



CAMBODIAN KIDS FOUNDATION

**Empowering the  
future of Cambodia  
Annual Report 2018/19**





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## How It Started?

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Donna and Sam Cooper travelled to Cambodia in 2006, hoping to spend a couple of weeks helping out an orphanage, as so many other volunteer - tourists do.

They fell in love with the country and the people, but were horrified by some of the orphanages and other aid organisations that were working there.

They decided to start their own foundation and run it the right way. The entire Cooper family jumped on board, and with the help of the Woodend community, they started raising funds to build all of the amazing projects that exist today.

# What Do We Want?

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**There are many issues that need to be corrected for Cambodia to become a better place. There is a general lack of education, poor health and low income. This comes from poor schools, hospitals and infrastructure in general, which in turn is caused by poor government. As you follow the problem up to the highest level, it becomes evident that we need to attack the problem at the source by creating better leaders.**

The way we see it, there is only one way to tackle this unique problem. First, we help the locals to raise their children up with good values, show them the issues that their country is facing and encourage them to strive to make a difference in their world. Make it clear to them that they are capable of making a change to their own country.

Next we give them all the tools they need to achieve great things. We support our students through school and university until they are able to reach those positions where they can make a big impact.

Whatever they choose to do and wherever they choose to go, they'll still be doing good things at a community or family level because they believe in the idea that it is everyone's responsibility to improve our world. And they will have the ability to create a better life for themselves because the education they have earned will have opened up more opportunities.

All we want is for more good people to have more opportunities to do something good.

# What Makes Us Different?

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**There are a thousand and one reasons that make CKF stand out from the rest, but they usually come back to one key factor - that everyone involved is a 100% volunteer.**

Why is that significant? Because nobody involved in CKF has a vested interest or agenda, except the common love for the people of Cambodia and the desire to make a difference to their lives. You can trust CKF because all we care about is helping the children. If we didn't, we wouldn't be here.

Some other organisations, particularly those with paid employees, can have a tendency to draw out projects and create new work by over-complicating things.

The sad truth is, poverty has become an industry, and many people who are supposed to be working to end it, are actually relying on it for a job. They might never end poverty, because nobody is truly willing to work themselves out of a job.

CKF thinks differently - In Cambodia, the buck stops with us. Success will come the day that we are no longer needed.

# Where Are We?

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All of our projects are based in Cambodia - Predominantly, in Soksan Village in Kampong Thom province and in the capital city Phnom Penh. We also have smaller projects in other provinces, but these are generally not ongoing.

Whilst our hearts are in Cambodia, CKFs home is in Australia. Woodend, and the Macedon Ranges, is where CKF began, and it is where 90% of our support base, and much of our funding, comes from.

CKF is a deeply ingrained part of the Macedon ranges community and we are very grateful for their help. We now have a growing support base in Australia outside the Macedon Ranges, and globally we have supporters in the USA, Germany, Canada and Singapore, amongst other places.



# What We Do

## Soksan International School (SIS)

Our major project, SIS, has over 200 students studying 5 days a week. Our curriculum is Inquiry-based, which means it's student directed, depending on what they are interested in and what they want to learn about. We also have an ever-growing range of electives, such as: IT, Dance, Music, Media, Phys. Ed., Cooking, Tournament of Minds, Photography, Art, Textiles and more.

We are giving our students, not just a place to learn, but the skills they will need to continue their learning throughout life – Computer and Internet skills, research and reading ability, critical thinking, healthy skepticism, etc

But above all, we believe that it is important to instill good values in our students. Compassion, respect, community-mindedness and persistence are among our core values.

## Medical Program

Our small medical centre in Soksan Village provides basic medical care to over 300 people who would otherwise simply go without. We treat what we can, and for more serious problems, we take the patients to hospitals/clinics and cover all of the costs. We have people who are now being treated for TB, Epilepsy and HIV, who were previously not receiving any treatment at all. The bottom line is, there are dozens of people alive today who otherwise would not be.

## Women's Health

CKF has developed a partnership with Marie Stopes International to provide high quality medical treatment to hundreds of women. We also provide monthly women's health sessions and cover important topics such as: contraception, personal hygiene, STIs and more. We also provide clean underwear and sanitary napkins to all women in our local community.



# Employment and Training

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## **ONE: Day Spa & Salon**

The students or women who started at ONE have now either left to get married or start their own business and those who have stayed have now gone on to become the teachers at the SPA.



