



GRACE HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

"Enabling the community to become sustainable through education, family support and health care"

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Introduction

Grace House Community Centre (GHCC) marked its 10th anniversary in 2018 and while this is an achievement to celebrate it was also one of the most challenging years for the organisation since it was founded. GHCC reviewed the programmes it offers, ensuring the organisation continues to meet the needs of the local community and work within its funding constraints. Half of the land on which GHCC was situated became unavailable to rent so the committee in Cambodia and the UK trustees had to make the difficult decision as to which programmes could be continued.

The review highlighted that GHCC was no longer meeting its mission of providing education to children whose family is on or just above the village poverty list with a percentage of families now able to fund education. Whilst this change highlighted the improved circumstances of many of the families and increased well being of the villages there is also an awareness that many families are still struggling with day to day living and unable to support their children's education.

The Education Programme was reformed to offer classes from 3 - 11 yr olds in the main programme with additional English language classes offered 2 hrs a day for older students on the poverty list. The attendance number of older students in the main education programme had fallen due to students expected to attend longer hours at state school. GHCC feels state school must take priority.

Families with a disabled child are more likely to live on the poverty line and the GHCC programme is still much needed in Siem Reap, receiving referrals from the government and other NGOs, with limited state education or specialist respite/transitional provision for children with a disability GHCC remains strongly committed to providing special needs education provision for Siem Reap area.

The creche, family support and older persons programme remain unchanged.

In November GHCC closed Grace Gecko social enterprise due to lack of accommodation and failure to make a profit for a few years.

The land rental changes in January 2019 with GHCC maintaining approximately half the site, this included the social work office, Preahkoun House, special needs and early years classrooms. During the last 2 months of 2018 buildings were moved to the remaining site and new toilets, water well and entrance were constructed.



Education Programme

During the year until November an average of 190 full time and 60 part time students attended the programme, a drop of 57 from the previous year. Classes in English language and general education were held for students aged 5 to until they left state school, due to poverty this age is variable. Basic Khmer and general education was offered to 3 - 5 yr olds with a focus on learning through play. From November the classes were reduced to 3 classes but with the aim to reintroduced a 4th class in early 2019, the programme now caters for children from 3 yrs until end of primary school. English language classes for high school students continue early morning and late afternoon with the criteria of the family being on or just above the poverty list.

Each class enjoyed educational outings which linked into the curriculum. The outings included:- Silk Farm, Lotus Farm, Butterfly Farm, National Museum, bird watching at Boeung Pearang and Kulen Mountain. The general education curriculum is compiled and supported by our education specialist Marilyn King, whose assistance for the past 10 years has enabled GHCC to continue to offer a culturally appropriate and high value programme.



Further Education



Latest university students

Thanks to funding from Tesco F & F and a fundraiser held in April by Fiona Cameron and her family GHCC continues to support students to study at university or vocational training establishments. Three students completed their studies and all have found employment in their chosen field. Seven students are in the 2nd and 3rd year of their studies, while ten students commenced further education in the new academic year. Subjects being studied include:-
Tourism, Accounting, Public Administration, International Studies, Management, Health Studies, English Literature, Agriculture, Law, Pharmacology and Nursing.

Children with Special Needs

The programme is managed by Seam Sarang (Koy) and employs 3 senior workers/teachers and 11 carers. Curtin and Deakin universities in Australia regularly send final year physiotherapy and occupational therapy students who, together with their lecturers, ensure staff skills are updated. Koy attended training on assessing education needs run by Kuruna Battenbang and AWWA Singapore, as a qualified physiotherapist Koy also participated in National Cambodian Rehabilitation Conference in Phnom Penh. The conference was attended 300 delegates from a variety of disciplines from Columbia, Japan, Australia, France, India, Brazil, USA, Indonesia, and Nigeria.

Other staff members attended Sexual Abuse training run by Aple and GHCC continues to play an active role on the Child Protection and Children with Disabilities working party facilitated by First Steps.

Education

The education programme continues to thrive with 20 students attending on a daily basis. Each child has an Individual Education Plan which includes physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy as needed. Art, yoga and play are included in the curriculum. Families who are able donate a small sum towards their child's education and snacks.

