

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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

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and

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Organisation

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Introduction

Grace House Community Centre (GHCC) started off the year with an uphill struggle, the land size had been reduced and there was a reduction in classes, highlighted in the 2018 report. Thanks to the positivity of the management team, flexibility of the Teachers and some returning volunteers early in the year the morale was built back up and staff worked together to ensure that GHCC was returned to its usual vibrant atmosphere. A fourth general education class was also reinstated as it was highlighted the need was there.

With the Tesco's F&F funding finished, GHCC was using some of its reserve funds for running costs. The UK grants for overseas projects became harder to access, as well as time constraints the UK trustees had to spend time fundraising meant that a decision needed to be made on how to secure the funding to keep GHCC running. Together, the UK trustees and the Cambodian committee decided to employ an expat to take on the role of Fundraiser and Communications Officer. In December we welcomed Jeanine Lumsden to the Grace House team who has worked lived and worked overseas previously and has a background of applying for grants and fundraising for various projects. Jeanine is keen to work with current supporters and reaching out to new ones to ensure that GHCC can not only keep running, but also develop and expand

There were also big changes in the UK Trustee group in 2019. Bridget Cordory made the decision to step down as Chairperson of the UK Trust. Bridget lived in Siem Reap and was at Grace House from its conception as the Operations Manager and then became Chairperson when she moved back to the UK in 2016. Bridget will continue to be on the Trustee Committee and her knowledge and expertise continues to be valuable to GHCC.

The new Chairperson of the UK Trust is now Diana Mihalop. Diana is an Occupational Therapist by background and worked at GHCC in the special needs classes in 2016. She joined the Trust in October 2018 and was able to spend three weeks at Grace House in August 2019.

Also in 2019, Mary Carter stepped down as a trustee. Her time and contributions to the Trust meetings were very much appreciated.

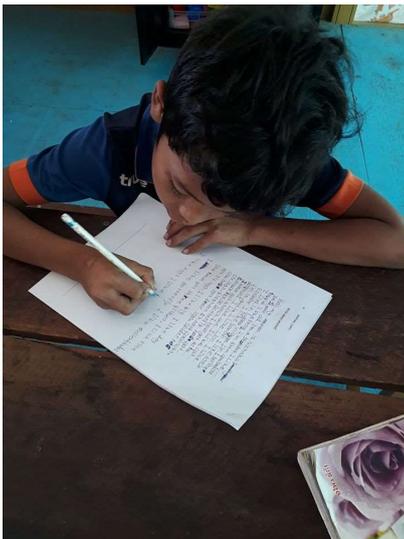
At the end of 2019 we welcomed two new trustees members to the board; Carmel Phelan and Annette Wood. Carmel had worked at Grace House in 2016 as Volunteer Coordinator and also helped to set up the early years service, including developing the curriculum. Annette volunteered at Grace House for 6 months in 2019, and on returning to the UK was keen to continue her support as a UK trustee.



Education Program

Grace House Community Centre runs four education classrooms, with eight classes split into morning and afternoon students. There are also extra part time English classes between 8 - 9 am and 3 - 4pm. During 2019 a total of 115 full time and 28 part time students attended Grace House to receive classes in General education and English. These students are aged between 5 and 16. One of our returning volunteers, Marilyn King, continues to update the curriculum each year and visits when she can. The curriculum topics include science, math, geography, computers, sports and the arts.

GHCC also runs an early years education program for children aged 3-5 years old which takes a more play based approach to developing fine motor skills in preparation for further education. The children in the early years program also learn valuable self care and hygiene skills, to encourage healthy habits early on.



Students are given resources such as books and pencils, which are donated by volunteers, and GHCC gives them a set of school uniforms at the beginning of each academic year. While at Grace House, the students also get fruit at snack time, which promotes a healthy diet and provides good nutrition to support learning.



The current classroom structure is:
Ducklings and Kittens (3-5 years)
Chicks and Bees (5-7 years)
Buffalo and Crocodiles (7-9 years)
Dolphins and Lions (9 years)

It's important to note that children will move to another classroom based on their learning ability as opposed to age and therefore student's ages can vary in each classroom



There have been various educational trip throughout the year, including visits to Angkor Wat to learn about its architectural, historical and cultural significance.

Further Education

Grace House Community Centre is currently sponsoring 17 students through Further Education. Subjects, which are being studied, include: Tourism, English Literature, International Studies, Management, Agriculture, Law and Nursing.

