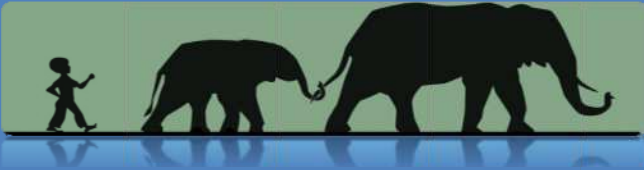


Journeys Within Our Community



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

*JWOC Newsletter
June 2010
Rainy Season Issue*



Five JWOC Scholarship students discuss potential problems they might face when teaching and how to overcome them, in one of our regular workshops to improve their skills and experience.

**In this
issue...**

Welcome

Special Report:

*Training and
Capacity Building*

Project Focus:

Conversation Class

Operation Smile

Clean Water Update

*Southeast Asia
Focus*

*Brandon and
Andrea Visit
Myanmar*

How you can help



“See a Problem,

Solve a Problem...”

What does it mean to you?

“In Southeast Asia, you see a wide range of problems that are obstacles in people’s lives. You don’t have to look far to see these problems. You can choose to allow them to overwhelm you and the people they afflict or take actions to solve them. That is what JWOC aims to do.”

Nicole Long – JWOC Laos Country Director



Welcome!

Welcome to JWOC’s 2010 Rainy Season Newsletter. After a long and extremely hot Dry Season in Southeast Asia the rains have finally started to fall and the land has begun to turn green again. As we look forward to the exciting months ahead for JWOC we can also reflect on the first half of 2010 – a time of steady consolidation in our projects and exciting transformative change too. We want to take the opportunity in this newsletter to share JWOC’s 2010, so far, with you.

At the beginning of 2010 we were given the opportunity to begin work on a project that would move JWOC to a whole new level of community support through the interest and generosity of new JWOC donors – their involvement set the wheels in motion for a new building that is now almost complete. The response of our existing donors and new supporters alike to our fundraising efforts for the completion of this building has been unbelievable! With a goal of raising 1,500 “bricks” to enable us to build the second level and start on the inside of the building we have been overwhelmed by your support. That we have already reached our goal is a testament to the generous spirit of our donors and the huge potential that JWOC and its supporters have to make big changes to the lives of those who need it most. We want to say a heartfelt thank you to all our JWOC supporters who have helped with this amazing new community library, computer lab and classrooms. With your ongoing support JWOC can look forward to continuing to provide the life-changing possibilities that education offers. As always, we will continue to keep you up to date with regular news on our website as the construction approaches completion and classes begin.

We hope you enjoy the updates and insight into JWOC in the following pages and we look forward to working with you to continue changing lives here through education and empowerment.

Best wishes from Cambodia,

Andrew and Camilla



**February 2010:
The Foundations of the
new building.**



**May 2010:
Almost finished!**

*JWOC is celebrating FIVE years of working in Southeast Asia this year!
Why not visit our [anniversary webpage](#) to find out what that means to us?*



“See a Problem,

Solve a Problem...”

What does it mean to you?

“It’s about not sitting idly by while people need your help. It’s not always about the money you can contribute, but your time and your voice to encourage others to make a positive difference in the lives of many.”

Holly Hetzel – JWOC Volunteer



Special Report: Training and Capacity Building at JWOC

Training, education and capacity building are at the heart of all JWOC’s work. In this special report, we want to give you a taste of the different ways in which we are investing in the future of Cambodia through the Cambodian people themselves.

JWOC Internships

In October 2009, JWOC began its first internship programme, thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Brown Family, taking on University Graduates who expressed an interest in and aptitude for non-profit work. The programme has been a great success so far. Our interns have had crucial practical experience managing different JWOC projects combined with wider skills training, exposure to development issues, and the opportunity to share ideas with other organizations working in Cambodia. In this way, JWOC hopes to contribute invaluable local human resources to the development sector and the future of Cambodia.

Over the coming months, JWOC is also expanding the internship programme to give non-profit work experience to university students and high school graduates. These positions will give interns their first taste of development work and they will have the opportunity to shadow our staff, work with our summer volunteer groups and receive training in everything from teaching to working in the local community. In the spirit of prioritizing the skills of local people, these internships will also be, in large part, managed and run by JWOC’s local staff.



Graduate Interns Sokhorn and Somit attend a presentation from another charity organization as part of their internship.

JWOC Teachers

The Free Classes Programme is also at the heart of JWOC’s goal to improve local capacity and empower local people to develop their own country. Our scholarship students, local volunteers, and locally hired specialists teach all our classes at JWOC in a wide range of subjects including Foreign Languages, Traditional Dancing, Sewing, Computers and Kindergarten. For many of our teachers, this is their first real experience of teaching and so while they are providing a wonderful free opportunity for their students, JWOC is also giving them the opportunity to develop their own skills. Our teachers are supported with regular practical workshops to help them improve specific areas of their teaching as well as a wide range of teaching aids and resources to help them run interesting, interactive and fun classes for their students. With the arrival of the new building, these opportunities and resources can now increase even further for students and teachers alike.

Scholarship students

The scholarship programme is much more than a university education. Students sponsored through JWOC have a unique opportunity to develop into the leaders of tomorrow in Southeast Asia. As an international and local organization, JWOC is able to provide its scholarship students with a wide range of opportunities that are difficult to find elsewhere. During the course of a scholarship with JWOC, students have access to an array of opportunities for self development. Through their volunteering, they receive training and invaluable work experience in a variety of projects. Using the skills of visiting volunteers, local staff and the Managing Directors, students are able to attend self development workshops every month of the year in subjects ranging from career development, to teambuilding, to teaching methodology and much more.



