

# Student Sponsorship Program Update – September 2009

## Student Clubs Teach Problem Solving

In Pursat Province, our student club gave educational performances to the community on various topics, including: domestic violence, AIDS, and the importance of forests. These students meet monthly to help each other address their challenges.

In Kampot Province our student club organized a training for other students in their village on the importance of education. This is ground-breaking, because education is not valued or encouraged in Cambodia, especially in rural areas.

Club members have a monthly meeting to discuss and solve problems related to their living situations. For example, some of the students didn't have bicycles, so the other students loaned them the money to buy bikes.



The students meet every weekend to teach each other English and to help each other with home work.

In Kompong Chhnang there is a program called Children Who Love the Forest that teaches environmental protection. Students visit the community forest area and meet the people who are trying to stop illegal logging.

## Special Workshop Helps Students Think Ahead

A dynamic motivational trainer named Mr. Lim Vannak trained 95 of our students in the last year to set goals for their lives and to become more committed and dedicated to their studies so they can achieve their goals.



Students learn how to build up their strengths and eliminate their weaknesses. They find out about learning styles and how important it is to be motivated.

Vannak told them about famous people, like presidents of other countries, and invited the students to choose personal heroes.

When Linda Young visited her sponsored student in Cambodia last year, she walked past rice paddies and arrived at his tiny one room house with three beds. Above Kosal's bed was a photo of Abe Lincoln, his hero – a man who over came many obstacles in his life to achieve his goals.



*Linda meets Kosal and his family*

We talked to other students who had been through Vannak's training and asked them what they planned to do in the future. One of the students (Karen do you remember who?) said, "I want to be a math teacher." And then he said with a big smile, "I want to be the BEST math teacher."

## University Students Need Funding

In 2008, 11 of our sponsored students graduated high school and started attending university. They are living in rooms above our NGO partners' offices in Phnom Penh.

We're very proud of these young people, because they are among the very few students from rural areas to attend university. They know first hand about the challenges of dire poverty and are motivated to help their families, village, and country. They are the hope for the future of Cambodia.

Each year another 15 of our students will graduate from high school and start university. Friendship with Cambodia needs to raise an additional \$17,000 in new funds each year to cover the expense of university. It costs \$125 per month (\$1500 per year) to support a university student. Please help us find donors for this program.

## US and Cambodian Staff Meet

Last September Karen Molleson - US Program Coordinator of our Student Sponsorship Program, Lowell Hill – FWC Board President, and Bhavia Wagner – FWC Executive Director met with the Student Sponsorship Program social workers from rural provinces and Cambodia Program Coordinator Toeu Navy to discuss management of the program. We also met with some of the students. Karen Molleson is a volunteer, which keeps our administrative cost low. Thank you Karen!