

JOURNEYS WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY



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

*JWOC Newsletter
December 2011
Dry Season Issue*



One of the children who benefited from JWOC's emergency flood relief work. When flooding hit Sien Reap Province JWOC was able to provide help to some of the communities most in need. See inside for more details.

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How you can help

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

What does it mean to you?

*"To me it means"
....addressing ongoing problems with-
in JWOC's areas of expertise rather
than trying to "fix" everything, using
a range of resources and workable
sustainable solutions for local people
and communities.
Jackie, Education Manager*



Welcome!

Dear JWOC supporter

It's the end of another successful year for JWOC and I really can't believe how quickly the time has flown by. This year was an important one for me as it was my first full year with JWOC. Seeing the projects and team grow and develop has been wonderful and I can't wait to see what will happen in 2012!

Some of the highlights this year have been-

- opening the new community library
- seeing new staff and scholarship students blossom and thrive
- bringing clean water to 3800 people
- hosting the first scholarship reunion party
- reaching 700 students a week attending the school

To learn more about our achievements in 2011 look out for the Annual Report next month.

Unfortunately 2011 will also be remembered as the year of the flooding. Flooding affected much of Cambodia, bringing not only immediate problems but also future ones. JWOC launched its appeal for funding in October and almost immediately donations came in from far and wide- thank you to all! I also need to express my huge gratitude to all of the staff, scholarship students and volunteers who worked extra hours in difficult conditions to make sure we could deliver the needed help.

Even with the flooding our projects continued to grow and excel. In this edition of the newsletter you will learn more about the success of the Back to School appeal, see how the Microfinance Project is changing, understand the next step in our response to the floods as well as get round ups from all the projects.

Before I finish I want to take a moment to thank everyone who contributed their time, expertise and donations to help JWOC make a difference in 2011. We literally could not do what we do without you.

With best wishes

Nicola



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

What does it mean to you?

*"To me it means"
....wherever and whenever we see
a problem happening, we will try
to solve that problem however
hard it is.
Sareth, Scholarship Student*



PROJECT FOCUS- MICROFINANCE

During 2011 the Microfinance Project has evolved to better serve the community. Taking the feedback given in the impact assessments we made adjustments to the project processes to...

- (1) make the loan process smoother and quicker, meaning people take less time away from their businesses and families
- (2) make the loans available to more people, by relaxing some of the restrictions
- (3) take the loan process to those who cannot travel to JWOC because of children or lack of transport
- (4) make the borrowing fairer by allowing for diminishing interest.

We also made adjustments to the running of the project too, with greater emphasis on training for the team, use of specialist microfinance accounting software and successfully reduced transportation costs. All of these mean the project runs more effectively and efficiently.



The **Microfinance Plus** part of the project continues to do well and 2011 saw a record number of subsidized filters sold. The filters are sold for \$4 and provide an immediate solution to clean water provision with no running costs.



The new Microfinance team. The team receive regular training in both JWOC's methodology as well as general microfinance theory and practice giving them good grounding for finding employment in Cambodia's growing microfinance industry in the future

THE PROJECT IN NUMBERS-

- **401** loans distributed so far
- **20%** of borrowers have a small grocery store
- **18%** collect and sell recyclable materials
- **22%** sell cooked food
- the average loan size is \$131
- **92%** of borrowers are female
- we loan to borrowers in **7** villages, with **36%** living in the squatters' village, Teaksen Tbong, next to JWOC
- the project is implemented by **one** project manager plus **24** scholarship student volunteers



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

What does it mean to you?

*"To me it means"
... it's the most simple and efficient motto. It means finding the most down to earth solutions to let the people we help to build a new life filled with new perspectives.
Jacques Boudon, Volunteer*



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

What does it mean to you?

*"To me it means"
... that JWOC plays an important role of helping poor people in our communities through providing loan for business and providing free education, hygiene and sanitation which is much needed for their lives.
Somath, JWOC Librarian*



SPECIAL REPORT- RESPONDING TO THE FLOODS

In September and October prolonged flooding hit Siem Reap Province. Through support from our donors and commitment from our staff and volunteers JWOC was able to offer assistance during the emergency. In order to have the greatest impact we focused our efforts on two main goals- reducing disease risk for children and getting safe water to our rural village.



