



Dear Friends and Sponsors round the world,

It is six months since we last wrote to you all, and the long summer holiday will soon be upon us. Our residential family is flourishing, and six new arrivals have brought our number to 52, aged now between 2 and 17 years. Savin was able to go home to live with his mother again, as her circumstances have greatly improved.



(Picture: To celebrate John and Lou's anniversary, their friends sponsored two school uniforms for each child using Virgin Money Giving. What a lovely idea!)

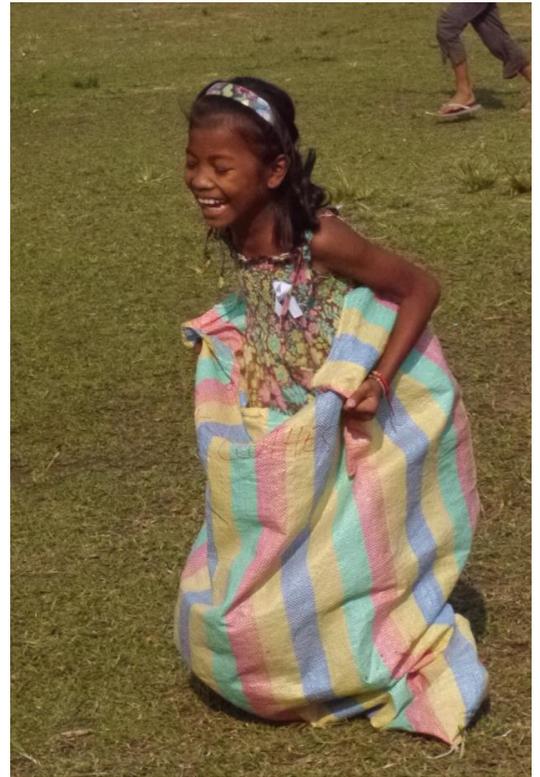
We have said goodbye to our Project Trust volunteers, Lucy and Trish, in mid July; they have been with us almost a year, and have given Honour Village their commitment, skills and initiative. They have been exemplary volunteers and we have grown to love them dearly, and will miss them as they return to the UK to begin their university degree courses. Thank you both so much, and may you take with you the blessings of your time in Cambodia, for you have surely left us hugely blessed.

Assessments both at government school and at Honour Village school are now taking place, and children go to school at various times of day to sit exams, armed with the necessary new notebook and pencil, and eager to do their best.



(Picture: Best wishes and thanks to Lucy and Trish)

Plans for next semester are well under way, and meanwhile, during August and September, we are widening our community support work with activities for all our Honour Village children. There will be lots of fun and learning led by our army of summer volunteers, for our resident children and those from our local villages who study with us. We hope to include arts and crafts, and in particular some more “Colourful Cambodia” art sessions, sports – football, volleyball and basket ball, outdoor games, music, including singing, recorder and xylophone lessons, indoor pursuits such as jigsaw puzzles, construction toys, play doh, basic fun maths and English diversions and a daily cinema show for different age groups. So many young people all over the world have told me they learned English by watching films we’re going to give it a go! A projector features heavily on our wish list, as it would be so much more effective than a television screen for up to 100 children all wanting to view at once.



(Picture: The children celebrated Khmer New Year with a party before going home to their villages for a week.)

In February we were joined by three young volunteers from Australia who offered to donate and build an all-weather basketball pitch, which they proceeded to do. Just like that! Chhunly ordered the materials needed, which were delivered the same day, and the work was completed in three days. The pitch is not regular size, fitting itself onto the back of House 2, but it is in use every moment of every day by small groups and individuals practicing shots in between classes! Thank you so much to Danny, Michele, and Shant!



(Pictures: Pyjama day in Chatsworth)

A big thank you to principal Dianne Neumann, staff, parents and children at Chatsworth State School in Australia who held a pyjama day (pictured above) to raise funds for Honour Village! They clearly enjoyed themselves! And thank you to our new friends in a primary school in Switzerland, who raised \$1,000 by making and selling craft items. It is lovely to have links with schools round the world, and we think of you all.



We enjoyed a delightful visit from twenty children from Geylang Methodist Primary school in Singapore (pictured right). They spent two afternoons with us, bringing a wonderful assortment of very useful gifts, (some of which were mightily enjoyed at the end of each session, together with the novelty of hot Milo drinks!) and gifts of a tangram puzzle and a small jigsaw for each child, which kept everyone well occupied in small groups as the children got to know each other. On the second afternoon, their new friends ably taught our children how to play the recorder and the xylophone, leaving all the instruments with us ready for

summer music activities, and the smaller children enjoyed modelling clay, which has also been donated in abundance.

All our English-speaking volunteers from many different countries bring us their skills, and settle into teaching or assisting in the classrooms very ably. We thank each and every one of them, because without them we could not run our school. At the same time, we want to increase our team of Khmer English teachers as we have funds. This will not only provide employment for local teachers, but will also bring greater stability to our children as they learn with one teacher throughout the year, who will be assisted by English speaking volunteers helping with pronunciation as well as class activities. Once a generation of Khmer children has learned English from a Khmer teacher who has him/herself learned from a native English speaker, the need for western volunteers will be much less, although I am sure we shall always want to welcome volunteers, for the experiences and the fun they bring from other parts of the world.



(Picture: Santa's aerial descent by flying tuk-tuk into Honour Village last Christmas).

