





Annual Report 2013









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How you can help







- To build a just and peaceful nation through citizen service, civic leadership, and social entrepreneurship.
- Our work is guided by the belief that building a just and peaceful nation is every citizen's right and responsibility and that each individual can make a difference.
- Youth Star Mission
- Youth Star Vision
- Youth Star Values

2013 Volunteers

- Our citizen service vision is that soon all Cambodian youth will have the opportunity and want to serve their community and nation.
- Our civic leadership vision is that soon Cambodian youth will have the values, skills, and inspiration to be a leader for the common good.
- Our social entrepreneurship vision is that Cambodian youth will be catalysts for social transformation and bring creative solutions to the pressing social problems of Cambodia.
- * We believe that active, engaged and informed citizens and innovative civic leadership are the heart of a strong, dynamic and responsive democracy.
- * We believe in the power of young people to effect positive, lasting social change.
- * We believe that service is a powerful way to unite individuals and strengthen communities.
- * We value innovation and creativity inspired by idealism and shared endeavour.
- We value diversity, tolerance and mutual understanding.
- * We value partnership based on respect, trust and reciprocity.
- We value openness to learning and striving for excellence.



Group 17

Mr SOR Samet

Group 18a Mr. TON Kea

Mr. PEL Sophal

Ms TY Sokunthy

Ms HO Chakriya

Ms SA Sokheang

Ms CHORN Sopheak

Mr VANN Ratana

Thank you to our Board of Directors

Youth Star could not have achieved everything this year without the continuing support of our Board of Directors. Throughout 2013 our directors have assisted us with pre-departure training, providing necessary resources for placements, supporting us financially through sponsoring our various fundraising events as well as providing counsel on organizational direction.



Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

In my role as Executive Director of Youth Star Cambodia, I am very pleased to update you all on Youth Star's progress last year. 2013 was a year of strengthening Youth Star programs, building up relationships and a year of new initiatives. There were some challenges in recruiting volunteers however the determination of Youth Star Board of Directors, our staff, Youth Star Alumni, volunteers and Youth Star Friends saw many successes for Youth Star last year.

Our "Roaring Twenties" themed gala was a particular highlight; a wonderful evening that illustrated just how many people continues to believe in the mission and values of Youth Star. We were honoured to have so many friends of Youth Star attending and the evening raised over \$37,000. We were also incredibly proud to come first in the Global Giving UK fundraising competition, earning ourselves a bonus of £1,500 and a permanent place on the Global Giving website. Thank you to the many friends and families who donated and publicised this campaign, we couldn't have done it without your support.

As well as our fundraising achievements, we are extremely proud of the continuing work of our volunteers. The results brought about by their hard-work, dedication and creative thinking are the reason we believe Youth Star is unique. No other organisation taps into the potential of our young Cambodian graduates with quite such amazing results. This year we saw the successful completion of Group 17's year long placement with communities in Prey Veng and Kratie provinces. All our volunteers engaged positively with their communities to come up with sustainable solutions to issues such as school drop-out rates, domestic violence and gender inequality. As well as making a positive impact on their communities, all the volunteers have since expressed that, although challenging, their placements were invaluable to their personal and professional development. In fact, since their placement we can report that all six of the volunteers in Group 17 have found employment and training! You can read all about their experiences in their "stories of change" at the end of this report.

This year we decided that it was time to formally reward our volunteers who have worked so hard to complete their placements. In June we invited more than 200 guests and 60 former volunteers to attend an Achievement Certificate Ceremony in acknowledgement of their successful placements. It was wonderful to see so many former volunteers and to find out how they have gone on to use their placements as a platform for further development. We were also able to support the, ever growing, Youth Star Alumni committee in their "School Registration Campaign" in September. To see how Youth Star's values live on in our volunteers even after they finish is extremely satisfying. On behalf of Youth Star team, I would like to say thank you to Youth Star Board of Directors, all our friends, sponsors, volunteers, partners, Youth Star Alumni and supporters. Without you, Youth Star could not continue its unique work. It has been an honour to lead Youth Star this year and I am proud of everything we have achieved.