Children with special needs

There are currently 22 students who attend the special needs education program for children with disabilities. These are split into 3 classes and are overseen by Seam Sarang (Koy) who is the manager of the special needs educational department and also is a Physiotherapist. There are three senior staff and eight care workers. Each student receives an individualised care plan and staff are trained on how to meet each student's needs. The staff and parents meet yearly to discuss the child's progress and to set goals for the coming year.



We continue to have a partnership with Travel Ed who liaised with Curtin University in Australia to bring a small group of Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapy students who spent time with the students, devising therapeutic interventions for the children and sharing their knowledge and resources with the staff.



We continue to support one student in foster care who was a previous resident at Preahkhun House, she still attends the education program and her foster care is supported by the Danson Foundation, who agreed that the money which had previously funded accommodation at Preahkhun House could be used towards her care and also to support the special needs education program.

‘Ron’s Garden’ project is still running, where staff support the students to participate in growing vegetables in the raised beds on site. The students can learn about the process of planting and growing vegetables, some of which they get to take home to enjoy with their family and some of which they can sell.

The special needs education program also partners with Soulcial Trust, who fund a fortnightly adaptive Zumba class.



Family Support

Grace House Community Centre currently has one part time Social Worker, Dani Chan, who manages the family support. She makes regular visits to the families which GHCC assists, reviewing their needs, giving advice and signposting them to other agencies where appropriate. She also identifies any new families that may require support from GHCC and how best to give them the help they require.

In 2019, GHCC gave support to over 70 families in the area.

Family support included

- Monthly donations of rice to 20 families
- Bicycles- 7
- Home repairs- 0
- Water Filters- 2



Staffing

As well as changes to the UK Trustee membership, there were staff changes at GHCC. Chhiv Loung remains the Project Manager and Executive Director, with the other committee members being Dani Chan and Seam Sarang.

We welcomed Chhalin Khiev into the position of Headteacher, he also teaches Dolphins and Lions classes. We also now have Bunhok who teaches Chicks and Bees classes.

We were also pleased that Sreythea Hean, who had been working for GHCC as a Social Worker for 4 years, has taken on the Admin and Accountant vacancy. Sreythea was able to spend time training for the position with Maly, who had been doing the role for 7 years. She has settled into this new role well.

Training

GHCC continues to invest in staff training to ensure the best possible service is offered to the families and their children. In 2019, the training that the staff took part in included child protection, developing key skills, awareness of the sensory systems.

Challin has also been running English classes for the senior special needs staff. This will give them more opportunities to access training and learn from the international volunteers.

Sophea continues to support the new entrants in the Kittens and Ducklings classes.

Funding and Supporters

The Danson Foundation was able to fund us for the fourth year and have agreed that the funding can continue for a fifth year. This funding went into supporting one child who was previously a resident at Preahkhun House in her foster care placement, with the rest allocated to supporting the special needs education program.

Previous fundraising efforts for supporting higher education continued to support students attending university this year.

‘Water for Hope’ provided a well for the new site and Greenergy donated a sum of money for unrestricted us

Special Thanks

We would firstly like to acknowledge the returning volunteers for their ongoing support and fundraising efforts and in particular the volunteers who have gone on to participate through becoming Trustee members of the UK Trust.

We would also like to acknowledge the significant time, commitment, donations and oversight from returning volunteer/s in regards to the general education curriculum.

We would like to extend that acknowledgment to everyone who sponsors a family, class, fruit and snacks - your continued support is very much appreciated.

We would further like to thank Tesco for their support from 2014-2018. Their funding over these years has been essential to the growth and success of the charity.

Working Together

GHCC continues to work closely with the local government departments and the following organisations: Concert, ABCs and Rice, Green Gecko Project, Friends International, Safe Haven, Footprint Cafe, Help the Aged Cambodia, First Step Cambodia, Women's Resource Centre, Angkor Hospital for Children, Cambodia Rural School Trust, People and Places, Globalteer, Travel Education Asia, SE Asia Foundation, Chab Dai, World Mobilisation, Cambodian Children's Fund, Soulcial Trust

Volunteers

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered at Grace House over the past year in both the classrooms and with special projects. A further thank you to the committee at Grace House and the trustees of Grace House Cambodia Trust. Your time, skill sharing and commitment is greatly appreciated.

