


Kidshelp Newsletter 11/2022

On Monday 24 October 2022, John Pearson, DHL Express Global CEO, met online with four past and present students from Kidshelp Scholarship programme. He told them: "education matters, English matters, you have both. Through your efforts, and with the support of your family and Kidshelp, you also have many tools in your toolbox... you are role models... you are in a position to influence a thousand."

Joining John and Patrick Byron of Kidshelp on the 80-minute call were: Layheak Thach, Rina Ra, Phichhara Sen and Sreyoun Oun for Kidshelp; Prayag Chitrakar, Country Manager of DHL Express Cambodia; Theresa Kronmueller of DHL Express who supports DHL Express's **Wheel of Purpose** programme and set up the call.

Layheak told how she'd looked after her two sisters and her deaf grandmother from age 13, after her parents left to find work in Phnom Penh. She took small jobs to earn money; she spoke no English as her public school didn't teach English. She'd recently learned about Khemara Kidshelp School (KKS) English classes. She was very happy to be in school, and heartbroken when her mother told her she must quit school for full-time work to help support her sisters. As a child worker she could earn only \$12 per month. She spoke with Khath Khemara, KKS Principal, who nominated her, successfully, for a Kidshelp child support scholarship of \$12 per month; it meant she could buy food for herself and her sisters, and her parents could agree to her continuing her education at public school and her English classes at KKS.





Layheak was highly motivated and quickly learned English through the support of KKS teachers and volunteers. In grade 12 (aged 17/18) she applied, successfully, for a Kidshelp University Scholarship. She graduated from Norton University in 2018, with a master's degree in education management and teaching. Layheak is now a trainer for Chip Mong Corporation in Phnom Penh. Layheak explained: "today I have my ideal job, I'm able to support my family. Without Kidshelp support, I might have been a waitress in a restaurant or seller in the market. I would commit to doing what I can to help my community. I'll never forget what Kidshelp did for me and my family. It's a great honour for me to sit here representing Kidshelp."

John congratulated Layheak on being able to tell, with such expression, of good days and bad days and how, with support from Kidshelp, she was able to recognise and take advantage of the opportunities offered to her.


Rina spoke of her dream as a young girl of going to university, but she knew that her family's financial situation meant she might never achieve her dream. In 2015 she started studying English at KKS, initially feeling shy and not confident to speak in English. She spoke of being 'the lucky girl' in

grade 12 (aged 17/18) who received a Kidshelp University Scholarship to study Business Communications at Western University. Rina told John: "this not only made a difference to my life but took away the financial burden from my family. Without the scholarship support I wouldn't have been able to pursue my dream. I might have been working today in a local factory or as a market seller. I'll always be grateful to Kidshelp for supporting me to have a better life and for the future opportunity to support my family".

John applauded Rina for her confidence and clear communication. He noted that it's through confidence that we as individuals are able to achieve our dreams and improve our lives. Confidence gives us the desire and courage to achieve more and more each day.

Phichhara introduced Khmer Sight Foundation, which performs cataract surgeries free of charge for some of the poorest people from villages in Cambodia through its Visiting Doctor programme. In 2022, KKS arranged for Khmer Sight Foundation to visit the school in April, for eye screenings to identify patients needing cataract surgeries. During May and August, 48 successful surgeries were carried out at Khmer Sight Foundation Research & Development Centre in Phnom Penh. Many of the patients were parents, grandparents, or relatives of KKS school or university students. Khmer Sight Foundation requires volunteers to prepare and support the patients during surgery; this was an opportunity for 20 Kidshelp Scholarship students to volunteer and help during the eye screenings and cataract surgeries.

John congratulated Phichhara on her ability to clearly and succinctly communicate in a way that captured so much information. He agreed that sight is a vital sense, which can be restored with a small investment (maybe just a few dollars), and that sight and health can be improved through diet, nutrition, and education.



Sreyoun spoke of how Kidshelp supported eye treatment for people of her village as well as education of children and gave her the opportunity to volunteer with Khmer Sight Foundation. Through her volunteer activities, she learned about eye testing, gained important skills in teamwork, and built her confidence working with the nurses and doctors to encourage the grandmas and grandpas of the village to go for eye testing and surgery. She spoke of how people would arrive at the eye clinic feeling fearful, and how she helped to build their confidence and put a smile on their faces. Through these small works she felt she could contribute to her community, and that her volunteering activities had created the opportunity for her to participate in this online call and address the DHL Express Global CEO.

John congratulated all the students on their excellent English. He added: "there's no better time in my day than hearing such true-life stories". He then shared some words of advice with the students.

Take opportunities you are presented in life. But that doesn't mean every opportunity or the first opportunity. Don't be impatient. You have so much to offer. Although you're still young, you've already had so many life experiences, many of which were gained through the support of Kidshelp. Have confidence in yourself, evaluate and take advantage of the opportunities that are right for you.

Every student should prepare their CV and gain interview experience. It's great to learn that DHL Cambodia's Head of HR has offered to support students with their CV and with interview techniques. John said he'd be happy if he heard that any of the students on today's call had joined the team at DHL Cambodia.