I am sure there will be some challenges to face, but with all support I have, I am very optimistic about the bright future ahead for the organisation and there will more Youth Star volunteers helping in rural communities.

Warmest regards,

m cillings

Mora Gibbings

Highlights and achievements

Youth Star volunteers

- * In 2013 6 volunteers from Group 17 worked with 6 communities in Kratie and Prey Veng. They set up 6 community Youth Clubs and engaged with over 2,000 community members.
- * Youth Star volunteers from Group 18A completed pre-departure training and were placed with their local communities in Kampong Thom province. Their volunteer services in communities will continue until September 2014.
- * Forty Youth Star volunteers, Alumni and community youth club members were represented at the International Volunteer Day forum amongst 600 other volunteers from local and international organisations. To celebrate the International Volunteer Day, Youth Star was honoured to have representatives from the United Nations Volunteer team travel to Kompong Thom province to visit the work of two of Youth Star's volunteers serving there.
- * On Thursday June 13th 2013 the Youth Star team organized an achievement certificate ceremony to award 60 former volunteers on completing their one year service in communities. We were honored to have H.E. Dr HUN Manet, member of the Youth Star Board of Directors, present with over 100 guests in attendance. The ceremony was held at the American Intercon School Manet, member of the Youth Star Board of Directors.



- * A successful exchange visit took place between Restless Development, Repail and Youth Star in Kratie province in April 2013, supported by STARS Foundation. The exchange visit was to build up the friendship of the three organisations and was a good platform to compare challenges and learn from each other.
- Youth Star Alumni put on a "Back to School" campaign to encourage parents to send their children to school. Youth Star Alumni have continued to show their commitment to the values and vision of Youth Star throughout the year through events such as this and their continuous support with current volunteers.
- * Three Youth Star volunteers each led two campaigns for the 'We are Good Men' campaign, supported by Paz y Desarollo. These events were attended by over 2000 community members.

Fundraising and events

- * Youth Star came first in the Global Giving Gateway Challenge. Youth Star was granted a bonus prize of £1,500 from Global Giving for the highest amount of money raised at £10,198.
- * Youth Star celebrated a busy year with our annual Gala- this time with a 'Roaring Twenties' theme. The Gala was a huge success; attended by 470 guests and raising over \$37,000 for future Youth Star projects.
- * Youth Star completely renovated our website to include all our up-to-date reports and documents, recent articles and photos, and a new section for the Board of Directors and Alumni committees. Facebook has also been very effective tool for information sharing, going from 150 to over 1000 'likes' in a year.









"The Good Men Campaign"

In July 2013, Youth Star volunteers completed the project with Paz y Desarrollo (PyD) on Youth Engagement in Preventing Violence against Women, through "The Good Men Campaign."

Promoting gender equality is one of the Cambodian Millennium Development goals (Goal 3) and our 12 month project aimed at making a contribution to the efforts of the Royal Government of Cambodia in achieving this. Specific objectives of the project were:

- Empower and develop youths to make a positive change in under-served communities and promote gender equality and raise awareness on causes of violence against women (VAW).
- To start community conversations about VAW and to empower young people and other community members to take steps to prevent gender-based violence in their communities by changing attitudes and behaviour.
- To create a space for young people in rural communities to have meaningful peer discussions on values, sexual rights and gender relationships.
- To set up a network of men/boys to work on gender-based violence issues on long-term basis, and exchange useful information.

Since the completion of this project, Youth Star has begun another contract with PyD to continue working on another "Good Men Campaign". This project will be completed in July 2014.