Visiting volunteer, Ashley held a photography workshop for Scholarship Students in March.

If you would like to support the scholarship programme JWOC is currently seeking sponsors for our next intake of students for the 2010-2011 academic year. Sponsorships cost \$500 per year, with a four year commitment.

“See a Problem,

Solve a Problem...”

What does it mean to you?

“JWOC “sees” the obvious problems of a struggling population, but it also looks around the corners and finds the less obvious ones. JWOC stays responsive because it keeps its mind open to solutions. With an optimistic “never say never” attitude, JWOC goes full speed ahead with creativity, persistence and the sheer power of good will..”

Dawn Johnson –Vice-Chair of the JWOC Board



Project Focus

Free Classes – Conversation Class



In November 2009, JWOC started its first dedicated conversation class. Taught by graduate intern, Somit, this class runs every day during the week and provides a wonderful opportunity for visiting volunteers to help local students with their English. Without the need for tests or schedules, this class is popular for local people who don't have the time to attend every class or who simply want to improve their speaking and listening skills. The class has been extremely popular for volunteers and students alike, giving both parties the opportunity to interact with people from other places in the world in a meaningful and structured environment.



“I want to know English because it is a global language and can help me to find a good job in the future..... I like speaking with the teacher and foreigners – it is very good for me.”

Srey Roum and Ratha (May 2010)

“The work you have done here is amazing and so inspiring. I feel so privileged to have seen just a small part of what you have achieved. I loved helping out at the conversation class. It was as beneficial to me as it was to them. Good luck with everything.”

Tiffany (April 2010)

What our Conversation class volunteers and students have to say...



A great experience...we did not want the time to end! Thank you for the opportunity.

Tom and Bonnie (January 2010)



“See a Problem,

Solve a Problem...”

What does it mean to you?

“When we find something that a village or community really needs help with and when we can help, we do as much as we can. JWOC always tries to find solutions to solve their problems.”

Vantha Kuon – JWOC Office Manager



Yung enjoys an ice cream in Phnom Penh just before his operation.



Operation Smile

In December 2009, JWOC was able to link up with Operation Smile – an international organization which holds clinics around the world to provide free operations for those suffering from cleft lips, palates and other facial deformities. In two separate trips to Phnom Penh, we have been lucky enough to help seven children, from poor communities in Siem Reap, to make the trip and have this life-changing operation. These children can now look forward to a life free from the physical problems and social stigmas associated with cleft lips and palates.

Clean Water Update

It has been a great year so far for the Clean Water project. In our first 2 villages this year we have:

- installed 37 new wells;
- fixed 90 broken wells;
- distributed water filters to 278 families;
- given hygiene training and hygiene packs to 1,210 villagers;
- carried out 68 water tests.

We are currently working with our 3rd village and aim to complete 5 by the end of 2010!



Yung recovers in hospital after his life changing operation.



“See a Problem,

Solve a Problem...”

What does it mean to you?

“See a Problem, Solve a Problem is proof that it is possible for one person to make a difference in the lives of others.”

Mary Brown – JWOC Ambassador



Southeast Asia Focus: JWOC in Myanmar

Brandon and Andrea visit JWOC in Myanmar

A personal account by Andrea

We were lucky enough to take a family vacation to Myanmar this April with one of the highlights being a visit to the Parahita Orphanage and our JWOC scholarship students. The orphanage itself is a mix of dorms, classrooms and a large open air dining hall. We were greeted by the Abbott who runs the orphanage and he called all the scholarship students up to the main room to “meet the guests”.

JWOC began to support Parahita Orphanage when past managing director, Jesse and our volunteer country director Tin, found it as they were delivering aid to the Delta Region after Cyclone Nargis. Structures had been damaged, rice stores had been destroyed and the number of children needing the orphanage almost doubled overnight.



JWOC Scholarship students in Myanmar

We felt that JWOC could continue, after its immediate emergency aid, to continue to support the Abbott and his efforts in providing the students a safe and comfortable place to live and an education that could help get them out of the poverty most of them grew up in. The form our future assistance took was scholarships. We now sponsor 11 scholarship students, all of whom live at the orphanage attend university in Yangon.

As the young women and one young man entered the main hall you could see how nervous they were. Until they saw Callie and Couper that is, then all shyness was forgotten as they played with the kids, taught them some Burmese words and then took them outside to meet the residents of the orphanage. It is in fact this caring nature that makes their scholarships possible as, like in Cambodia, all the students commit 5 to 10 hours a week to giving back to the community. In this case, our students are the dorm moms, the caregivers and just general love and support for the kids at the orphanage.

It was a heartwarming experience to hear what each student was studying, from Zoology to Burmese History and to hear what they hoped to achieve in their lives. Like many of our students in Cambodia, they often don't know how far they can go and the possibilities that are opening up for them. What was apparent is their commitment to each other and the other students in the orphanage, they truly embody the JWOC spirit as they empower themselves through education, but make sure to always turn around and help the next person up!



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.

- Our **Free Classes Programme** has taken a huge step forward with the construction of the new classrooms, community library and computer classroom. We are looking for donations to support the ongoing costs of our free classes where hundreds of poor students have the opportunity to study every week.
- As we continue to help entire communities with our **Clean Water Project** throughout the year, we are always in need of support so that we can provide new wells, repairs, maintenance, filters and hygiene materials and training as well as making sure that the water is safe through water testing.

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!