



A New Home

Eve Lacey

September 2008 has brought big changes for the children of NFC. And if they say that a change will do you good, then it is certainly true in this case! Change came in the form of bigger, better and more robust premises halfway between the children's primary and high schools. On the 24th of September children and staff alike began the process of relocating themselves and their belongings to the new site. Just 2 days later they were spending their first night under a new roof!



New Future for Children New Location!

However, the journey was not quite that straightforward. Work had actually begun on the new place back on 1st September. Previously home to World Vision, an International NGO, the building was in desperate need of repair and refurbishment before it could be considered a suitable home for 62 children. Some of the work needed to be done by contractors, who

were brought in for the construction of 6 new walls and the re-tiling of 2 floors. Another contractor did the electrical work, including the installation of new fans and lighting, installing grounding and cleaning up unused, but exposed, wiring.



The children and staff did a tremendous amount of work as well. They did the preparation work for and painting of all the interior walls and many ceilings using a total of 350 liters of paint in the process. They replaced broken glass doors with acrylic ones, cleared the yard, built a concrete pad for a washing area, cleaned floors and varnished woodwork and desks. The differences in the before and after pictures are striking!

The larger size of the new location has benefited the children in ways far greater than just the extra square footage. For the first time the new orphanage boasts an

interior kitchen, complete with three sinks and plenty of storage space for pots and pans. The kitchen looks out onto a raised pavilion under which the children can eat their meals free from the threat of flooding - in the previous location's eating area the children's feet were often dangling in 7 inches of dirty water during the rainy season.



New dedicated classroom!

In support of NFC's emphasis on, and commitment to, education the move has enabled, for the first time, the provision of a dedicated classroom. Due to space constraints, lessons had previously been taught in multiuse areas at the old site. The new classroom enables children to be taught in a focused, studious environment, without distractions.



New computer room!

Further rooms have also been set up to enhance the in-house educational programs; a computer room housing 5

computers provides a much larger and more pleasant IT area, enabling the children to develop their computer skills more effectively.

Ngoun Somoun, an orphan, grew up at NFC and has now graduated to become a staff member. He takes care of all NFC computer equipment and teaches computer classes in Khmer to the children. Somoun says, 'Teaching in Khmer allows much younger children to be able to study computers, preparing them at an earlier age for their future careers.'

Additionally, a room has been dedicated entirely to sewing, helping students, such as Chhoun Roth, to complete his full-time tailoring qualification. Sewing had previously been practiced on an outdoor balcony, as no interior space was available. Roth explained, 'It is useful to have the new sewing room because from this room I can teach the other children sewing, and also I can repair the children's clothes and make new clothes for the children and staff.'



New sewing room!

With so much change and progress made within such a short amount of time, it's exciting to see that plans for the new site are still ongoing, as Chris Merritt, consultant to the Director at NFC says, 'The move opens up exciting opportunities that were not available at the previous

location. The next development at the new site is planned to be an area to teach the older children to cook for themselves. It will be located on the top deck.

25 New Zealand Visitors

Chris Merritt & Cheat Hean

Just a week after the NFC move, 25 New Zealand high school students and adult chaperones visited NFC, and helped initiate the new location by performing Maori traditional songs and teaching the children at NFC the Haka, a Maori traditional ritual dance and song. Afterwards, the children at NFC reciprocated by performing traditional Khmer dance and music followed by break dancing.

Everyone had a great time and the NFC children said how interesting it was to have a cultural exchange with the students from New Zealand.

The children were also grateful for donations the visiting students had collected, funds, toys and other gifts for NFC.

Vocational Training

Doch Mnorsen

New Future for Children (NFC) is not only helping and supporting children to go to school, but also providing 7 of them opportunities for training in any skill they like, such as cooking, tailoring, painting, learning about computer hardware and software and hairdressing.

Tai Sreyneang is seventeen years old and a former student in grade 8 at Indradevi High School. She says, “I really love cooking, ever since I was a child. In my

future I want to be a good chef and run my own restaurant.”

She is taking a cooking training course at FBC School with support from the Sovann Phoum organization. Sovann Phoum is working in cooperation with NFC to provide opportunities for vocational training for the children. Sreyneang’s course started on the 17th of March 2008 and will finish one year later on the 17th of March 2009. Her class starts at 8:00 a.m. and finishes at 5:00 p.m. with a 2-hour break for lunch.



Sreyneang said, “My bad thing in my training class is my English”. She says that English words are used for many kinds of foods and ingredients. Even cooking jobs advertised in a Khmer newspaper require knowledge of English as well as previous cooking experience. She said before coming to NFC she hadn’t learned any English and now doesn’t have free time to learn English during the day. New World Institute provides English training in the

evening, but she didn't have a sponsor. Now she does. She says, "So if you have a chance study English you should take every opportunity to study hard and avoid mistake like me." Finally she really wants to say "thank you" to all the supporters and the staff of NFC.

If you would like to **help sponsor learning English at NWI for children such as Sreyneang**, please let us know. For contact information see the NFC profile (also attached).

NFC Students attend PSE

Doch Mnorsen

PSE is an organization which supports poor children through excellent, free education and food to help them build a better life for themselves. PSE is located in Steung Meanchay.



Ly Borey, 18, is one of the 13 students that attend classes at PSE. He describes it as very good place for children to receive a good education and learn the skills needed for finding good jobs and having a successful life.

PSE is very serious about education. They have many rules to help the students focus on education. For example, if a student is absent without permission three times, they won't be allowed to attend the school anymore.

After studying at PSE for five days, Borey indicated PSE is a wonderful place to help prepare him to make his dream of becoming an architect come true.

PSE provides a full day of educational and health building activities, from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. The NFC students leave for PSE early in the morning and return to NFC at the end of each day.

He said, "All the teachers are very positive in teaching lessons. They aren't like some of the public school teachers who just focus on students who pay money for extra lesson time."

Borey said, "If we have no money to pay for extra lessons, then we might not get a good score because the teachers explain what we need to know about mathematics, physics, the Khmer language and chemistry only in the extra lesson time. "

Borey added, "If we don't have money to pay the public school teacher, then they are unhappy with us, which they sometimes show by not giving us good grades."

Chris Merritt, consultant to the Director of NFC says, "The level of focus on quality education and the professional environment of PSE is a huge improvement over public schools. I am very excited to see the positive changes taking place in the students who attend PSE."