



GRACE HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE (GHCC)

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



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Grace House Community Centre

Registered Cambodian NGO No. 580

Registered Charity in England and Wales "Grace House Cambodia Trust" No. 1155678

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Grace House Community Centre's Annual Report for 2017. GHCC has enjoyed a fruitful year with many successes, but as always, each year also brings a fair share of challenges. A number of changes have occurred, including the departure of Founder and Director, Alan Cordory, who returned to the UK in December. Student numbers across both the Basic Education and Children with Disabilities programs have remained consistent, highlighting the positive impact and on-going need for these programs. New initiatives include a crèche for staff children, the employment of a new Volunteer Coordinator and the further development of the Old Persons Association.

Since the inception of GHCC in 2008, the economic and social situation in Cambodia has improved, but there are still many people living in poverty whose basic needs are not fulfilled. Whilst the need remains, GHCC will continue to work alongside children, families and communities to support and empower them to reach their full potential. In doing this, GHCC relies on the support, commitment, generosity and compassion of an array of foundations, sponsors and individuals who combine to create an international GHCC community. From the large grant sponsors, such as Tesco F&F Funding Futures, to the young boy who grew and sold a few plants at a local market stall, and everyone in between, GHCC extends its appreciation and gratitude to each of you.

PROGRAMS:

Basic Education

GHCC was initially established as an English Education program in 2008 to support children from the 3 surrounding villages of Kor Krahn, Spean Cheav and Treak. During the past few years, the state school system has improved and is making higher demands of students. However, it remains overloaded and under-resourced and students can still only attend ½ day tuition x 6 days per week. Education programs offered by NGOs are still vital in providing students with a holistic and adequate education to prepare them for further education, meaningful employment and young adulthood.

The school year in Cambodia runs from November to October. In 2017 between January and October, 307 students in total attended GHCC's Basic Education program, of which 206 were full time with an average daily attendance of 79.5%. The Head Teacher and GHCC social workers collaborate to monitor students' attendance and identify needs that can be supported to enable the children to remain in both state school and GHCC education.



School Outing for Khmer New Year in April

At the beginning of the new school year in November 2017, GHCC had 187 full time students enrolled and 67 part time students, with applications for more being received and followed up by the social workers. By the end of December, the number had increased to 200 full time and 79 part time students. The relative consistency in numbers of students attending GHCC attests to the need and continuing importance of this education program. Gender representation remains fairly balanced, with 52% male and 48% female. Quarterly group meetings with parents of the older years' students have also been facilitated throughout the year.

Just before the holidays for Khmer New Year, 5 classes went on an excursion to Preah Koun Temple, whilst the 2 younger years classes enjoyed a party with games and activities at GHCC. GHCC's 2 older classes also went on outings to enhance their GHCC curriculum topic, one to the National Museum and one to Angkor Wat. With the generous support of one of our regular donors, we look forward to continuing targeted outings in 2018 (one for each class per year) that support their curriculum topics.



Further Education

GHCC offers full and partial scholarships to students for further education after year 12. In 2017, there were 10 GHCC students who completed year 12 of who 7 passed. Through previously underspent funds, GHCC has offered 50% scholarships to these 1st year students, to cover the cost of fees for the duration of their studies, results dependent:

- Tourism x 2 students
- Accounting x 1 students
- Finance and Banking x 1 student
- Public Administration x 1 student
- International Studies x 1 student
- Paul De Brule Hospitality Vocational Training x 1

New funding stream will need to be sought for Further Education scholarships for 2018 and beyond.

The Tesco F&F Funding Futures grant continues to support the university scholarships of 6 students who commenced their degrees between 2014 – 2016:

4th year Management x 1 : This student completed an Associate Degree (bridging) between year 12 and commencing his Bachelor and so his 4-year scholarship has finished. His family will pay his final year fees

 Health Science x 1: Completed the degree as a Specialist Doctor but not yet graduated as this is a government position and requires another 3 years of study

3rd year English Literature x 2
 Agriculture x 1

2nd year English Literature x 2
 Management x 1

Graduations



There were 4 students who graduated from Paul De Brule (hospitality) vocational training, mid-year 2017. One student received an “Outstanding Achievement” award and received a trip to Switzerland for further training. Upon her return, she has been offered a job at Paul De Brule and commences in early 2018. The other 3 graduates have all gained employment in the hospitality and tourism industry.

