



THE SAVONG FOUNDATION CAMBODIA ANNUAL REPORT 2020



LETTER FROM THE CEO



We strive to find financially underprivileged students with big dreams who are motivated to pursue professional careers.

Phil Caldwell CEO

What could go wrong?

2020 started off great; our students were doing well at school, we were able to pay all our school fees and we were looking forward to a relatively smooth year of providing scholastic scholarships to underprivileged students and finally launching our music education program. For the most recent nine years, I had travelled to Cambodia in the fall and I didn't think that this past year was going to be anything different. October was always a great time to go; the weather is perfect at that time and my trip always coincided with the start of the school year. I was looking forward to another visit even though it was several months away.

And then COVID hit.

As of this writing, Cambodia has thankfully been spared widespread deaths although it's difficult to really know how widespread the virus is in the Kingdom. Despite the low mortality rate, the effect on Siem Reap's economy has been devastating. The town is very dependent on the international tourist trade thanks to the incredibly beautiful Angkor temples nearby, so the lack of visitors has completely collapsed its hospitality businesses. There were some countries that made it easier for tourists to travel safely but not Cambodia. In the summer, the government started requiring a deposit of \$3000 to enter the country and if one visitor on a plane tested positive for the virus, then the whole plane would be quarantined with the expenses taken out of this deposit. With no jobs and lack of such "luxuries" as unemployment insurance, residents of Siem Reap were forced to go back to their hometowns and rely on each other for support. Nobody knows when life will return to normal but economically and socially, the effects could last for years.

The Savong Foundation Cambodia has taught me a lot of lessons but one of the most important is that life is unpredictable and unforeseen obstacles can arise at any time. If we are going to survive, then we must come up with creative ways to overcome. I'm happy to say that our students have done very well during these turbulent times and have adapted very well. Thankfully, this global menace has come at a time when online learning was practical and private high schools and universities incorporated this tool into their programs. All our students have access to computers (or their phones) so their education has continued. No, it's not quite the social atmosphere that a classroom can provide but the goal is to learn, get through another school year and stay as safe as possible. I think our students have managed to do all of that and do it well.



We had two big graduations this year. Kimsan is a well known student who we have been supporting all through university. She made a big impression on me during my early trips to Cambodia. She came from such a poor background and had such a big desire to learn that she became the standard for all the students we want to help to this day. She is now engaged and has returned to her hometown at the Thai border and works with an NGO teaching English.

Boramy has always been an exceptional student whom we started supporting in high school. She recently completed a scholarship in the United States to study for a semester and now is on a scholarship to study Global Affairs in Singapore. Both these students are now Savong Foundation Cambodia alumni and are great examples of how money and hard work can dramatically improve not only a student's life but also the lives of people around them.

Of course, we've had our disappointments, too. One of our promising university students has decided to take a sabbatical and work full time. We try to make sure our students are motivated to complete a university education but ultimately, they are adults who can make their own choices. We had another student who seemed perfectly happy with her studies at the beginning of the year but decided life in the "big city" wasn't for her and is now becoming a nun at a temple. We're not sure at this time whether this will be a temporary or permanent position, but we hope that she will return to her studies and realize her potential. We've assured her that we will continue to support her even if she chooses not to continue with the law degree that she was pursuing.

And perhaps on a somewhat happier note, we discontinued the scholarship of a young pharmacy student because she got married. Our student contract stipulates that students cannot get married while they are on our scholarship but in this student's case, she married a dentist who can support her studies. We're very happy for them and she promised to support one of our students after she graduates.

Besides supporting high school and university students, we finally launched our collaboration with the Nirmita Composers Institute. This is a group of music composers who are interested in teaching a new generation of Cambodian musicians how to write traditional style music. Because the Savong Foundation Cambodia is focused on education, supporting arts education is another avenue which we are happy to pursue. This year we helped sponsor two workshops in Phnom Penh which involved musicians, dancers and choreographers. More about these workshops will be found later in the annual report.



The Savong Foundation Cambodia is entering its 10-year anniversary of being a 501c3 nonprofit in the United States. There is only one way we could have come this far and that is with the generosity of our donors. iHerb.com is our corporate sponsor who has stood by us for several years and we are honored that they trust us to use their money to support underprivileged Khmer students who want to pursue university degrees. We are equally honored that our private donors have stuck with us during these difficult times. We realize that there are plenty of other organizations that ask for money and by choosing us, we respect those donations by choosing only the most eligible students who want to improve their lives. Moreover, we strive to be as financially transparent as possible while keeping overhead fees to an absolute minimum. We look forward to all this support for years to come.



