

# GRACE HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE (GHCC) ANNUAL REPORT 2016

*"Enabling the community to become sustainable through education, family support and health care."*

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Grace House Community Centre's Annual Report for 2016 and our 8<sup>th</sup> year of service. In staying true to the mission of enabling communities to become sustainable, GHCC has been flexible and responsive to the needs of the community which has led to some changes throughout this year. However, in other program areas, it has been a time of strengthening, consolidation and recognition. GHCC wishes to express sincere gratitude for the on-going support and commitment of funders, sponsors and donors around the world. GHCC also acknowledges the unwavering support of our Cambodian Board of Directors (pictured below), and our UK Board of Trustees, Jenny Jones, Mary Carter and Bridget Cordory and to Director, Jim Elliot for his endless support. Thank you also to departing UK Trustee Board members, Alan and Alison Golightly and Sonia Greaves. It is the dedication and collaboration of so many who make the very existence of GHCC possible.



*GHCC's Cambodian Board of Directors: Mom Mai, Dani Chan, Cheanet Soun and Alan Cordorv*

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## **PROGRAMS:**

### **Basic Education**

There is a strong emphasis on the importance of education in Cambodia, and most students are keen and motivated to learn. Education is viewed as a means of moving out of poverty through increasing the capacity of individuals, families and communities. Due to a lack of infrastructure and resources within the Cambodian state education system, many children attend state school only for 4 hours a day but 6 days a week, either in the morning or in the afternoon. GHCC offers education classes at the alternate time of day for students, with a focus on English classes, a broader subject content including world events, geography, art and sport and a more holistic approach to learning. Full time students attend a 2 hour session per day, whilst part time students attend for 1 hour, either the 8am - 9am class or 3pm – 4pm class.

The school year in Cambodia runs from November to October. GHCC had 300 students enrolled between January 2016 and October 2016, of which approximately 2/3 are full time students. The average monthly attendance is 80%, this figure being influenced mainly by non-attendance by part-time students who often have extra requirements at state school, extra lessons, helping in family business or other family chores. Festivals, weddings, funerals and also illness contribute to students absences.

The GHCC Head Teacher and Social Worker monitor student’s absences and there is a process for follow up for non-attendance involving teachers, students, state schools and families. The social worker can offer additional assistance through GHCC Family Support Program if deemed necessary.

During the first part of 2016, a significant decrease in attendance for the year 11 and 12 classes at GHCC was noticed. It was reported that many students were being required to attend more hours at state school, which was actually viewed as a positive that the state

education system was taking more responsibility. As a result, GHCC decided to close these full time classes and offer part time only to the few students who are still able and wanting to attend. The other year 11 and 12 students continue to be supported through GHCC with payment for extra lessons at school and funding for school supplies as part of GHCC School Drop Out Prevention.

At the other end of the age spectrum, in January 2016, GHCC began offering a class for 3 - 4 year olds. Due to the success of this, GHCC doubled the intake for this age bracket in November, and now has a morning (Ducklings) and afternoon (Kittens) class.



At the beginning of the new school year in November 2016, GHCC had 307 students enrolled in the Basic Education programme of which again 1/3 were full time students. Gender representation is fairly balanced, with 53% male and 47% female. This is encouraging in a country where girls' education is often less valued.

### Further Education

GHCC offers full and partial scholarships to some students for further education after year 12. Of the 10 students who completed year 12 in 2016, only 4 passed their exams. Three of them have gone onto university whilst one has chosen to attend the Hospitality & Tourism Vocational Training School, Paul Dubrule, along with another 3 students who failed their year 12. Two students are repeating year 12 and both are also working, one as a teaching assistant with Kittens and Ducklings at GHCC and another as a Khmer teacher at a state school. The other student has stopped studying but is working as a waiter in a restaurant in Siem Reap. There were 4 students who finished their university degrees in October 2016 with the support of GHCC and all are now working in different fields. Two students have gained employment as front desk/receptionists in hotels in Siem Reap, while another is working in micro-finance at a bank. One student completed her nursing qualification and is working at an NGO but only in a voluntary capacity at the moment.

*Students who graduated from Puldaul Brule Vocational Course in October 2016*



There were 3 students who completed vocational courses at Paul Bubrulle and 2 have got jobs as hotel receptionists whilst the other is working at a tourism agency (pictured left).

As at the beginning of the school year in (November), GHCC was supporting a total of 18 students at University, which included the 3 new 1<sup>st</sup> year students receiving 4-year scholarships. And four students doing Vocational training courses. Reports indicate that all students are progressing well.

