

STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM



UPDATE 2017

PO Box 5231, Eugene, Oregon, 97405 · 541.952-2009
www.friendshipwithcambodia.org



FWC Alumni Organized a Service Project Planting Mangrove Trees

Six Friendship with Cambodia university graduates, thirteen current university students and three FWC staff planted mangrove trees to restore a local fishery and help a coastal community in Kampot Province.

Mangrove trees provide many benefits including habitat for fish reproduction, purifying the water from pollutants, preventing erosion and reducing global warming 100 times more than terrestrial trees. Local mangrove forests were recently destroyed by the development of a cruise boat port.

The mangrove restoration project is a four hour drive from Phnom Penh. Along the way, students stopped to see a waterfall. After planting the trees, we treated them to lunch featuring local seafood. At the end of the day, they went swimming in the ocean. For most of our poor rural students, it was the first time they had the opportunity to go on a fun trip to see a beautiful area.

Read our blog on our website for a longer version of this story and more photos. www.friendshipwithcambodia.org



How Sponsors Help Students Succeed

When our rural students come to the big city, often for the first time in their lives, they have to make huge adjustments. Besides the challenges of an urban environment, they have not had the same educational opportunities as their urban peers. Here's how sponsors support our students:

Computer classes and laptops—Sponsors cover the cost of basic computer classes. We are happy to announce that we just sent over 27 refurbished laptops so now our students can borrow a laptop from FWC. We also offer loans to students who want to buy a computer.

English classes—FWC is now providing our students with two years of English instruction at the best English program in Cambodia. This helps them with their classes and to get better jobs.

Staff and peer support—FWC staff monitor each student's progress and provide guidance. Our staff facilitate student Study Circles every Sunday afternoon. There the students help each other, sharing information about jobs, internship opportunities, and interesting NGO workshops. When one student's bike was stolen—the other students chipped in and helped replace it

Building self-confidence through public speaking
Cambodian girls are taught to be quiet and obedient. To help all our students overcome timidity, we ask each student to choose a topic they are interested in, learn how to do research, and give a speech to the rest of the group.

Part-time jobs—Most students need to work part-time to help pay for their living expenses. These small jobs help the students mature and learn employment skills.

Internships - We help our students get internships in their field of study to build skills and connections.

We are happy to report that almost all our students graduate from university and get good jobs. A big thanks to their generous sponsors!