Eight students who were recipients of GHCC scholarships graduated from university after completing Bachelor degrees:

English Literature x 1; Banking and Finance x 2; Accounting x 2; Marketing x 1; Law x 1; Hospitality and Tourism x 1



This is an incredible achievement for each of these young people, including GHCC's very own teachers: Sreyech completing her Law degree and Punleu completing her English Literature degree. Congratulations!

School Drop Out Prevention

Many families cannot afford to purchase the essentials required to attend state school for their children. In preparation for the new school year in November, GHCC provided:

- 61 students with school uniform (grade 7 – 12), requesting a token contribution of \$1 if possible
- 173 students with school supplies (grade 1 – 12)

Money for extra lessons is no longer available and funding for school uniform and school supplies will need to be sourced for 2018.

Children with Disabilities Day Program

GHCC's Disability Day Programme continues to play a vital role in the community and remains the only educational programme in Siem Reap Province for children with disabilities. Students engage in a structured curriculum day programme, including basic education, physiotherapy, speech therapy, art, sport, cooking, life skills and excursions. Through a host of donations, this year saw the completion of the refurbishment of 2 more classrooms purposely designed for children with disabilities to allow the separation of students into three groups based on ability and developmental needs. The classes are called Parrot, Goat and Horse, keeping in sync with all GHCC classes being named after animals. Horse class is the designated teenage class for students aged over 12 years old and cooking and independent living skills are an integral part of their curriculum.

There have been 21 students enrolled in the program in 2017; three students have left during the year and one new boy has started. Of these 19 current students, the average attendance is 14 each day. These children are more prone to absence due to their susceptibility to health issues and other difficulties and so this is viewed as a positive attendance record for this group.

- At the beginning of June, one young woman, aged 15, left to go and work with the family business as a cleaner.
- At the end of May, the oldest boy in the class started working in construction with his Uncle, a job for which he is getting paid.
- One boy disengaged due to family pressure to stay at home (despite GHCC social worker intervention and support)

A highlight that demonstrates the drive, motivation and capacity of some of these children to thrive within supportive environments is one young boy with cerebral palsy has integrated

into mainstream state school in the mornings and still attends GHCC in the afternoons, alternating days at GHCC between Disability Day Program and Basic Education program.

Horse and Goat classes continue to visit the local café every week for social interaction. They are joined by Parrot class for monthly outings to the local swimming pool and visits to the pagoda for significant cultural celebrations, such as Khmer New Year and Pchum Ben. It is important that these children learn about and are included in such auspicious occasions.



Children with Disabilities Preahkoun House

GHCC also has a small group home on site for children with disabilities. It is staffed 24 hours by trained carers and can accommodate 4 children with disabilities.

During 2017, Preahkoun House has been home to 4 children. One female resident turned 18 years old, and due to her adult status, she was required to transition into young adult supported accommodation. Resources and alternative accommodation options for children and adults with disabilities in Cambodia are extremely limited, and this young woman had to move far away. It was a difficult time for her, the other residents and all the staff to say goodbye. Another child who was staying from Monday – Thursday in order to access the disability day program has disengaged and returned home. At the end of 2017, there are only 2 residents in Preahkoun House as staff await the return of GHCC’s Social Work Manager from maternity leave to review the wait list and assess new referrals for Preahkoun House.



Family Support

GHCC’s Family Support Programme works with children and their families who are involved with any of GHCC’s programs. In addition to providing material aid, the social workers offer general support to individuals and families around issues such as parenting, relationships, drug and alcohol, gambling, domestic violence, health and wellbeing. The social workers also support children at GHCC who are struggling with school truancy, peer relationships, health problems and a multitude of other concerns. On average, the Social Workers have individual sessions with 10 students each week, conduct 5 home visits to families and spend a lot of time in the early part of the school year in the Ducklings and Kittens class, getting to know the new 3 – 4 year old students.

This year, assistance provided includes:

- Family sponsorship program for 17 families
- Rice Program - monthly allowance of a bag of rice to 17 poor families
- Two families received bicycles
- House repairs were made on 2 family homes
- A new toilet was given to one family
- Lunch Club at GHCC has provided 27 recipients, who might not otherwise eat during the day, with a nutritious meal. This included mostly GHCC Basic Education students, one old lady who is house-bound (meals on wheels) and the Preahkoun House residents and staff who remain on site during lunchtime.
- Engaging social workers from Angkor Hospital for Children to facilitate sessions for our 10 – 16 year old students to learn about child protection, protective behaviours and safety.

