

2017 REPORT TO SPONSORS – WHAT A YEAR – WE BUILT A SCHOOL

The DCC school had been running in the home of Bophal Chuon's father-in-law since 2010. In 2017 Bophal's dream to have his own school became a reality. It was a very exciting time as the school took shape in May and classes moved across in June. The purpose built school consists of four classrooms, a computer room, administration office, manager's residence and performance space for dance.



DCC is a supplementary school which supports children through the inadequate Cambodian public education system with a focus on teaching English and developing IT skills. Bophal also encourages an appreciation of Cambodian culture by providing class in traditional Khmer dance. But DCC is way more than a school. Bophal brings many other wonderful services/opportunities to his community such as mobile health clinics and education sessions such as the domestic violence program and parent information evenings.



The new school opening was celebrated in Phnom Penh and also here in Wagga Wagga at the Magpies Nest at an event attended by 150 supporters.



2016 started with 70 students at DCC and no sponsors – it ended with 81 students and 32 sponsors. We have ended the 2017 year with 124 students, of which 54 are now being sponsored. With the wonderful support of our sponsors the DCC school is



growing and funds are available to employ additional teachers. Committee members, Travis and Darren, were successful in applying to Rotary for the DCC to be granted RAWCS project status and thus sponsorship donations became tax deductible from April 2017 (If you haven't got on-board with this concession yet check your old emails for the steps you need to take or drop us an email and we will help out).

DCC is also well supported by local service clubs. You will recall that in 2016 Wollundry Rotary provided grant funds for computers and internet access for 12 months. It was great to see these computers now functioning in the designated lab

at the new school. In 2017 Wollundry Rotary again supported HELP Cambodia with a matching grant for support of the five DCC students now attending university. These first year uni students continue to take advanced English class at DCC. However the most wonderful part is that one of these young people now teaches English at the DCC (and is receiving a regular salary). In fact the dance teacher and the pre school teacher are also senior DCC students. These student teachers work closely under Bophals guidance and earn a junior salary. A wonderful example of giving back and ensuring the sustainability of the project. Simply remarkable!

HELP visited Cambodia twice this year. Committee members Travis and Kathy made a whirlwind visit in June for a strategy meeting with Bophal and then in November President Chrissy hosted her annual tour. The team visited the DCC school as well as a number of other projects



HELP had been a part of making happen – Happy Village 2, Light of Hope school (where they shared a meal with staff) and the antenatal clinic in Takeo province. A highlight this year was the day at the Battambang Ophthalmic Centre where the team gowned up and watched cataract procedures. HELP made a donation to BOC (from funds raised at the September dinner) which will make 75 more surgeries happen at this wonderful organisation.

Two of our sponsors were lucky enough to visit DCC this year. Steve and Lyn were there to celebrate Sana Raby's 5th birthday and Pete and Jacqui Hastie caught up with Srey Pov as well as (through their own fund raising) shouted the students of DCC to a day at a water park. Our Wagga community is really having an impact on the lives of the children at DCC and it is wonderful that some of the sponsors have an opportunity to travel to Cambodia to meet their sponsor child and see what is happening on the ground. The Hasties' have visited in 2013, 2015 and then again this year and their feedback is that after this last visit they were just taken aback by how healthy the children look and how well their English is progressing.



The committee of HELP Cambodia wish to thank you for sponsoring a DCC student this year. Your sponsorship creates a wonderful opportunity to establish bonds which are good for the student but also their family, their community and you too.

Your sponsorship is transforming lives and we sincerely thank you for your support.