

# STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION



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### SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR

*September* – Sponsors receive a letter and photo from their student.

*October* – Sponsors renew their support and have the option of sending a letter and photo to their student.

*December & May* – FWC sends updates to the sponsors.

### WHO MANAGES THE STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM?

Friendship with Cambodia has a Country Director in the capital city of Phnom Penh, named Ms. Cheam Kosal, who oversees the program. We also have a Program Director in Cambodia, named Ms. Dan Pisay, who works with the students.

Our partner organizations are small non-profit groups staffed by Cambodian social workers who help families and children living in extreme poverty in rural areas. The social workers select our students.

In the US, the program is coordinated by Friendship with Cambodia's director, Bhavia Wagner, with help from Karen Molleson and other volunteers.



*Kosal (Cambodia) and Bhavia (USA)*  
Sponsorship Program Coordinators

### UNIVERSITY STUDENT SPONSORSHIP

Friendship with Cambodia sponsorship program is now all university students who come from poor rural families. This program fulfills a critical need in Cambodia. Very few rural students go to university because their families do not have the means to support them.

Cambodia needs these bright children from rural areas to get a college degree because they become role models in a culture that does not value higher education. Only 6% of the students in Cambodia complete high school. Our students' success encourages younger students to stay in school. Parents realize that children who get a higher education can help the whole family out of the cycle of poverty. Another plus is that most of our students return to their villages to help their communities as teachers, health care workers, and social workers.

Friendship with Cambodia supports approximately 48 students in university every year. Each spring 12 students graduate, and each fall, we select 12 high school seniors from rural areas, who passed the 12<sup>th</sup> grade exam, to support in university. Eighty percent of our students are girls, because they are more disadvantaged than boys.

**The total cost of sending a student to college averages \$1500 per year.** This covers room and board, tuition and books, access to a computer, transportation, and support from our staff.

Our staff help each student choose a major and then choose a university. We help them find housing. Friendship with Cambodia holds weekly meetings for the students. We give the students exercises to help them build their speaking skills and self-confidence. They research a topic and make a presentation to the group. They learn about social problems and critical thinking. We teach them how to write a resume and apply for jobs. Our students get part-time jobs and we help them get internships. If a student has a medical problem, we cover the cost because their family cannot afford it. We feel so much joy when our students complete their college degrees, because they worked very hard and, with the help of their sponsors, were able to fulfill their dreams.

### ABOUT FRIENDSHIP WITH CAMBODIA

Friendship with Cambodia is a non-profit 510(c)3 organization. Donations are tax-deductible. We respond with compassion to the suffering in Cambodia by providing humanitarian aid that empowers people to help themselves.



*Samphos is one of the few students in her ethnic minority group (Kui) to go to college. She studied Nursing.*