

Green Umbrella



Newsletter November 2015



What's been happening?

- 16/10/15 KKS students attend Sports afternoon with UWCSEA East families
- 1/11/15 Students receive their new school uniform
- 5/11/15 New School Building completed and children move in.
- 6/11/15 15 new children attend KKS Kindergarten.

Karuna Kumar School is in its third year of operation. I am very proud to see 61 children who are very healthy, and happy to study at school. Teachers are very gentle and have a good heart. They always express their lovely feelings and share new knowledge with their students and take good care of them. The participation from parents to motivate their children to study, and to look after the KKS buildings and grounds, has grown stronger. I have noted a change over the years with education being more valued by the community.

However, we still have a long journey to walk, and there is a lot more work to do, in order to push the children towards success. When you look wider to the whole of this community, you can see there are lots of children that need help and support. This is not strange, if you know clearly about this small and old country, which has a very short history of peace, and mostly of war. The heritage of war has left many people poor and ignorant and without any form of social welfare.

Green Umbrella cannot work alone in developing a future for our children. We want our children to be able to live with hope for their future and in peace. We want good, responsible leaders for our county. Without your participation from all across the world, we would not be able to operate any of our programs.

As Green Umbrella director, I would like to express my deepest thanks to all our kind friends, sponsors, and donors, who have been supported our projects. I would also like to mention a special thanks to all Green Umbrella staff who, are highly committed and implement our projects.

Venerable Sokrath Hour





Karuna Kumar School

Karuna Kumar School is housed in two double story buildings and includes 5 classrooms, a library and an administration area. The school is on 5326m² with a kitchen, eating area, toilet block, playground, gardens and sports field.

Karuna Kumar School (KKS) is located in the Putsor Commune. Many families in the Commune are living in poverty and cannot afford to send their children to school. In an attempt to break the poverty cycle, Green Umbrella has chosen one child from 61 different families to attend KKS. There are 15 students in Kindergarten, 15 in Grade 1, 16 in Grade 2 and 15 students in Grade 3.

Children attend school from 7.00am to 4.00pm, Monday to Friday. There are six teachers employed by the school, including a Librarian and an English teacher. The school also employs a Head of School, a cook, guard and cleaner.

Six teachers, including a Librarian and an English teacher, plus 4 classroom teachers are employed to teach the children. There is also a cook, guard, cleaner and Head of School

Children are provided with an education based on the Khmer curriculum, which includes Khmer, Maths and Social Science. KKS also provides Physical Education, Health & Hygiene, Music & English class. Breakfast and lunch are provided each day to ensure that students have good nutrition and are happy and healthy. The Curriculum is being developed in all areas, as we not only want to provide Khmer studies, but to ensure that students have access to a well rounded education and the chance to reach their full potential. We want students to be the best they can be!

Karuna Kumar School

These children would have been unlikely to receive an education if they did not attend KKS. Their education is having a huge impact on the community. The children know how to respect others and have a sense of responsibility that has had a positive influence on their family dynamics, their relationship with their neighbours and community.

The children attending KKS have had a profound impact on many of their parents, with changed behaviour and less family violence. Parents are paying more attention to their child's education and to their child.





Good Kid's School

In order to provide an opportunity to Primary, Middle and High School students to build their capacity for Foreign Languages (FLS), Good Kid's Project (GKS) established an English program from 5.00pm - 6.00pm Monday to Friday that is affordable for students and parents.

The Good Kid's School operates in two locations Krang Knung and Putsor. In Krang Knung GKS, there are 198 students in 6 English classes for Primary, Middle and High School students from Monday to Thursday. Students are also offered basic computer lessons in Excel and Microsoft Office. There are 6 computers and students can attend from Monday to Friday from 6.00pm -7.00pm and Saturday and Sunday from 5.00 -6.00pm.

In Putsor Commune's Good Kid's School there are 216 students who attend English classes from Monday to Thursday to improve their listening, speaking and reading skills. There are 10 classes, which provide English education to Primary, Middle and High School students.