With GHCC's Social Work Manager being on maternity leave from November, the department has been quite under-resourced for the last couple of months, but the GHCC staff team pulled together and have helped out as much as possible.



Grace Gecko Social Enterprise

Grace Gecko was established as a social enterprise to offer mothers or grandmothers of children at GHCC meaningful employment, teach them new skills and increase their connectedness with their communities. Following the resignation of the Manager early in the year, Grace Gecko ceased their stall at the 'Made in Cambodia' Kings Road Market, as it was too resource-intensive, requiring a staff member to be there from 12pm – 10pm every day, often with no customers or sales. The specialised products are still being consigned to the larger hotels and local handicraft shops in and around Siem Reap, but new marketing strategies and production ideas will be the goals moving forward into the new year.



Old People's Program (OPP)

Many old people in Cambodia have no family or their family members live or work far away, resulting in them being isolated from their communities, suffering many physical health problems, social and emotional health concerns, and experiencing a lack of access to resources. Many old people are also the carers for young grandchildren as parents have had to move away for employment. Throughout 2017, GHCC's Old People's program transformed into an Old People's Association (OPA) through the partnership with Help Age Cambodia (HAC). Mid-year, 3 old people were elected to form the OPA committee and registration to join the OPA peaked at 70 members by year's end. The committee and GHCC Social Worker attended 3 training and mentoring sessions in Battambang with HAC and staff from HAC have travelled to Siem Reap on a couple of occasions to offer training and to support the opening of our new OPA in Kor Krahn village.



The Kor Krahn OPA group meet on a monthly basis at the Committee Deputy's house, and the GHCC Social Worker meets with the committee 2 -3 times per month. Reports indicate that the members are taking more ownership among their communities, have improved access to health care facilities and they say they feel much more socially connected.

OTHER INITIATIVES and HIGHLIGHTS

- In December 2017, GHCC opened a creche for babies and toddlers of GHCC staff, funded through a grant from a US Foundation, Cakes for Kids. The space behind the weaving centre, had a major refurbishment with the assistance of a few short-term volunteers. Two weaving staff were successful in gaining the full time crèche staff positions and one other staff member from the Disability program was chosen as a stand-in replacement if required. All three staff participated in 2 x day's training specialising in accredited baby and child First Aid. There are currently 5 babies and toddlers, ranging in age from 3 months – 2 years attending the crèche throughout the day. Staffs' children aged 3 or 4 years old are able to attend GHCC's early years' class "Ducklings and Kittens" if there is enough space; local children, especially those on the poverty list, will still get priority. This initiative is aimed to assist those staff who could not continue with their employment due to a lack of alternative child care options.
- GHCC continues to participate in the national working group on 'Child Protection and Disability' which has involves participating in program evaluation, consultancy, presentations and quarterly attendance at meetings in Phnom Penh by the Social Work Manager and Program Manager.
- GHCC was selected to participate in a project, run by Hagar International and First Step Cambodia, to establish Social Work minimum standards and training requirements across Cambodia.
- One ex-student was a member of 'Team Cambodia' who represented their country in the international Global Robotics Olympics in USA, a competition for 'young inventors'.

STAFFING

At the end of December 2017, GHCC's staff team consisted of 39 staff: 37 Khmer nationals and 2 Foreign nationals (in the positions of full time Program Manager and part time Volunteer Coordinator). This number has fluctuated during the year due to some difficulties in recruiting suitable staff to vacant positions and also a few part-time staff have taken up full time hours upon a colleague's resignation. Despite the challenges sometimes presented, GHCC prides itself on adhering to all Cambodian Labour laws and empowering all staff by ensuring that they are aware of and understand their rights and obligations as employees.

During 2017, there have been a number of changes in the Leadership Team at GHCC, particularly with the departure of Founder and Director, Alan Cordory, who returned to reside in the UK with his family. The employment of the Program Manager, Fiona Cameron, in November 2016, was succession-planning for this move and Alan and Fiona shared 12 months working alongside each other in preparation for this change. Alan will remain very involved with the organisation and work directly alongside the UK Charity Board. With Alan having lived and worked in Cambodia for 10 years, and dedicating most of that decade to GHCC, it was an emotional time for everyone.



