

JOURNEYS WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY



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

JWOC Newsletter
July 2012
Rainy Season Issue



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Children show off their new well! We recently finished working in Antangkun village where these children live. Since starting its village centered approach to clean water JWOC has completed 12 full villages bringing easily accessible safe water to thousands.

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

What does it mean to you?

"To me it means"
...we are all living the same society and community so when someone have problem and need any help we have to find possible solution to solve that problem- at the right time and in the right place
Sovann, Free Classes Student



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

What does it mean to you?

"To me it means"
...helping when the people meet any problem. First we help them and show them new experience and knowledge and after they can help themselves for changing their life. I think it is a good phrase!
Machai, Scholarship Student



Welcome!

Dear JWOC Supporter

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2012! In this issue you'll find updates and stories from our work so far this year plus a look ahead to activities for the rest of 2012.

Here in Cambodia, we're at the beginning of the rainy season and while the showers bring a welcome relief from heat they do remind us of the prolonged floods of last year. Our recovery efforts in villages affected by the flooding are continuing through the newly established Community Liaison and Assistance Project. Inside this newsletter there's a special report on the home vegetable garden activities that are taking place in rural communities in Siem Reap Province to help improve food security and incomes.

In this edition you'll also find out about our exciting new initiative with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport to bring clean water to schools. Using what we have learnt from working with communities we have been able to make a strong partnership for lasting change in the primary and kindergarten schools of Siem Reap. While working with schools we will also continue to work in rural areas- we are starting our 13th full village this month.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Jackie, who has been working as our Education and Volunteer Manager for the past year and welcome to Alex who will be taking over the role. Jackie has been instrumental in strengthening our work in children's and early years education and we are excited to continue the classes and procedures she has put in place.

I've now been with JWOC for over 18 months, something I can hardly believe as the time as flown by. It really is a wonderful place to work; I have a committed and talented team who believe in making a difference. I look forward to writing to you again in 6 months to let you know how our new initiatives have progressed.

With best wishes

Nicola



SPECIAL REPORT- HOME VEGETABLE GARDENS

After the flooding we carried out surveys to make sure we targeted our efforts correctly- these found one of the major needs was sufficient food. With fewer employment opportunities and higher food prices families were struggling to get enough to eat.

To help address this issue JWOC started its Home Vegetable Gardens activities in April. In this villagers are given the training, seeds, tools and importantly, the confidence they need to start vegetable gardens at home. By focusing on small scale production even the poorest families without farmland can benefit. The vegetables grown will enhance the families' diets and any surplus crop can be sold or swapped to generate additional income.



The activities will cover five rural villages and make use of the expertise of Mr Ean a renowned farmer and trainer. The training is practical and designed specifically for those who may not have completed many years of school. We've received positive feedback from our first three villages on Mr Ean's training style and commitment.

The first partner village was Peam, where the first vegetables, the string beans, are now coming close to harvesting. We will be monitoring the amount of vegetables harvested so we can pin point the best varieties to grow for maximum yield.



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

What does it mean to you?

"To me it means"
... if we do not solve the problems they will become bigger. So we should be a team and discuss and understand the concept of the problem and solve it in a positive way to best of our resources and ability.
Sarann, Scholarship Student



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

What does it mean to you?

"To me it means"
... whenever we see the problem we need to try on our best to find the solution in order to prevent it to happening again and again. JWOC does this by assist the community in different ways
Sreylin, Scholarship Student



PROJECT FOCUS - CLEAN WATER FOR SCHOOLS

On the 12th June JWOC signed a partnership agreement with the Siem Reap office of the Cambodian Ministry of Education Youth and Sport (MoEYS) to provide primary and kindergarten schools with a clean water solution. 32 in-need schools were identified, totaling 13,143 students in 317 classes. The initiative will give easy access to clean, safe water for each child while they are in school.



For this initiative with the ministry JWOC is following its tried and tested approach that has been successful in working with partner villages. This means that contracts will be in place with both the ministry and individual schools, that the ministry will make a financial and time contribution and that there will be a strong commitment to training.



The Clean Water team have already been out to inspect and map all the existing water sources- finding many broken or missing.



To find out more about this initiative take a look at our blog post. We still need funding for 7 schools. If you can help, please donate here.



PROJECT UPDATES



Free Classes

Our Community Library has now been open for 18 months and has gone from strength to strength. With over 100 visitors per day it is a busy but inviting place for children and young adults to learn, read and play

Community Liaison and Assistance

Through its liaison work JWOC was able to help three people to attend a life-changing Operation Smile clinic in Banteay Meachey. Although these clinics are free people often do not have means or confidence to attend them- JWOC can provide both financial and moral support.



Scholarships

This year we hope to award 27 new scholarships to deserving students. JWOC Scholarships change lives - not only of the students themselves but also of their families and the people they help through their volunteering. To find out more read Borey's story here.



Free Classes

JWOC now has a specialized classroom for our new Under 8s classes. Each day 64 young learners take part in fun and creative lessons covering literacy and language learning.

Clean Water

Our recent impact assessment in Brasat Char showed that 6 months after finishing our work there 90% of families are still using their water filter every day and 100% of wells are still functioning.



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Solve a Problem.....

What does it mean to you?

"To me it means"

It is not just a matter of recognising problems in a community, but instead it is about acknowledging these problems and then actively working with the local people towards positive change and finding sustainable solutions.

Alex, Education and Volunteer Manager



SOUTHEAST ASIA FOCUS

JWOC's projects in Laos and Myanmar may be smaller than those in Cambodia but they still make a great difference for those involved!

Young adults from Mingala orphanage in Myanmar have the opportunity to study at university, something that would usually be beyond their dreams. This opportunity not only gives them a qualification but also increased confidence and independence



The scholarship students in Myanmar run fun activities at the orphanage at the weekends to boost the younger children's creativity.



JWOC's support of Phik Noi Primary School, Laos, has improved the quality and quantity of classes available in the village.

In Luang Prabang, Laos, the children's English classes are a popular activity. These classes give the younger children a chance to learn and also give the scholarship students valuable experience as teachers.



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.