## School Drop Out Prevention

The School Drop Out Prevention Programme is one of the very valuable resources offered by GHCC that has far reaching impacts across the three villages and ripple on effects to the wider community as these children remain engaged with education. In preparation for the new school year, the following was distributed in October:



- 75 students received school uniform (grade 7 – 12)
- 195 students received school supplies (grade 1 – 12)

Additionally, every month, GHCC gives students money for extra lessons, which generally are required for a student to pass their year level. For the new school year in November 2016, there were 48 students registered for extra lessons. One has since left state school, and 2 more have been assessed as eligible, bringing the total at the end of December to 49 students being supported with money for extra lessons.

Within the first month of the new school year (Nov – Dec 2016), there had been 6 full time students leave GHCC of which 3 of these had also left state school (these are of our most concern). Two of these students had been forced by their parents to leave to help with family work and chores, whilst one student repeated a school year level last year and failed that level for the second time. He said he views himself as 'not clever enough' to stay in school, however, he is working with a mobile-music DJ for party events and appears to be quite happy.

The GHCC Head Teacher regularly visits the 3 high schools that the GHCC students attend and meets with the teachers to discuss any concerns around student's attendance. As mentioned previously, the GHCC social worker also follows up with students whose attendance is wavering at GHCC to ascertain the reason and encourage continued engagement with education.

## Children with Disabilities Day Program

This program, known as Parrot Class, offers a unique, specialised Day Program for children with disabilities who come from the wider Siem Reap Province. Parrot Class offers support, therapeutic intervention and education through a structured programme for children who otherwise would have nothing. One of the main challenges of working in this field is the traditional Buddhist view that a disability is Karma for being 'bad' in one's past life, either the parent or the child. Part of GHCC's role in this sector is also to educate and advocate for children with disabilities and their families.



Parrot Class can have up to 21 students at one time. The average number of student attendances per day is around 15. Due to the vulnerability of these children and with them being more prone to illness, the average daily attendance numbers are on par with expectation and have remained consistent. During 2016, one child returned to mainstream state school in November, which has been deemed a huge success, whilst another child

moved to Phnom Penh with her family. There are currently 8 children on the waiting list, and so the next new 'intake' is under consideration and appropriate care staff being sought. In an attempt to minimise disruption for the other students, only one new student is taken on at a time.



All students in Parrot Class have an individualised Educational and Development Plans which is reviewed on a 3 monthly basis. 2016 has seen an increase in the profile of GHCC's Disability programme. The government and other NGO's are becoming more aware and very supportive of the programme, and feedback from parents, families and schools also indicates the success of this programme

Private donations made throughout 2016 have allowed for 2 classrooms to be adapted into purpose-built rooms for children with disabilities, making a total of 3 separate spaces. The group of students have differing needs and abilities and thus having 3 spaces will allow for more targeted programs and interventions. These capital works are still in progress and should be completed by February 2017.

Parrot Class has had a number of outings during the year, including regular visits to the local Swimming pool (pictured above), and a special visit to the Athvea Pagoda during the traditional Pchum Ben ceremony (pictured right).



### **Children with Disabilities Preahkoun House**

GHCC also has a small short-stay residential house on site, which offers an invaluable service to families of children with disabilities with its capacity to offer respite care in times of family crises, as well as flexible residential care for children requiring longer term placements. The house is staffed 24 hours by trained carers and can accommodate a maximum of 6 children with disabilities.

During 2016, Preahkoun House has been home to 5 children but one girl left in August to return to live with her mother. Of the 4 children currently living there, three are full time residents and one is a weekly boarder (Monday – Friday).

### **Family Support**

GHCC's Family Support Programme supports and assists families of children attending GHCC. There were approximately 250 families involved with GHCC throughout 2016 of which the Family Support social workers actively supported about 100. Assistance provided included:

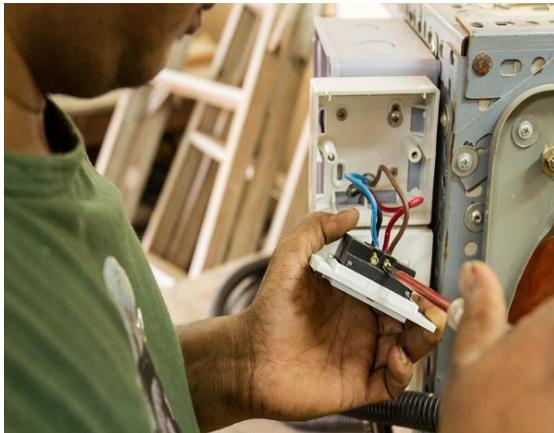
- Rice Program - monthly allowance of a bag of rice to 24 very poor families
- Repairs to 2 water wells
- Providing 2 families with water filters
- 15 bicycles were given to families
- Lunch Club at GHCC providing children with a nutritious meal who might not otherwise eat during the day