Staff surprised Alan by turning up to the airport to say farewell

After 8 years of service, one of GHCC's Directors, Mai Mommet, left her position on the Cambodian Board and also as a Senior Worker in the Disability program. GHCC Project Manager, Heang Pongrith, also left GHCC in mid-year after 8 years of employment and we thank to him for his dedication over the years. GHCC welcomed Chum Seedeth as the new Project Manager. Seedeth worked at GHCC approximately 5 years ago for a short period, so whilst having some insight into GHCC, he has returned with a wealth of knowledge and experience about NGOs in Cambodia. The Grace Gecko Weaving Manager, Say Somphors, resigned after 7 years with GHCC to pursue a career in tourism and we wish her well with her new pursuits. Fortunately, the Green Gecko Project (NGO partner) will continue to fund this Manager's position for another 2 years and so recruitment will commence early in 2018. Executive Director and Social Work Manager, Chan Dani, went on maternity leave in November but will be returning to her role in February 2018.

In the Education program, 2 teachers, Klang Thyda and In Channy, resigned to follow new careers as Tour Guides, a growth industry in Siem Reap that is considered by locals to bring status and prosperity. Following external recruitment processes, the successful incumbents are both ex-students of GHCC, which is testament to the quality, strength and desire to 'give back' amongst the community.

In the Disability programs, as mentioned above, the Senior Worker in Parrot Class left mid-year, however, with the establishment now of 3 classes, three current staff were promoted into as Senior positions across the day program. The Manager of Preahkoun House, Seam Sarang (Koy) has now become the Manger across both GHCC Disability programs. There have been 3 carers leave, but one current staff member has increased her hours and two new staff were recruited, with one of these new staff also being an ex-student of GHCC.

A new part-time Volunteer Coordinator, Deborah Saunders, was employed in November. Deborah Saunders, who is from Australia, has lived in Siem Reap for the past 10 years and we welcome her to the team.

Professional development and training have remained a focal point throughout 2017 with all GHCC staff participating in updated 'Child Protection' training by Angkor Hospital for Children. Staff also attended a one-day professional development course on 'Boy Abuse', facilitated by First Step Cambodia. Teachers and Social Workers received 2 day accredited First Aid Training with ATIS, whilst the new crèche staff received specialised Baby and Child First Aid training. Two teachers attended 3 day training targeting early years and pre-school teachers and GHCC's Program Manager participated in a 5 day course on Disability Inclusion Development (Train the Trainer) in Phnom Penh, facilitated by Light for the World. Internally, GHCC updated our Child Protection policy and developed a Social Media Policy for which all staff received training in July 2017.

GHCC was very proud of our Disability Manager, Seam Sarang (Koy), who was selected as one of the outstanding graduates of her Physiotherapy degree and travelled to Phnom Penh to receive her certificate from the Cambodian Prime Minister, Hun Sen. One of our teachers, Luon Punleu, was selected to represent her University at the Gala Opening of Angelina Jolie's film "First They Killed my Father" at Bayon Temple in February, at which many local and international Dignitaries were present.



NETWORKS AND SPONSORS

Grants:

- Tesco F & F Funding Futures continued a 12 month funding grant until August 2017 to cover Basic Education, School Drop Out, Further Education and Disability Day program. In August 2017, another year of funding was granted which covers Basic Education and Disability Day Program
- The Danson Foundation has funded Preahkoun House for the 3rd of a 5-year commitment.
- Cakes for Kids funded the establishment and first year of the GHCC staff crèche
- Cakes for Kids also funded new roofs for 6 buildings at GHCC
- Hortense Ducleaux funded the refurbishment of another classroom for the Disability Day Program and more staff to resource this additional class
- Helen Cooper has continued to fund the Old Person Program (OPA)

Family Sponsors

Many thanks to everyone who sponsors a family through GHCC. Your generosity and commitment to this program has significant impacts for each family and their communities. Although the standard of living has improved for many people in Cambodia and we have had 7 families move out of our program in 2017 due to improvement in their circumstances, we have more families presenting who are still living in abject poverty and unable to meet their basic needs. GHCC has been supporting a couple of families through unrestricted donations and we have 2 families on a wait-list. If you or anyone you know is interested in finding out more about our family sponsorship program, please email for more information: programmanager@gracehousecambodia.org

Volunteers:

Thank you so much to all our volunteers who have given their time, energy, passion and support to GHCC this year. Many volunteers continue to support GHCC in many ways upon their return home and also act as important ambassadors for GHCC on an international level.

