

Kidshelp Kambodscha e.V. Newsletter, Issue December 2017

Dear members, dear godparents and supporters,

Before the turn of the year we want to take the opportunity to take a brief look at what happened in 2017:

Annual Review 2017

The first half of the year was clearly marked by structural changes. In addition to the conversion of the financial model for sponsorships to a more sustainable approach that also accommodates for project and administrative costs, the first big novelty of 2017 was definitely the change among the staff in Cambodia.

While Raphael and Claudia were able to fulfil a long cherished and well deserved dream, by going on a bicycle trip back to Germany, Michael utilized the first few months to get to know his co-workers and the projects on site. One of his first actions, the adjustment of the sponsorship fees with regard to the sustainable financing of our projects, was an important step in order to be well positioned for the coming years. We are very pleased that more and more of our sponsors have voluntarily increased their contributions and we therefore see ourselves well positioned for the future. However, the revision of the financial model is not yet complete.

Next year, we also want to re-calculate the costs of new study scholarships in such a way that they reflect the costs for implementing this project. We will communicate our considerations and the calculation of the revised fees in due course in the usual transparent manner.





By the middle of the second quarter onwards, all our employees on site and our new volunteers had familiarised themselves with each other and started to carry out a wide range of activities at the school and with the students. There were climbing days, a dental health campaign (not the last one), Olympic Games at the school, a visit to DHL with the students and free eye treatments for our school children and their family members.

Our volunteer Matthias has revived and developed guitar lessons at the school and together with Philipp initiated the classes on general knowledge classes. And thanks to the commitment of Matthias, Phil, Tom and Siglinde, in addition to individual counselling of students by the trained psychologist Anastasia, the volunteers also conducted workshops on topics such as "e-mail writing" and "career planning - how to set realistic goals for the future".

On top of the visits of various sponsors from Germany, who wanted to see our work on site, we also received many guests who wanted to teach the children something. In addition to Regula, the dental technician who taught poor children how to brush their teeth, there were visits of the theatre group "The Courageous Turtle" and the art teachers from "Brushes N Strokes" (see pictures

on page 1) from Nepal and India.

The rooms at the school are currently being completely repainted. Also thanks to the efforts of our volunteers and the help of some older students. The photo on the right shows the new "ancestral wall" in the hallway of the school with pictures and the periods of employment of the former volunteers (the idea for this came from Claudia).

That's why we would like to take this opportunity to thank Lea, Matthias, Anastasia, Phil, Tom, Claudia and Siglinde for their terrific efforts. Without



Ancestral wall in the hallway of the school



your creative ideas and your work we would not have been able to carry out all these activities.

If you are reading "General Knowledge Class" and "Brushes N Strokes" for the first time in this annual review, you should check our Facebook page from time to time. There we had already described both activities in more detail: <u>https://www.facebook.com/Kidshelp.Kambodscha/posts/1521658664583502</u>



Students during a General Knowledge Class on the subject of geography

We already mentioned in the last newsletter that we were able to provide a record number of students with scholarships and we are very happy that we were able to do so. Thanks to everyone who took over some of the cost.

Outlook for 2018

In addition to the continuation and further development of our running initiatives, we plan to implement a new and very exciting project at the English school in the first two quarters of 2018. As part of our efforts to make the school completely plastic-free and thereby contribute to the reduction of plastic in the world's oceans, we had already been thinking about installing a water filter at the school for some time. After an extensive review of the



advantages and disadvantages of various systems, we decided on the PAUL water filter developed by the University of Kassel and, in close consultation with the development team led by Prof. Dr. Franz-Bernd Frechen, submitted a project proposal for funding to the Living Responsibility Fund of DHL.

We are extremely pleased to announce that our proposal has been successful and that DHL is providing us with the financial resources to implement the project. Accordingly, we will start looking for qualified personnel in January to help us install the system, consisting of PAUL and various water tanks and dispensers. We will of course keep you informed about the progress of the project.

We would like to thank all our sponsors for their support.

Our whole team, the students and the pupils wish you, your friends and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