## **Soksan Community Garden**

Soksan Garden is now fully run by our school. We teach to grow veg to sell at the market and use the veg to share but most importantly we cook it for our children every day. Morning Glory has huge benefits for our children.

## Other

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### **Family and Emergency Assistance**

This is a broad project that doesn't really have any specific boundaries.

Where possible, we try to support the families of our students and staff and any other people we are involved with. This can include: building houses, interest-free micro loans, rescuing children from trafficking, helping out with funerals/weddings -

Potentially anything that we need to do to make sure that our students are able to have the best opportunity for success.

A significant part of this program is our Soksan Village Safe House - A safe place for families or individuals in dangerous situations

# My Story: Sim

## A true story

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Hi My name is Sim. I have a big story but I'm only little. I'm 15 now, my birthday is 17th March 2003 . I remember the day I came to SIS with my grandma and grandpa. I was so scared I wanted to just cry but I didn't. I remember Dons saying we don't take children we are not an orphanage, we are a school we teach children. I was happy when I heard that because I wanted to go back to my village with my grandparents. My mother died when I was 6 months old. I don't know why maybe after having me I think. My father cant hear or speak and he never looked after me or never cared about me. He died this year but that's ok. Sometimes I lived with my auntie, sometimes I lived with my grandparents. I love my grandparents and I love to go back to visit them when I can.

So back to that day I came to the school, Dons kept saying NO NO NO and then she said please excuse me for 5 minutes. I know she cried big tears because she was so sad for me, She went to see Jack and Jack said Mum just say yes you always wanted lots of children we should give her a family.

So when Dons walked back into the room she said ok yes I'll take her. She didn't even know my name, my real name is Simhor but Dons always calls me Sim then everyone just called me Sim and now my name is Sim Cooper. I love my name Sim Cooper. I love my family. Now I have Dons my mum and E my dad but I

don't see him much as he lives in Australia. Jack and MC my brothers and Indi and Boara my brothers and Sam my sister. They all love me so much and I love them.

But when I first got to the school it wasn't like that I wanted to go home to my village. I was scared of Dons and Jack. Then Dons had to go to Australia and I only had Jack. I was really sick and Jack took care of me. Never before did someone take care like that I knew he was a good boy and I thought I was going to be ok but I didn't talk I was just quiet always. When Dons got back she bought Indi. I loved Indi and wanted to talk to him so I tried to speak English to talk to Indi and when he left he would write to me and I had to learn to read English so I could read his messages and then I could write back to him. In 3 months, I could speak and read English so fast because I wanted to talk to Indi. Sam would send messages to me because Sam and indi live in Australia.

At first, I was still sad because I wanted to talk to Dons and my brothers and Sam all the time. I didn't like it when Mishcam came because Dons was too busy so I was not nice to them and a bit grumpy and naughty. But Dons told me if I wanted to be a Cooper I have to be a good girl and help the Mishcam. Dons said if you want to go back to the village go. I was so sad and cried. But she said if you want to stay and just live in the school I can. Or I can be a Cooper in the family

but if I wanted to be a Cooper I had to be a good girl and help people and really take care and love the Mishcam who came to help us. Dons told me to go and think a lot she said. I didn't want to be sad and grumpy I wanted to be a good girl and help people so I told Don, sorry I want to stay and I promise I'll be a good girl and be like the Cooper family, they all help people and so nice.

I started to be a teacher even I was 12 years old now. I could teach the little children. Dons didn't allow me to go to public school but I wanted to go. She said no because the teachers at public school hit the children and yell at them and Dons said no one can hit me or yell at me so I can't go. I taught my class in the morning and went to Georges class in the afternoon and then Dons class in the night time. I learnt so much and my English was getting better and better now I can speak to everyone and Dons, Jack and MC gave me a job to help the Mishcam too. I got a sponsor and my sponsor is Pete and his family. Dons said I had a very special family but I have never met them so its like I have 3 families, my grandparents, the Cleary Family and my big favorite the Cooper family.

This year I turned 15 years old and Dons said I'm strong now and its time for me to go to school. I dreaded to leave SIS school and got to live with Jack at Jack's home in Phnom Penh and go to a very good private school in Phnomh Penh. I love to live with Jack and Srey Touch and my

niece and nephew Khemi and Oscar and Jack. Srey Touchs family member live with us too, she is the same as me and we go to school together. We are family and friends. When I knew I was going to go to Phnom Penh to live I cried because I didn't want to leave my brother MC, he is my great brother I love him. I thought he would be lonely without MC but Dons said he is 26 years old and a big boy and I need to think about what is best for me so I decided to go to Phnom Penh.

