



SAVONG FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2017



*Phil Caldwell CEO
Jenny Lau Treasurer
Eddie Lamborn Scholarship Manager
Sean Heim Music Project Manager
Brandi Jackson Secretary*

www.savongfoundation.org

501(c)(3) non profit for
Cambodia

LETTER FROM THE CEO



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

Phil Caldwell CEO

When people hear that I operate a Cambodian nonprofit, their first question is usually “Why Cambodia?”. There are many ways to answer this, but I usually say that generosity shouldn’t have borders--we’re all on the same planet after all--and we can make big differences with relatively little money. I won’t deny that it’s also personal; I fell in love with the country and its people back in 2008 and I made a long-term commitment to help, even if it were in a small way. Thankfully I’ve been able to keep my commitment, motivated by our hard-working students, their hopeful families and our generous donors.



2017 was a fairly smooth year for the Savong Foundation and anyone who has done work in Cambodia knows that hurdles and obstacles can be a regular occurrence. As always, our focus has been on education and we’re very proud of what our students have accomplished. One student graduated from Grade 9. Four of our students passed their government exams and graduated from Grade 12 and we also had a student graduate from University who now works at the Angkor National Museum in Siem Reap. We believe in paying for the best education we can find and the success of our students is proof that we get what we pay for.

In 2017, we also established a strong presence in Phnom Penh. We enrolled five students at various universities; one student is studying Civil Engineering (Institute of Technology), two are studying Marketing (University of Cambodia), another one is studying Global Affairs (American University of Phnom Penh) and this year, we accepted a student into our scholarship program who will be at a pharmacy school (University of Health Sciences). I find it incredibly exciting that these students are able to pursue their professional dreams beyond the menial jobs that they would have had if the Savong Foundation had not have helped them. To help them transition into fully independent adults, we encourage our university students to find part-time jobs to pay for their living expenses as long as their curriculum will allow it.



In line with our education focus, we have partnered with **Chinary and Susan Ung** who are highly respected music composers from southern California. They run workshops in southeast Asia for budding composers, including those from Cambodia. We accepted **Sean Heim**, another composer, as our newest board member who will help us manage this new project. We feel that this is a great fit for the Savong Foundation since music is such an inherent part of the culture in Cambodia and not all students will want to pursue academic degrees. We are very thankful to **Jenny Lau**, our newest treasurer, who introduced us to the Ungs. Jenny was born in Cambodia but emigrated to the United States as a young girl after the Khmer Rouge years. Her incredible family story is documented in her book “Beautiful Hero” and is a must-read for anyone interested in Cambodia and/or the power of the human spirit.



Despite it being a “smooth year”, we’ve also faced our share of challenges. One of our university students blacked out and fell down a long flight of stairs. He developed a blood clot in his brain and had to have surgery. Another student suddenly disappeared but was later found to be fine but has since left our scholarship program. Rising costs for tuitions as well as medical bills have put a strain on our finances and we had to say goodbye to our Student Water Pump Project since it was difficult to get funding. There are always going to be hurdles to overcome but our team is in a good place and I think we have the skills and experience necessary to continue our progress that we made in 2017.



As with any small nonprofit, we rely on generous donations to do our work. I’ve always hated to ask people for money but I don’t hesitate to do it for the Savong Foundation because I know we are making a difference and we are passionate about helping our students. As we are entering our seventh year, I’m humbled and inspired by the donors that have made this journey with us. Thank you for allowing us to do our work and let’s make 2018 an even better year.

Sincerely,

Phil Caldwell
CEO The Savong Foundation



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to support underprivileged students in northern 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--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 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.



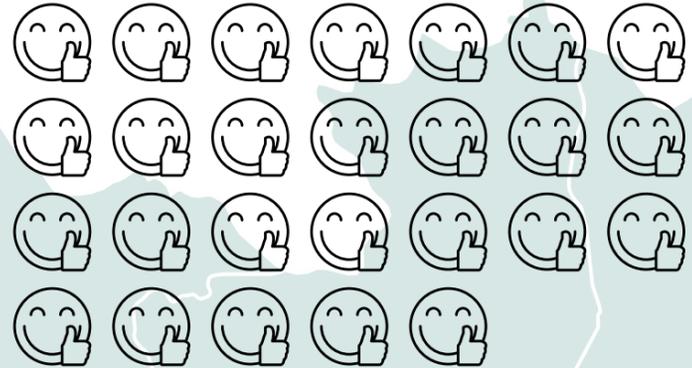
Music Program

The Nimita Composers Institute is dedicated to 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.

