

# Kampuchea House Newsletter



October 2021

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## **SUASDEY** and greetings to all our supporters.

Here is an update on our latest news from Kampuchea House.

After our last newsletter in August, Siem Reap had another outbreak of Covid 19 in September, resulting in a strict lockdown and curfew. Unfortunately, Kampuchea House was designated as being in the red zone and residents were not allowed to leave their houses, not even for shopping or for work. Road blocks were put in place to prevent people from moving between zones and all shops and businesses were closed. Luckily our Manager Leng, assisted by Hom, was able to stock up on the food and supplies necessary to keep the household running for the duration.

In the picture on the right you will see our house mother, Srey Mom, sorting supplies from the local market.





Between lockdowns Leng organized a picnic and excursion near the Koulen Mountain, where the kids climbed to the Prash Ang Chub pagoda. Here they are seen enjoying a picnic, a welcome break in the routine of home schooling and on-line lessons. Later in the month they were treated to pizza and soft drinks at home.

Many thanks to our generous supporters Mandy and Gordon for providing funding for both these activities.





Birthdays celebrated in the past couple of months include Srey Net, Chayna and Rea (above left) as well as Rina and Somnang (above right).



Chinh, now in 7<sup>th</sup> year medicine in Phnom Penh, is seen in the photo on the left above in full PPE while voluntarily administering Covid vaccines in the rural province of Kampong Thom, about 3 hours' drive from Phnom Penh. Minea, now in 5<sup>th</sup> year medicine, also assisted with this campaign.

Our ex-student Sak was highly praised by the owners of the café where he works, Little Red Fox, on their FaceBook site. Recently the café had a power outage due to the electricity wires on their side of the street being cut and stolen for their copper content (yes, this really happens in Siem Reap - the economic situation during Covid has become critical) Sak's cool head and dedication to his job helped avert a major crisis.

**We are very proud of our boys!**

We are also pleased to report that all our students, including those under 18, are now fully vaccinated. The vaccines for this age group became available recently and Leng promptly organised paper work and appointments. It was quite a lengthy process but the long wait under the hot sun was worth it.



Our major sponsor for the past 14 years, **Westbourne Grammar School**, has once again demonstrated their dedication to our cause. Undeterred by Covid restrictions limiting their normal fundraising activities, the prefects of 2021 organised a virtual Trivia Night and raised an amazing amount of money for KH. We thank them for their resourcefulness and generosity with their time during such a difficult year for all students. We are so grateful for their support.

We would also like to salute out-going principal, Meg Hansen, who has always championed the cause of Kampuchea House and been a great friend and supporter since the beginning. We wish her all the best for the future.

As always, we would like to thank our sponsors and donors for their on-going support. Without your financial aid our mission would be impossible. Times have been very difficult in Cambodia during the pandemic, and once again a shout-out to our incredible staff, who have continued to operate Kampuchea House without a hitch in the face of unexpected difficulties. In particular, our director, Leng, has continued to act efficiently and pro-actively in the children’s best interests, as well as providing them with huge moral support during this crisis.

**CHOUM REAB LEA until next time.**

For more activities and news about everyday life in Siem Reap check out our **Kampuchea House Facebook page**