Good Kid's School consists of qualified teachers and High School students who are being trained to teach English. The benefit for these High School students is that they receive professional development

through *Training Teachers in Cambodia* five times per year, which teaches speaking, reading, writing and classroom management. The student teachers meet twice a month with their supervisor. They are encouraged to challenge themselves by experimenting with different methods of teaching. They write lesson plans and are well prepared for their teaching.

The Good Kid's School project is sustainable in that students pay for their classes, which in turn pays for their books, electricity and teachers.



GKS students & teachers

Hello, my name is Sor Phorn Son. I was an English teacher for the kindergarten class at GKS from 2010 through 2014. I was very glad to work for Green Umbrella. I could help the children who live in my commune by sharing my time and knowledge with them. I always had fun when teaching, because all of my students were very small but smart. I noted that many students through Green Umbrella could study English, computer, and learn other skills such



Sor Phorn

as sewing and painting. This had never happened before, in this community.

As well as gaining teaching experience, I was happy to receive some incentive money to support my own studying.

After high school I moved to Phnom Penh to work and attend university. I worked as a receptionist for 1 year and am now teaching English at Florida American school.

KKS Kids

Socheata is 8 years old. She attended a local Primary School and spent 6 months in kindergarten before coming to KKS. Socheata is in Grade 3 at KKS and has been with us since 2013.

Her father's name is Yan Samnang. He is 47 years old and was in the army, until he lost his right leg, (which was blown off by a mine in 1987) at the Thai border during the civil war in Cambodia. He does not have a real job. Sometimes he picks up rubbish to sell. Socheata's mother, Num Kunthear is 45 years old. She is a housewife and sometimes works as a labor harvesting rice. There are six people in the family and only an older sister who is able to work at a garment factory to support the family.

Socheata's parent said that before KKS she was a silent girl and not very friendly. With the family situation as it is, it was difficult to support her with a uniform and money to study. Today she can read and write in both Khmer and English, loves coming to school and particularly loves learning. She is a friendly girl with children and even older people. She always completes her homework. We don't need to worry about buying uniforms or paying for her schooling. We can save some money too."



Tavan is 5 years old. He started in Kindergarten at KKS in November 2015. Tavan lives with his mother and 5 siblings and with his extended family. Tavan's mother and his grandfather are working to support their family. His grandfather is 68 years old and he often works with the monks in the pagoda as a laborer. His mother works long hours in the garment factory. His older sister and grandmother are mentally disabled and rely on the care and support of their family.

Tavan is excited every morning to come to school and loves his new friends and teacher. KKS is giving Tavan and his family a chance to escape the poverty cycle.

An Afternoon of Fun, Friendship & Sport

UWCSEA East teachers and families provided an afternoon of sport for 50 children from Karuna Kumar School, ISF Chbar Ampov and Kuma Cambodia.

The students travelled to the outskirts of Phnom Penh, made many new friends and enjoyed a round robin of activities and a rugby clinic provided by Kampuchea Balopp.





New school uniform for students and teachers

Green Umbrella teachers held round table discussions exchanging ideas and designs for a new school uniform. They feel proud to be part of an NGO and want the students to be happy and delighted with their uniform and school.

In Cambodia all school children wear a white shirt. While maintaining that tradition they added a touch of green and Green Umbrella's logo to the shirt and green skirts or shorts.

The teachers too received a new look. They proudly wear their yellow shirts with a Green Umbrella logo.

Social Enterprise Projects

'OR' Design has been created as a brand name to promote products from the Social Enterprise projects. Current projects for the Sewing school include making school uniforms, school bags, bags (wallets, toilet bags) and tea towels.

"OR" Design also partners with local communities in setting up small projects. The dragonflies is one such project. "OR Design" is working with the Khmer Women Handicraft Association (KWAHA) who in turn partners with 203 families to make the bamboo dragonfly and the palm leaf box. Twenty women from Srei Ta Sok, Sway Run, Dom Nakk, Kroying, Thlok Dom and Nak Loung villages in Chum Reak Phen Commune are employed to make the dragonflies and to weave the boxes.

If there is a possibility that you could support these projects by selling them at your workplace or to your family or friends, please contact us.



Dragonfly Kit



Dry your dishes using Green Umbrella linen tea towels