



# Family Care Cambodia

March—April 2008

## Khmer New Year Celebrations!

*Although you cannot go back,  
And start your life again.  
Anyone can start from now,  
And make a brand new end!*

The middle of April brings the hottest weather of the year to Cambodia. Soaring temperatures and electric power cuts are a daily feature. But it's also the happiest time of the year for it ushers in the Khmer New Year, with all of its hopes & plans & prayers for a brighter, happier year!

Schools & businesses close from 3 to 10 days, as most people travel to their home towns & provinces to celebrate with their extended families. For many children in the shelters and slums around Phnom Pehn, there are either no families to spend the holidays with, or no resources to make a celebration with. Thus it has become our tradition to host Khmer New Year celebrations for the children in Sen Sabbay Village and the Child Protection Shelter.

Thanks to kind donations, we organized a feast at both places! As one woman who helped us prepare the food for the Children's Shelter said, "This is the best meal of the year!" This year we made enough curry to feed 250 people between both locations & they cooked enough to last a couple of days! Music, dancing, games, races, & prizes add to the fun! But perhaps the most

significant event is the chance to reaffirm to the children that they are special to us & that we're as happy to spend the holidays with them as they are with us! When you start the New Year with love, it makes any good thing seem possible!



*Kate & Peter (top) celebrate Khmer New Year with Sen Sabbay kids*



*Let the Games Begin! Sack Races with village kids!*



*Girls gather for a chicken curry feast: Children's Shelter*



*Ann gives out prizes & hugs after fun games!*

# Helping Individual Students to a Brighter Future



*Theun-20, & Alex*

Each child is a special person with unique talents & abilities. Being able to lend a helping hand when they need it or provide opportunities for education & training is a rewarding experience. For who knows what that young life will one day achieve?

Underprivileged Khmer youth find it particularly difficult to make it through High School. Due to a shortage of teachers & schools, most can only attend school for half a day. Thus it takes longer to complete their education. When they reach teenage there is often a "tug of war" between finishing their education, or dropping out to find a job to support themselves & their families. These pressures are just as serious for girls & boys alike. Following are comments from 2 of our scholarship students:

**Theun:** "I have been studying at an International High School for 4 years. I am so thankful & happy for this opportunity & for all those who helped make it possible. I am learning a lot of things; English, computer, business & economics. Now I can understand a lot in English & communicate as

well. I can also do translation and teach English to my brothers & sisters at the orphanage. In the past I almost gave up studying. I was afraid I couldn't make it & wanted to just quit. But fortunately you helped & encouraged me to complete my studies. Now I feel like I got a new life! I got a part time job because of my English skills. I hope I might even attend university next year. Thank you & thank you again, for helping me. God bless you!"

**Kim:** "I am happy to study at Western International School because it has good teachers & the students are very friendly. This school is expensive & I never thought I'd be able to study here. At first it was difficult for me because all of the subjects are in English & I didn't know how to speak it very well. But



*Kim-16, & Ann*

now things are much easier because you gave me a chance to study here. I am now in 9th grade & though some subjects are difficult, I will try harder than ever to score well on my national exams. I think I am a very lucky person! Love, Kim"



*Bright & beautiful kids from our Sen Sabbay class. Learning English & life skills each week!*

## How to Train a Winner

"The ability to choose one's attitude in the face of trying circumstances is what makes a winner."—Samuel Woodward

Can this ability be taught to children? A large part of it is the child's knowledge that he matters to someone important to him: a parent, a committed adult -- even a peer. Thus, the first step is to create a relationship that involves devotion, affection & enthusiasm. Children, to be successful, have to know they are loved. Another part is the self-respect that comes from accomplishment. Self-respect is the product of knowing what one ought to do & being confident of one's ability to do it. Do you want a worthwhile pursuit? Help a child succeed!

Thank you for your concern and support! You can write checks to [Family Care Foundation](#) with [Project #A08](#) on the memo line & mail to [FCF-PO Box 1039-Spring Valley, CA, USA, 91979](#) or contact us at [FamC@camnet.com.kh](mailto:FamC@camnet.com.kh)

*Alex & Ann Soldner for Family Care Cambodia*