It's important that we all learn to listen and hear. His grandmother had told him at a young age that he has two ears and one mouth, and to use them in that proportion. "You learn when you listen. When you're talking, you're only sharing things you already know. You don't need to be patient to just listen for a few minutes when someone wants to tell you something – let them speak." An example was when Sreyoun talked about her experience as a volunteer to support patients going for eye surgery; she listened to their concerns, their anxiety, then she was able to respond to their fears and put them at rest, because they knew they'd been listened to and had been heard.

Never compromise on what you can offer an employer. "You have good English, you have confidence. Show you can listen, be enthusiastic, be excited, show you have energy." John explained that when he meets someone, he looks for their personality, their enthusiasm. If, when he walks away, he feels happier than when they first met, then he knows they have something to offer. This is so much more important than learning about what university they attended, what they studied or what they've done in their past. John told the students: "you all have something to offer, you all have what it takes to light up the eyes of a potential employer."

Everyone has a toolkit of skills to use in life. Some may only have one or two tools and will always use the same tools regardless of the task in hand; one of those is probably a hammer. "Through the support of your family, your friends, through Kidshelp, and through support such as this session, you're fortunate to have an expanded set of tools in your toolbox. You don't always have to use the same old hammer; think about which part of your brain you'll use. Think about which part of your personality you'll use."

Remember no one company is better than another. It depends on whether the company is good for you at a particular moment in time. It depends on the company values and priorities and how these fit with your needs at that time.

Every Kidshelp student has the opportunity to influence others. “You’re all role models to many others: a role model for learning English; and a role model in how to communicate. You’ve faced many challenges and come out the other side. Don’t be modest. Recognise that you are role models; you’re each in a position to influence a thousand other people.”

Connect with others, build your network. The countries that connect with other countries through trade, services, people, and capital are the countries that are more peaceful and more successful; similarly, the people who connect with people, who communicate, who share, are the people who will build their network and will be successful.

Prayag Chitrakar, Country Manager of DHL Express Cambodia, talked about some DHL initiatives he and his team had undertaken with Kidshelp since an introduction in 2018. That first meeting had been arranged with Patrick to discuss DHL pricing for Kidshelp, but further opportunities soon became evident. The first projects were to build a computer laboratory at KKS, and to explore opportunities for intern positions. In 2021 DHL staff painted the inside of the classrooms at KKS, and donated stationery. The first intern was offered a full-time position and continued to work for DHL for 4 years, throughout his studies. DHL Cambodia’s HR department helps students with CV preparation and coaching for interviews, and updates Hun Tharith, who also has responsibility for supporting Kidshelp Scholarship students, on job opportunities. DHL Cambodia’s marketing department provided a week’s work experience for two Kidshelp Scholarship students in November 2022. Mentoring programmes are ongoing with DHL employees in Europe. DHL transports used glasses from the UK for recycling with Khmer Sight Foundation, and Prayag was confident that the strong relationship between Kidshelp, Khmer Sight Foundation and DHL will continue to grow.

Patrick confirmed that Kidshelp Scholarship students are selected based on published criteria. No preference is given to female students – the statistic that 85% of Kidshelp Scholarship students are female is a very positive sign of change in Cambodia. In 2014 most students studied finance & banking or English; today the students cover a range of traditional and other subjects, including architecture, electronics, engineering, medicine, midwifery, and pharmacology.

The 2023 English scholarship test will be at KKS on 16 November 2022. Following the publication of the grade 12 state school exams and interviews by Khath Khemara (KKS Principal) and Hun Tharith (KKS Deputy Principal), Kidshelp will publish a newsletter with details of students who will be nominated for 2023 Kidshelp University Scholarships, their chosen course and university. Kidshelp will also support a one-year internship with Khmer Sight Foundation if a suitable candidate is nominated.

Khemara Kidshelp School (KKS) in Cambodia is supported through DHL Express’s **Wheel of Purpose**, part of DHL’s wider **Connecting People and Improving Lives** programme. The meeting with John Pearson was arranged by Theresa Kronmueller of DHL Express in Bonn where she works on the programme, with support from Bopha Chan, Head of HR for DHL Express Cambodia. DHL uses its people, planes, vehicles, and property to help people around the world to improve their lives. Kidshelp, (including KKS and Kidshelp University Scholarships) is one of a number of charity organisations supported under this DHL programme.

If you would like to support Kidshelp, or just learn more about the work of Kidshelp, please visit www.kidshelp-kambodscha.org. If you are based in Bonn, please visit the Kidshelp Christmas Market stall in PostTower on 24 November 2022.

On 3 August 2022, a lunch was arranged in Loer Oet village for 20 patients who had successful cataract surgery at Khmer Sight Foundation Research & Development Centre in May 2022. Many of the guests told us it was the first time they had been to a restaurant and were excited to share the experience with friends, all of whom could see each other clearly for the first time in many years.



We would like to thank you once again for the trust you have placed in us over the past year. Without your help, our work would not have been possible. Also on behalf of our employees on site, we wish you happy holidays and merry Christmas.

Your team from Kidshelp Kambodscha e.V. in Germany, Cambodia and the United Kingdom.
