

Cambodian Children's Advocacy Foundation

Background: The Cambodian Children's Advocacy Foundation (CCAF) is a Cambodian Non-Governmental Organization. It was established in early 2006. The purpose was to create an NGO to provide a means to educate children, help in the reduction of poverty by addressing its root causes, and to assist the Cambodian government in providing services for the most vulnerable segments of Cambodian society. CCAF strives to combine early childhood education, varied community development programs, and economic assistance to address the root causes of rural poverty. The story below describes about the impact of CCAF's pre-school program.

Impact story: Banteay Meas District, Kampot Province, Cambodia

Born to a very poor family in Banteay Meas District, western in Cambodia Touch Sophy is the first daughter of the family. Her father has passed away due to HIV/AIDS since she was one year old.

Discrimination on person living with HIV/AIDS remains in some mind of communities. This is one of the barrier that discourage person living with HIV/AIDS or his or her children who might be contracted with HIV/AIDS to participate in any social activities, so Sophy's mother was afraid to register Sophy to study at the public pre-school, and in addition, because Sophy is so small, she lacks of energy to walk to the school which is located in far from her house.

In 2009, CCAF received fund from Grapes for Humanity in Canada for opening nine pre-schools for children in Banteay Meas District. Sophy had the opportunity to study at one of these schools. "Sophy was one of the smart students in the pre-school class. She came to school by herself all the time without accompanied by her mother. Every time we conducted the recreational activities, Sophy always helped her classmates to do activities," Sreyno, CCAF's pre-school says.



Photo: First from left, Sophy enjoys singing song with her classmates.

One day in late 2009, during the community visit, CCAF team found that Sophy's mother was a worker working for a cement factory in the area, and she had no means for her to travel to work and to bring her daughter to school, so CCAF team, with the fund from Grapes for Humanity in Canada, provided her a bicycle.



Photo: at front line, Sophy is in the second from left to right. This photo was taken during children received bicycles from GfH Canada in 2009.

In January 2012, CEO Channarith conducted a follow up visit to see the progress of Sophy. He met Sophy and her mother at home. Shopy was about to leave for school and her mother was then go to work. Channarith had the opportunity to interview Sophy's mother. "I use the bicycle that I received from your donor for my traveling to work and take my daughter (Sophy) to school. Before this bicycle was provided to me, we got up very early in the morning. I had to walk to work and my daughter had to walk to school too. It was very difficult for us and most of the time, I showed up at work late and sometimes my daughter took absent due to the school is located in far away from house. I want to say that this bicycle is very important for my life. I go to work on time now and my daughter goes to school all the time. I would like to thank your donor (Grapes for Humanity Canada) for providing me this bicycle and as well supported the pre-school project for children including my daughter in the past". Mother of Sophy told CEO Channarith.



Sophy, her mother and CEO Channarith with the bicycle donated by GfH Canada.

This year (2012), Sophy is attending grade two at the primary school in the community, about two kilometers from her house. CEO Channarith visited Sophy at school and interviewed her teacher "I have noticed that Sophy is a good student. She is so clever. She can write Khmer alphabet, number and read the words good. I think that because she was the pre-school student so she used to write Khmer alphabet and number unlike the other students who were not the pre-school ones." Says the grade two teacher.



Sophy at the grade two class

Appreciation: CCAF would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Tony Aspler, CEO and President of GfH Canada and his friends for supporting CCAF so far.

Sincerely yours,

Hing Channarith
CEO-CCAF