



THE SAVONG FOUNDATION CAMBODIA ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Phil Caldwell CEO
Alberto Tejero Treasurer
Eddie Lamborn Scholarship Manager
Sean Heim Music Project Manager
Brandi Jackson Secretary
Moeun Cheat Cambodian Liason

www.savongfoundation.org
501(c)(3) non profit for
Cambodia

LETTER FROM THE CEO



We strive to find deserving and financially underprivileged students who are motivated to pursue professional careers.

Phil Caldwell CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters,

In a lot of ways, it's difficult to believe. **This year, we will celebrate 15 years of The Savong Foundation Cambodia.** We've gone through some turbulent times but I can honestly say this year was wonderful and ... uneventful.

And in the nonprofit world, that's exactly what we hope for.



Our students are doing what they should be doing; studying hard, staying focused, and moving steadily toward professional careers. **We are currently supporting 22 students, most of whom are now in university-level programs pursuing majors that include pharmacy, medicine, veterinary medicine, global affairs, marketing, midwifery, architecture, interior design, and finance.** They continue to impress me--not only with their academic progress, but with their maturity, gratitude and determination. We know them like family, and we give them whatever they need for success, which may include living expenses, school supplies, computers and of course, tuition.



As usual, I traveled back to Cambodia this past October to meet our students, purchase school supplies, and pay school fees. After 15 years, my manager Rathana and I have this trip down to a science. **We follow a well-established routine, work efficiently, and still manage to have some fun along the way.** I never get tired of seeing the gorgeous Khmer temples which was the main reason I travelled to Cambodia back in 2008. I think Rathana is equally happy when he gets a steak meal and a fruity drink.



One of the most meaningful parts of the trip is meeting individually with each student. **These conversations allow me to encourage them, motivate them, and remind them just far they've already come.** I try to visit their individual schools (and we've visited most of them) and during this trip, I was able to tour the Royal University of Agriculture, where our student Bunsaeum is studying veterinary medicine. As a veterinarian myself, I was interested in seeing what was available to him. Hopefully I'll be back next year and would love to give a lecture about my animal experiences in the USA.



Rathana and I also met with Rin Kakvey, who operates a free music school in the Banteay Meanchey province, another program we are proud to support. **This school is called Samut.**

Rin Kakvey's work is inspiring, and his full interview is included later in this report. If you would like to support the teaching of traditional Cambodian music, singing and dance, then we can earmark donations specifically for this purpose. **Having seen the school, the students and Kakvey, I can guarantee that your money will be put to good use.**



We also had time to visit one of our former scholarship students in Phnom Penh. Cheat is now the ambitious owner of a fantastic new store selling high-end kitchen goods. **He graduated from the University of Cambodia with a degree in Marketing and has been a true success story ever since we first began supporting him in high school.** His journey is a powerful reminder that with opportunity, hard work and determination, anything is possible --and his path will undoubtedly inspire those who follow. This year, we were very pleased to have invited him to be a board member, and he is our first former student to have achieved this accomplishment.



And without hesitation, I agreed to yet another traditional Buddhist water blessing from a monk at our new NGO office in Siem Reap. **At this point, I've received so many blessings over the years that I feel fairly confident I'm well protected--not just in this life, but probably the next one too.**



Overall, the trip was extremely successful and I'm very happy how everything is going. As a small but very welcome bonus, even the flights to and from Cambodia were on time--something any traveler will appreciate. Thank you United Airlines!

None of this work would be possible without you, our supporters and cheerleaders. I am deeply thankful to everyone who has been a part of this journey over the past 15 years. **In a world that can often feel divided and uncertain, choosing to help others--no matter where they live--is more important than ever.**

As we look ahead, I invite you to continue this journey with us. Your generous donations directly support our students and make these life-changing opportunities possible. If you would like to learn more about our work or discuss ways to contribute, please feel free to contact me anytime at phil@savongfoundation.org. We work on a shoe-string budget, we make every dollar count, none of our board members are paid and we are fully financially transparent. **I'm always open to talking about Cambodia and The Savong Foundation Cambodia!**



Thank you for helping us reach an incredible 15 year milestone!



With sincere appreciation.

Dr. Phil Caldwell
CEO
The Savong Foundation Cambodia



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide young underprivileged Cambodians with academic and music scholarships.



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



We try to match donors with students if the donor would like to follow a student's individual progress. Otherwise we use the money where we need it the most.



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 and 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: SAMUT School of Music and Dance

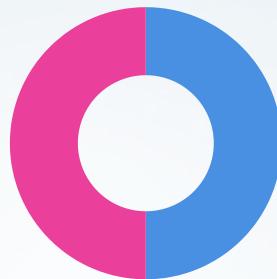
We strongly support this wonderful school run by Rin Kakvey. With a volunteer group of teachers, he is able to keep traditional Khmer culture alive through music, singing and dance.

Currently we support the school with only \$200 a month but would love to contribute more.

