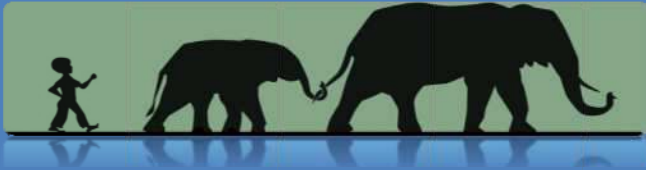


Journeys Within Our Community



*See a Problem,
Solve a Problem...*

*JWOC Newsletter
June 2009
Rainy Season Issue*



JWOC scholarship student Kaghchna leads the weekly dance class in the new JWOC Community Centre

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“See a Problem,

Solve a Problem...”

What does it mean to you?

“To me it means no excuses. One of the reasons for starting JWOC was because there was so much discussion happening in Southeast Asia, but no action, everyone was talking about what people needed, but no one was doing it. We felt that by being here we could do more than talk, we could act.”

Andrea Ross – JWOC Founder



Foreword from the Managing Directors

Welcome to the first JWOC Newsletter of 2009! There are many things for us to tell you about in this edition but we must first introduce ourselves. Our names are Andrew and Camilla – we are originally from the United Kingdom but have been pursuing our work abroad in development since leaving London in 2006. We are both passionate about working for sustainable development in the world, and between us have backgrounds in Human Rights, Anthropology, History, International Relations and Education.

We write this after five extremely busy months at JWOC and are excited to share the work JWOC is doing with all of you. Our time at JWOC so far in 2009 has been filled with the many different projects that have already been established here. In this short time, we have focused on expanding our Scholarship Program to ensure all our projects have the maximum impact on the community, increasing the capacity and quality of our Free Schools Program and introducing an element of sustainability into our Clean-Water Program. Alongside the founders and executive directors of JWOC, Brandon and Andrea Ross we feel we have already established an innovative and dynamic team that will take the community projects JWOC runs to new heights, doing more for the people they were set up to support. In this time of financial difficulty in the world, our work here in South East Asia is more important than ever, building the capacity of the people and offering opportunities to those who have the desire to grow but lack the means.

2009 has already been an exceptional year for JWOC and the second half of the year promises even more. We now have an impressive Community Center building, thanks to the Collette Foundation and the Richard O’Connell family, in which we are expanding our educational services and our capacity to help the surrounding community. This building will be the cornerstone for many of the initiatives we will be developing over the next six months and into 2010.

Thank you for your support of JWOC and we look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together!

Best wishes from Cambodia,

Andrew and Camilla 



A big thank you to everyone who signed up for the May Newsletter Challenge. We had over 250 sign-ups!

**Take a look at our brand new website at:
www.journeyswithinourcommunity.org**



“See a Problem,

Solve a Problem...”

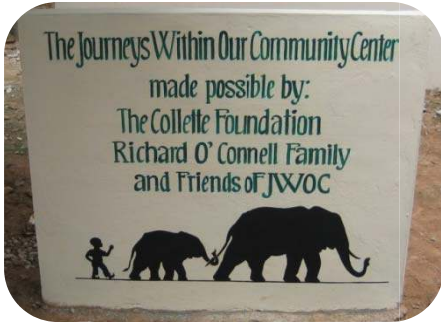
What does it mean to you?

“It means we help people who really need it, such as giving wells, loaning money for small businesses and giving knowledge. These people are really poor and want to get their life better than before and JWOC can make it better in the life.”

Neang Chhouerm – JWOC Scholarship Student



Special Report: New JWOC Community Center



JWOC's brand new Community Center, made possible by the Collette Foundation and the Richard O'Connell Family, has transformed the scale of what JWOC can now offer.

This new space is already providing an extremely diverse range of services including free language classes for over 200 students, traditional Khmer dance classes, children's reading times, training for scholarship students and a meeting area for microloan recipients.



Two JWOC students show off the results of their face painting at the Grand Opening

June will see the beginning of new monthly community movie nights, providing a unique opportunity for nearby residents to experience “the big screen” and a welcome time-out from difficult seven day weeks that most must work to support themselves and their families.




Above: the traditional Buddhist blessing ceremony for the Community Center

Below: local children enjoying the festivities



Grand Opening

Despite hosting new classes since April, the Community Center recently had its official “Grand Opening” in which hundreds of people came together to celebrate JWOC. The afternoon started with a traditional Buddhist ceremony to bless the new building, led by one of our own scholarship students, Hen - a monk at Wat Chork Pagoda. This was followed by a traditional dance performance by students in our dance class taught by scholarship student, Kaghchna (see cover picture). For the rest of the afternoon visitors were encouraged to find out more about JWOC and our projects by visiting different stations in the Community Center. There were prizes for those who visited all the stations including a station on hand washing at the big new communal sinks. For the children we also had drawing, games and face painting. All the activities were manned by our scholarship students and visiting volunteers from Loyola Marymount University in the US.

The new building looked amazing and there were enough facilities and space for everyone to have a good time, while at the same time learning about JWOC. It was really clear how JWOC's ability to help the local community will increase dramatically by having this new building. 