- General support with issues such relationships, parenting, domestic violence, school truancy, health and wellbeing
- Reporting of Child Protection concerns

Thanks to a couple of substantial donations, GHCC was able to redevelop the social work building, enclosing the downstairs area to make an office and 'private confidential' space. The upstairs will become shared space for staff and volunteers as a resource room and /staff room once further renovations are completed in early 2017.



### Sparkies – Electrical Vocational program



Four students continued in the electrician training programme from 2015 into 2016. As well as learning valuable skills in fixing electrical problems, they also learned business skills through this small social enterprise and made contacts through work done at various places around Siem Reap. Unfortunately, due to a lack of staffing resources to facilitate this programme, it was forced to close in July 2016. One of the students, a female, has gained full time employment as the on-site electrician at a sewing factory in Siem Reap, whilst the other

three male students have all got jobs working for other electricians around town. Lee Fletcher volunteered for the year assisting Alan in running and closing of the Apprentice Electrical Program and with maintenance around GHCC.

### Grace Gecko Weaving

Creating beautiful bags, jewellery and household items from locally grown natural fibres, Grace Gecko provided employment for 12 local women in 2016. The women, who are mothers or grandmothers of children at GHCC, are trained in weaving and then are meaningful employed in the programme, raising their self esteem and enabling them to provide for their families. Grace Gecko has a stall every day at the 'Made in Cambodia' Kings Road Market in Siem Reap, however, again in 2016, the programme has not made a profit due to the hours involved in making the products (eg. 30 hours for one handbag).



## Old People's Program (OPP)



This new programme at GHCC focuses on supporting old people in the village of Kor Kranh with access to health services and improving emotional wellbeing. During 2016, 31 old people were interviewed and assessed as part of a needs analysis; 6 people were provided with commodes to assist with toileting; 1 was given a water filter; and 13 were supported in accessing required services for health concerns. The Old People's Programme, in partnership with Help Age Cambodia, has

started the process of establishing an OPA (Old People's Association), a government initiative to build community-based groups aiming to improve old people's wellbeing through collective activities. Thanks to Dr. Helen Cooper for her initiative in establishing the Old People's program at GHCC and for her continuing support.

## OTHER INITIATIVES

- In April, volunteer Claudia Quigua produced a wonderful promotional video for GHCC. The video captures not only the work of GHCC, but also the essence and spirit of the organisation. Please view it on our website or at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lmp9pzSnVyE&feature=youtu.be>

- In October, GHCC decided to have a small shop set up just inside the front gate. The rationale for this decision was child safety, as many students were leaving the grounds during break times to go up to the busy street. This meant that GHCC staff were often unaware of students' whereabouts and therefore, unable to ensure their safety whilst under our care and responsibility. With the new shop inside the gate, students can still purchase snacks at break times and stay safe within the grounds of GHCC.



## STAFFING

In March, one of GHCC's founders, Bridget Cordory, returned to live in the UK and took up the role of Chairperson on the UK Board of Trustees. Bridget has devoted her life to GHCC over the past 8 years, and her legacy remains, particularly through her vision, advocacy, compassion and commitment to working with children with disabilities. Throughout 2016, Bridget has played, and will continue to play, a vital and valuable role within GHCC.

GHCC has built a strong and stable staff team, with minimal turnover this year. In the Education Program, Teacher Vannak left in June and was replaced by a new Teacher, Channi.

Our Disability Program benefitted immensely from the employment, knowledge, skills and support of physiotherapist, Sara Smythe and Occupational Therapist, Dinna Watson, during 2016.

Funding for the Education Programme Development position finished in September, and so GHCC farewelled Carmel Majella-Marie, who was instrumental in developing the curriculum for the new Ducklings and Kittens nursery class. Additionally Carmel took on the extra role of Volunteer Coordinator during her time at GHCC. In November, we welcomed Fiona Cameron into a new position of Program Manager as the conduit between the UK Trustees and GHCC.