Looking into 2021, we are still optimistic. We have added five new students to our scholarship program this year, four of whom are in high school and one in university. We feel that there is an urgent need to support education in Cambodia since even more families can't afford to send their children to good schools. We will continue to fight for them and treat them like family. We will continue to motivate them to finish their studies. We will continue to find ways to make our scholarship and music programs more successful. And I look forward to another trip to Cambodia in the fall of this year if anyone would like to join me.

Stay safe everyone.
Akun!
Dr. Phil Caldwell

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to support underprivileged students in Cambodia through education, shelter and healthcare.



We believe in giving our students the best quality education that we can find.



We match donors to students and we encourage them to communicate via email letters--although we discourage direct communication.



We are not a "charity"; we provide our students with opportunities but we expect them to work hard for themselves and their families in return.

We have two main areas of support:

OUR PROJECTS

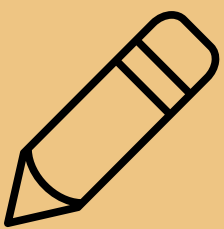
Scholarships Program

We provide tuition at the Future Bright International High School and the IQ International School in Siem Reap and at top universities in Siem Reap as well as Phnom Penh. Depending on the need, we provide school supplies, including laptop computers and transportation which is usually a bicycle. We track student grades and attendance and have a scholarship and student managers in Cambodia to address any issues that arise.

Scholarship sponsorship starts at \$25/month and can go up to \$100/month or more. Any donation amount is of course, deeply appreciated.

Music Program

We have partnered with the Nirmita Composers Institute which is dedicated to teaching and nurturing the next generation of Cambodian composers in both the Khmer traditional and Western art music genres. NCI also encourages the cultural exchange among nations in the region and within the global community.



2020: A YEAR IN NUMBERS

26

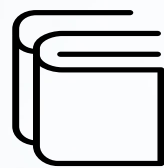
Scholarships renewed
or awarded at the start of
2019/20 school year
(5 of them were new)



Young Men Scholarships (44.44%)
Young Women Scholarships (55.56%)

10

Students in
Grades K to 12



16

Students in
University



2020 Graduates from University

2



Total
Contributions

\$59,851

from

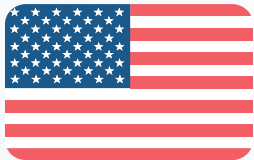
UNITED KINGDOM



Canada



Australia



USA



Over 96% of your donations went directly towards
supporting our education and community programs!

OUR MUSIC PROGRAM

The Music Program, with the benefit of generous private donations and a grant from the Asian Cultural Council, held two virtual ten day-long workshops hosted by the Nirmita Composers Institute.



These workshops were held at the Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh during July and August 2020. Participants were selected via nominations from a variety of people including many musicians and teachers in the field of traditional music, universities, and arts organizations in Cambodia – as well as contacting previous workshop participants. The workshops offered an unprecedented series of new traditional composition courses.

Faculty members (Chinary Ung, Susan Ung, Koji Nakano) gave daily guidance for traditional pinpeat musicians to help facilitate the creation of a new repertoire that evokes the current pinpeat tradition in Cambodia. They also provided guidance on directing the musicians' efforts toward engaging in a new national and regional avant-garde art making.



Additionally, during these workshops, the participants learned through the co-creative compositional process the value of developing strong relationships with artists in other art forms (dance, theater, circus, etc.) and to inspire one another to reach outside of their own comfort zones. After establishing a strong sense of mutual respect, we believe that they are now more open to attempting new and adventurous projects in the years ahead.

Growing out of the work from the 2020 summer workshops, the Nirmita Composers Institute, in partnership with the Savong Foundation Cambodia, is currently offering a unique opportunity to emerging Cambodian musician-composers.

Through the funding of a series of micro-commissions, we are seeking to help emerging artists pursue increased mentorship and to study with a group of distinguished faculty, led by Dr. Chinary Ung, Dr. Sean Heim, Dr. Koji Nakano and Susan Ung. These micro-commissions support traditional Cambodian musician-composers in composing new pieces and engaging in new collaborations.

Please help us support this wonderful program. Donations can either be made through

<https://www.mightycause.com/organization/Savongfoundation>

Or

<https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/46695>

And please specify that you would like to contribute to the Music Program.