The children visited the local pagoda and actively participated in all the celebrations at Grace House. Eight students joined 126 other GHCC students and took part in a world record breaking football match which involved 3000 people playing one match 24 hrs a day over 5 days.

In memory of a volunteer's father a raised garden "Ron's Garden" was established in the grounds of Preahkoun House. The children planted seeds and enjoy harvesting the produce, which is sold to staff and in the local market to provide funds.



Preahkoun House Transitional/Respite Home

At the beginning of 2018 two children were resident in Preahkoun House, a girl and boy both aged around 12 unfortunately in July the boy died of heart failure. The remaining child was very lonely without her friend and the decision was made to place her with a foster family. This has been a positive move and she is thriving in her new environment. During her time in Preahkoun House she had learnt to feed herself, communicate her needs more clearly and her mobility had improved giving her more independence. Preahkoun House has been a success in enhancing the residents daily living skills and behaviour enabling 2 teenagers to return to their families in 2017. The home is currently empty but is ready to take new children if the need arises. The Danson Foundation continues to support Preahkoun House and has agreed for the funding to be used flexibly with the disability programme.

Family Support



GHCC social workers continue to offer support to 18 families with an additional 2 families added this year. The families were supported to overcome social issues such as alcoholism, gambling and domestic violence. Children were encouraged to remain in state school with the social workers explaining the importance of education.

5 bikes were given to families, enabling children to access school and parents to access work. Help was provided with clean water with a water filter donated and two toilets installed. Parents often find it difficult to take time away from their small business or work to take their child to hospital and leave it until the child is seriously ill, during the year GHCC social workers took 10 children to hospital. First aid on site was administered 40 times.

Lunch Club

During the year the number of children requiring the assistance of a lunch time meal fell to 4 families. The social workers assisted these families to provide health meals for their children and the lunch club closed. This is a positive move, highlighting in improvement in the daily living

standards for many of the families. It also reflects the great work done by the social workers in encouraging parents to care for their children.

Older Persons Programme



In partnership with Help Aged Cambodia Grace House continues to support the older people of Koy Krahn village. The older people's committee meet monthly and social worker Srey Trea visits those in need. Visiting physiotherapy and occupational therapy students advise on equipment and exercises. Meals on Moto (wheels) were provided to one house bound lady. Cambodia remains the only country in South East Asia where there is no pension provision.

Grace Gecko Social Enterprise



The decision was taken to close Grace Gecko as it was failing to make money and the premises used was no longer available to rent. Grace Gecko was established 9 years ago when mother Khol Sopheak showed co-founder Bridget her skills at weaving hemp. Bridget encouraged Sopheak to share her skills with other mothers, providing them with an income. During the past year many of the women employed by Grace Gecko had moved on to new jobs or set up their own small business.

Whilst it is sad to loss the social enterprise the skills and confidence gained by the women has been invaluable, several are now playing active roles within the community including being on the committee of the older persons group. GHCC would like to thank all the women for their hard work and wish them all the best for the future.

The stock and machinery was sold to help fund the reconstruction of GHCC.

Staffing

2018 saw many changes in staff, Project Manager Chum Cdeth left in August and we welcomed Chhiv Loung back to the team in November. Loung had previously been employed at GHCC as teacher, head teacher and disability education manager before leaving to run his own business. He now returns as Project Manager and Executive Director. Teacher Srey Pech left to pursue her law

career, Srey Pech was a GHCC student and had been sponsored through her law degree by GHCC. Malis, teacher in disability programme left to pursue her dream of being a wood carver, she had worked with the children for 6 years. GHCC's cook Hing retired, having looked after us and the lunch club children with her delicious meals for 10 years. Our accountant/office manager Mali decided to move on to another job which will offer her an opportunity to progress her career.

Chan Dani, social work manager returned to work part time in February following maternity leave. Dani stepped down as Executive Director in November to spend more time with her son, she remains a committee member.

Due to the restructure of GHCC programmes we said a sad farewell to head teacher Punlou and teachers Koemee, Vathana, Chamrong and Sophart. We greatly appreciate their dedication, skilled teaching and encouraging the children to learn, develop and have fun. Mali and Head Teacher Punlou had been our students and were sponsored through university and then joined our team. We also say farewell to Programme Manager Fiona Cameron and Volunteer Coordinator Deborah Saunders whose contracts and funding came to an end in November. Both provided invaluable support to the local staff and volunteers. We, sincerely, thank them for sharing their skills in enhancing the confidence and skill set of the local staff group.