Youth Star recruited, trained and placed three male volunteers into three communities in Prey Veng and Kratie provinces to work for one year to implement this project. All three volunteers received pre-departure training, specialist training on issues surrounding domestic violence, field supervision, ongoing support and recall training to help them deliver the best service possible for their communities. All our volunteers engaged with their communities and achieved their objectives through the following activities:

Working with School Students

Three secondary schools collaborated with Youth Star volunteers in creating space for violence.108 discussion domestic students participated in the discussions on issues of violence against women and girls.

Men's Networks

in the three communities, with 9-20 men in each network. 47 men received training from volunteers on gender equality, domestic violence and men's roles in combating domestic violence.

Youth Clubs

Youth Star volunteers set up three youth clubs in the three target communities. 77 young people (60% male) received training from volunteers on prevention of violence against women and girls (VAW/G).

Youth Star volunteers set up three men's networks



Campaigns

Six campaigns were organised by Youth Star volunteers across three communities through collaboration with youth clubs, local partners and authorities. 2,450 community residents participated overall in the six campaigns, which consisted of a demonstration, performance; a quiz and home follow up visits.

"Targeted education strategies for pro-poor community development"

In 2013 Youth Star completed our three year program with our collaborators SIPAR on a pro-poor project to promote reading and education for all. The aims of the project were to build the capacity of commune councils in designing, implementing and managing education development plans and projects and to propose tailored educational services based on their needs and constraints. From 2011-2013 Youth Star recruited and trained 16 volunteers to implement this programme during their year-long placements in communities. All Youth Star volunteers divided their time between the following four activities to achieve their aims:

Developing youth volunteering: encouraging youth clubs and volunteer activities with youth aged 6-17

Our volunteers set up youth clubs and children's clubs in each of their communities. These youth clubs assisted with the operation of **CEFA** as well as organizing and implementing other reading promotion activities. They were responsible for setting up campaigns, raising awareness around issues such as sanitation, migration and domestic violence and for working with the commune councils and local authorities to address any other local issues.

Promoting reading at the Centre of Education For All (CEFA)

SIPAR trained our Youth Star volunteers to create libraries in their communes. Our volunteers were responsible for preparing the books in the libraries and organizing reading activities with children and young people. SIPAR also provided sac à dos to the youth clubs supervised by our volunteers, to operate mobile libraries that could loan and deliver books to isolated families and young people in their communities.

Working with children that are no longer at school to encourage re-entry to grades 1 to 9.

Our volunteers worked with 4 communes in Prey Veng and 2 in Kratie by providing intensive tutoring to drop out and migrant children during the summer holidays.

Working with children (grades 1 to 9) with learning difficulties.

Our volunteers worked with the local schools to establish children who were at risk of being held back a year due to poor academic progress. Youth Star recruited, mentored and helped to train volunteer "Small Teachers" from their Youth Clubs who offer supplementary tutoring sessions for these young people.

Case Study: Pratheat, Prey Veng province

Youth Star volunteer: Ms. SA Sokhaeng

August 2012-July 2013

Ms.SA Sokhaeng created a Youth Club in Pratheat through collaborating with the village chief to disseminate information about the importance of volunteering among youth in the community. She ran English classes three times a week to establish relationships with the youth there and facilitated the creation of a 22 member strong Youth Club.

Ms. SA Sokhaeng supervised the Youth Club meeting 5 times a month to discuss and arrange volunteering projects. From the Youth Club, 12 members (students grade 7-9) volunteered to become 'Small Teachers' who would run supplementary classes for slow-learners in the community. SIPAR and Youth Star were able to offer these Small Teachers training, equipment and ongoing support.

All the teachers of the local primary school were contacted to identify pupils most at risk of dropping-out or repeating a year due to poor academic progress. These pupils, as well as other students in the community, were approached and offered extra lessons outside of school. In total **113 children** were taught regularly by the Youth Club 'Small teachers' in 2013.

As well as running supplementary classes, Ms. SA Sokhaeng also volunteered at the community "Centre for Education For All" (CEFA) in the afternoons Monday- Friday. This CEFA provided 9 villages with access to books. Members of the Youth Club were also provided with two sac à dos from SIPAR through which they could operate mobile libraries and could deliver books and activities to isolated houses in their communities, as well as to use in their lessons.