We would like to thank three volunteers especially: Rob, who will in future audit our accounts for us, and Will and Shiona, who have worked regularly with us and the local Board of Directors for the last seven months on structures and governance. Their professional skills, commitment and support have been extraordinary, and we shall miss them when they return to the UK, although we still have email possibilities!

Va has recently completed his social work training in Phnom Penh and has spent two weeks shadowing a social worker at “Feeding Dreams”, another NGO in town with a



similar mission to ours – “Honour Village Cambodia works with communities to provide opportunities for change through education.” Several of our staff have been on short work-related courses recently, and it is wonderful that these are beginning to be held in Siem Reap, so we will no longer need to travel to PP in order to learn.

In January, our kindergarten department (some of whom are pictured left) became an all-day fixture from Monday to Friday. We employ a Khmer Pre-Kindergarten teacher for three hours in the morning, and pre-KG and KG English is taught in the afternoon. This has been a long-cherished ambition that we work

with the youngest children in the community to provide opportunities for learning through activity and play whilst preparing for government school. These pre-schoolers have grown enormously in confidence and ability since we began English classes in January, and it is a great joy to work with them. I teach the pre-KG and KG English classes with Akara, and we have been greatly helped by willing volunteers. Next semester, we shall have two other housemothers working with us, and so the skills needed for teaching young children will be spread further among our Khmer staff.

We have begun to teach computer studies, and would teach all day if we had classroom space. A new building is our next big project, and funds have begun to be raised by Kirsten, who ran a half marathon, with over GBP 1290 raised through Virgin Giving, and by Frankie and her students in Abu Dhabi.

The target is \$30,000 (GBP 20,000). The new building will be two stories high. It is urgently needed because it will provide two classrooms upstairs, one of which will be a dedicated computer studies room. At ground floor level there will be a large playroom for the village children who come early for class and who often have to wait afterwards for siblings in other classes. This room will provide shelter from either hot sun or heavy rains and wind; it will also keep children away from classrooms where teachers are trying to teach – there will no longer be any need to play right outside a classroom! There will be a first aid room and a teachers’ rest room as well (our present teachers’ room is full of resources and there is only room there for lesson preparation). These two smaller rooms will also double as private social work rooms when necessary. If you know of anyone who may like to help us with this, or anywhere we could apply for a grant, please do let me know:sue@honourvillagecambodia.org



(Picture: Kirsten Cherry after completing the Bath Half-Marathon).

Our children enjoy going occasionally on Sunday afternoon to a sponsored art class followed by a swim in the hotel pool in town. These events are sponsored by KIDS, and we are so happy to have been chosen as one of the lucky NGOs to take part. Some of them are also starting to attend weekly classes at the “Small Art School”, another organization, where they are very ably taught by Teacher Tomoko from Japan, who works with an interpreter. Recently they were all treated by sponsors to a visit to the Khmer circus in town, and this included a stop at Lucky Mall for an ice cream. The young performers are mostly street children who trained at the circus school in Battambang, and when they are proficient, they tour to other parts of Cambodia and SE. Asia.

We hope in the near future to widen our community support work, following the lead given by more experienced NGOs, and providing basic foods for the poorest families if

they keep a contract ensuring their children have exemplary attendance at both government and HVC schools, and do not work outside the home. We are still working on the details, but we plan to begin as soon as funding for our school and residential projects is stable. Too many children attend school hungry, and minimal funding can prevent this, once the families concerned have been visited and understand their commitment to their children's education.

Our website (honourvillage.org) and [Facebook](#) pages are both being updated, so please keep an eye on them from time to time to keep up with our news and photos. There is always something that needs sponsoring, whether it's dental treatment or a teacher's salary, and we want to thank each one of you for the part you play in keeping us all going every month, and not only going, but growing and developing! Over 250 happy children use our school every day, and our resident family is bursting with health. Before too long, I would like to be able to write the same about all our non-resident children.



(Pictures: Our U-14 footballers off to a tournament in town; smiles, sparkles and sequins in art activities.)

We wish you all a very happy summer, and you may imagine us having fun practicing “Jingle Bell Rock” with oral percussion for a new Christmas concert item. We have been invited back to sing for the guests at the Grandsoluxe Hotel Resort and Spa in December, much to everyone's excitement! (This invitation includes a tasty hot meal and other treats). If any donations are given when we sing, they are taken to Angkor Children's Hospital, where our children receive medical treatment. We hope to add some

instrumental extras as well, with our glockenspiel, xylophones and recorders. Once term begins again in October, there won't be much time for rehearsals, which is why we sing Christmas songs in the summer holidays!

Thank you to each one of you for your continued interest/ support for our work. We have mentioned only a very few of the many wonderful groups of people and individuals who continue to give us their amazing support and who help us with fundraisers – the SOLAS team in Hong Kong and the UK football marathon team, among others, who light up the skies for us with their imaginative fundraising efforts. We also remember the quieter and unsung continuing contribution of those who keep giving. Thank you one and all.

If you know anyone who may also be interested to receive this newsletter, please forward it to them, and ask them to confirm a regular newsletter by emailing Dan (UK) a brief request: dan@honourvillagecambodia.org



(Picture: Some of our girls who were invited to enjoy a pool-side dinner after encouraging Japanese guests to take part in fund raising festive games.)

With best wishes from the Honour Village family, resident and non-resident alike,

Sue Wiggans,
Founding Director.

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Tiev Chhunly,
Country Director.

