



Summer Newsletter: July – September 2016

Summer School is coming to a close, with students diligently studying for their exams, teachers planning the full year curriculum, and all of us looking forward to what the new academic year will bring! But before we begin the new year, it's time to reflect on all of the accomplishments, fun activities, and progress that summer school brought. Please read on to hear all that has been happening at The Global Child and Joe to Go Restaurant and Café over the past few months!

EDUCATION

Our TGC Family Is Growing!

The arduous, but exciting, process of identifying ten promising and deserving students to join The Global Child is complete. The process began with delivering 2,000 applications to primary schools, commune chiefs, and individual families around the greater Siem Reap area. Once the completed applications filtered in, Principal Dara, teachers Sopha and Soben, and volunteers Emily and Allison visited each family home, conducting interviews to assess the situation and need of the family, as well as their motivation for education. Eventually, we selected 29 students to take our entrance exam. These 29 students were chosen for the entrance exam because though they had little access to quality education and little economic mobility, each demonstrated an intrinsic love of learning and a strong commitment to education. We narrowed the field from 29 to ten after assessing the results of the entrance exam and revisiting our other selection factors (poverty level, family situation, gender, and whether the child has been forced into labor). We are ecstatic that ten more children will be afforded the opportunity of a TGC education. It is our hope that these ten students, along with our current thirty students, will grow into the future leaders of Cambodia, and work to ensure that eventually a quality education like the one students receive at The Global Child will be a universal experience for Cambodian children.

Grade 12 Passed the National Examinations

After months and months of diligent study, our students, Marot and Phiron, passed their Grade 12 Examinations! We are incredibly proud of them, and they continue to set a wonderful example for all of our younger students. Both Marot and Phiron have promising future plans: In October, Marot will begin the five year Architecture Program at Build Bright University and Phiron will start his Tourism Course at the Paul DuBrule School.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

Thank You, Sky High Adventures!

Before settling back into their classrooms for summer school, and resuming Khmer, English, Science, and Math courses, our students got a taste of non-traditional education thanks to the week-long visit of John Slyer and his Sky High Adventure team: Ruby, Avery, and Eli. Coach John taught our students survival and outdoors skills, like how to pitch a tent, how to fix their bicycles, and how to perform CPR. The students also had the opportunity to learn a host of new games, each teaching a lesson in communication, leadership, and teamwork. Perhaps the students' favorite part

of the Sky High Adventure team's visit was the swimming lessons. Though many of our students had little to no experience with swimming before, most of them can now do a pretty outstanding backstroke! Although they are already back in the US, thanks to the generosity of Mr. Slyer, the kids will have ten more swim lessons over the coming months to practice and continue learning new swimming skills. The students are very grateful and could not be more excited!



Insight into University Studies

A representative from the University of South East Asia came to speak to our students about the admissions process, available courses, and common career paths of USEA graduates. It was a unique opportunity for our students to get firsthand information about pursuing a university education after graduating from TGC, ask questions about USEA's programs, and think about how they might use their education to help their communities and families.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Mentoring Program

On their last visit to Sandan Primary School, our students focused on teaching vital hygiene skills. Immediately upon pulling into the school, our students divided into small teams, leading groups of fifteen or twenty local students into classrooms to teach them how to properly wash their hands and brush their teeth, and to distribute nail clippers and toothbrushes. Afterward, all of the kids filed out to the water spigot in the center of the school so that our TGC students could help them wash their hair to rid it of lice. Our students completed their tasks with efficiency, compassion, and a little bit of humor (shaping the kids' hair into funny shapes with the soap was a popular activity). It was TGC's last trip to Sandan Primary School, and though our kids were sad to say goodbye, it was evident that their mentoring has given the students there important skills that will endure past the end of TGC's visits.



Service Learning Internships

At the beginning of summer school, each of our G4 and G5 students secured an internship with a business in Siem Reap. Some students were working in restaurants, some in hotels, and even a few in an accounting firm! Every day after they finished their classes, our students would spend their evenings at their internships. This opportunity allowed our students to gain valuable work experience and help them to more clearly define what type of work they might want to do in the future.

Coaches Across Continents and Globalteer Sports Training Week

If you asked Grade Ten students Teary or Kontea, or Grade Seven student Narun how to educate young Cambodians about HIV prevention, gender equality, or recognizing and preventing violence against children, they could show you, only they would only need a few soccer balls and some sports cones. During the last week of August, Kontea, Teary, and Narun, accompanied by volunteers Emily and Allison, participated in a training that taught student leaders how to address and provide education about social issues through various sports games. The training was led by Coaches Across Continents and Globalteer and was attended by students from across Siem Reap province. Though running around for four hours every morning before returning to TGC for a full afternoon of classes may sound tiring, our students happily embraced the opportunity. They were undoubtedly leaders within the group; Teary and Kontea were even asked to translate presentations and instructions given by the Khmer coaching staff for the English-speaking Coaches Across Continents and Globalteer volunteers!



Left: Teary and Kontea had the opportunity to be the leaders of an activity on the last day of training: a wild game of dodgeball!

Above: Kontea, Narun, and Teary earn their coaching Certificates of Excellence!

Quick Mentions:

- Sokoam and Sreykhouch received the opportunity to take a special two-week long training program in Phnom Penh this August. They worked with Coaches Across Continents to gain valuable coaching training. In the afternoons, they joined the NGO Star Fish Cambodia and trained children at Krousar Thmey in the Ta Keo province. Upon their return, they spoke to the children and faculty of the Global Child about their visit and experiences.
- Sokoam, Kontea, Theory & Nari were selected to play with the Next Step FC development soccer team, where they will gain valuable sport and leadership skills, and have the chance to play on a team with girls from around Siem Reap!

In other (fun) news...

... Before the start of summer school, our students enjoyed a week of fun programs led by volunteers Emily and Allison. They competed in an architecture design challenge where the only supplies were pipe cleaners, construction paper, and foam paper (it got pretty competitive), made music videos, completed some beautiful arts and crafts, and had an Olympics inspired game day!

... Teacher Chhaylon's social program for the month of July was roasting corn. We set up makeshift fire pits and the students took turns rotating dozens of ears over the hot flames. Once the corn was cooked, we gave it a nice coat of a homemade glaze made from coconut milk, spring onion, and palm sugar. It was a tasty afternoon that everyone was raving about for days! The social program in August was making meatball sandwiches. It was another hit with the students!



JOE TO GO UPDATES

In keeping with Joe to Go's mission to serve clients by providing a welcoming spot to enjoy delicious coffee and food, and to serve the community by affording TGC parents and hardworking youth from around Siem Reap job opportunities, we have made some positive changes over the past few months. Joe to Go has undergone a few renovations to make our atmosphere even more peaceful for our customers. We have also started offering increased staff training sessions, and biweekly staff English classes.

Quick Mention

- In early August, four of our students, Yong Chhy, Srey Am, Sophoas, and Theory, started an internship with Joe to Go. They have been working as servers in the evenings, helping out current Joe to Go staff, and gaining important communication, time management, and hospitality skills!

TGC NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

We always need your help to keep the school running. A small donation goes a long way. To donate go to: www.theglobalchild.org.

To send a check, mail to:

The Global Child,

PO Box 126

New Baltimore NY 12124

Should you have any questions or would like to discuss ways to help The Global Child, please don't hesitate to contact me at judy@theglobalchild.org. Please remember that Today's Children are Tomorrow's World.

Warmest Regards,

Judy Wheeler

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