MEET OUR MANAGER: RATHANA

I am Mr. Chea Rathana. I am 41 years old and I was born in Sombo district, Kratie province, a farming area 570km east of Siem Reap. Presently I'm living in Veal village, Kokchork commune, Siem Reap town. I have six brothers and five sisters in my family and I am number eleven in my families.

In my family I am the only who has studied at university. My eldest brothers and eldest sisters did not get an education because they had to help my family grow rice crops. All of them stopped studying in Grade 6, 7, 8 or 9. All of my siblings had no chance or opportunity to study at a higher level because of the family's situation and poor financial status. My mother work on a farm that consists of a few small plots of land. When I was studying at secondary school and high school, even though the situation of my family was poor, they always worked hard to earn money to support me. My father passed away when I was 7 months. My mother is 94 years old this year.



I chose to study at Angkor University because this university can give poor students the opportunity to pay in installments, but payments must be made on time. In the last semester of my second year, I had problems paying the school fees because I had no money. This meant I was unable to sit my final exam in year 2. I tried to explain my problem to the school and promised I would pay as soon as possible. I found it very difficult as did my family to fund my bachelor's degree but I realized that it is the only chance to rise out of the dire poverty that pervades Cambodia. I am really working hard both at work and with my studies. I finally graduated in 2014 with a degree in Business Management.

From 2008 to 2015 I worked for an NGO (Non-Government Organization) New Hope Cambodia. I really enjoyed my job especially working with the foreign volunteers as they helped me to improve my English. I want to study English at a private school in my free times because my English is limited. My salary has to cover the cost of my education plus I send money home to my family to support them.

From 2016 until now I am working for the Savong Organization Cambodia with the position of Administration Manager. When I started working for the Savong Foundation Cambodia (a branch of the Savong Organization Cambodia) I am a Scholarship Manager and I collect all the information from scholarship students, do monthly reports, activities, interview new students, find poor students to apply for scholarships, check monthly attendance with high school and university students, have monthly meetings and when they have problems I can find solutions to fix them.

I got married in 2011 and I have two sons in my family.

Best regards,

Chea Rathana



MEET OUR STUDENT: DALINA



**We are very excited to introduce
one of our newest students,
Dalina!**

She is our first student who we are supporting from Battambang which is a city in the northwest area of Cambodia. She is 15 years old and is studying Grade 10 at the Dewey International School.

She lives with her mother and father who sell soup at the local market. They earn roughly \$60 to \$70/month to support a family of five. There is a younger brother and sister who are also in school.

In her last report card, she was second in her class.
She hopes to be number one soon!

After graduation from high school, she wants to become a doctor so she can help other people. It's her "dream job".

The Savong Foundation is proud to help Dalina achieve her goals and be an inspiration for all the students who will come after her.

OUR WISH LIST

Since we are a grassroots non profit, we rely on even the smallest donations to make our programs successful. However, even small non profits can dare to dream and we hope to turn these dreams into reality for the upcoming year. Can you help?



High School scholarships in Siem Reap

Cost: \$25 to \$100/month

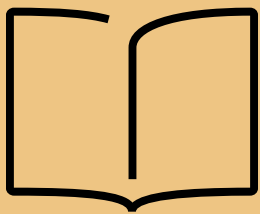
We are always looking for funds to cover tuitions for new students. We handpick our students based on academic ability as well as financial need and we send them to the private schools.



University Scholarships in Phnom Penh

Cost: \$50 to \$200/month

We would love to have all our students study in Phnom Penh to pursue advanced degrees. It is simply not possible for our students to pursue many professional careers if they stay in Siem Reap.



School Supplies for High School students

Cost: \$100/year

At the start of the school year, I usually travel to Cambodia to purchase school supplies. These may include school books, notebooks, pens, backpacks and uniforms.



Laptop computers for University students

Cost: \$250 to \$400/computer

We provide laptop computers to our university students if they don't already have one. We prefer to purchase locally to support the local businesses in the Siem Reap or Phnom Penh community.



Music Project

Cost: Any donation will help!

The Nirmita Composers Institute organizes workshops to instruct and nurture the next generation of composers in Southeast Asian countries such as Cambodia. The donations will go directly towards funding these workshops and their students.

OUR BIG THANKS

Nearly nine years ago, we were excited about getting a \$20 donation and we still are! It's true that we make every donation go as far as possible but it costs a lot of money to provide full scholarships to the best schools and employ the people to make all this happen. We are so thankful for the ongoing support that we have received and we look forward to your support for years to come.