In total, GHCC employs 49 full time and part time staff, of who 47 are Khmer. Three of our teachers are ex-GHCC students and our Office Assistant is also an ex-GHCC student. GHCC is also committed to supporting staff and ensuring they have the skills to do their jobs to the best of their ability and encourage staff to continuously upskills and continue to study.

During 2016, 2 teachers attended a 4-day training course on teaching methods, classroom management and adolescence behaviours at LRTT (Limited Resource Teacher Training). Two more teachers attended a 2-day training course on activities for pre-school learners. Internally, GHCC offers on-going teacher training by the Project Manager, plus peer training and support at weekly meetings. Parrot Class Head Teacher attended the Disability Child Protection Conference in Phnom Penh in May and Preahkoun House Manager attended a 2 day Physiotherapy Congress in Phnom Penh in November. Parrot class Head teacher and Manager also attended further training funded by Tesco. All Disability staff and carers received training in applying practical tasks in working with children with disabilities. GHCC Social Worker Manager and Social Worker have also been attending training on working with Old People.

## **NETWORKS AND SPONSORS**

### **Grants:**

- Tesco F & F Funding Futures granted a 3<sup>rd</sup> year of funding for teachers and admin staff salaries, rent, school Drop Out Prevention programme, Parrot Class and university fees/scholarships.
- The Danson Foundation has funded Preahkoun House for the 2<sup>nd</sup> of a 5 year commitment.
- Curtin University provided funding for our Computer Teacher

### **Family Sponsors**

Many thanks to our those who sponsor a family through GHCC: Jill Hobbs, Marilyn King, Ann and Bill, Ann's parents, Clare Watson, Marianne Richards, Melissa Zoellner, Danielle Anderson, Rachel Tarr, Josh Nowak, Lara Barnet, Holly White, Tracy Hare, Tony Shorthose, Berendina Norton, A. Wainwright and Mrs Paterson.

Every year, an update of families is emailed out to sponsors. Could all sponsors please confirm when they have received this correspondence or if they have not received an update, please contact [info@gracehousecambodia.org](mailto:info@gracehousecambodia.org).

**Volunteers:**

Thank you so much to all our volunteers who have given their time, energy, passion and support to GHCC this year. You know who you all are! But a special mention to our returning volunteers, Marianne Richards, Jenny Jones, Nicky Clive, Ann Brownlie, Gillian Meyers, Jill Hobbs and to Marilyn King for her on-going work with GHCC's curriculum.

**Individuals who donated:**

So many kind and generous people donate to GHCC, and every bit counts towards providing quality and valuable services to children and families. There are too many to mention all here, but special thanks to:

- Hortense Decaux provided funding for the refurbishment of a classroom for disabled children and three disability carers.
- Belvoir-Wodonga Rotary Club for the refurbishment of the social work building

**Local Businesses who supported GHCC:**

- Amansara for raising funds with a Charity concert by Aaron Meyer
- Aviary Hotel for hosting a fundraiser for the old Peoples Programme
- Miss Wong's for hosting a Charity raffle

**Schools and Clubs who have supported GHCC in 2016:**

Chapman University, USA	Belvoir-Wodonga Rotary Club,
AUSSt Ursula's College QLD, AUS	University of Notre Dame, WA, AUS
Social Cycle Tours, AUS	Curtin University, WA, AUS
Stamford American International School, Singapore	Unity College QLD, AUS

