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New Hope for Phan Khea

Sochea met Phan Khea in August 2017. Born in 2005, she had already dropped out of school by the time she was 10. Khea lives with her parents and one young brother in Cheas Village, Preah Domrei Commune,

Stoung District, Kampong Thom Province. At age 12 she began to undertake seasonal migration to Thailand for work to support her family. The day Sochea first met Khea, she mentioned that she desired to go back to school, but had many fears which worried her: unable to read properly she was afraid of the teachers and embarrassed in front of her friends.



Youth Star's volunteer Sochea and Khea in Youth Club

Sochea began with reassurance, taking time to explain the value of studying and pushing her confidence to get back to school. One book really helped and it was called "I Read, I Knew, and I'm Intelligent"; written by Sochea to help the children.

The essence of the book is to educate children on the value of reading and how to build a good and intelligent personality. Sochea enrolled the help of Phan Phanna, one of our Youth Club's members who live near Khea's house, to help her in reading that book. In less than two weeks, she had completed reading it and began to show her reignited passion for school.

Following this progress up, Khea was given a second book to read, called "Dream of The Worm". She has reads this in her spare time between house work and taking care of her younger brother. Despite her love for reading, Khea still required some help engaging with the Youth Club activities and discovering her voice.

Through subsequent intervention with Youth Star's volunteers and the club's members, we encouraged and supported her to go back to school. Resultantly, she started her school again at grade 6. Khea has changed a lot after getting back to school; she is determined to learn her favorite subject, Khmer Language. She continues to build more relationship with friends at school because she enjoyed having fun with her classmates. Her father is really happy to see Khea attends school regularly and eager to learn like this. Whilst her monitoring teacher, Mr. Mee Someng has raised that Khea is learning as well as the other students despite dropping out in grade 5.

Khea continues to grow into a hopeful child with dreams of becoming a Khmer Language teacher in the future. She is a role model for those who have dropped out of school in the community. As a Youth Star's volunteer, Sochea has been overwhelmed by such a positive change like this.

Youth Star's Board Meeting & Field-Trip



Youth Star's boards and Staffs visiting volunteer Mao Oun

On January 13th, 2018, Youth Star Cambodia undertook their winter board meeting at the Youth Star office. Board chairperson, Mrs. Sharon Wilkinson, and attending board members praised the Youth Star team for their excellent work throughout the year. It was recognized that Youth Star is now fully staffed and the volunteer program has successfully refocused and is undertaking some fantastic work. Our Program Director, Mr. Luy Tech Chheng has recruited a competent and dedicated management and program team that will provide a solid platform for moving Youth Star forward.

Beyond the particulars of the current management and financial status of the organization, the meeting identified 3 broad strategic areas that now need to be focused on, the first is **Visibility and Outreach**, the second is **Expand the Number of Volunteers**, and the third strategic area is **Fund Raising**.

The Board Meeting also included board field visit to volunteers and community members in Kampong Thom province to see the program and their communities. It was truly inspiring for the board to see the program in action and to learn about the wonderful impact it is having in the communities.

End of Service Training Volunteer Cohort 24

It was another momentous achievement for Youth Star Cambodia to have our volunteer cohort 24 successfully completes their one year service. Five successful volunteers were invited to attend our End-of-Service training from March 1 – 3, 2018 at the Youth Star office.

The training is used to both reflect upon the experience and to



During reflection session, Phen is presenting his one-year service river of life in the community.

develop their employability skillset: focusing on areas such as interview and application skills, service-reflection, and

personal growth consideration. In the training session, they were asked to reflect on the challenges, successes, and solutions of their volunteer work.

Cohort 24 also worked on technical skills on how to professionally write cover letters and CV's, alongside a presentation on the qualifications that employers are seeking from applicants. After going through two days of reflections, feedbacks, and theory, the last day allowed them to put what they have learnt into practice. They were asked to compose a CV to apply for job announcements. Afterwards, program officers and volunteers performed an interview role-play. During this activity, they were videotaped so that it could be replayed later for everyone to watch and give their opinions, comments, and advice.

To celebrate their successful completion, we had a wonderful field trip outside of the city. Youth Star Cambodia would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the volunteers of cohort 24 for their hard work and crucial contribution to the communities in which they served.

SAP Pro Bono Consultants

On March, 5th, 2018, Youth Star Cambodia has the great pleasure to host the SAP Social Sabbatical team a month long charitable placement. The SAP program, facilitated by PYXERA Global, were here to help Youth Star develop strategies for technical support and design, particularly to increase our visibility at national and international levels. The SAP Sabbatical was an inspiring and fruitful initiative that helped us to develop deeper understanding and enhanced strategy of our organizational visibility and marketing structure.

SAP developed our understanding of the platforms and means available to target potential volunteers. This included a survey at the Asia Europe University with more than one 150 students. They helped to outline ideas about how to increase our image to the public through having an enhanced profile on social media.

We are very grateful for our SAP fellows, Agnes Biesiekierska, Jesus Hernandez, and Florian Ransmayr. They were amazing partners and advocates. In the short time they have spent with us, we felt their dedication and passion.



SAP Team during field visit to Prey Veng Province

Pre-Departure Training Cohort 26

March 2018 saw another great achievement for Youth Star Cambodia, with 6 volunteers successfully recruited, and joined Pre-Departure Training (PDT) from 05 to 16 March 2018 at the Youth Star office. Our new volunteer comprise of 5 females and one male.

Pre-departure training is a crucial period for equipping volunteers with the skills and confidence they need before heading to their communities. It covers areas such as community mobilizing, leadership, conflict solving, communication and networking. A session on management and report writing is built in to ensure the volunteers will provide effective feedback on their work in the community. We also invited our partner organization, Sipar, to provide training on monitoring a tutoring class, public reading



Volunteer cohort 26 doing pledge during closing ceremony

class for children in the community in order to improve their reading skill and habit.

Upon completing training Youth Star Cambodia held a closing ceremony to celebrate their success and commitment prior to taking up placements in Prey Veng Province.

Welcome New Members

Youth Star Cambodia extends a warm welcome to our two new staff members. Firstly, in January we employed a new Communication's Officer, Mr. Chip Saroet. He brings his experience of working closely with international volunteers from different countries. He will work with Youth Star to ensure the implementation, program coordination, and creativity in the communications work.

We also welcomed new Program Officer Ms. Hun Chan Monyroth. As a Youth Star's Program Officer, she has a high commitment to improve the education sector and to decrease the illiteracy rate in Cambodia.

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 living allowance, 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:

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