2025: A YEAR IN NUMBERS

22

Scholarships awarded at the start of 2024/25 school year
(21 renewed; 1 new)



■ Young Men Scholarships (50%)
■ Young Women Scholarships (50%)

8

Students in
Grades K to 12



14

Students in Post
Secondary
Education



Total
Contributions

\$50,347

from

UNITED KINGDOM



Canada



USA



Australia



We are at a Platinum Level of Transparency on
Guidestar so we're committed to financial
transparency!

MEET OUR MUSIC TEACHER



Rin Kakvey

*Khmer Traditional Musician
and Educator*

I am Rin Kakvey, and for over twelve years, I have dedicated my life to preserving and teaching the art of Khmer traditional music and dance.

My love for Khmer music began when I was just 13 years old, studying under Teacher Yut Yim at the Khouusathey Organization. Later, I deepened my skills with Teacher Uy Ki in Siem Reap Province for over three years. My passion led me to establish the SAMUT School of Music and Dance in Banteay Meanchey Province. Since then, I have run this school to provide free lessons in classical dance, classical music, and classical singing to our community. **The school has 85 students and four dedicated volunteer teachers, operating seven days a week.** At SAMUT, we all work as volunteers to ensure that every child, regardless of background, has the opportunity to learn and appreciate our rich cultural heritage.

I can play and teach many traditional Khmer instruments such as Roneat Ek, Roneat Dek, Kong Vong Thom, Kong Vong Toch, Skor Sampho, Skor Thom, Srolai Thom, Srolai Thochhing, and Flute. After our students become proficient, they have various opportunities: they can perform to earn money, become art teachers at private schools or organizations, or take entrance exams to continue their studies at the College of Arts in Phnom Penh.

In the future, I aspire to be recognized as a leader and expert in the field of Cambodian art. My dream is to develop a high-quality school that sets clear standards in teaching Cambodian art, ensuring our cultural heritage is preserved and respected. I also aim to research and document endangered art forms.

Most importantly, I hope that Cambodian people, especially the youth, will master the art of our ancestors. I am committed to reversing the decline of our cultural heritage and saving lost art by inspiring Cambodians to reconnect with their artistic roots.

Rin Kakvey

MEET OUR STUDENT: OUKSA



Seam Ouksa

Scholarship Student

My Journey of Education and Hope

My name is Seam Ouksa. I am 20 years old and I come from Mondol 3 village, Siem Reap district, Siem Reap province. I come from a family of five people, and I am the first child in my family. My life has not always been easy. My father passed away, and my mother works as a cleaner to support our family. Currently, my siblings live in Siem Reap with our grandparents, while my mother works faraway in Svay Rieng. Even though our family is separated by distance, we always encourage each other to stay strong and continue studying.

Today, I am a third-year student at the University of Health Sciences, studying to become a doctor. My favorite subjects are anatomy and semiology because they help me understand the human body and how to diagnose diseases. I chose to study medicine because I want to help sick people, especially poor people who cannot easily access good healthcare. I have seen many people in my community suffer from illness without proper treatment, and this made me dream of becoming a doctor who can save lives and bring hope to others.

I first known about the Savong Foundation from my biology teacher when I was in grade 11. She told me about this foundation and encouraged me to apply. The Savong Foundation started supporting me in grade 12, and they have supported me for four years, from grade 12 until my third year at university. Their support includes a scholarship, school supplies, and encouragement, which have helped me continue my studies without giving up. **Without their support, it would be very difficult for me to stay in school.**

Education is very important to me because it is the key to changing my life and my family's future. Education has taught me not only knowledge, but also discipline, responsibility, and hope. It has helped me believe in myself and dream bigger. The support from the Savong Foundation has reduced my family's financial burden and allowed me to focus more on my studies and my goals. **In the future, after I finish my studies, I want to become a doctor and work in Cambodia, especially in**

MEET OUR STUDENT: OUKSA

rural areas where people lack medical services. I want to help my family have a better life and also help my community by providing good healthcare and health education.

In Cambodia today, education is improving, but many students still face challenges such as poverty, lack of resources, and the need to work while studying. I hope that in the future, there will be more scholarships, better school facilities, and more support for poor students so that everyone has a chance to study. Finally, I would like to sincerely thank the Savong Foundation and all the donors for their kindness and support. **Your help has changed my life and given me the opportunity to continue my education and pursue my dream.** I promise to study hard and become a good person who gives back to society in the future.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Seam Ouksa.

MEET OUR STUDENT: SOKPHA



Sem Sokhpa

Scholarship Student

My Journey of Midwifery, Education, and Hope

My name is Sem Sokhpa. I am 27 years old, and I come from Rolous Meanchey Village, Okrieng Senchey District, Kratie Province, Cambodia.