So now I am in Phnom Penh and I go to school and I help my brother Jack to play with Khemi and Oscar and when the Mishcam comes I help to prepare everything and help them go to the killing fields and to ONE our day spa and help with cooking and help everything to help our family. Dons says I'm only little but I can help a lot.

When I grow bigger and older when I finish my school I'm going to be a teacher like Jack and MC and maybe I'm going to be a doctor like my brother Indi or maybe I will work in Sewgood with Dons and Sam. I don't know, Jack and Dons say I can do anything I want but I only know one thing I want to choose the job that helps our family and help the children in our village and at SIS. I am a good girl and I am happy to help.

I'm going to Pete and Charlie this year and I'm going to say thank you for them helping me. I have today because the Cleary and my Cooper family. I'm a lucky girl. Some girls in Cambodia are not lucky like me so I'm going to help when I get big that's my promise. That's the end of my story to now but I have lots more story coming soon.

**By Sim Cooper**



***When I finish my school  
I'm going to be a teacher***

# What Is Sponsorship All About?

CKF has a child sponsorship program to help us cover the costs of our projects. The cost is \$50 per month per child. This is the average cost to CKF to provide each student with free education 5 days a week and full medical care and nutrition.

All of the children in Soksan village receive the same care, regardless of whether they are sponsored or not, but we hope to be able to get each child sponsored, so that it alleviates the pressure on our funding for other projects.

No children are sponsored more than once, except in extraordinary circumstances where a child might have especially high medical costs, etc. But this would always be discussed with the sponsors first.

Sponsors receive regular correspondence with their sponsor children which usually includes photos, a letter or drawing from the child. Where possible we also like to keep the sponsors informed about their child's progress at school. Sponsors are

welcome to send letters and photos to their child, but everything must be screened by our CKF staff first. Also our children are not told that this person in particular pays money for them, but they are introduced as "your special friend in Australia". Sponsors are also able to meet their child if they go on a MishCam trip.

We also have project sponsorship available, which ranges from \$30-\$500 p/m depending on the project.

Sponsorship covers a huge part of our monthly costs and is one of the keys to CKFs sustainability into the future. We are hoping to double our sponsorships by the end of the year.

## Current Sponsorship Figures

# 139

Monthly sponsors

# \$8,500 p/m

Total income from sponsorship

## Our Target for 2018

# 150

Monthly sponsors

# \$10,000 p/m

Total income from sponsorship

If you have any questions or comments in regards to our financial reports, please get in touch with today.

[info@cambodiankidsfoundation.org](mailto:info@cambodiankidsfoundation.org)

# What Is MishCam?

**Mission: Cambodia (aka “MishCam”) is CKF’s very own hands-on volunteer trip. Just ask any past MishCammer and they will tell you it is one of the greatest experiences of their lives.**

The trip brings serious hands-on volunteering together with a relaxing holiday and some sightseeing as you travel across Cambodia.

The trips are tailor-made depending on the group that is going and the skill base of the volunteers in each group. We do construction, medical assistance, teaching, training, designing, planning - Whatever it is you’re good at, that’s what you can help us with.

We have had school groups, team-building trips for businesses, schoolies groups and other groups that are open to public. We don’t discriminate, anyone can join as long as they are good people and want to help Cambodia!

MishCam costs \$1500 per person for two weeks. This includes all ground costs (accommodation, food, transport, entry tix, etc) but doesn’t include airfares to Cambodia. All MishCam volunteers must also fundraise at least \$1200 before joining the trip. This money goes toward the running of our projects, but also serves as a commitment from our volunteers that they are genuine and dedicated to helping the cause, and that’s important to us.

## MishCam Figures

**\$1.2k** Raised for CKF by each volunteer

**\$16k** On average raised for CKF per trip

**1 per month** Number of MishCams needed to cover CKFs costs

**7 per year** Current number of trips on average



My name is Melissa, last year my husband and I took our five children on our first MishCam trip. We wanted our kids to be able to experience and understand life like the less fortunate children do, and at the same time we wanted to make a difference and donate our time and money to helping those kids. We had no idea of the impact this trip would have on our entire family. The Cambodian children opened our family’s hearts and eyes forever. We found true love and connection in a tiny village across the globe, and finally found a charity making visible, immeasurable impact. The entire community genuinely benefits from every MishCam trip, and what we thought we could do to help their people, came back to us tenfold. “I see now that you don’t need ‘stuff’ to be happy,” said my 11 year old son. “The kids are so happy, just with our friendship and knowing we are willing help them out.” There were so many moments like this I will treasure forever.

