

# STUDENT SPONSORSHIP HANDBOOK



"I would like to say thank you for supporting. I am very happy to be your sponsored child." - Minea (Grade 11, aged 17)

"I'm very grateful to have you as my sponsor. Thanks for your support and encourage me to study hard. Carol and Micheal" - Songhim (now in second year at The Human Resources University studying Accounting & Banking)

"I am glad to become your sponsored child. I love you, Amelia and Cath!" - Seav Mey (Grade 10, aged 16)

"Thank you for supporting me. I miss and love you so much." - Norng Nith (Grade 8, aged 15)

"Thank you for being my sponsor. I'm delighted to know you in my life." - Sok Ai (Grade 6, aged 12)

**Thank you** for considering a sponsorship at our Development for Community Centre (DCC) school in Stueng Meanchey, Phnom Penh. Sponsorship allows a child's life to be transformed as education is the key to freedom from the cycle of poverty.

Operating under a Memorandum of Understanding, HELP Cambodia partners with DCC to give children access to free education. DCC operates as a supplementary school and provides classes (primarily in English, IT & traditional Khmer dance) before and after the school day for children attending government schools. The children must stay in government school to receive a recognised graduation diploma however the education provided in public school is far from adequate – teachers are poorly trained and classrooms are under-resourced and overcrowded.



Children in the sponsorship program are living with their own families at the old dumpsite area. They come to DCC to study and then return home. Poor nutrition, a lack of materials and troubled family circumstances all contribute to challenges for children in this community. DCC works to take children out of poverty, provide them with desperately needed education support which can assist them into employment and to become future leaders. DCC aims to build a child's confidence and to create opportunities that otherwise would not be available to them.

## HOW SPONSORSHIP WORKS

A sponsor may be paired with a student at DCC school. This relationship allows a sponsor and their student to communicate via email (on their own or via a translator at DCC). This communication has a positive impact on the student's life and is wonderful for practicing their English skills. Of course protocols are in place around these communications to ensure all parties are protected and if you have any concerns you should contact the HELP Cambodia Student Sponsorship program manager.

Sponsorship is A\$40 per month and is tax deductible. Sponsorship funds do not go directly to your sponsored student or his/her family. Your sponsorship donation is combined with donations from other sponsors to form a funding pool to meet the needs of your sponsored child's school. Using these funds DCC is educating 120 children, the most significant operating expenses being teachers salary and land rent.

From time to time students leave the DCC school for various reasons. This can be due to moving away with family, signing up to another NGO or being sent to work to contribute to family income. If your sponsored student leaves DCC we will inform you and offer you the option of sponsoring another child who still requires sponsorship.

## CONNECTING WITH A SPONSORED STUDENT

Communication is conducted through and vetted by DCC Management and/or staff. All communication with sponsor students must be done through the designated email address [dcc.sponsorchild@gmail.com](mailto:dcc.sponsorchild@gmail.com) and where necessary students will be assisted by a mail translator, with writing emails to their sponsor.

## TRANSITION TO FURTHER EDUCATION

In the situation where students graduate high school and are offered admission to university, sponsors are given the opportunity to continue the monthly donation and this will be utilised to pay the student's university fees. Should a sponsor not wish to continue sponsorship, the student can apply to the HELP Cambodia University Scholarship fund.



## GIFTS

Help Cambodia is committed to equity for all students and therefore giving gifts to individual students is not possible through the Help Cambodia Sponsorship Program. Instead sponsors are able to contribute to a Gift Fund, which ensures that each year ALL students receive a gift from Help Cambodia on behalf of their sponsor to celebrate significant events or special occasions (Birthday, Christmas, Khmer New Year, Pchum Ben or to celebrate an achievement). Such gifts might include shoes, clothes, toiletries, hat, sports equipment, school bag, coloring book, colored pencils and study materials. Cash gifts directly to a student or their family are NOT permitted.



## VISITING

Sponsors are welcome to visit DCC and meet their sponsored students. If you are intending to travel independently to Cambodia and want to visit DCC please contact the committee for information and advice. [help@helpcambodia.com.au](mailto:help@helpcambodia.com.au) HELP Cambodia run an annual trip to Cambodia usually in November. This is a great way to see the work we do in Cambodia and also visit a number of historical and tourist attractions. Let us know if you are interested in joining one of our small groups. N.B. For both independent visits to DCC and participation in a tour group it is a prerequisite to hold a current Working With Children Check.

## HELP CAMBODIA

Thank you for your support. HELP Cambodia will send sponsors an annual report and are always only an email away should any queries arise. Contact us on [help@helpcambodia.com.au](mailto:help@helpcambodia.com.au).

HELP Cambodia is incorporated in NSW and is registered with the ACNC. The DCC project is endorsed by Rotary through the RAWCS scheme. (Rotary Australia World Community Service)

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