



The Cambodia Education Fund

Our Hearts Lives at ABCs & Rice

DECEMBER 2019

By: Vanessa Weber

After seven long years, Dan, one of our board members was finally able to travel back to Cambodia and visit ABCs & Rice. His first text to me was: "It's unsurprising how much a trip here revitalizes the CEF spirit." As the holiday season and new year approach, I find myself feeling extremely grateful to be so close in proximity to Siem Reap and the incredible spirit of ABCs & Rice.

One visit and you are hooked. Every volunteer will tell you. There's something so special about this place and I think some of that feeling comes through in these photos Nick took on our most recent visit in November.

As a teacher, it's heart-warming to interact with children who are so grateful to go to school each day. They run into their classrooms and greet their teachers with huge smiles across their faces and curiosity in their hearts.

With a few desks, a white board and no technology in the classroom, I see each student engage with their learning under the tin roofs of ABCs & Rice's classrooms. Its a great reminder to teachers in more "modern" schools as to what is most important in a successful classroom: passion, being present, and a true love of learning.

I hope all our biggest supporters get to visit this magical place someday.



Year-to-date Donations

2019-20 Scholarships: \$5,845

Grant to ABCs and Rice: \$2,000

The CEF Sponsors ABCs & Rice's First Food Bank

By: Nick Sprague

There are many inspirational elements of ABCs and Rice and something we really admire is their community engagement. That's why we were so excited to sponsor ABCs Community Food Bank. Operating on Sundays, the bank provides free food, clothing, and supplies to families in the immediate community who are most in need. On top of the many great opportunities for students, ABCs has boosted their family support through the food bank. This provides parents with an opportunity to further support their families and connect with others. Ultimately, the food bank will serve as yet another way to create meaningful connections between ABCs and the community.



A message from our economics major

My name is Noeun Nathamon. Currently, I am a second year student in Pannasastra University of Cambodia in Siem Reap. University life is very different from high school life. Most of the work done in university is mainly base on ourselves unlike high school where things were directed by our teachers. It is a new experience to be able to choose our own courses and learn all the things I like. I have my class in the evening and work in the morning. It is a very tiring schedule for me, but I still manage to do so. I also join a class field trip to learn more about the course that I am taking. It is a very great thing to both learn the theories and practice them at the same time. I am very proud and thankful of The Cambodian Education Fund for supporting my schooling in university. With their scholarship, I am able to attend the university and pursue for higher education. They provides me with the opportunities to expand my dream and allow me to help improve my country. Thanks, CEF!



As of December 2019,
The CEF supports 8
university students
and 5 secondary
students to pursue
their educational
aspirations.

Fundraised in KL and Jeju since August:

\$4,378

Our newest scholar

While visiting ABCs and Rice, we were able to meet with one of our newest scholars - Vandy. After a tumultuous year including his father being injured in a terrible car accident, Vandy was uncertain if he'd be able to finish his last year of high school. He'd spent the past year often in the hospital and helping his family.

Now that his father is on the road to recovery, Vandy will work hard to complete high school. He has aspirations to attend university after he completes this final year.

While spending time with Vandy and his teachers, it's clear that he is regarded as a hard-working, respectful, and dedicated student. We are excited to see where his educational journey will take him.



A message from our first graduate

By: Sokly Keb

College life started since 2014 and throughout these years, I have learned a wide range of academic experiences both physically, and mentally. My commencement was announced on the 20 July of 2019 and from that day, I am an official graduate. In such important as college life, I would like to express my deep thanks to Cambodia Education Fund, teachers, and university departments, my parents, my friends, and workmates for being my strongest support for my education.

On the first day of my college, I had a mixed feeling of fear, excitement and anxiousness because I became a student to one of the famous universities in Cambodia, called Panasastra University of Cambodia, in Siem Reap Campus. I thought university is a piece of cake like in High School. In contrast to what I thought, the environment around me was so different. Students were way on their own rather than being trusted on a group and their lifestyle was more modernized than where I am from. There was a lot of criticism as I am the outskirt girl and it is unbelievable how come I should be here. Some were studying as the community of rich kids acting like they are the best in school with power, and right. However, I did not feel disappointed with them because my dream was big, and I came to catch my dream, not to be affected by those "viruses" from them. However, thanks to all my beloved and respected college-friends who show me their true love and sympathy as countryside girl, and they still be friends with me no matter where we are from.

As a college student, I learned so many things that are different from high school. In college, there are a lot of presentations going on every week for "International Economic" class, out field trips from "History class", group discussion in "Gender class", a lot of assignments every week, along with the midterm and final exam at the end of the semester. I chased a lot difficulties of following different professor's native speaking, but gradually I could overcome all of them and keep up with my grades. All of my professors are the gifts to students like me and as well too many of my fellow classmates, offer with all their knowledge, and experiences to share and give to all the students. As a college student for 5 years, I had learned and to be successful until this day and these I would love to share for follow university students.

Be the Hero of yourself. No one is perfect and even a hero would also make a lot of mistakes before they get successful as returned, Dr. Albert Einstein had spent most of his life time to discover the program of atomic bomb theory. So, we should never give up. We fake it until we make it.

We are the Diamond. Be creative and productive. Diamond means a very pure students that hidden and unique qualities that are not visible to the eye at first glance. Until you had been to school, so until we reached school that we had learned from teachers, and they will shine you to be more priceless and valuable.

Make a lot of Mistakes. Mistakes always bring bad feelings to people most of the time, however, let it stayed with us for only a short period of time and let them go. Restart, and begin your goal ahead of you and learning from previous mistakes.

Leadership is crucial for life. We have to take a stand for leading others. Be productive and do it with courage

In conclusion, again, thank you very much Cambodia Education Fund for sponsor me the whole 4 years with warm and encourage me to go this far. I cannot be up to this brighter step without your support. And I would use this bridge to continue to master degree next year with successful scholarship support because I believe that education is the mirror that shows us who we are, and we should not stop learning. It will also be with you, and lead you to the brightest future and wisdom.



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