



Empowering families and children to effect lasting change..... community by community

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## ***Library Comes Alive as a Colorful Resource Center Where Students Learn Together!***

### **Dear Sponsors,**

Thank you for helping to make a huge difference in the lives of Cambodian children and their families. All of us together - the sponsors, the families, Rotarians from around the world, Sustainable Cambodia Australia, and our dedicated SC staff and international volunteers - are working to help village families and children improve their quality of life with healthy water, nutritious food, health care, education, and sustainable income generation. With your great support, we can help more than 4,500 children from preschool through university to enrich their educations and to succeed in their lives.



***Kangaroo Club students are active leaders in our school!***





For our students, libraries can be a place to learn and grow with a whole world of different subjects and stories, right at their fingertips. Over the years, thousands of kindly donated books on fantastically diverse subjects have been squeezed together onto our library shelves. All that our library needed was the vision and experience to transform this special space into a lively resource center. With easier access to books and new interactive activities, our students can grow as independent and group learners. Everyone can be an explorer through the magic of books!

The great news is that volunteer Julie Johnson, recently retired from the University of Florida, was just that person to lead the way. A lifelong educator and literacy trainer, Julie was onsite with to lead the Reading ~ Writing Workshops for our teachers. As soon as Julie saw the huge potential of our library, she and a tireless group of Youth Club members, teachers and volunteers got to work! We are amazed by the transformation that took place. Our students are now eagerly running to the library to read their favorite books and to discover new books that they have never seen before. The students' attendance and their study results are already improving. It's amazing what books can do.



*Kangaroo* Kim Chou and Horm Setha helping to sort the books into groups.

Both students are active members of the school Youth Club that is modeled after the Rotary Interact Clubs.

As President, Chou and the club organize wonderful service projects in the Pursat community.

**Sorting books, labeling and adding Khmer translations!**





Vet Bora carefully writing the Khmer words beside the English words to help readers teach themselves

Books that  
display the  
covers  
"facing out"  
attract  
young  
readers!





# Children smile with their new library!



Our  
librarian  
Sengkea  
engages  
students in  
reading  
circles and  
Magnetic  
Word Play!



*A library is an ocean of knowledge. Both students and teachers benefit highly from the library.*

Reading opens up doors to other worlds for students and improves their knowledge and vocabulary. And reading is a great hobby for students in between their classes. Sometimes students can get additional materials to support their study and sometimes they get easy methods to help solve their homework.



Julie (center) and our teachers after the training on how to use the library effectively



Now, our once-challenged library is an energized learning oasis. Julie demonstrated the art of sorting and the effective use of brightly colored book bins, each with a specific label in Khmer and English for guidance in the new library layout. With only a few minutes left before it was time to return to Florida, Julie and her helpers completed the shelves of book bins based on the subjects: Real-Life (Social Science, People, Geography), Science (Earth and Space, Animals, the Human Body), Khmer Books, Stories and Folk Tales, Poetry, Word Walls and Alphabet Books, Teacher Resources, Learning Charts, and Resource Books for advanced studies.

Pictured left:

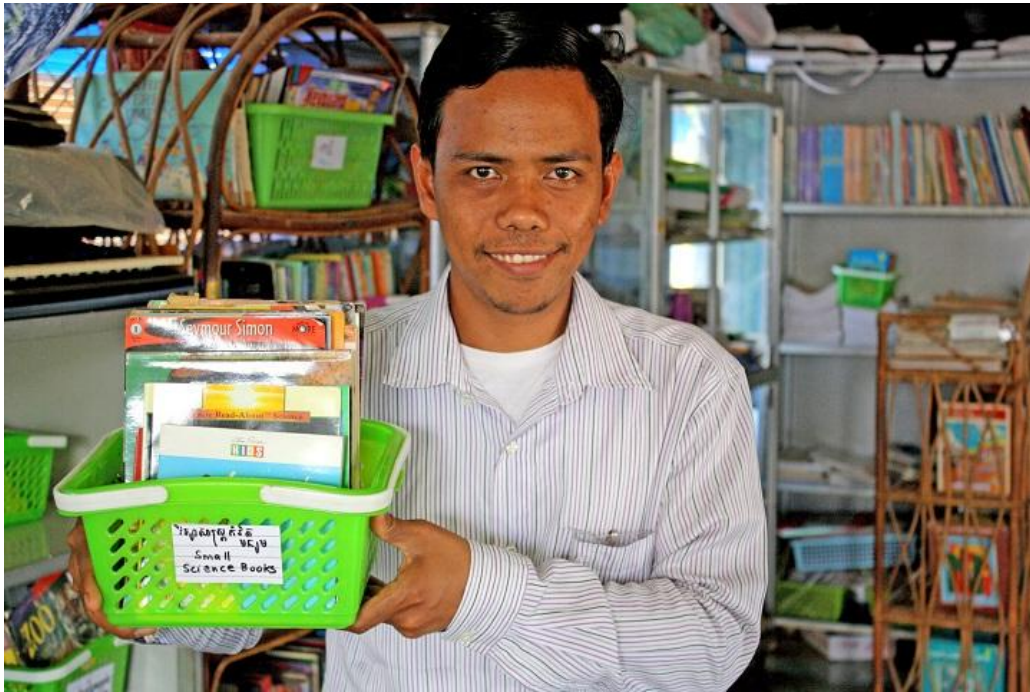
Allan Lewins visits with his sponsored Kangaroos Sophilita and Molyna during a recent trip to Pursat. Allan and scores of Rotarian sponsors have contributed to our outstanding library. Allan and Glynn Schragger also helped to build a network of Rotarians and friends who sponsor the remarkable Kangaroo Club of 80 students and 14 University Scholars!