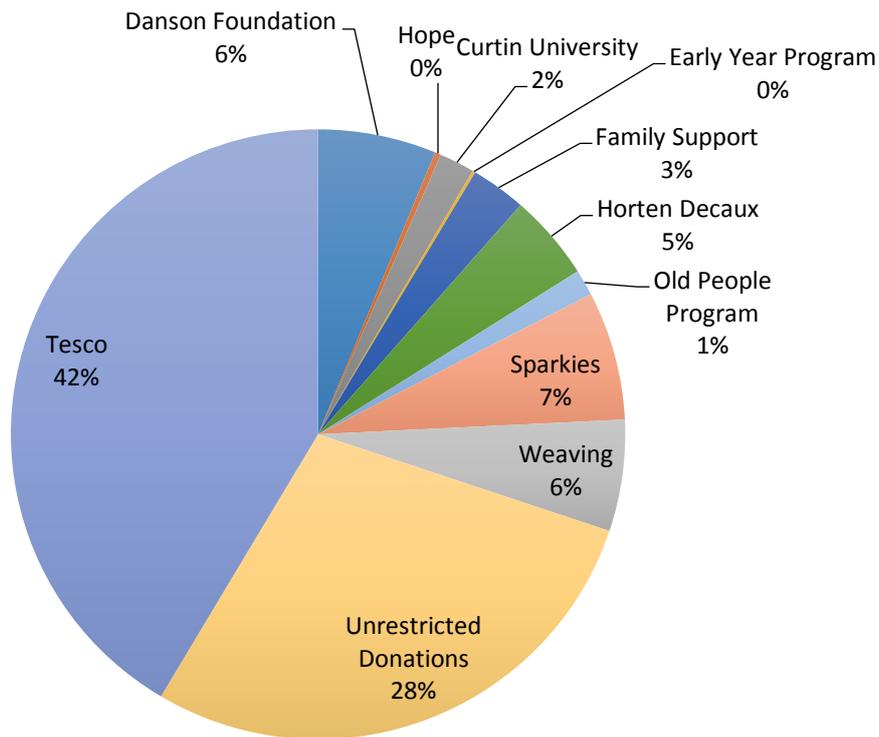
**Working Together:**

Organisations with whom GHCC has worked include Friends International, Chab Dai (NGO Child Protection), Travel Education Asia, People and Places, Globateer, Concert, Safe Haven (NGO Outreach for Disabilities), Help Age Cambodia, Handicap International, Anjali NGO, Women's Resource Centre (Siem Reap), International School Siem Reap (ISSR), Treak Community Centre, Hands Across the World NGO, ICF Cambodia

Throughout 2016, GHCC has welcomed visitors from Malaysia, Canada, Australia, Cambodia, France, New Zealand, Japan, Philippines, The Netherlands', Brazil, Singapore, Sweden, Germany, Switzerland, UAE Dubai, Ireland, England, Scotland, China, USA

## FINANCES

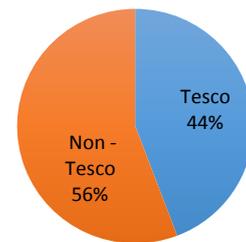
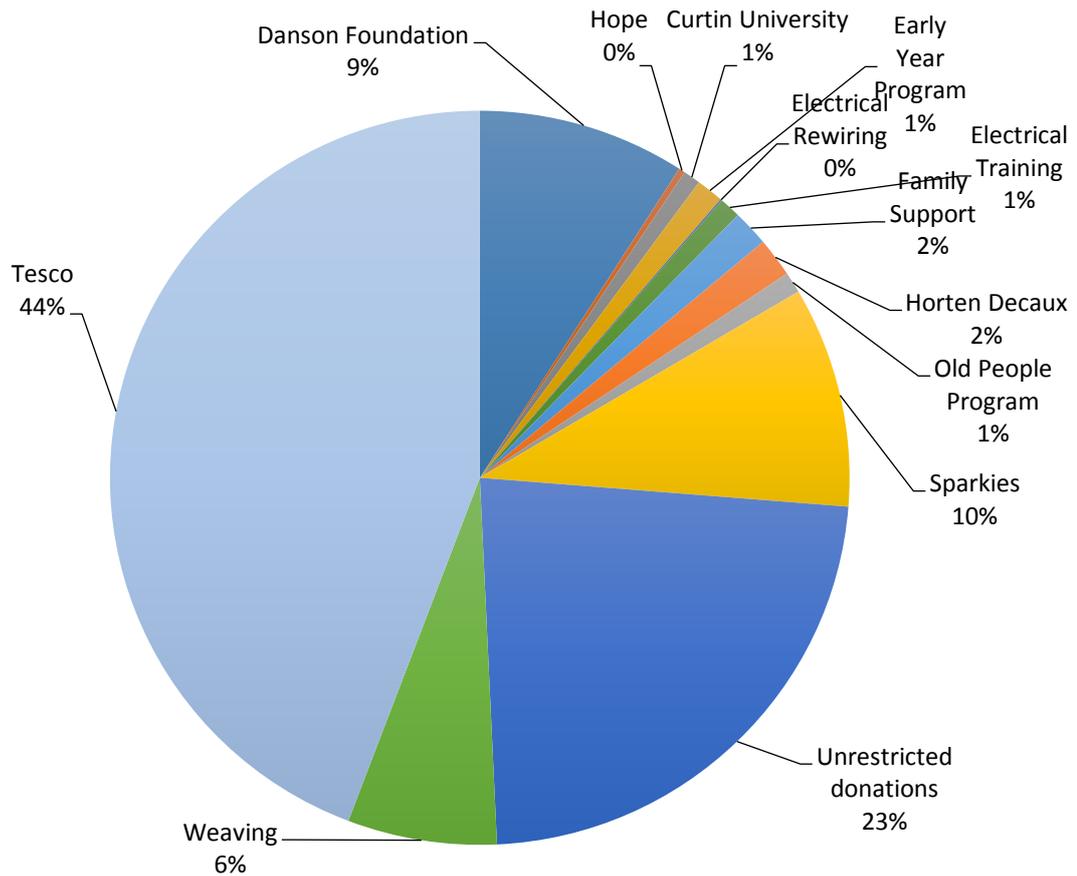
### Income



