



## Kidshelp Kambodscha e.V. Newsletter, Issue November 2018

Dear members, dear godparents and supporters,

In the good two months since our last newsletter was published, a lot has happened again. If you read our [blog](#) and follow the [Facebook](#) page, you already know that we have been looking for sponsors for our new scholarship holders as a main priority. More about this later.

First let us talk about the [Christmas cards](#) that our schoolchildren lovingly designed by hand last year. We know that many of you are active at Christmas or flea markets. At schools, universities, in all sorts of (sports-) clubs and various other institutions... there are various possibilities during the Advent season to gather support and collect money for a good cause.



Snapshots of the Christmas Card Workshop



It would be great if you could buy a few cards from us and sell or use them during the contemplative days. The proceeds from the sale of the cards will go to the children and students and will enable us to pay for expenses such as the meals for the Khmer Sight ophthalmologists, who were back at school this year to treat the villagers and our students.

If you order cards from us now, they will arrive in time for Christmas. More information about how to purchase them can be found on our homepage: <https://www.kidshelp-kambodscha.org/christmas-greetings-from-cambodia/?lang=en>

### **Our new students**

Every year in August it gets exciting for Cambodian students in grade 12. It's the time when they get their diplomas and find out whether they have achieved the right to avail higher education. At this point, our local employees have already spent about two months preparing for a new batch of scholarship holders. Several weeks before the final examinations they had already invited and welcomed interested grade 11 and 12 pupils to come to our English school and to learn from scholarship holders from earlier cohorts what subjects they could possibly study and what it means to move to Phnom Penh and to live on their own for the first time. It was on this occasion when the first list of names for potential applicants for our new cohort of fellows was created.



Former and current fellows speaking to grade 11 and grade 12 students

The final phase for the selection of the new scholarship holders begins with the publication of the high school results in August. Experience has shown that one



third to half of the original candidates are eliminated because they do not pass the exams. Others drop out because have opt for training with the police, the military or other institutions that do not charge training fees. From the remaining candidates, our staff then has to select around ten promising and needy candidates. Not an easy task.

Promising means that they should have the best possible grades and also speak at least decent English. We check the latter by means of a test conducted at our English school. This is necessary because, firstly, we have to be able to communicate with the scholarship holders and, secondly, almost all study courses work with English literature.

How needy a candidate is, depends on the financial situation of the family. We already know this for many of the applicants because they previously were part of our projects in the village. Nevertheless, we visit each family again separately and write a report on the situation of the household.

In the end we were able to identify the twelve candidates pictured below:



Our cohort of 2018

We are very proud to announce that - if everybody follows up on their commitments - all 12 have found sponsors by now. Most of them have already enrolled and moved into our hostels or to their relatives in Phnom Penh. If, contrary to expectations, sponsors do not follow up on what they committed to donate, we will announce this as usual via our homepage, Facebook and if necessary, also via special newsletters to search for additional donors.





**We congratulate our 2018 cohort and thank all sponsors as well as everybody who spread the word and advertised for them!**

### **Trainings conducted by Florian Linecker**



Florian Linecker

Since our current volunteer Florian is a full-time social worker and a part-time sexual educator, he had offered to pass on his knowledge from more than 10 years of work in Vienna to our students.

Since we don't want to impose any workshops on our scholarship holders in which they have no interest at all, Florian proposed a number of possible topics from which they then chose by vote.

To our great joy, the students' voted to have sessions on the important topics of conflict management, communication and sexual health.

Sexual health in particular is neglected by the public education system and is hardly dealt with as a topic in everyday life. Our enthusiasm therefore got all the greater when the students expressed interest in it. The first workshop was so well attended and successful that Florian and the participants decided on the same evening to hold a follow-up workshop on the same topic.

Many thanks to Florian for his commitment and to the student managers for organizing the events.

### **Cleaning-Day at the school**

Topics such as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) as well as waste management are and will remain omnipresent in Cambodia. Just as in Europe, changing unsustainable or harmful practices, for example with regard to the inflationary use of disposable plastic, will only be possible after years of lobbying with all parties involved (people, governments, the economy). We will continue



to make our contribution by trying to raise awareness of such issues among teachers, children, their families and our staff.

Therefore, we have introduced a three-monthly cleaning day where all teachers, students and staff are encouraged to clean the school from the ground up. Our hope is that those who have scratched chewing gum and packaging waste from benches or hard-to-reach corners of the school will hesitate in the future before disposing of something carelessly.

We want to supplement these measures by showing more and more short videos on topics such as water, hygiene, the environment and waste recycling in class. The aim is to teach the children in a simple way what the long-term consequences of certain behaviours are



There was a lot to do around the school as well

### **Dental Hygiene Training 2018**

What applies to garbage and the associated behaviours applies in a similar way to dental hygiene in Cambodia. Almost every adult in the village as well as the majority of the pupils have problems with their teeth and, due to the lack of qualified doctors, hardly any possibilities to do something about it. There is no awareness that many diseases can be avoided by brushing teeth daily. The few



doctors who exist are often not properly trained and a visit to them can in the worst case cost a lot of money and can even worsen the health of the patients due to incorrect treatment. This makes it all the more important to know how to care for your teeth and protect them from disease.

We are very happy that Phon Pounareay, one of our dentistry students, came to the school again this year to talk to the students about prophylaxis and how to brush their teeth properly.



Pounareay and one of our pupils during the training

**Many thanks to Pounareay for his voluntary work and all donors who supported us with toothpaste, toothbrushes and various demonstration materials during the last years.**

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More news about Kidshelp and pictures from our recent activities can be found at [Facebook](#) and our [Blog](#).

– Your Kidshelp Kambodscha e.V. Team in Cambodia and Germany –