

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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

Compiled by:

Diana Mihalop - Chairperson, Grace House Cambodia Trust
and

Loung Chhiv - Executive Director, Community Centre of Grace House
Organisation

Index

Introduction.....	3
Education Program.....	4
Children with Special Needs.....	8
Family Support.....	10
Staffing.....	12
Funding and Supporters.....	13
Governance.....	17
Finance.....	18
Summary.....	20

Introduction

The year 2020 has been a difficult year for all, and while Cambodia itself recorded relatively low case numbers compared to other countries, the wider impact of the pandemic has severely affected the country.

In March, when a positive case was discovered in Cambodia, the government ordered all schools and education centres to close, which included Grace House. Whilst some organisations gave their employees reduced pay or cut their staffing numbers, Grace House felt it was important to continue paying the staff in full throughout, to ensure that they would not have to struggle through any fault of their own. Initially, the staff still came into Grace House once or twice a week to clean and maintain the grounds, and to monitor the outreach that would be required.

The Cambodian committee quickly established that the community needs in response to the pandemic were promoting stringent hygiene measures. The staff immediately used their resourcefulness and began making fabric face masks to distribute within the community. A plea to resource soap was put out to businesses within the local area, so that regular hand washing could be promoted. A local business, Naga Earth, immediately responded and very kindly offered to provide enough soap to enable it to be handed out to all the families too. It was then identified that some families were struggling financially due to losing their work within the tourism industry, so Grace House was in a position to increase the amount of rice donations they offered. They were then able to collaborate with Genevive's Fair Trade Village Food Bank. Some staff went to volunteer to organise and pack food parcels, and Genevive's in return were able to offer food parcels to some of the local families who were in most need.

Although children were unable to attend classes, Grace House made every effort to continue to offer education opportunities, including distributing worksheets, loaning out educational toys and offering parents advice on activities to do at home.

Grace House was finally given the go ahead to open in November, after a thorough risk assessment was completed and extra safety measures were in

place. Thanks to our wonderful supporters, we were able to raise enough money to purchase all the extra items needed such as: thermometers, hand sanitiser, disinfectants, and visors. Safe levels of student numbers for each class were calculated to ensure adequate distancing, and although this meant that students were not all able to attend together, a timetable was set out which allowed them to attend part time with worksheets to take home to complete on the days they were not in.

Unfortunately, on the day of Grace House's reopening, there was torrential rain and the river overflowed, causing flooding to the point where it was unsafe for the site to remain open, so it had to close for a further two weeks. More community support was offered during this time as again, families struggled with a loss of crops and the flooding affecting much of the work they do.

After the floods had resided, Grace House was finally able to reopen again, although there was another brief period of closure when a positive case of Covid-19 was identified locally. Fortunately, it wasn't long before Grace House was able to open and continue its great work.

Education Program

Grace House Community Centre runs four education classrooms, with eight classes split into morning and afternoon sessions. There are also extra part time English classes held between 8 - 9 am and 3 - 4pm for local children who cannot attend lessons during the school day. During 2020 a total of 104 full time and 13 part time students aged between 5 and 16 years attended Grace House to receive lessons in English and enrichment topics in science, maths, geography, computers, sports, and the arts.



Class trip at the beginning of 2020

GHCC also runs an early years education program for 3-5 years olds which takes a play based approach to learning. This enables the children to socialise, develop their fine motor skills in preparation for further education and to learn valuable self-care and hygiene skills, to encourage healthy habits.



Early years students

During the school closure, the teaching staff worked hard to ensure that the children who attend Grace House could continue to access education. A rota was organised for children to collect worksheets, created by the teachers, for them to complete throughout the week. The students then returned them for the teachers to mark.

Prior to reopening, GHCC's risk assessment had identified that there would have been too many students in class together, so a part time timetable has been implemented, so that half the class attend Monday and Tuesday and the other half on Thursday and Friday. The teachers are then providing worksheets for the other 3 days so that the students can continue learning at home. This system was created to give everyone the opportunity to be able to return to face-to-face education without compromising safety.