PROGRAM INCOME:									
Danson Foundation	Hope	Curtin University	Early Years Program	Family Support	Hortense Decaux	Old People's program	Sparkies	Weaving	TOTAL
\$12,267.00	\$620.00	\$3,661.13	\$300.00	\$5,729.97	\$9,000.00	\$2,702.51	\$13,464.97	\$11,633.50	<b>\$59,379.08</b>

<b>PROGRAM INCOME</b>	<b>\$59,379.08</b>
<b>UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS</b>	<b><u>\$55,981.06</u></b>
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b><u>\$115,360.10</u></b>
<b>TESCO (F&amp;F FUNDING FUTURE)</b>	<b><u>\$81,686.02</u></b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>\$197,046.12</u></b>

## Expenditure



PROGRAM EXPENDITURE:											
Danson Foundation	Hope	Curtin University	Early Years Program	Family Support	Hortense Decaux	Old People's program	Sparkies	Electrical Rewiring	Electrical Training	Weaving	TOTAL
\$17,276.41	\$527.90	\$1,438.96	\$2,264.21	\$3,029.47	\$3,277.62	\$1,760.83	\$18,527.80	\$123.00	\$1,800.00	\$12,438.17	<b>\$62,464.37</b>

**PROGRAM EXPENDITURE**

**\$62,464.37**

**UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS SPENT**

**\$43,830.80**

**Sub-total**

**\$106,295.17**

**TESCO (F&F FUNDING FUTURE)**

**\$84,244.52**

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE**

**\$190,539.69**

## **FINANCES Continued:**

### **Grace House Accounts**

#### 1. Grace House Cambodia Trust CAF Bank UK:

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>£8,755.16</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Tesco	£65,121.70
Other Donations	£300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£74,176.86</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Fees	£50.00
Transfer to GHCC	£15,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£15,050.00</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>£59,126.86</b>

#### **Rate of Exchange £/\$**

Transfer 24-02-16: £5,000.00 Transfer Rate 1.3751 / 0.72721 = \$6875.55.

Transfer 26-09-16: £10,000.00 Transfer Rate 1.2796 / 0.78149 = \$12796.00

#### 2. **Community Centre of Grace House Cambodia ANZ Bank Cambodia**

Opening Balance 2016: USD \$73,272.66

Closing Balance 2016: USD \$1,982.39

#### 3. **Community Centre of Grace House Cambodia Safe at GHCC**

Safe Opening Balance 2016: USD \$3,112.54

Safe Closing Balance 2016: USD \$3,229.26

## **SUMMARY**

2016 has been an exciting and rewarding year at GHCC as evidenced throughout this report. Although some challenges were endured, GHCC remains committed to responding to the changing needs of the children, families and communities with whom we work.

On behalf of the Cambodian Board of Directors and the UK Board of Trustees, GHCC wishes to acknowledge and offer our sincere gratitude to Tesco F & F Funding Futures, to all our funders, donors, sponsors, volunteers and everyone who has been so generous with their support throughout 2016.

We look forward to continuing to make a difference to the families in our communities and to the lives of children with disabilities in Siem Reap Province.

*Donations to Grace House Community Centre can be made via our bank account in UK or Cambodia, PayPal or Virgin Money Giving:*

**UK Bank Account**

Grace House Cambodia Trust  
CAF Cash Account: 00024658  
Sort Code: 40-52-40

**Cambodian Account**

Community Centre of Grace House  
ANZ Royal Bank  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
Swift Code ANZBKHPP  
A/C Number 1771711



[https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=\\_s-xclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=DGSZGL36SZSNA](https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=DGSZGL36SZSNA)



<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserProfilePage.action?userUrl=gracehouse>

**Report compiled by:**

Fiona Cameron  
Program Manager  
Grace House Community Centre