



End of year report

2015 Project

Self Help Community Centre

High School Project and Youth Development Programme

The funds provided to your organisation for the current year by TFWA Care were donated following the approval of the TFWA Management Committee and board. Among the prerequisites for funding by TFWA Care are transparency and accountability. We would be grateful if you could send us a brief summary of the project, the objectives achieved, problems encountered, impact on the local community and indicators of the project's success. We will share the report with the Management Committee at the end of year meeting.

Please do not hesitate to report on the project's successes as well as any aspects that did not go according to plan. This serves to provide a greater understanding of the challenges and issues encountered by the communities on whose behalf your organisation is working. Any quantifiable indicators will also be helpful in your report.

Thank you.



## Project details

1. Please summarise in a few words the project supported by TFWA CARE, including the principle objectives and duration.

The Youth Development Scholarship provides selected students the opportunity to complete high school as well as learn valuable leadership, life skills and social work skills. There are many factors that are considered when selecting students for the YDC Programme – all students must show potential but not necessarily academically, most importantly they must show potential as leaders and good role models, not only for their fellow SHCC students but the wider community also. The students come from a range of backgrounds but all suffer from poverty at differing levels and would not be able to attend state school (high school) without being on scholarship. Every one of the students has a different story but each one of them have been victims of particularly bad circumstances - all have experienced child labour at some point. Some have lost or been abandoned by their parents so are living with either extended family or at SHCC, others have lost one parent and come from very large families making life very difficult and the opportunity to study non-existent. Some are victims of family violence, some suffer from medical conditions they do not have the money to treat and others are malnourished. Most live in semi-permanent housing, some in slum conditions, they do not have power or running water and often do not have enough food to eat. When their families are struggling to meet these basic needs, obviously education is simply not an option for them. SHCC is free for them to attend and here they study English and whichever vocational classes they choose. But for these students to go onto higher education or to get a good job in the thriving tourism industry in the city they must graduate State school. At State school they study Khmer language, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History and Philosophy. Aside from academic activities, the YDC programme at SHCC teaches these students social work skills, life skills, leadership skills, team building skills, first aid, education in money management, health and hygiene and environmental awareness. These students are leaders at SHCC, they are role models for their fellow students, and as we are a community run project that encourages empowerment and everyone working together for the benefit of the community these students volunteer their time to help us run our outreach work and conduct our home visits to the students houses, passing on the knowledge and skills they are acquiring as they go.

Due to extremely high student to teacher ratios (50-60 students per class), poor teaching methods and a corrupt government school system. With the assistance of TFWA Care and other private donors SHCC decided in March (three months into the project) that it was a much better option to open their own State High School in 2015 instead of sending students to the government run ones that were available.

2. What activities were carried out within the scope of the project over the course of the year?

In January, SHCC employed 5 State school teachers to teach our Youth Development students the State school curriculum, we began teaching these new classes in our community houses, but it was soon apparent we needed to expand to provide for the growing numbers of students. So after a further fundraising drive starting in April through until June, we were able to secure funds to purchase a further hectare of land to build an additional 3 purpose built classrooms. TFWA Care funds were used not for just scholarship/project operational costs and teacher salaries but for the construction of the new high school. The construction is almost complete and the new high school will open its doors in just two weeks time, in time for the 2016 school year. We now have 36 students that are attending the high school and hope to expand this to upto 100 in 2016.

### **Evaluation**

3. Has the project been successful? Please outline the success factors for each objective as well as the challenges encountered and solutions adopted to overcome them.

Extremely successful, more than we could have even hoped for. In 2014 due to a corrupt state schooling system, our student pass rate was just 6%, in just one year since starting this new project that pass rate increased to 92%. We have also managed to almost halve the study time of our students (rather than attending State school from 6am – 6pm six days a week, the students study for just 6 hours a day). They no longer have to travel the 30 minute drive into the city either and we are providing jobs for the local community aswell as a providing a new asset to the community.

4. Did the work accomplished this year help you learn lessons that will benefit future work?

Yes definitely, after the success of this project we already have plans to open this programme to Grades 7 – 9, rather than just Grades 10 – 12 (of course it will be dependent on funding somewhat). Having managed and carried out all the work ourselves to save money we have learnt a great amount of lessons in construction, planning and budgeting that will help us greatly in the future aswell.



## **Sustainability**

5. How has the project had a positive impact on the community/ies at the core of the project and what will be the long term benefits? Please explain if the project has helped empower the beneficiaries by providing greater autonomy.

Extremely positive. We have more and better educated students and community members. We have been able to provide paid employment to local community members, whether as teachers or labourers, these community members have all gained a lot more skills and knowledge. And the community now has its own State school, which is an incredible asset.

Community members have been empowered. The community, staff and students at SHCC built this school themselves, with their own hands. It was an amazing team effort, with everyone getting involved. They have seen first-hand what they are capable of and what can be accomplished when they work together. The community now has a great asset and it was thanks largely to their efforts!

Long term benefits are increased self-worth, empowerment, students are better educated and have much better opportunities, employment rates have increased, as have the skills of local community members.

6. Will the project continue in the future or is it now complete? Will further funding be required in the future to complete the work? Please indicate if the initial funding request was a multi-year project. \*\* (see footnote)

The construction project is now complete (but perhaps will expand in the future as demand increases). But the project is on going and requires funding for operational costs each year.

The initial request was a multi-year project to see students through until they graduate high school.

## **Finance**

7. Please provide a summarised breakdown of how TFWA Care funds were utilised for the project.



Total received - \$24,235.20 USD (22,000 Euro)

\$36.35 USD - ANZ Bank Cambodia transfer fee

\$13,250 USD - Operational costs for project (teacher salaries, power, educational resources and stationary, exam fees etc). \$1325 USD per month over 10 months.

\$10,948.85 USD – Construction costs (foundations, tools, equipment hire, bricks, cement, steel, roof tiles, windows, doors, floor tiles, paint etc.)

Once the project is completed at the end of November, we can send you our final income and expense records (spreadsheet) for the specific project outlining exactly how funds were spent.