Ms. SA Sokhaeng used her training with Youth Star to design and implement an exit strategy to ensure the sustainability of all her activities after she left. Currently the Youth Club and Small Teachers are continuing to promote education opportunities in their community since Ms. SA Sokhaeng left.







One project in numbers
One Youth Star volunteer
One Youth Club
22 Youth Club members
12 Small Teachers
113 child beneficiaries
One CEFA library
9 villages provided with access to books

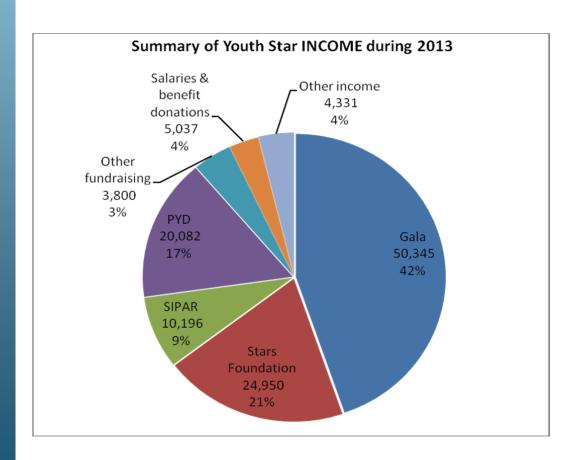


Financial Report

Youth Star Cambodia's total income for the 2013 fiscal year was \$118,741 with an expenditure of \$105,920. This left Youth Star with a net benefit of \$12,821 which will be carried on to 2014.

Youth Star continues to try to diversify its fundraising away from relying solely on grants, which currently makes up 47% of Youth Star's total income. Our total income from fundraising in 2013 was 45% which remains the same as 2012, still with our main source of fundraising income coming from the Gala at \$50,345. In 2014 Youth Star hopes to continue to diversify our fundraising and increasing this percentage.

Youth Star Cambodia's accounts and financial systems were audited by Barachina Consulting Co., Ltd. Audit reports are provided to Youth Star Cambodia Board of Directors, financial supporters and partners. We are grateful to all our donors, private sector and individual supporters for continuing to support the work of Youth Star.





Ms CHORN Sopheak

Sopheak is aged 22 and originally from Kampong Spue province. She worked in Sambo in the Kratie province from August 2012-July 2013

Sopheak worked on the 'Targeted educational strategies for pro-poor community development' in conjunction with SIPAR which promotes reading among youths. Sopheak worked with the commune to promote education (by heading a youth group) and has been helping the children of the community with their homework and English.

Sopheak and the community have mutually benefitted from her work there.

Being a Youth Star volunteer changed Sopheak's life and her own community's attitude toward her and her family. In the past people in her village were not friendly because Sopheak was poor and lived with only her mother, a widow. Her own commune is now proud of her new found confidence and ability to talk with the authorities. The commune has now asked that she use her knowledge to improve and set up similar program in her own community.

Mr SOR Samet

SOR Samet is 26 from Takeo and he worked at Youth Star in Kampong Trabek distirct, Prey Veng province from August 2012-August 2013. He studied rural agriculture at the University of Pannasastra and graduated in 2011. He found it difficult to get a job when he graduated as perspective employers said he lacked experience. Samet was attracted to Youth Star because of its unique vision and mission and he thought it might provide an opportunity to improve his life and gain valuable skills in order to enable him to have a better chance of getting a good job. He anted to go to a rural community to learn from the commune and also share his knowledge and experience with them. He really wanted to help the children in the community with their schooling.

It was hard at first as he felt isolated when he arrived at the commune, he didn't know anyone and didn't get much support from the community. Due to his disability some community nembers felt he wouldn't be able to effectively carry out his assignment. Samet refused to quit, and remembered what he learned from his Youth Star pre-departure training and proactively sorted out the problem himself.