EMERGENCY RELIEF IN NUMBERS

We distributed-

- 350 mosquito nets
- 303 nutritious lunches
- 362 bottles of liquid antiseptic
- 320 packets of chlorine tablets
- 300 kilos of rice
- ...and fixed one road!



What happens next?

The long term recovery project will start next month. The tasks and objectives of this new team will be varied but always in line with the real needs of the communities we work with. This project will work in communities where many families were already living near the poverty line. The impact of the flooding has the potential to push families into a situation where they are no longer able to cope. The project will provide direct and indirect support to allow families to go beyond just survival.

In many areas floodwaters washed away the roads making it impossible to get to villages apart from on foot. By organizing a food for work scheme JWOC was able to-

- provide some income to families who had lost their normal rice harvesting work due to the damage done to the crops,
- access the village of Brasat Char to continue its Clean Water work and
- make the road safer and easier for all who need to move between the villages for work, school or family.



Providing lunch at JWOC's 'dry haven' kept children out of the unsafe water and also ensured they had at least one meal a day and distributing health advice and resources helped families keep themselves healthy.



SOUTHEAST ASIA FOCUS- BACK TO SCHOOL

Through generous donor support our Back to School appeal provides teachers with access to materials to make classes more interesting and effective. The materials purchased under the Back to School appeal help our teachers meet the different learning needs and preferences of our students. Teachers can incorporate a variety of activities into lessons which is a welcome change to the sit, listen, copy and repeat approach that is often taken in state school.



Mini white boards are an invaluable, multi-purpose teaching resource. In Kindergarten, children use them to practice drawing shapes and numbers, in our English classes they are used to play spelling games and they are regularly part of training sessions for all of the projects.

Once you begin to hand out uniforms at Phik Noy Primary School you instantly see how these small donations benefit the students. All of the student's families are barely able to afford one uniform for the student to wear every day for school. Providing two new uniforms and shoes is not only necessary for attendance at the school, but it gives the students a sense of pride and belonging. You can actually witness those benefits in their smiles when they receive their new uniforms and shoes.



A set of flashcards for one of our children's courses. Flashcards are used to elicit language, for games and to support an explanation or description.



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

What does it mean to you?

“To me it means”

...if you find a big problem that you can't solve by yourself you should find help. If someone can help you it means "the dry grass gets water".

Vibol, Scholarship Student



PROJECT UPDATES

SCHOLARSHIPS

Across Southeast Asia there are now 96 JWOC scholarship students! Since October the students have been learning and volunteering- starting an exciting and life changing journey. We also had great summer success with all final year students successfully graduating.

Below- the Laos team, including the four new students, pose together with Country Director Nicole.



FREE CLASSES- We have the highest ever number of enrolled students, plus additional students also attending Conversation Class and Art Class!

CLEAN WATER

Just this month we finished working with Brasat Char village. Brasat Char was the most inaccessible and disadvantaged rural village we have worked with. This has meant that at times it has been difficult, but the difference we have been able to make is immense- 1612 people now have easy, year round access to clean, safe water.



SEWING LOANS

A collaboration between the Free Classes Project and the Micro-finance Project means students graduating from our sewing course can now take a sewing machine on loan along with a small cash loan to get their micro sewing businesses off the ground. The picture shows Chunli with his new machine- he now has a small tailoring business making men's shirts.

How you can help JWOC

There are several ways you can help JWOC...

- Become a fan on **Facebook**- help spread the word by becoming a fan of our page.
- **Sign up** to make a monthly contribution of \$20 – we love regular donations!
- Send friends and family **JWOC Gifts** – special gifts that give twice.
- Register with **iGive.com/JWOC** – we'll get money when you shop and search online.
- Make a donation to our projects- check the **website** to choose which project you'd like to support.

