



## DHL Cambodia – GLOBAL VOLUNTEERS DAY SPECIAL NEWSLETTER

### Dear friends and supporters,

As we reach the end of this year, we would like to share with you some great news on a great act of kindness by one of our local Cambodian company sponsors and supporters of our rural school. It is about the kindness of the company and more especially 40 staff of DHL Cambodia supported by our school teachers and a group of our school children. With this newsletter we would like to share this with you and say thank you again for this kind and thoughtful act.

### The Global Volunteers Day of DHL Cambodia

Every year around this time, in 220 countries across the world, DHL staff organise **GLOBAL VOLUNTEER DAY**. The local DHL employees choose a cause to support, and we were very happy this year, when the DHL Express, Country Manager, Cambodia, Mr Prayag Chitrakar contacted us to let us know that, this year, Khemara Kidshelp School (KKS), had been chosen by the DHL Cambodia staff. They wanted to know what the DHL volunteers could do to help KKS to prepare for our new school year beginning after the long Covid shut down.

The volunteers wondered if there were a few classrooms that needed painting or maybe a few pieces of furniture which needed repair. They could not be sure exactly how many volunteers would be available once a date was agreed.





First priority was a site meeting at KKS between Khemara and a DHL team. They agreed a date, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November, and agreed to paint as many classrooms and corridors as could be managed, replacing broken lights and some equipment to help keep the administration area tidy. To keep it simple, they agreed on two colours of paint.

After a meeting back at their office, DHL agreed they would provide sufficient paint to paint all the first two floors of the school and would ensure there was sufficient paint left over for Khemara to organise painting of additional areas, like the classrooms at the back of the main building. DHL would also provide a computer table, water dispenser, pinboards, shoe rack, supply of reading books, notebooks and some stationery. But the DHL team also recognised that some of the areas needing painting were quite high and of course, with a big volunteer team, there would be some areas that needed touching up. So, DHL also hired 3 contract painters to be on site for 2 whole days.

A small group of the DHL volunteers arrived on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> to bring along the paint, painting materials and equipment agreed but a big surprise also... a new colour printer for the school. They also set about ensuring that all the rooms were cleared, and protection cloths or plastic was in place.

On Sunday the full volunteer group started arriving on site at the school from as early as 06:30am. By 08:00am there were 40 DHL volunteers, 10 teachers and 30 KKS students ready to start. There were a few quick welcomes and thank you speeches, but the team were rearing to go. Snacks were served to those needing a nibble, but no time was lost with formal breakfast. By lunchtime all 7 classrooms, corridors, windows, outside walls and if we are honest, quite a bit of the floor had been painted. To Khemara's joy, the DHL team, with their computer expertise, had also reviewed all the computers used for computer lessons.

The professional painting team were then free to access the higher-level areas. Monday saw the 3 professional painters finish the work and supported by 9 teachers, started clearing up any spilled paint and restoring the classrooms. The clean-up continued into Tuesday (not helped by heavy rain) and by Tuesday afternoon, all seven classrooms, corridors and the large reception area had completed their makeover, ready for school reopening on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

One of the DHL volunteers helping on Sunday was Boutros Rath. He lived in our village and joined KKS in grade 7. He completed grade 12 in 2017 and went on to study tourism at RULE and graduated this year. During his university studies he was part sponsored by a DHL employee from Germany and to fund his living costs, Boutros has a part time job with DHL Cambodia. In a short speech, Boutros said he felt very fortunate to be part of both KKS and DHL and proud of what his fellow volunteers from DHL were doing for his old school and children of his village.

In her thank you speech, Khemara reminded everyone that DHL and their staff have a long history of supporting KKS and Kidshelp's university scholarship program. In KKS, which was opened in 2010, we teach mostly English but also IT skills, personal hygiene and hopefully kindness and respect for others. Through the DHL Global Volunteer Day, and the support of the company and those who would have liked to be there but could not be there, DHL showed an example of such kindness and respect, that we will share and appreciate in the years to come.

We at Kidshelp Cambodia in Germany and England are also very grateful that we have once again received such great support from DHL.

In addition, we would of course also like to thank you for placing your trust in us again last year. Thanks to your numerous support, it was possible for us to continue our work and to initiate new things. We look forward to continuing on this path in 2022.

We wish you happy holidays and health and all the best for the new year.

Your team from Kidshelp Kambodscha e.V. in Germany and England.