He went around all the houses in the community and did a census and mapped out issues in the ommunity. Then he created a youth club and he and the youth club are now active participants in the "Good Man Campaign".

Samet feels he has become a lot more confident in his abilities and he sees a big change in community's attitudes, especially the children who tested him a lot and didn't take education seriously at first. He is proud of himself for fighting for education and improving his life.



"I have become a facilitator of change and part of this wonderful community that is now accepting of newcomers and knows how to run youth groups and mobilise its members for positive change".





"I feel my biggest achievement is seeing the change in attitudes in the community and that now school drop outs are more interested in study. I'm better at making decisions and planning and the community is more focused on working together and placing more importance on education"



"I have learned a lot so far and I feel more grown up, independent and better at negotiating. I now find it easy to talk with a range of people and assert my opinions and have authority. I feel sad to leave my community as I have formed such strong friendships."

Ms TY Sokunthy

Ms TY Sokunthy is 23 and studied Sociology at the Royal University of Phnom Pehn and is from Kampot, she began her placement with Youth Star in August 2012. She is working in Kampong Leav district, Prey Veng province.

She began volunteering in order to build up experience, work in a community and become more independent.

Sokunthy found it challenging at first as there wasn't a lot of encouragement from parents for their children to go to the reading centres or participate in the youth groups. However, after doing her community mapping she was able to recruit young people to become members of the youth clubs, which has 18 members (17 females, 1 male). Since the school no longer has a room available for the youth club; Sokunthy trained the members to go to the houses and teach the children.

Every morning she goes to Center of Education For All (CEFA) and helps the children read and write. In the afternoon she teaches children in the youth club to teach English, advocate and raise awareness about domestic violence and other issues in the community. She then supervises the Youth club to teach the children.



Ms HO Chakriya

Ms Ho Chakriya, aged 21, has been volunteering at Youth Star since August 2012; she studied Sociology at the Prek Leap National School of Agriculture. She is based in Kampong Trabek district, Prey Veng Province.

She volunteered with Youth Star in order to be more independent, gain more experience and to encourage young people to read and write and take part in community activities.

For Chakriya, it was hard at first and she didn't feel like a part of the community. When she first arrived at her school it was during school holidays and so she and the local headmistress visited the houses of the children that had dropped out of school. Once she found people to help she started planning with the community chief. Through her community mapping, she learned how many children dropped out of school and who were victims of trafficking etc.

She started up the youth club and started teaching the children and set up two libraries. These libraries are now so popular people even come on weekends.

There are now 21 youth club members aged 12 to 18 and they have created a book club to educate the community about the importance of reading and education. The youth club members play an active role in encouraging people to use the libraries and also raising awareness about domestic violence through role plays.

'Roaring Twenties' Gala

On September 21st Youth Star Cambodia hosted its eighth annual fundraising Gala dinner.

The 1920s theme was chosen to celebrate this decade of innovation and liberation which symbolizes the work of our volunteers that have brought democracy, opportunity and on-going positive change to the communities they have worked with.

The night was a complete success with fantastic music and dance. Kok Thlok Artists Association blend of Western and Khmer music, 70s rock and pop and DJ Lion's varied set had the crowd dancing until 11:30pm. Highlights included Tiny Toones performing the Charleston and a best dressed competition.

The event raised \$35,330 and was attended by 470 guests that included current and former volunteers, the Youth Star Board of Directors, government officials, foreign dignitaries, civic leaders; scholars and various professionals from multinational corporations and national and international organizations.







Ms. Ashley Young,

Mr. Chris Sothy,

Ms. Christine Gauthier,

Mr. Em Sorany,

Mr. Greg Polk,

Mr. Keo Lundi,

Ms. Mora Gibbings,

Ms. Nina Farmer,

Ms. Patricia Baars,

Ms. Sharon Wilkinson,

Ms. Som Khemra,

Ms. Sor Sothearom

Special thanks to:

American Intercon Institute (AII)

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Ms. Sapor Rendall

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Ms. Patricia Baars

Mrs Sharon Wilkinson

Ms. Som Khemra

Mrs. Mora Gibbings

Thank you to all our Board of Directors for their continuing support.