Teachers giving out worksheets for students to be able to engage in home learning through the school closure.

The other measures which have been put in place to allow the safe reopening of the education program are: the temperatures of every child and staff member is taken at the entrance and students are monitored for any Covid symptoms. Hand sanitisers are placed around the premises, and students and staff are required to wash their hands before and after each class. PPE is also worn by all, either a mask or a visor. Students are sat a safe distance from each other and the teacher, and equipment and tables are sanitised between and after classes.



Students returning to school with social distancing and PPE

At the beginning of each academic year, every student of GHCC is given a state school uniform and exercise books, pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners and erasers to help them access state education effectively. This is all funded by volunteers donations. Every day, the students are given fruit at snack time, to promote a healthy diet and provide good nutrition to support learning.

The current classroom structure is:
 Ducklings and Kittens (3-5 years)
 Chicks and Bees (5-7 years)
 Buffalo and Crocodiles (7-9 years)
 Dolphins and Lions (9 years +)



It is important to note that the children move up to another classroom based on their learning ability, as opposed to their age, therefore student's ages can vary in each classroom

Further Education

Grace House Community Centre is currently sponsoring 17 students through Further Education. The subjects they are studying are : Tourism, English Literature, Accounting, Management, Agriculture, Law and Pharmacy.

Through a grant given by Southeast Asia Foundation, we have been able to provide these students with regular phone credit which enables them to access online learning.

Children with Special Needs

There are currently 24 students who attend the special needs education program for children with disabilities. These are split into 3 classes and are overseen by Seam Sarang (Koy), manager of the Special Needs Educational Department and who is also a physiotherapist. There are three senior staff and eight care workers. Each student receives an individualised care plan and staff are trained on how to meet each student's needs. The staff and parents meet yearly to discuss the child's progress and to set goals for the coming year. We continue to support one student in foster care who was previously a resident at Preahkhun House, she still attends the education program, and her foster care is supported by the Danson Foundation.



Special needs staff met with parents to explain how to carry out therapy programs at home while school was closed.



Some of the families of the special needs students received food packages to help them during the pandemic

‘Ron’s Garden’ project continues to be an important part of the children’s education, the staff support the students to participate in growing vegetables in the raised beds on site. They learn about the process of planting and growing vegetables, some of which they take home to enjoy with their family and some of which they can sell.



We have 10 children on our waiting list for the special needs class and are hoping to be able to provide them with places in 2021.



One of the special needs classes returning to school after the closures.

Family Support

Grace House Community Centre currently has one part time Social Worker, Dani Chan, who manages the family support. She makes regular visits to the families which GHCC assists, reviewing their needs, offering advice and signposting them to other agencies, where appropriate. She also identifies any new families that may require support from GHCC and how best to give them the help they require.

Due to the pandemic, the local community saw an increase in unemployment, particularly related to the tourism industry. The flooding had also had a detrimental effect on some families who had lost livestock and crops. This meant that more families needed food support. Grace House provided 13 families with rice donations and 3 families with parcels containing food and other essentials.

As well as food support, GHCC distributed face masks and soaps to families in the community.

Grace House also helped a local family with the cost of the repair of their home, as they were not able to fund it themselves.



Families collecting rice donations for the month



Food parcel donations delivered to families.



Visiting a family affected by the flooding

Staffing

Chhiv Loung remains the Project Manager and Executive Director
We were sad to say farewell to Hean Srethea, who had been with GHCC for 4 and half years, as a social worker and then as the accountant.

We have welcomed Sreyleak into the accountant position, she had been a student at Grace House and had been supported through University by them. She is currently being trained in the role by Maly, our previous accountant.



Our current teachers, social worker, and project manager.



Grace House special needs staff

Training

GHCC continues to invest in staff training to ensure the best possible practice is offered to the families and their children. Prior to the pandemic, Grace House teachers were able to attend a teacher training with Angkor Tree Project.