Donors

We would like to acknowledge and thank the many people who have taken the opportunity to support Grace House and the communities we work with through generous donations.

Governance

Cambodia

The committee in Cambodia consists of Executive Director Chhiv Loung, and directors Chan Dani and Sarang Seam (Koy). Under Cambodian Law it is legal for staff members to also be committee members.



England, Wales and Ireland

Grace House Cambodia Trust supports, advises and contributes towards fundraising for GHCC. The board of trustees is comprised of Diana Mihalop (Chairperson) Bridget Cordory (Trustee and previous Chairperson) Jennifer Jones (Trustee and Treasurer) Catherine Steer (Secretary) and Joshua Nowak. Annette Wood and Carmel Phelan also joined as trustees towards the end of 2019.



Finances

Income 2019

Donations- Unrestricted- \$36,115.31

Donations- Restricted- \$34,891.32

Danson Funding- -\$7,262.87 (£20,000 in UK Bank)

Tesco Funding- \$1,371.56

General Sales- \$4,074.74

Weaving- -\$2,366.26

Bank Interest- \$36.10

Total- \$66,859.90

Expenditure 2019

Donations- Unrestricted- \$42,093.41

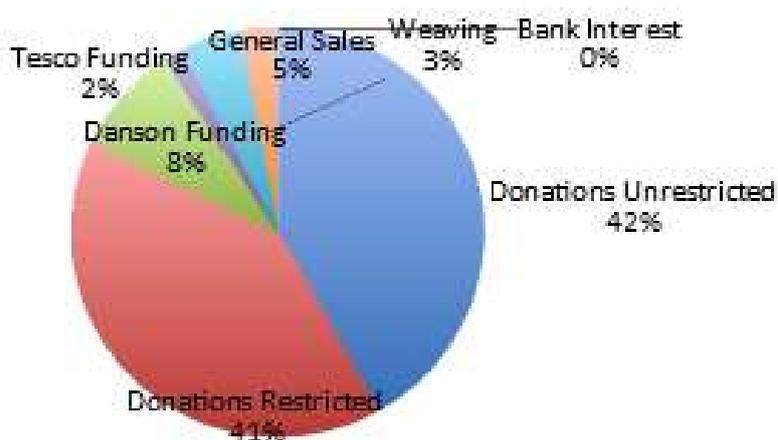
Donations- Restricted- \$21,161.33

Danson Funding- \$4,750.79

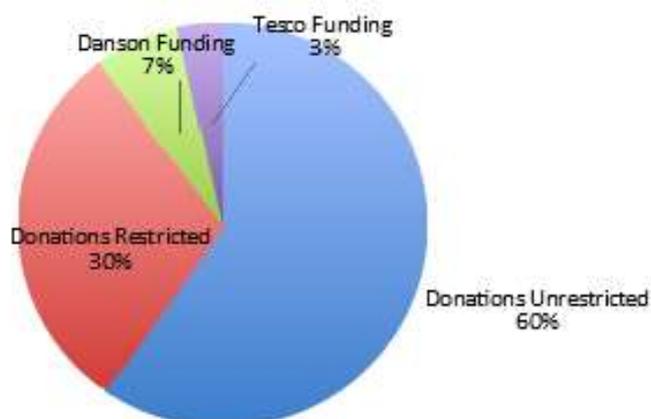
Tesco Funding- \$2,450.00

Total- \$70,455.53

INCOME 2019



EXPENDITURE 2019



Accounts

GHCT CAF account UK

Opening Statement- £10246.15 Closing Statement- £19,646.60

GHCC Trust Bank (Formerly ANZ Bank)

Opening Statement- \$29,133.20 Closing Statement- \$4,753.33

GHCC ABA Bank (Opened December 2019)

Opening Statement- \$100.00 Closing Statement- \$100.01

GHCC Safe

Opening Statement- \$4,337.30 Closing Statement- \$1,885.51

Summary

There have been a lot of changes this year and at times this has been very challenging for everyone involved. Thankfully we continue to have amazing support from both old and new supporters and together we have been able to finish 2019 feeling very hopeful for what the future brings. On behalf of the Cambodian committee and the UK trustees, and all the staff, children and families involved with GHCC we are very thankful.

Donations to Grace House Community Centre can be made via the Grace House Community Centre Cambodia website <https://www.gracehousecambodia.net/donate>, or by contacting Grace House directly on +855 (0) 636 392 168