Youth Star staff 2013

Ms. Mora GIBBINGS

Dr. Sieng Huy

Mrs. Khut Sochampawatd

Ms. SOR Lynny

Ms. SOR Sothearom

Ms. Lim HuyHorng

Ms. Grusche Michelsen

Ms. Jennifer Rae

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H.E. Oknha Dr. Quach Mengly Mr. and Ms. Pastores

Ms. Patricia Baars Ms.Sharon Wilkinson

H.R.H. Sisowath Pheanuroth

Mr. Sit-down H.E. Sok Chenda Ms. Catherine Cecil Youth Star Alumni















Youth Star in 2014...

Youth Star is moving forward.

Following extensive consideration from the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and external experts, Youth Star is moving forward for 2014. We will continue to keep our vision, mission and values that keep Youth Star so unique at the heart of everything we do. Whilst, in the past Youth Star volunteers were working on four areas, we will now focus solely on **youth empowerment** through non-formal education and youth development and streamline all our activities in these areas.

With nearly 50% of the population under the age of 24*, Youth Star feels that our resources are best served in focusing solely on a youth for youth model. Our overall goal is to initiate functional literacy for all youth in Cambodia through catalyzing a culture of volunteerism in non-formal education in all our communities. This will see a continuation of projects such as youth-led after school clubs, reading activities and campaigns but with a view to work directly with local schools to tackle issues such as school drop-outs, lack of school registration and illiteracy.

We believe that all youth have the right and responsibility to be full citizens; listened to by their communities and able to initiate change in their communities. Through focusing all our programs on youth we believe we can empower our volunteers and, in turn, empower the youth of the communities, to become educated, engaged citizens of Cambodia.

In 2014 Youth Star will continue to work in partnership with local authorities, NGOs, government organizations and schools to achieve our goal. We hope to diversify our fundraising efforts, to increase the amount of volunteers in the field and to increase the impact of our programs through focusing on youth for youth.

If you have any questions or thoughts about our programs then we would love to hear from you. We will be updating all our partners, sponsors, supporters and friends of our activities throughout 2014.

How YOU can help

Partner with Youth Star in bringing transformation to the lives of our interns and the communi<mark>ti</mark>es where they work

- Sponsor a volunteer intern
- Be our corporate sponsor
- Donate to Youth Star online

Help recruit Youth Star Cambodia volunteers

Youth Star Cambodia recruits young people to participate in our program on an ongoing basis. Please alert us to any opportunities to meet with potential volunteers.

Sponsor a Volunteer

Sponsoring a volunteer gives you a closer connection to the volunteer experience. Your volunteer will keep you updated from time to time on their activities and volunteer development. This will help you see how your contribution makes a huge impact in each community.

It costs US\$3,000 for each volunteer per year, excluding core organization costs. This covers the cost of training, supervising and supporting one volunteer for a year of service.

Be Our Corporate Partner

As the private sector in Cambodia grows, corporate social responsibility values are gaining attention. Youth Star Cambodia seeks partners to help us explore solutions to help develop Cambodia and benefit all sectors, including business. Our corporate partners understand that Youth Star Cambodia offers a unique opportunity to work with an organization that stands out in its professionalism and commitment to excellence.

Donate Online Now

Donors may make contributions to Youth Star Cambodia through Global Giving UK. Please note the donations are tax deductible for UK residents only.

http://www.globalgiving.co.uk/donate/17222/youth-star-cambodia/

Donate by Phone or Mail

Please contact us to arrange for your contribution:
Address: #17AE1E2, Street 598, Sangkat Boeung Kak II, Toul Kork, Phnom Penh.
Telephone: +855 23 884 135/360
Email: admin@youthstarcambodia.org