## What Can You Do?

Any promotion of MishCam that you can do would help enormously! Any leads or contacts at schools or other groups of people who might be interested would be a huge help to CKF. Better still, if you can approach them and get the ball rolling, then let us know so we can follow up. MishCam is a massive chunk of our funding, and many MishCammers don’t realise how much their trip helps our foundation.

If you are interested in volunteering with CKF, or want to join an open MishCam as an individual, please get in touch today.

**[info@cambodiankidsfoundation.org](mailto:info@cambodiankidsfoundation.org)**



# My Story: MC Cooper

**Director at Soksan  
International School**

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**One of his goals is to make sure that all students at SIS have the opportunity to develop as he has**

MC Cooper has been involved in the Cambodian Kids Foundation (CKF) in one way or another since its first beginnings. MC's start in life was tough, brought up in a violent family and growing up in the slums, he has been through more in his life than anyone should ever have to. Introduced to CKF and the Cooper family through a friend living in the slums, MC was asked to join CKF and teach sport and dance in the Foundation's first school.

Since then, MC has worked in many different roles for CKF and he is now pivotal in continuing the development of Soksan International School (SIS) and the future of the students that attend. MC speaks passionately about how CKF has changed his life and given him many opportunities to grow as a person. He has had his eyes opened to the world and exposed him to a wide range of people, but the most important thing to him is that the Cambodian Kids Foundation has given him a family and a home, something he has really never had!

One of his goals is to make sure that all students at SIS have the opportunity to develop as he has, and over 2019 he will be working closely with the staff in Soksan International School and CKF volunteers to ensure this happens.



# Income and Costs

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**We believe that our use of funding is as good as it could possibly be and we are very proud of that fact. The charts on the next few pages show our use of funds for the 2018/19 financial year.**

92.4% of our overall funding is used directly on projects on the ground in Cambodia, which is an impressive figure. Our preference has always been to minimise overheads in Australia, so that we can ensure that as much of the money donated as possible gets used where it is really needed. Of our administrative expenses, the majority goes towards a 3% administration fee from Rotary Australia, our umbrella organisation. While our goal is always to ensure the lowest possible administration expenditure, our partnership with Rotary Australia is invaluable and enables us to offer tax-deductibility to our generous donors.

Of the remaining overhead costs, it is all covered by various donors who have chosen to have their donations cover specific expenses. For example, we have had donors who sponsor our bank fees, admin costs, stationery needs, etc.

This all means that when someone makes a donation to CKF, since all of our overhead costs have already been covered, 100% of their donation goes straight to operating our programs in Cambodia. This is true for sponsorship, one-off donations and other fundraising activities.

# Where our Funding Comes From

Total Funding for 2018-19

# \$290 279

## Total Funding Breakdown



Project Type	Total
Bank Charges	\$1,865
General Expenses	\$5,444
Insurance	\$1,153
Office Expenses	\$219
Printing & Stationery	\$27
Travel & Accommodation	\$3,718
Telephone & Internet	\$150
Allocated to Projects in Cambodia	\$279 994
Deficit/Surplus	\$2, 293

A photograph of several young children in purple swimsuits playing in a blue inflatable pool. One child in the foreground is laughing joyfully. The background shows a concrete bench and some outdoor structures.

# Legal Stuff

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**Cambodian Kids Foundation, inc. has been an incorporated association and registered fundraiser in Australia, since 2007. CKF is also a registered NGO and educational institution in Cambodia.**

CKF is a project of Rotary International, which allows CKF to offer tax-deductibility for Australian donors.

CKF has public liability insurance, for events and fundraisers.

**Incorporated association No. A0050193B**

**ABN: 58 342 937 707**

**New Fundraising Registration No. 14258**

**Our official address is 128a High St,  
Woodend, Victoria, 3442**



# CKF Donations

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Donations to CKF are tax deductible, made possible by our relationship with Rotary International. Anyone who would like a tax invoice will need to mention it at the time of donation and get in contact with our treasurer at [ian@cambodiankidsfoundation.org](mailto:ian@cambodiankidsfoundation.org)

Donations to CKF can be made in a number of different ways depending on what works best for the donor.

## Paypal

Go to [www.cambodiankidsfoundation.org](http://www.cambodiankidsfoundation.org)  
Then click “donate” and follow the links.

## Credit Card

Call our treasurer Ian Cooper on 0407053964 during business hours and arrange a credit card transaction.