Our students and teachers now use our *SABAY LIBRARY* as a great resource.





"Hello! My name is Mono. I am a teacher of English with Sustainable Cambodia/ Australia. I have been working here for two years. I am delighted to see the improvement of our library. Thank you very much to Julie for reorganizing our library into categories so that it is easier for us and the students to find our interesting books."



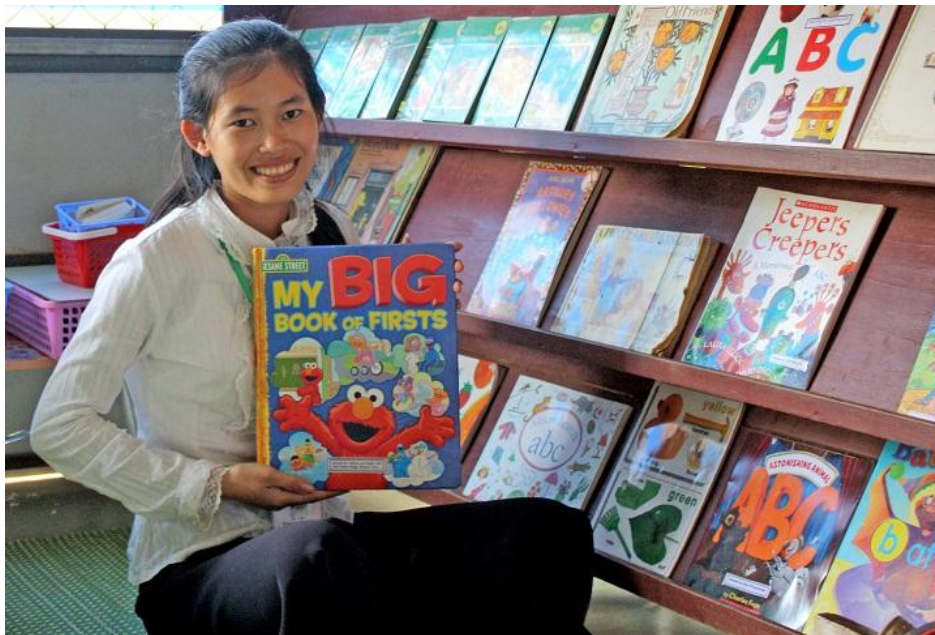
More and more students love reading books in the library.



Our library plays an important role in promoting the progress of learning and improves our students' study results and their social skills.



"Hello, teachers and all! My name is Chroeng Sopheaktra and *I am Kangaroo!* This year I am studying in grade 7. I have come to study at SC since 2009. Thank you Julie for making our library more beautiful. I love non-fiction books and I can now find them very easily. My friends and I love coming to read books in the library so much."



"Hello Everyone! My name is Sengkea and I am a librarian here at SC. I would like to say thank you very much to Julie for making our library an interesting place for our students and teachers. I have noticed that more teachers and students love coming to read books in the library more often, and they can find their favorite books very easily. Other teachers and I have taught our students on how to find and well use their

interesting books. Thank you Julie once again for making this library attractive and useful to everyone. I will try to look after this library very well like what Julie suggested us to do."



*Many thanks to all of our supporters for the New Library!  
It inspires the children to love reading!*



Special thanks to our supporter Julie, Sustainable Cambodia Australia, to TC Swartz and Starquest Expeditions, to Kleine Hilfsaktion Foundation, Animas Environmental, and to Rotary and Rotarians throughout the world, and to our wonderful child sponsors and University Scholarship Sponsors from all over the world. Without all of you, none of this would be possible!

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**Sustainable Cambodia (SC) is an internationally supported grass-roots not-for-profit organization, led by dedicated Cambodian staff with help from international volunteers, and with support from child sponsors and Rotary Clubs from all over the world.**

SC works with rural Cambodian villages to help them achieve sustainability and self-sufficiency. Sustainable Cambodia was co-founded by Rotarians, and active Rotarians make up a majority of Sustainable Cambodia's governing Board of Directors. SC aligns its values with those of Rotary International, including RI's ideals of empowerment, peace through understanding, world service and community service. We apply Rotary's effective "Four-Way Test" to ethical issues. Our model is unique in several ways:

- Only native Cambodians are employed as paid staff, and all international officers, directors and consultants are unpaid volunteers, ensuring that 100% of funding goes directly into the rural village programs.
  - We are an empowerment organization rather than an "Aid" organization. We provide resources, assistance, training and education to the community, empowering families to revitalize their community and economy.
  - Our approach is broad-based, including schooling for children, safe village drinking water, irrigation systems, alternative agriculture, vocational education, micro-business and healthcare.
  - In return for the assistance, each family commits to helping surrounding villages: We not only "teach them how to fish," but teach them to teach others how to fish.
- While we currently work in central Cambodia, our vision is for this empowerment model to spread across Cambodia, and ultimately to grow into other countries.