

# Youth Star News

October 2016



## In this issue:

- \* **Lasting Impressions: Cohort 21**
- \* **Success Stories: Preah Damrei**
- \* **Volunteer Commencement for C23**
- \* **Office Reshuffle**

## Lasting Impressions: Cohort 21

By the time August had sprung, our Cohort 21 volunteers had successfully completed their one year service in the two districts of Kampong Thom province; Kampong Svay and Stoung; and one district in Prey Veng Province; Kampong Trabaek. The core focus of this project was the reintegration of Out of School Children (OSC) aged between six and fifteen years old. Mission in hand, our fifteen volunteers set about utilizing their motivation and drive in the formation of ten Youth and Children's clubs. In total these clubs are responsible for 231 regular members, largely dominated by the 70 percent female ratio. This statistic is of crucial importance in its symbolism as enhancing gender equality within the communities. Volunteers have successfully imparted crucial life skills in the form of communication, teamwork and leadership, hereby forming a platform for change. In line with our joint vision with SIPAR for the elimination of illiteracy, Youth Club members have been trained to offer tutoring to classmates; fostering both camaraderie and aiming to ensure that no child is left behind. In encouragement of a desire to read, the 'Mobile Library' was rolled out such that it can be run by the children, for the children. Remarkably, Youth Club access and activities were shown to be responsible for significant outreach to OSC, culminating in the reintegration of over 250 children, and the continued attendance by over 100. It is clear from such a relatively small time frame just how much benefit is engendered through the efforts of our Youth Star Volunteers.



*Cohort 21 and P.O Ms. Sokunpharady after end of service training*

Of significant and delightful news is that two of our Cohort have decided to continue their journey in the community for an extended six month period. Having witnessed the remarkable change made in their communities, Mr. Tola and Mr. Sokkoeun sought to extend their service. It is only through such altruism that Youth Star is able to progress their work in underserved communities.

## Success Stories: Preah Damrei

Amongst the ten established Youth Clubs of Cohort 21, one of the biggest success stories has been Preah Damrei in Stoung, Kampong Thom. Named "Koma Maetreipheap," the club was led by our volunteer Mr. Tola. Its origins lay in the passion of after class children with a love for learning English. Having noted the regularity of their attendance Tola decided to lay the foundations for the Youth Club. In order to sustain the club he articulated the necessity of engaging activities such as traditional dance, drawing, English tutelage, and reading opportunities with the mobile library. In line with the social aspect, there was to be a crucial civic element designed to build community spirit and kindness. As such, the club equally engages in services such as cleaning pagodas, planting flowers and putting on shows. Very excitingly the club is able to showcase its talented members at wedding events and temple fairs, putting on traditional dance and music. Through such events, the club is able to generate as much as 500,000 riels to contribute towards resources, prizes and activities. Beyond the development of critical skill development, the club fosters a community spirit and togetherness. It has developed as a role model for current and future clubs.



*Members of Preah Damrei Youth Club Prepare to Entertain the Class*

## Volunteer Commencement for C23



*Preah Damrei Youth Club and Youth Star Volunteers*

August bore witness to the successful training and placement of our twelve Cohort 23 Volunteers. In testament to the pioneering work conducted by the organization, we can proudly announce that this Cohort is the first to comprise a higher ratio of female volunteers. This milestone is a welcome verification of Youth Star's commitment to volunteer safety and training, in line with pioneering initiatives for real community development. The communities selected for Cohort 23's placements include Kampong Svay, Prasat Balang and Stoung districts in Kamong Thom Province, and Kampong Trabaek, located in Prey Veng Province.

Having served in the field for over two months, our volunteers have successfully identified their development objectives through the Community Mapping process. In line with ensuring these objectives are met, our Volunteers move on to their next stage having completed a supplementary weekend training program. In cooperation with Aide et Action and Kampong Thom Provincial Office of Education, the weekend focused on core competency development in tutoring, small proposal writing and community campaign organizing. Additionally, focus was ascribed to the 'Mobile Library initiative', responsible for the facilitation of reading encouragement and imagination empowerment. The session took place from Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October in Stoung district.

Having witnessed the early inroads made by our Youth Star volunteers, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank them on successful beginnings. Only through them may we achieve the crucial enhancement of development and opportunity.



*School Enrolment Campaign*

## Office Reshuffle

Having led Youth Star by determined example, it was with great admiration and appreciation that Youth Star said farewell to Managing Director Mora Gibbings at the start of June. Having dedicated over three years to the organizations cause, Mora leaves us behind in a strong and dedicated position.

Promoted in her place is Mr. Luy Tech Chheng. Having begun his relationship with Youth Star as a volunteer in 2006, Chheng has continued to contribute to the development of the organization. Most recently, in his capacity as the Program Coordinator, he oversaw a successful streamlining of program objectives. With his passion for development and invaluable organizational experience, Chheng provides the capability to drive Youth Star forward.

In June Youth Star also welcomed a new Administrative Assistant, Mr. Kamm Prayuth. October introduced a new Communications Intern, Ms. Heng Yen, along with an International Communications Volunteer, Mr. Michael Renfrew.

## Support Us

### Donating to Youth Star Cambodia

**Partner with Youth Star in bringing transformation to the lives of our volunteers and the communities where they work.**

### Sponsor a Volunteer

Sponsorship provides greatly required funding in an underserved field. Beyond the ability to engage with and develop a volunteer, your contribution directly benefits the lives of hundreds of children with precious little else. At costs of (US)\$3,500 per volunteer per annum, Youth Star provides necessary training, supervision and support, in addition to recruitment and placement. Whilst costs can be calculated, the potential is immeasurable.



**Please contact us to arrange for your contribution:**

Address: #1, St 560, Boeung Kak 1, Khan Toul Kork, Phnom Penh.

Tel: +855 23 900 162/163

Email: [admin@youthstarcambodia.org](mailto:admin@youthstarcambodia.org)

Website: [www.youthstarcambodia.org](http://www.youthstarcambodia.org)

Facebook: Youth Star Cambodia