

In this Issue:

- o Story of Change by Chhorm Sokea
- o Meeting with Provincial Department of MOEYS
- o First Recall Training Cohort 26A
- o Volunteer Cohort 26B Placed in The Field
- o End of Service Training Volunteer Cohort 25

Story of Change by Chhorm Sok Kea

My name is Chhorm Sok Kea. I was born on 12 September 1994, Bort Trach Village, Bort Kandal Commune, Bakan District, Pursat Province. I am the second farmers daughter of 6 siblings (3 daughters). I have a degree in accounting from the Student Development Institute in Phnom Penh. I decided to apply as a volunteer with Youth Star Cambodia because I believe that as youth we have to contribute our knowledge to help others. It has also been my dream to become a good teacher.

After being accepted to the program and taking my pre-departure training I was appointed to Snor Village, Tompeang Russie Commune, Kampong Svay District, Kampong Thom province. I remember on my first day in the community that I was afraid of being alone as a newcomer in the community. I was also worried about my ability since I had never worked with children and was shy and not confident in myself.

Having now spent a few months in the community, things have changed a lot in the community and in myself. I am able to teach the students with more confidence. I have learned a lot more from the teachers there. I conducted a public library with youth club members and helped motivate them to join in with reading and tutoring class. I was able to communicate smoothly with people in the community as well as join meetings with the commune. This allows me to understand the agenda of the meeting and development strategies in the community.

Through our hard work, Youth Club members and I conduct performances and art displays during the school ceremonies. I was really delighted to be admired by teachers there. They said that it was a really great educational performance. Thanks to these experiences I feel more confident and believe that I can achieve wonderful and important activities to improve people's lives. I am able to work with different people from different backgrounds.



Youth Star's volunteer Sok Kea with her students during a school ceremony

During the service, I also gained report and proposal writing skills. I was able to create a small project called "The Green Community". I grew a vegetable garden in the community with the help from youth club members. I was delighted that we got an income to support a youth club. I was also proud that most of the youth club members practice growing a vegetable garden with their family.

I am very proud to be a part of the Youth Star family. Youth Star has been a bridge to change myself, to have clear set goals and to understand what

is really important to the development of my country. I also had my personal quotation about volunteering: "Volunteering is a great way to use our abilities to help a vulnerable community and improve ourselves".

Meeting with Provincial Department of MoEYS



Youth Star's Program Director and Program Officer meeting with Director of the Provincial Department

On 13th-14th June, 2018, Youth Star Program Director and Program Officer took a field trip to meet with provincial department of Education, Youth and Sports of Kampong Thom, Kratie, and Prey Veng provinces. The meeting aimed to share with them our program activities and achievements during the past year; and also requested for continued support in our next three-year project (2018-2020).

We are grateful to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport for their cooperation and support which enables Youth Star's programme to help both our young volunteers and marginalized rural communities for better education of the children.

First Recall Training Cohort 26A

After four months of placement in the community of Prey Veng province, our Youth Star volunteer cohort 26 are invited to attend our first Recall Training which lasted three days from 27 to 29 June 2018 at Youth Star office.

Through this training, our volunteers are able to share about the challenges and achievements during their first 4 months in the communities. They have shared their perceptions of their communities and their progress in creating change. The volunteers also started to prepare their stories of change and proposal writing. The Youth Star staff working with the volunteers noticed significant changes in their behavior, attitude, and skills since they were first deployed to the community. It's also a great way to build their capacity, provide additional skills, and solutions to better serve the communities.

On the last day, we



Group discussion during reflection session

celebrated the training and the achievements of the volunteers by distributing certificates, which acknowledged their unique personal development. We are proud of their accomplishments through hard work and dedication.

Volunteer Cohort 26B Placed in The Field

We are pleased to announce that our 26Bth cohort of volunteers has been placed in the provinces of Kratie for their year's voluntary service. 9 new Youth Star volunteers have successfully completed ten days of Pre-Departure Training (PDT). They are now on the journey of their one-year service in the community.

For this new group, we held a closing ceremony and volunteer placements for new volunteer Cohort 26B in Sambour District, Kratie province on 17 July 2018. The event aimed to celebrate their successful completion of Pre-departure Training and introducing volunteers to local authorities who have participated including director of Department of Youth Center and director of District Office of Education Youth and Sport, commune council member, teachers, and local partners.

We are delighted to see a very warm welcome from our local authorities in the community. They expressed a thankful to Youth Star Cambodia for truly making an impact in the marginalized communities for better education of children.

We wish all of our volunteers a fulfilling and successful time with their new communities, families, and friends.



Volunteer cohort 26B doing pledge during closing ceremony in Sambour District, Kratie Province

End of Service Training Volunteer Cohort 25

Youth Star Cambodia would like to congratulate our volunteer Cohort 25 who began their journey on 01 August and now successfully finished their one-year service on 30 July 2018. The group was placed in Kampong Thom and Kratie Provinces.

In consolidation of their achievement, they were invited to join three-day End of Service Training on 27 July 2018 at Youth Star office which allows them to develop post-service employability: covering interview and application skills, service-reflection, and personal growth consideration.

On the final day, we were pleased to welcome trainers from AGB Consulting to provide our volunteers training 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.

We also had a small party at the end of the training to celebrate their successful completion.

Youth Star Cambodia is really proud of our volunteer cohort 25 for their hard works and crucial contribution to the communities in which they served. We wish them a bright future in their career.



Volunteer Cohort 25 after the training

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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