## In person (Cash, EFT, Credit)

Drop in to Color Me Cooper at 128a High St, Woodend or 4/9 Howe St, Daylesford. Donations can also be taken at any CKF event or fundraiser.

## Bank Transfer

Bendigo Bank  
BSB: 633-000  
Account number: 131748600

Be sure to leave your name as a reference to any donations, and let our treasurer know if you're expecting a tax invoice.

# What Are The Donations Used For?

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Generally, one off donations go directly into our projects in Cambodia as part of our monthly budget. It is possible to request a donation be put towards a particular use, so long as it is something within our current scope. As we have projects relating to education, medicine, hygiene, water, electricity, babies, adults and just about everything else, we are sure there is something that interests everyone.

If you have any particular requests for your donation, please contact:

[donna@cambodiankidsfoundation.org](mailto:donna@cambodiankidsfoundation.org)

# Goals Results for 2018-19

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## **School Development: GOAL ACHIEVED**

**This year we made development of our school premises and facilities a priority, as we tried to get our school finally finished!**

In January 2016, we finally finished our stadium, by installing rubber flooring to keep our children safe and healthy while they play. We also improved the sports facilities with new volleyball and basketball equipment. Thanks to the help of our Dec/Jan MishCam and a generous donation from Northbridge International School of Cambodia.

Our outdoor learning spaces continued to evolve and improve, with our garden becoming one of the busiest areas of the school. Whether it's being used for growing fresh produce, or just as a change of scenery for a class, the students love using the space.

We have also updated our technology throughout the school, with the installation of desktop computers and classroom projectors, thanks to a kind donation from Northbridge International School of Cambodia.

There remain a few more improvements we intend to make in the coming year, but we made great progress in improving our school facilities.

## **Stay Connected: NEEDS MORE WORK**

**This year we made it a focus to stay more connected with our sponsors and supporters in Australia.**

We made a lot of progress, and were able to deliver quarterly email newsletters to our sponsors. We have also been a lot more active on social media, running live updates and plenty of posts on Facebook.

We hope our sponsors have enjoyed the increased communications.

However, we think this still needs more work and are hoping to make even more progress next year, in particular by allowing more frequent sponsor updates, and fundraising & awareness events.

# Goals for 2019-20



## More MishCam

We have reviewed our MishCam program and have devised some strategies to make the experience even better, and hopefully attract more groups in the future.

MishCam trips bring essential volunteers to CKF to help us improve our projects, leaving a lasting impact.

MishCam also helps CKF raise much needed funds to keep the foundation running.



## Increase our reach

There is no doubt that the work CKF has been doing over the last 11 years has been hugely successful, and that hundreds of Cambodian families have been impacted in a significant way.

We are proud of the close relationship that we have built with the people we work with. We would like to improve upon this impact by extending our reach to even more people next year.

### This can be achieved through:

- Increase student enrolments each year from the wider community.
- More community outreach activities
- More student-led community improvement initiatives (clean-up days, volunteering, community awareness campaigns).



## Strengthening ONE

We would like to recognise the Zommer family who donated \$10,000 to enable us to finish the new ONE. Thank you Alfred and Margaret for your continued ongoing support.

Our vocational training project, ONE: Day Spa, has been a successful project over the past 5 years. But it is time to take the next step. We have just moved to a new, expanded and renovated premises, and we want to make the most of it!

We are planning to offer 10 new positions over the next 12 months to women in need of employment and looking to learn a new skill.

We will also be bringing in a few new expert teachers, to bring up the next wave of students in this project.

Find out more about ONE at [onecambodia.org](http://onecambodia.org)

# How Can You Help?

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CKF are doing some amazing things and though we work tirelessly week in, week out, we really do love it! But we can't do it alone, we do need your help. If you feel you have something to offer CKF, or you have thought about helping others but never really known how to go about it, then get in contact with us today.



## Sponsor a child or project

CKF has hundreds of students and dozens of projects across Cambodia, all of which require monthly funding for us to keep running. Sponsoring with CKF is a very personal experience and we try to match our sponsors with a child or project that matches them. Correspondence between donor and recipient is allowed, but is screened and monitored.