“See a Problem,

Solve a Problem...”

What does it mean to you?

“This motto is about not being intimidated by the issues one sees, about not accepting the status quo, but instead making a decision to make a difference however possible. It’s about believing that every problem does have a solution if you work hard enough to find it.”

Stephanie Finigan – JWOC Volunteer



Project Focus

JWOC Free Schools

JWOC Schools are being brought to the heart of what we do. JWOC operates under the firm belief that education is the key ingredient in promoting sustainable development. With the exception of emergency aid, giving people the tools they need to make positive changes in their lives is a central responsibility in the work of any development organization. Our free schools project recognizes this vision and we are working to integrate education into all of our projects. JWOC teachers are our university scholarship students whose volunteer time enables them to:

- give back to their community in a sustainable and meaningful way through teaching;
- share the new knowledge and skills they are learning at University with their students in the classroom;
- develop their abilities as teachers both through classroom experience and through regular workshops given by internationally trained teachers.

“...education is the key ingredient in promoting sustainable development”

In 2009 JWOC classes have been standardized and offer students a meaningful and measurable certificate at the end of each course. We have a growing number of classrooms, meaning that we can offer educational opportunities to more people.

Finally, we are diversifying the educational opportunities we offer to include vocational training for adults, extra-curricular classes for children and more. JWOC now has over 500 students studying in three South East Asian countries.



“See a Problem,

Solve a Problem...”

What does it mean to you?

“It means empowering people – JWOC is helping communities and individuals by giving them the opportunities to help themselves.”

Andrew Piner – JWOC Managing Director



Scholarship Students

The Scholarship program has reached new heights in 2009. In March JWOC took on 19 new scholarship students (see picture above) taking our total to over 70 students in three South East Asian countries. It has also been a landmark year for JWOC in which one of our first scholarship students graduated from Build Bright University in Siem Reap. A new intake of students begins in August 2009. 



Clean-Water

JWOC’s Clean-Water Project is its oldest and most established program. Recognizing the importance of giving people access to clean water has been a long-standing pillar of JWOC’s work and in 2008 the project won the accolade of Conde Nast magazine in the form of its World-Savers Award for “Hope in Health.” Drilling wells in the province of Siem Reap has been the focus of many non-profits and non-governmental organizations for many years now and a lot of wells have been built in the past decade. This work has itself created the emergence of a new issue which JWOC is now addressing.

Since January we have been raising money towards a well maintenance fund and have begun the process of mapping all the wells we find and fixing the broken ones, including non-JWOC wells. Our maintenance program includes training families on the basic techniques (such as changing rubber seals) which are vital to keeping wells in working order. JWOC is also set to expand its Clean-Water program further into the realm of education and is developing community seminars focusing on basic health and hygiene.



Narla Phay:
JWOC’s first Scholarship student and the first in the program to graduate. Narla is currently a Member of the JWOC Board and the Country Advisor for Cambodia.



“See a Problem,

Solve a Problem...”

What does it mean to you?


“When people go into trouble, they really need help, so our organization, Journeys Within Our Community, can solve the problem by providing them such as loans, water wells, and another thing JWOC offer them opportunity to go to university.”

Sok Pren – JWOC Scholarship Student



JWOC in South East Asia – Laos

In April 2009, JWOC’s two Managing Directors made a visit to Laos. Almost a year ago, our Laos Country Director Nicole, moved to Laos to try to expand JWOC’s work in the province of Luang Prabang. What they found during their visit was an already strong network for social change, centered on the work of five University scholarship students. With their energy, skills and enthusiasm JWOC has established a small language school offering English and Japanese classes to young learners and young adults.

JWOC Laos has also started a completely new project in SE Asia. The village school sponsorship project, started in early 2009, has great promise for the future and fits extremely well with JWOC’s aims to make real and positive differences in the communities where we work. The village of Phik Noy, around 10 km outside Luang Prabang, is home to a small primary school full of friendly faces. JWOC has the privilege to work with this school and has so far been able to buy essential books, mandatory uniforms for students whose families cannot afford them and bicycles for children who must travel to the next village to attend higher levels of school. 



Above: Ban Phik Noy Primary School



How you can help JWOC

One of the things that “See a Problem, Solve a Problem...” means to us, is responding to the needs that we see at the time we see them. As the situation around us changes, we are able to adapt to it, focusing our fundraising and our work in the places they are most needed. In each edition of our newsletter therefore, as well as on our website, we ask our generous donors to respond to our current needs and the current needs of the communities where we work.

- With the new Community Center up and running and hundreds of students signing up to study with us we would like to focus a portion of our fundraising around our ***Free Schools Project***.
- With a new University year beginning very soon we are also looking for sponsors for a new intake of Scholarship students. Our ***Scholarship Programs*** in Laos and Myanmar combined with the program in Siem Reap means that we can potentially offer sponsorship for more students than ever before.

For more details on how you can get involved and our latest news and project reports please visit our website:

www.journeyswithinourcommunity.org



Donate Now!