Training

GHCC continues to invest in staff training to ensure the best possible service is offered to the families and their children. During the year staff completed training in:- teaching techniques, child protection, sexual abuse, physiotherapy, management skills, assessing learning for special needs, first aid and social work .

Funding and Supporters

GHCC receives funds from different avenues, grants, sponsors, individual donations in cash or gifts.

Grants and Fundraisers

- Tesco F & F Funding Futures had funded GHCC for 4 years, the last grant being August 2017. This grant helped towards running costs of the Education programme, Further Education and Children with a Disability education programme. GHCC would like to sincerely thank Tesco for their support over the 4 years
- Danson Foundation has funded Preahkoun House for its 3rd year and has committed for a 4th year. Funding is not currently required for Preahkoun House as there are no residents but the foundation is sponsoring the foster care of one child and the remaining funds will be used for the special needs education programme
- Cakes for Kids continue to fund the salaries of the creche staff
- Hortense Ducleaux continues to fund a number of the special needs education programme staff.

- Fiona Cameron and her family held a fund raiser in Melbourne, Australia raising funds for this years further education students
- Kulen Research funded environmental studies
- Footprint Cafe for new books

Special Thanks

Throughout the year several supporters raised funds, special thanks to :-

Marilyn King for supporting the general education programme.

Marianne Richards and the Marchant family for “Ron’s Garden” in memory of their father and continuing financial support.

Nancy Charlow, her local Lions Club and Audoben school teachers

Ann Brownie, St Ursula’s school and Connect Cambodia

CarrieAnn Smith and Rheanne Bailey for fundraising.

Ammo Jewellery who have designed a range of jewellery with GHCC motif

Everyone who sponsors a family or class, without your support children would not have food in their stomach.

Many thanks to anyone missed, unfortunately the inputing at Grace House has not named all donors.

Working Together

GHCC continues to work closely with the local government departments and the following organisations :-

Friends International, Chab Dai (NGO Child Protection), Green Gecko Project, Soucial Trust, Travel Education Asia, People and Places, Globateer, ConCERT, Safe Haven (NGO Outreach for Disabilities), Help Age Cambodia, First Step Cambodia, Women’s Resource Centre (Siem Reap), Angkor Hospital for Children, Aple, Cambodia Rural School Trust, James Cook University (Aus), Curtin University (Aus)

Volunteers

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered at Grace House over the past year and to the trustees of Grace House Cambodia Trust and the committee at Grace House. Your time, skill sharing and commitment is greatly appreciated. Thanks also to Cambodia Rural School Trust who supported two Khmer volunteers throughout the year, a welcomed addition to the team.

Governance

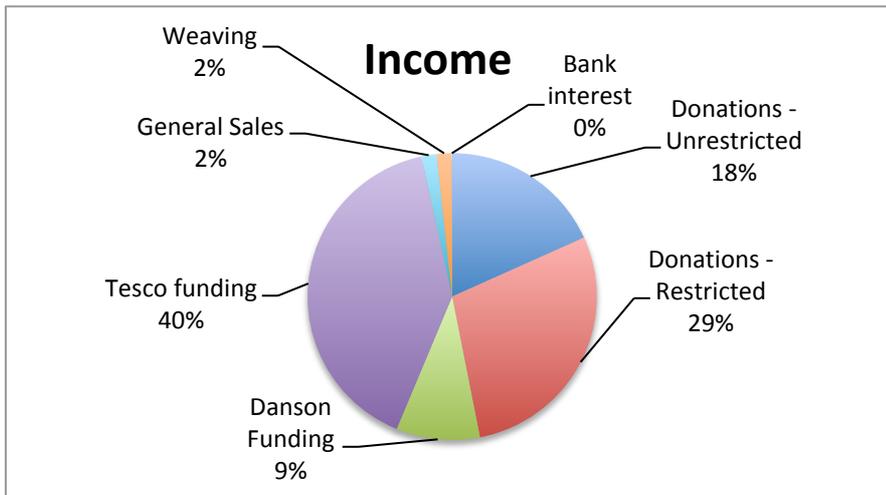
Cambodia The new committee in Cambodia consists of 3 key staff members Chhiv Loung, Executive Director, Chan Dani and Seam Sarang (Koy). Under Cambodian law it is legal for staff members to also be committee members.