2017: A YEAR IN NUMBERS

26

Scholarships awarded at the start of 2017/18 school year
(6 of them were new;
20 of them were renewed)



- Young Men Scholarships (38.46%)
- Young Women Scholarships (61.54%)

16

Students in
Grades K to 12



10

Students in
University



2016 Graduates from High School

4



2016 Graduates from University

1



Total
Contributions
\$43,077

from

Canada

USA

Japan

Australia

Singapore



Over 98% of your donations went directly towards supporting our education and community programs!

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

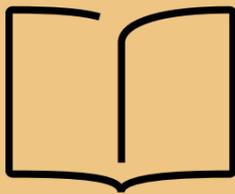
We are always looking for funds to cover tuitions for new students. We handpick our students based on academic ability as well as financial need and we send them to the Future Bright International High School.



University Scholarships in Phnom Penh

Cost: \$100 to \$300/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 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 Composers Institute organizes workshops to nurture the next generation of composers in Southeast Asian countries such as Cambodia. The donations will go directly towards funding these workshops.

ONE STORY: A THANK YOU

This is a thank you letter from a student to her donor.

Dear ...

Hi, how are you these days? I hope you are happy with your family and friends. Here I am happy too.

Thanks for your letter. All your letters always make me hopeful and happiness. I love the way you treat me like a sister. Thank you!

I am here very happy with my studying at Pannasastra University. I try to work hard and study hard. I also enjoy with the new friends in my class and in the whole school. I like my teachers also. They are good at teaching students. Most people treat me like their best friend, even if I never know them before. Here is so lovely. How kind of them!

Finally, I would love to say "thank you so much". I wish you and your family good luck, good health, happiness and success with your duties. Occasionally I wish I could help you back with my knowledge.

Sincerely,



OUR BIG THANKS

Nearly seven 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 the 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 that they write.

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 donors

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



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www.facebook.com/savongfoundation



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

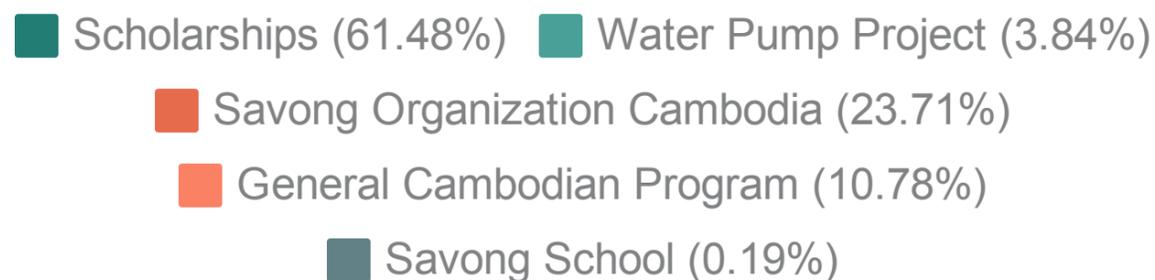
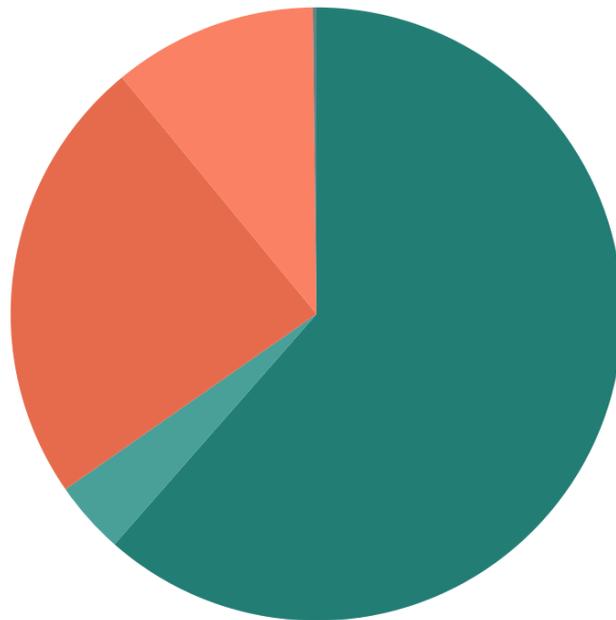
OUR FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM



THE FINANCIALS

Total contributions for 2017 \$43,077

Program breakdown for 2017



Over 98% of 2017 public contributions went to program expenses.



All travel expenses were paid by the individual board members.



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

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