In no particular order, we extend our gratitude to:

Ann, Marianne, Kathy, Nathan, Jane, Lianne, Marie-Louise, Sterre, Gillian, Courtney, Susan, Esther, Georgina and Robert, Jenny, Nicola, Carrie-Ann, Jade, That, Janet, Suzie, Nicki, Nisha, Cathryn, Jesse, Karina and Bianca, Betsy, Adam, Flore, Yvonne, Nienke, Nick, Thomas, Tom and Zac and to other friends of friends who came for short term projects. Also a special thanks to Marilyn who continues to develop and update GHCC's Education curriculum throughout the year.



Individuals and Groups who have supported GHCC in 2017:

Firstly, we wish to extend our gratitude to the trustees of the UK charity, Grace House Cambodia Trust, who work tirelessly raising funds, ensuring due diligence and managing finances: Bridget Cordory, Jenny Jones, Mary Carter and Cathy Steer. We also wish to thank the Directors of the GHCC Board of Management: Chan Dani, Soun Cheanet, Alan Cordory and Jim Elliot. Also, thank you to departing GHCC Board Member, Mai Momment, for her 8 years of service.

GHCC relies on the generosity of many individuals, schools, universities, clubs and groups who support in a variety of ways. There are so many people to thank, but a special mention goes to:

- Paray House School (London, UK)
- St Ursula's College QLD, AUS
- Deakin University, Vic. AUS
- Curtin University, WA, AUS
- Belvoir-Wodonga Rotary Club, AUS
- Cerebral Palsy Educational Centre Vic. AUS
- Daroch Crawford, UK

Local Business who have supported GHCC:

- Bambu Stage
- New Leaf Eatery
- Footprint Café
- Victoria Hotel

Working Together:

Organisations with whom GHCC has worked include Friends International, Chab Dai (NGO Child Protection), Green Gecko Project, Soulcial Trust, Travel Education Asia, People and Places, Globateer, ConCERT, Safe Haven (NGO Outreach for Disabilities), Help Age Cambodia, First Step Cambodia, Women's Resource Centre (Siem Reap), World Mobilisation, Reech Cambodia, Lighthouse Foundation, Angkor Hospital for Children, USAid, Green Teachers (South Korea).

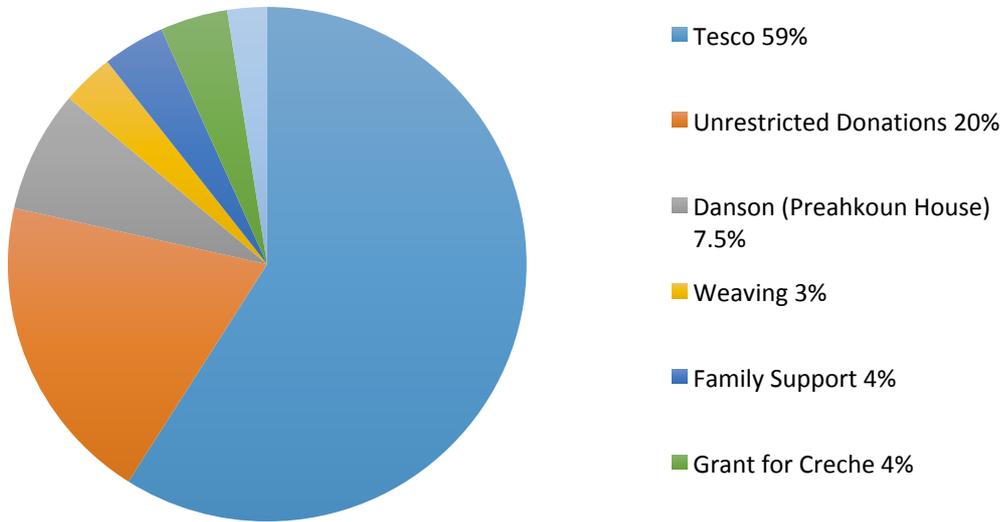
Throughout 2017, GHCC has welcomed visitors from Cambodia, USA, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Netherlands, France, Germany, Switzerland, Slovakia, China, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand.