I come from a large family of nine people, and I have four siblings. My family situation is complicated. My father lives with his wife (my stepmother), and she has two children. My older sister is married and has one child, and she also lives in Kratie Province. I live with my sister now, while my father lives separately. I am the second child in my family, and I also try to save and share money to support my youngest sister, who is currently studying in Grade 11 in the city.

MEET OUR STUDENT: SOKHPA

My parents are farmers, and they still live in Rolous Meanchey Village. Because farming work is difficult and income is not stable, my family has faced many financial hardships.

I chose to study midwifery because I want to help mothers and babies during childbirth. I believe midwifery is a meaningful profession because it allows me to care for women, support healthy births, and save lives. It also allows me to serve my community while building a stable career in healthcare.

I am currently studying at the Health Science Institute of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) in Phnom Penh. I am now in my second year, studying for a Bachelor of Midwifery. One of my favorite parts of my education is nursing care, especially because I enjoy internships and learning directly in the hospital environment.

I also understand that Cambodia needs more midwives, especially in rural areas where healthcare services are limited and mothers often struggle to access safe support during pregnancy and childbirth.

The Savong Foundation supports me in several important ways, including:

- **Scholarship support** (tuition and school fees)
- **Essential supplies** (books, uniforms, and stationery)
- **Living expenses** (safe accommodation and nutritious food)

Education has helped me gain skills I never thought I could achieve. I am more confident, more knowledgeable about the world, and better at solving problems. Most importantly, it has given me a real sense of purpose and direction.

My plan is to become a skilled professional midwife and build a successful career. I want to work in a public hospital, where I can use my knowledge to care for mothers and infants and help save lives. With a stable job, I will be able to support my family and improve our living conditions.

In the future, I also want to give back in two ways:

1. **Support my family**, to thank them for their sacrifices
2. **Volunteer to help poor families** in my village who cannot afford quality healthcare

MEET OUR STUDENT: SOKHPA

I want to be someone mothers can trust and rely on during pregnancy and childbirth.

I believe education in Cambodia is improving and becoming more accessible, especially for rural students through scholarships and support from organizations. However, there is still a large gap between the city and the countryside.

Students in Cambodia face many challenges, such as:

- **The digital divide**, especially in remote areas without computers or internet
- **A gap between school learning and job skills**, which can make it harder to find work
- **High living expenses** for students who must move to the city (rent, food, transportation)

I hope to see a Cambodia where poverty is no longer a barrier to education, and where every child has the chance to complete school. I also hope the healthcare system becomes strong enough to care for everyone, especially mothers and children in remote communities.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all donors for your kindness and support. Before receiving this support, I had to stop my studies to work on the farm and help my father. Your generosity gave me a second chance to return to school and pursue my dream of becoming a midwife.

You have not only supported my education—you have changed the future of my entire family.

Thank you very much for believing in me.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Sem Sokhpa

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 \$200/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 \$400/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

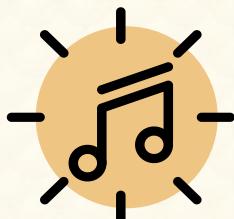
At the start of the school year, I usually travel to Cambodia to purchase school supplies. These may include school books, notebooks, pens, backpacks and uniforms.



Laptop computers for University Students

Cost: \$500/computer

We provide laptop computers or ipads 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: SAMUT School of Music and Dance

Cost: Any donation will help!

We are very proud to be supporting this music school which desperately needs any funding possible to keep traditional music culture alive. If you specify that the funds are to be used for this school, then 100% will go towards teacher salaries.

OUR BIG THANKS

Fifteen 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 Cambodia) every six months through letters or videos. .

We are always looking for supporters who would love to help our students and since the Savong Foundation Cambodia 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 generosity through 2025. They have been a huge sponsor for our students and we were honored to be in partnership with them. Sadly, iHerb has changed its focus for 2026 and will no longer be supporting The Savong Foundation Cambodia. We will definitely be looking for more sponsorships in the year ahead.

GET IN TOUCH WITH US



Siem Reap, Cambodia



phil@savongfoundation.org



[www.facebook.com/
savongfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/savongfoundation)

OUR FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM







THE FINANCIALS

The Savong Foundation Cambodia

Statement of Operations

For the 12 months ended December 31, 2025

Income

General Funds	16,923	33.6%
Scholarship Funds	32,699	64.9%
Music Program	725	1.4%

Program Expenses

Tuition	21,254
Living Expenses	6299
Salaries	6120
Music School	1600
Travel	4452
School supplies	196
Total Program Expenses	39,921

Administrative Expenses

Office	6887
Advertising and Marketing	1312
Legal and Accounting	2575
Bank charges	828
Computer software	861
Licenses and Taxes	161
Total Administrative Expenses	12,624

Ratio of Program vs. Administrative Expenses 76% vs. 24%

Total other income (interest) 186

Net Income (2012)

Prepared by Padgett Business Services

‘‘ An investment in
knowledge pays the best
interest.

– Benjamin Franklin