Funding and Supporters

The Danson Foundation has very kindly funded the Special Needs Program for the fifth year. Part of this was used to support one child, previously a resident at Preahkhun House, in her foster care placement, and the rest allocated to supporting the special needs education program. Also the Danson Foundation has been very generous in supporting Grace House through the pandemic, including funding a few months salary for two staff members, providing food packages for families affected by the flooding, and Covid supplies

The Buffalo and Crocodiles classroom has been sponsored by a very kind solo donor. Her funding covers the teacher's salary, resources, snacks and the general running costs of the classroom.

After a successful application, GHCC received funding from Southeast Asia Foundation towards the cost of purchasing school books and phone credit for university students enabling them to access online learning. There was also some funding for micro loans, allowing for some of the families to be able to set up a small business. These have been a great help and will help to develop our community into the future.

The chairperson of the UK Trustees, Diana, had been training for the Brighton marathon in the UK in April. Unfortunately the event was cancelled, but instead she ran a solo marathon and raised a total of £1,000 for Grace House

Although our returning volunteers were not able to visit Grace House this year, they have been amazing at rallying together to help out with fundraising.

Special Thanks

We would like to extend our deepest thanks to the returning volunteers, from different countries for their ongoing support and fundraising efforts, particularly throughout this year when they have done everything they can, despite being unable to visit. We are so privileged to have such a great supporter base who care deeply about the project. also our grateful thanks go to everyone who sponsors a family, class, fruit and snacks -

Your continued support is very much appreciated and keeps us going.



Working Together

This year has proved how valuable it has been to work as a community and connect with other organisations. We have had much needed support from Naga Earth to supply the community with soaps, and by Grace House staff helping at Genevive's Fair Trade Village food bank, food parcels. have very kindly provided to some of the Grace House community families, which were greatly needed and appreciated.



Naga earth provided the community with soaps



Grace House staff went to help out with packing and distributing food parcels with Genevive's fair trade village food bank

GHCC continues to work closely with the local government departments and the following organisations: Concert, ABCs and Rice, Green Gecko Project, Friends International, Safe Haven, Footprint Cafe, Help the Aged Cambodia, First Step Cambodia, Women's Resource Centre, Angkor Hospital for Children, Cambodia Rural School Trust, People and Places, Globalteer, Travel Education Asia, SE Asia Foundation, Chab Dai, World Mobilisation, Cambodian Children's Fund, Soucial Trust

Volunteers



At the beginning of 2020, prior to the pandemic, we were very pleased to welcome volunteers to Grace House. We thank James Cook University, ASEICA, students from Lycee International Valbonne, Casira Organisation Canada, Marianne, Marilyn, and Nathan.

All the new and returning volunteers have been greatly missed during 2020 and we are really looking forward to welcoming volunteers again when travel has opened up again.

Just before Christmas GHCT had arranged an online video call with the Grace House staff and some of the returning volunteers. It really lifted everyone's spirits and gave us some much needed time to laugh and connect.

Donors

We would like to acknowledge and thank the many people who have taken the opportunity to support Grace House and the communities we work with through their generous donations. We would also like to thank everyone who donated towards our Christmas appeal.



Governance

GHCC Cambodia Committee

Executive Director Chhiv Loung

Directors:

Chan Dani

Sarang Seam (Koy)

Under Cambodian Law it is legal for staff members to also be committee members.



Grace House Cambodia Trust

Trustees

Diana Mihalop: Chairperson

Bridget Cordory: previous Chairperson

Jennifer Jones: Treasurer

Joshua Nowak

Annette Wood

Carmel Phelan

Grace House Cambodia Trust (GHCT) has been set up to act as a support for Grace House Community Centre (GHCC). It aims to raise awareness of GHCC, support with fundraising towards running costs and is there to give advice on important decisions affecting the charity. If there is a decision which involves a financial implication for GHCT, then GHCC will need to seek permission from GHCT.

GHCT will require evidence that GHCC is complying with Cambodian Law, maintaining a good standard of management and is up to date with reviewing policies etc before releasing funds raised through GHCT efforts and contacts.

