

STUDENT SPONSORSHIP UPDATE

for 2009



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STUDENT CLUBS

TEACH PROBLEM SOLVING

Friendship with Cambodia is supporting the formation of student clubs for our sponsored students. The students meet regularly to help each other and their communities.

In Kampot Province our student club organized a training for other students in their village on the importance of education. This is ground-breaking, because education beyond grade-school is not encouraged in rural areas.

The members of this club meet monthly to discuss and solve problems related to their living situations. For example, some of the students didn't have bicycles, so the other students loaned them the money to buy bikes.



The students also meet every weekend to help each other with homework and learning English.



Kampot students with social worker Phala (far left) and coordinators Karen from US (center back row) and Navy from Cambodia (far right)

SPECIAL WORKSHOP HELPS STUDENTS THINK AHEAD

Last year, a dynamic motivational trainer named Lim Vannak trained 95 of our students to set goals for their lives and to become more committed and dedicated to their studies so they can achieve those goals. Friendship with Cambodia funded these trainings.

Students learned how to build up their strengths and reduce their weaknesses. They found out about learning styles and how important it is to be motivated. Lim told them about famous people, like presidents of other countries, and invited the students to choose personal heroes.

When Linda Young visited Kosal, her sponsored student, in Cambodia last year, she walked past rice paddies and arrived at his family's tiny one room house with three beds. Above Kosal's bed was a photo of Abe Lincoln, his hero, a man who overcame many obstacles in his life to achieve his goals.

We talked to other students who had been through Lim's training and asked them what they planned to do in the future. One student named Samphoah said, "I want to be a math teacher." And then he said, with a big smile, "I want to be a FAMOUS math teacher."



Linda meets Kosal and his family

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS NEED SPECIAL FUNDING

In the 2008-2009 school year, 11 of our sponsored students are attending university. They are living in rented rooms above our NGO partners' offices in Phnom Penh.

We're very proud of these young people, because they are among the very few students from rural areas to attend university. They know firsthand about the challenges of poverty and are motivated to help their families, villages, and country. They are the hope for the future of Cambodia.

Friendship with Cambodia has established a University Student Fund to provide support for post-secondary education. Each year, approximately 15 of our students will graduate from high school and start university. We need to raise an additional \$17,000 each year for the next three years to cover their expenses. It costs \$125 per month (\$1500 per year) to fully support a university student. Please help us find donors for this program. We welcome donations in any amount.

US AND CAMBODIAN STAFF MEET

Last September, Karen Molleson — US Program Coordinator of our Student Sponsorship Program, Lowell Hill — FWC Board President, and Bhavia Wagner — FWC Executive Director traveled to Cambodia to meet with the Student Sponsorship Program social workers and Cambodia Program Coordinator Toeu Navy to discuss management of the student programs. We also met with our students in Kampot Province and our university students in Phnom Penh. Karen Molleson works as a volunteer, which keeps our administrative costs low. Thank you Karen!