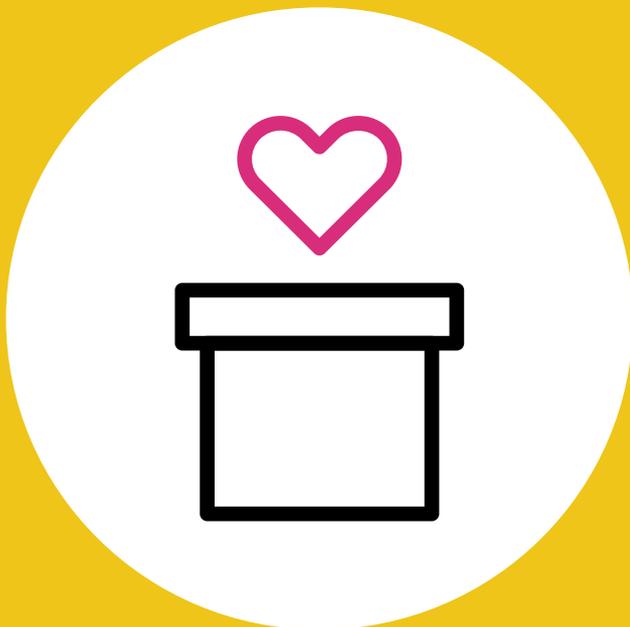
If you are interested in sponsorship, please contact:  
**[info@cambodiankidsfoundation.org](mailto:info@cambodiankidsfoundation.org)**



## Volunteer with us

Whether you are a long-term volunteer or looking to spend a couple of weeks seeing Cambodia and helping out, we would love to have you on board. Our MishCam trips run frequently and can cater for school groups, corporate team-building groups, or individuals.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact:  
**[info@cambodiankidsfoundation.org](mailto:info@cambodiankidsfoundation.org)**



## Fundraise for us

It's easier than you think to throw a sausage sizzle or crazy hat day, and the impact of a few dollars raised is immense. CKF relies on constant fundraising to keep us running, and if you have some time on your hands, or just a great idea for a fundraiser, get in touch and work with our CKF fundraising team.

If you are interested in fundraising, please contact:  
**[info@cambodiankidsfoundation.org](mailto:info@cambodiankidsfoundation.org)**



## Donate

We are all lucky, and a lot of us have more than we need, which is why it is important to give to others. Donations to CKF are tax-deductible, and since we have all of our administration costs covered by specific donors, 100% of your donation will go directly to our projects on the ground in Cambodia.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact:  
**[info@cambodiankidsfoundation.org](mailto:info@cambodiankidsfoundation.org)**  
or head to our website/ facebook to donate through paypal.



# Our Team

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## In Australia

In Australia, CKF is run entirely by volunteers - No one is paid for their time. Our board are an incredibly generous and committed bunch, who work only out of the common love of Cambodia and of helping people. We feel our team brings a broad skill set to CKF and we have created an effective governance structure.

Our Australian team is based mostly in Australia, however there is also some cross-over to give support on the ground to our Cambodian team.

### **Peter Cleary**

President

### **Jack Cooper**

Board Member

### **Donna Cooper**

Founder / Board Member

### **Sam Cooper**

Board Member

### **Indi Cooper**

Board Member

### **Helen O'Hare**

Board Member

### **Amber Armstrong**

Board Member

### **Mel Doughty**

Board Member

### **Ryan Doughty**

Board Member

### **Laura Ambrose**

Board Member

## In Cambodia

In Cambodia, CKF employs only local staff. We believe that not only do Cambodians have a superior local knowledge and understanding of the culture - making them much more efficient - but also by exclusively hiring local staff, the money we spend feeds back into the local economy and also instills a sense of pride, reinforcing our "Hand-up" philosophy. CKF would not be where we are today without the help of our amazing Cambodian team, working their butts off to help their country.

### **Socheat Touch**

Project Manager

### **Amnach Pheap**

Education Leadership Team

### **Ieng Sok**

Education Leadership Team

### **Kheang Prak**

Project Manager (ONE)

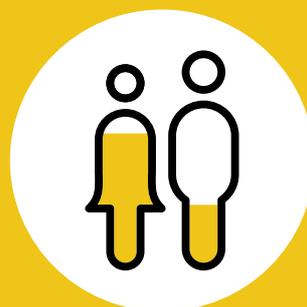
### **Somphose Brok**

Treasurer

# Demographics



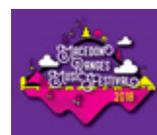
**51.2% of the students we help are girls**



**77% of CKF staff are Women**

# Major Partners

CKF would like to take the opportunity to thank our major sponsors. We love all of our supporters, but there are always the select few that go above and beyond. CKF is grateful for the continued support of these groups, and we hope we can continue to strengthen our partnerships into the future.







## Contact us



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