Individual donors

Through our scholarship program, we pair up a student with a donor (or donors). These donors give us a yearly lump sum or donate every month. The students communicate to their donors (via the Savong Foundation) every three months through letters or videos. .

We are always looking for supporters who would love to help our students and since the Savong Foundation is a 501(c)(3), your contributions are tax deductible in the United States.



Corporate donor

iHerb[®]

We are very thankful to iHerb.com for their continued generosity. They have been a huge sponsor for our students and we are honored to be in partnership with them.

GET IN TOUCH WITH US



Siem Reap, Cambodia



phil@savongfoundation.org

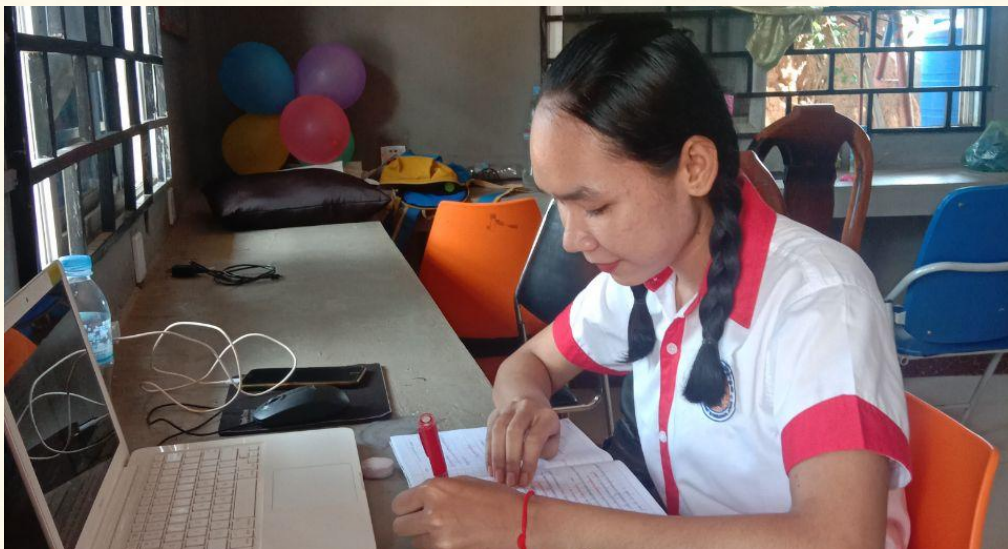


www.facebook.com/savongfoundation



[@savongfoundn](https://twitter.com/savongfoundn)

OUR FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM



THE FINANCIALS

THE SAVONG FOUNDATION, INC.

Statement of Income and Expenses

January to December 2020

Income			
Contributions & Grants			\$ 59,849
Fundraising			
Interest			<u>2</u>
Total Income			<u><u>\$ 59,851</u></u>
	MGT/GENERAL	PROGRAM	TOTAL
Expense			
Grants to other Nonprofit Organizations			\$ -
Direct Program Expenses		47,445	47,445
Advertising & Promotions	\$ 661		661
Professional Fees	1,040		1,040
Office Expenses	537	1,102	1,639
Travel Expenses			-
Total Expense	<u><u>\$ 2,238</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 48,547</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 50,785</u></u>
Net Income (Loss)			<u><u>\$ 9,066</u></u>
Program Breakdown:			
	\$	%	
Outreach Scholarships	\$ 18,159	37%	
General Cambodian Program	798	2%	
Cambodian Salaries	3,325	7%	
Music Program	\$ 22,576	47%	
Student Living Expenses	1,500	3%	
School Supplies	2,079	4%	
Total:	<u><u>\$ 48,437</u></u>	<u><u>100%</u></u>	
Percentage Administrative vs. Program	4%	96%	

Note: Government guidelines suggest that administrative costs vs. program costs be no more than 25:75 while nonprofit grading scales allow the top rankings for organizations with a ratio of 15:85. The Savong Foundation's ratio of 4:96 gives them a high ranking among nonprofit organizations.

Some Management/General expenses were covered by board member contributions.

Over 96% of 2020 public contributions went to program expenses.

This report was prepared by Johnson's Bookkeeping, an independent bookkeeping service specializing in nonprofit compliance.



We are very proud of our platinum level GuideStar participant award which means that we are committed to transparency!

<http://www.guidestar.org/profile/27-3567820>

A GENEROUS HEART, KIND SPEECH, AND A
LIFE OF SERVICE AND COMPASSION ARE
THE THINGS THAT RENEW HUMANITY.

- BUDDHA