England and Wales Grace House Cambodia Trust (GHCT) supports, fundraises and advises GHCC. Committee members are Bridget Cordory (Chair), Jennifer Jones (Treasurer), Catherine Steer (Secretary), Mary Carter, Joshua Nowak and Diana Tomaszko. GHCT submitted its annual report to the Charity Commission, it can be viewed on their website <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission>.

Finances

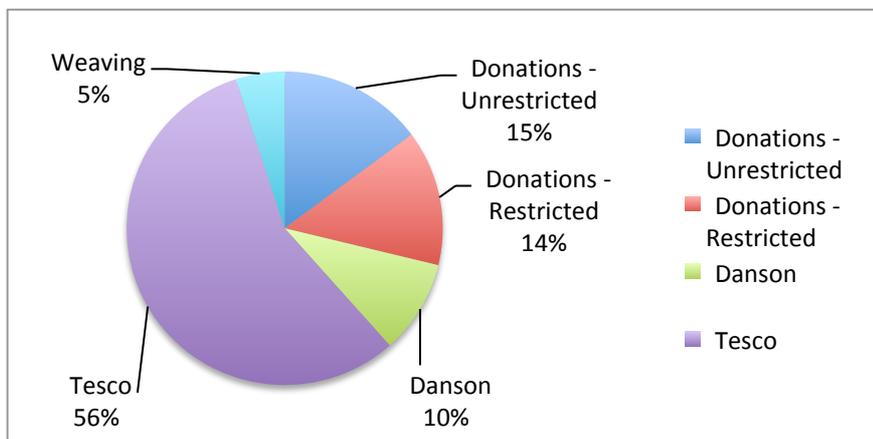
INCOME 2018

Donations - Unrestricted	\$ 26,514.60	includes \$5420.49 volunteer donations
Donations - Restricted	\$ 41,664.52	
Danson Funding	\$ 13,585.11	
Tesco funding	\$ 58,565.82	
General Sales	\$ 2,484.54	
Weaving	\$ 2,412.73	
Bank interest	\$ 78.97	
Total	\$ 145,306.29	



EXPENDITURE 2018

Donations - Unrestricted	\$ 18,497.10	includes \$229.94 Bank Charges
Donations - Restricted	\$ 17,434.68	
Danson	\$ 12,035.37	
Tesco	\$ 70,608.89	
Weaving	\$ 6,247.99	
Total	\$ 124,824.03	



Accounts

GHCT CAF Bank UK

Opening Balance £7412.33 Closing Balance £10246.15

GHCC ANZ Bank Cambodia

Opening Balance \$17878.06 Closing Balance \$29133.20

GHCC Safe

Opening Balance \$5927.56 Closing Balance \$8295.03

Summary

The past year has perhaps been the most difficult year for GHCC but thanks to supporters and a dedicated work force the organisation continues to thrive in a reduced mode but one which meets the current needs of the local community. GHCC relies solely on grants and donations with no financial assistance from the Cambodian government, we therefore continue to need your assistance to maintain our programmes and make a real difference to the community.

On behalf of the Cambodia Board of Directors, the UK Board of Trustees, all the staff, children, families and communities involved with GHCC THANK YOU!!!!

Donations to Grace House Community Centre can be made via our bank account in UK or Cambodia,

UK Bank Account

Grace House Cambodia Trust

Sort Code: 40-52-40 CAF Cash Account: 00024658

Cambodian Account

Community Centre of Grace House ANZ Royal Bank

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Swift Code ANZBKHPP A/C Number 1771711

Donations can also be made via BT Donate or Pay Pal but please note MyDonate is closing in June 2019



<https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/gracehousecambodiatrust>



https://www.paypal.com/donate/?token=E1TYSqqQ058ElgbMebLCRHuZv8UnBiqY8BmL-ldkLy8xq4SBQIFg2LyGdTrKhdW_ufCGLm&country.x=GB&locale.x=GB