FINANCE

Prepared by Alan Cordory, Director GHCC

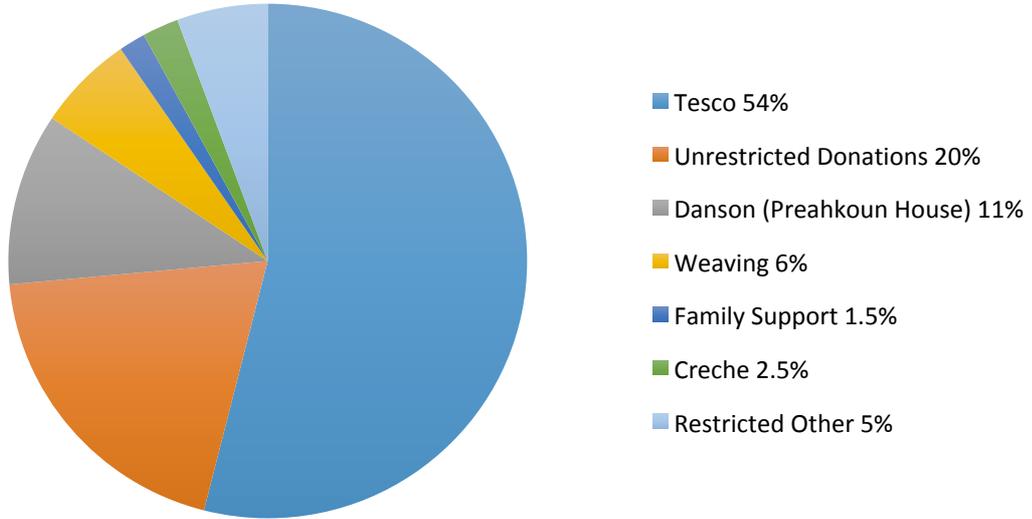
INCOME



Opening Balance 01/01/2017		\$5,276.65
PROGRAM INCOME (RESTRICTED DONATIONS)	\$34,660.06	
UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS	<u>\$31,486.01</u>	
Sub-total	<u>\$69,983.06</u>	
TESCO (F&F FUNDING FUTURE)	<u>\$95,124.40</u>	
Total Income	\$161,270.47	
TOTAL BALANCE		<u>\$166,547.12</u>

** Restricted donations includes funding for Old Persons Program and a grant for a new Maintenance Program

EXPENDITURE



PROGRAM EXPENDITURE (RESTRICTED DONATIONS)	\$39,446.36
UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS SPENT	<u>\$29,216.33</u>
Sub-total	<u>\$68,662.69</u>
TESCO (F&F FUNDING FUTURE)	<u>\$80,453.98</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>\$149,116.29</u>

Ending Balance 31/12/17	\$23,805.62
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FINANCES Continued:

Grace House Accounts

1. Grace House Cambodia Trust CAF Bank UK:

Opening Balance	\$ 59,126.86
Income	
F&F Futures TESCO	\$ 21,037.00
Other Donations	\$ 3,384.91
TOTAL	\$ 83,548.77
Expenditure	
Fees	\$ 146.44
Transfer to GHCC	\$ 76,000.00
Total	\$ 76,146.44
Closing Balance	\$ 7,402.33

Rate of Exchange £/\$

Transfer 12/01/17	£20,000	transfer rate 1.204/0.830 =	\$24,080
Transfer 28/02/17	£20,000	transfer rate 1.229/0.813 =	\$24,588
Transfer 02/06/17	£16,000	transfer rate 1.273/0.786	\$20,366.40
Transfer 20/10/17	£20,000	transfer rate 1.304/0.766	\$26,090

2. Community Centre of Grace House Cambodia ANZ Bank Cambodia

Opening Balance 01/01/17:	USD \$1,982.39
Closing Balance 31/12/17:	USD \$17,878.06

3. Community Centre of Grace House Cambodia Safe at GHCC

Safe Opening Balance 01/01/17:	USD \$3294.26
Safe Closing Balance 31/01/17:	USD \$5,927.56

SUMMARY

As GHCC enters its 10th year of operation, the changing face of Cambodia is reflected in the many changes at GHCC. As the surrounding communities continue to develop and grow, more successes but more challenges will be afforded. GHCC has supported literally thousands of children and families over the years, and as an organisation, it thrives on seeing the positive impact that each program can have on an individual level and on a broader community platform. It is only with the support and commitment of all our funders, donors, sponsors, volunteers and anyone who visits and tells the GHCC story that we can continue this vital and rewarding work.

On behalf of the Cambodia Board of Directors, the UK Board of Trustees, all the staff, children, families and communities involved with GHCC, we thank you!

***Donations to Grace House Community Centre can be made via our bank account
in UK or Cambodia, BT Donate or Pay Pal:***

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://mydonate.bt.com/charities/gracehousecambodiatrust>



https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-lick&hosted_button_id=DGSZGL36SZSNA