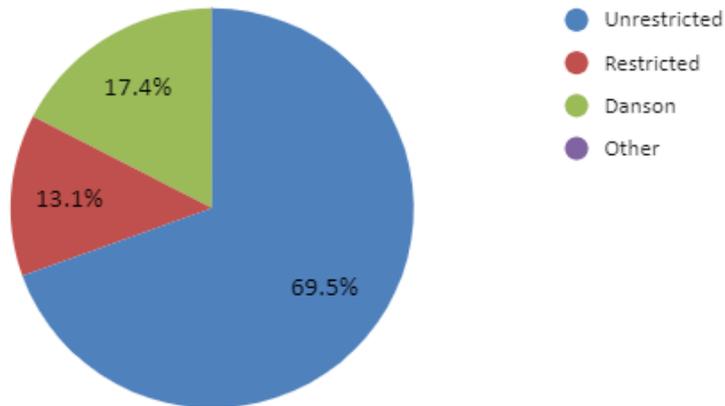


Finances

INCOME 2020

Unrestricted	\$	51,825.87
Restricted	\$	9,759.73
Danson	\$	12,951.00
Other	\$	31.57
Total	\$	\$74568.17

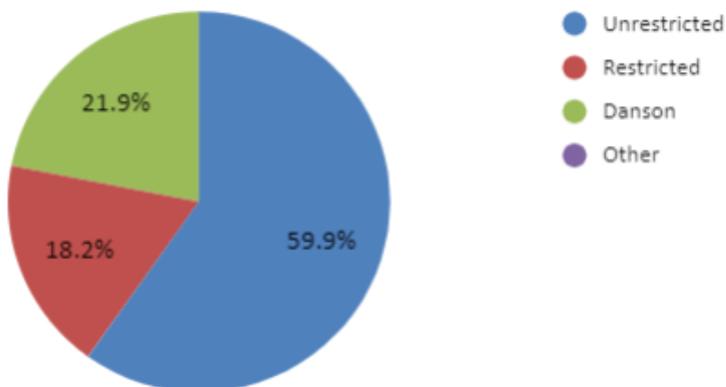
Income



EXPENDITURE 2020

Unrestricted	\$	35,346.61
Restricted	\$	10,729.75
Danson	\$	12,951.00
Other	\$	12.26
Total	\$	59,039.62

Expenditure



NB. At the end of 2020, there was a total of £33,246 in the bank account of GHCT which the Trustees intend to transfer to GHCC in support of the objectives of the organisation.

GHCC Accounts

J Trust Royal Bank (Formerly ANZ Bank)

Opening Statement: \$4,753.33

Closing Statement: \$8,023.15

ABA Bank

Opening Statement: \$100

Closing Statement: \$14,039.29

GHCC Safe

Opening Statement: \$1,885.51

Closing Statement: \$185.80

Total funds in Cambodia

Opening Balance: \$6,738.14

Closing Balance: \$22,248.24

Summary

The 2020 pandemic has shaken the whole world and the effects of Covid-19 pandemic are likely to last well into 2021 and beyond. Whilst Cambodia, saw relatively low case numbers, they have suffered from the fear of the virus being spread in a country that has an underdeveloped healthcare system and where there is no financial support for those unable to work because of illness, or loss of employment. The economic impact of Covid-19 has had a massive impact on the residents of Siem Reap Province, who rely heavily on tourism for jobs and income. This has really affected many of the families Grace House supports. This year in particular, we have been amazed by how wonderful our supporters, around the world have been, from sending messages wishing us good health and encouragement, to fundraisers and donations to ensure the staff were still receiving a salary through the pandemic and helping us to fund the supplies to reopen safely. We really hope 2021 will be a better year and that we can all emerge feeling more connected, and look forward to being reunited soon!

Donations to Grace House Community Centre can be made via the Grace House Community Centre Cambodia website:

<https://www.gracehousecambodia.net/donate>,

or by contacting Grace House directly on +855 (0) 636 392 168

