsors were surveyed to determine who would prefer to communicate regularly with their sponsored student and those who opted for regular contact now enjoy ongoing email communication with their student. Those who opted to be less active in their communication will receive an annual email from their sponsored student. This system seems to be working well and gives many students an opportunity to practise their written English skills.

Bophal continued to develop his students' English speaking skills by running public speaking competitions throughout the year. The students are very keen participants and take pride in their achievements in these competitions. This allows students to further develop their English speaking ability.

As in Australia the threat and fear of Covid 19 abated somewhat in Cambodia and therefore thankfully students were back in classrooms and no more food drops were required in 2022.

Expressions of interest have been called for people to join another trip to Cambodia around Oct/Nov 2023. At this stage we have about 10 interested people but we would welcome others keen to come with us. Planning for this trip will begin in earnest early next year.

DCC with support from HELP Cambodia and sponsors have now seen a 3rd student graduate from university. In addition a second student from DCC was successful in gaining a full scholarship to attend university which is very difficult to attain in Cambodia. These are quite significant achievements by students from an impoverished community supported by a small local volunteer-run charity and indicate the impact being made in the lives of students at DCC.



*Uni graduate Songhim*



*Scholarship recipient Sreypich volunteer teaching at DCC*

As always the many sponsors, supporters, donors and friends of HELP Cambodia have allowed the organisation to continue to affect positive change in the DCC community. Students' lives are being transformed and this would not be possible without the dedicated committee members who work tirelessly towards these successful outcomes. Therefore I want to acknowledge all contributions on every level by saying a huge THANK YOU to you all!

