

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Directors' Report

2016 was a productive year for CLS. I feel very privileged to report on the progress we made towards achieving our mission. I hope our partners and supporters enjoy reading the highlight of our year that are summarised in this document. Across the year we continued to focus on the quality of our educational delivery. A special focus has been on incorporating more creativity and active learning across our curriculum. Students and teachers have responded positively to this change.

We have extended our operations, forging closer connections with our neighbouring School at Angprey. In 2016 we commenced the delivery of evening classes at Angprey School. This was very well received by the community with evening classes very well attended. We have also provided professional development for the Angprey teachers and assisted with upgrading school infrastructure.

Our enrolments in the classes at the Learning Centre and the Salt Fields have remained strong. In the Salt Fields we are pleased to see fewer students dropping out of school early. Slowly we are building the belief in the community that education matters. We are delighted to see our scholarship students now succeeding at university and vocational college, with some moving into employment. These students are valuable role models in the community, showing how education can lead to better life opportunities.

I thank our staff and our supporters for their ongoing commitment. It is only through the dedication of staff and the support of our partners, volunteers and donors that have been able to make a difference. I look forward to working with you all in the coming year.

HIGHLIGHTS



Angprey School: Our collaboration with Angprey School has made a significant contribution towards improving the quality of schooling available in our neighbouring community. Angprey School in Kampong Samrong Community is one of Chumkriel's neighbouring schools. There are over 500 students (250 girls) in primary and secondary school. Historically the wealthy families from Kampong Samrong have sent their children to Chumkriel or other schools in town. This is not always easy as the road to Angprey School is very bumpy. The road becomes slippery when the rains come. In the evening it is very dark.

Nonetheless the wealthier families have preferred to do this. These families have not regarded Angprey School as a good school. The poorer families have tended not to care about education. This has made it very difficult for the staff of Angprey to gain support from the community for the school.

In early 2016 CLS started to support the school at Angprey. Professional development was provided to teachers and assistance was provided to repair school equipment. The Angprey teachers were interested in the way

Chumkriel is focussing on integrating creative arts into the teaching of language. They were also impressed with how CLS is now generating a small income from selling the creative arts students produce such as the origami baskets and peacocks, the dream catchers and the pictures created with finger stamps. They were inspired by the way CLS students work with their teachers and CSU volunteers to create bilingual books.

Our volunteers are now providing professional development to the staff of Angprey as part of their visit to CLS. Lyn Quilty ran workshops on how to teach reading, pronunciation and vocabulary in September. Paul Asprey assisted by assessing students. Jeneatte and the group of student from Woodleigh School focused on team building and how to be a good teacher.



Significantly, CLS commenced delivery of Evening Classes at Angprey. This is a valuable opportunity for CLS staff to model good teaching practices. Classes are delivered two nights a week. The enrolments have been very encouraging.

At the end of the year many of the Angprey students commented that they were very happy to be at school. They announced that their friends were going to come to learn English in the Evening School. CLS is very proud to be involved in building the interest in education in our neighbouring community.

Student success: A growing number of students who have been supported by CLS are now powerful role models in their community. Read the inspiring stories of [Sok Sreya](#) , [Chhorm Sreyvin](#) , [Chhorm Sreyrath](#) and [Thoung Chanratha](#) in the News and Success Stories page of the CLS webpage. We are reminded of how powerful a tool education is in changing people's lives.

PROJECT UPDATES:

Our Evening School continues to attract strong enrolments and provide high quality, affordable English language classes to children and adults in Chumkriel and surrounding areas. By learning English, our students are improving their chances of continuing their education and finding a good job. More and more of the better paying jobs in modern Cambodia require English language. Currently, we have seven teachers teaching fourteen classes (over 400 students) Monday through Friday from 5.00 pm until 7.00pm.



In 2016, Mr. Paul Asprey assessed the reading level of all Evening School students using PM Benchmark Kit No 2 and Probe 2(NZ). Paul is an Indigenous Workforce Learning Coordinator with the Northern Territory



Department of Education Northern Territory Government. He has been using PM Benchmark Kit No 2 and Probe 2(NZ). This assessment enables us to monitor student progress and ensure students are placed in the correct class. Paul has been working as a volunteer with CLS since 2013.



Our Library Project continues to encourage literacy and reading enjoyment in both English and Khmer in the Chumkriel community. CLS works closely with government school libraries in our region providing support to build their book collections and encourage reading. CLS library books are available to all the Chumkriel community members. Parents are encouraged to borrow books to teach their children. The books are organized by level - beginning, medium, hard. Reading is encouraged using various strategies including free reading, reading events and a book club where a group of students borrow the same book, read

it then return to discuss the book with each other and the teacher.

In 2016 CLS supported the two libraries at Angprey Primary and Secondary School. Volunteers assisted with library activities and support was provided to create an attractive learning environment. Floors were tiled, the bookshelves were repaired and repainted and books were donated.

Our Agriculture Project has maintained the fruit and vegetable patch using a sustainable compost system that utilised local organic waste material. The Agriculture Project teaches the parents of our students and local community how to make and use compost to more successfully grow a diverse range of vegetables in both the wet and dry seasons providing a healthier diet. 100 seedling were provided to students to grow at home.



The Agriculture Project also provides food for our soup kitchen where we provide a daily meal to poor children whose parents have difficulty feeding them.

In 2016 the most success crops were morning glory, cucumbers, spinach and egg plants. The garden experimented with different plants to identify more products for sale.

There have been staff changes in our garden. Mrs. Sem, who was working on the agriculture project at CLS is no longer with us. We thank her for her important contribution to our work. Khim, our cook in the Soup Kitchen in the morning, was selected to work part time in the garden in the afternoon.

Our Health & Hygiene Project continues to help students and their families learn to take care of their health and the importance of good hygiene. Over the year CLS has provided toothbrushes and toothpaste, taken students for dental check-ups and taught them to understand how the environment is connected to their health. Our focus has been on how to correctly brush teeth and eat healthy foods to prevent tooth decay and diseases. We have also



stressed the importance of washing hands after going to the toilet and before eating, and the value in maintaining a clean waste free environment. Students are encouraged to pick up the waste and litter to prevent contamination of the environment. We also work with the government school to provide health and hygiene education to state school students. The bilingual books our students wrote and published with their teachers and CSU student volunteers reinforced these important health messages.

The Learning Center : The CLS has continued to provide valuable support for at-risk students from poor families to complete primary school and continue their education. Classes include English, Khmer, arts and crafts and physical education. Two classes consist of students who are slow learners. These students will study at CLS long-



term beginning in Grade 3 or Grade 4 and complete the course in three years. After completing the CLS program the students will attend the Chumkriel State School. They can return at any time to use the resources, receive guidance and study support.

Our incentive scheme has worked well throughout the year. Students have received incentives to reinforce positive behaviour through smart choices, displaying good attitudes to reading and endeavouring to learn. Teachers maintained a record of their daily achievements and prizes were

awarded every three months. Community members also receive prizes via the community reading events held every three months.

CLS has worked closely and collaboratively with the Chumkriel Primary and Secondary School. The CLS learning programs have been made available to all students at Chumkriel State School. In 2016 there were 117 students selected from the state school to study for more 3 years in the subject of English, Khmer and Mathematic arts and life skills.

We have also worked closely with the State Schools to foster participation in sporting activities. Sport is promoted to keep students healthy, to teach them important skills in team building, cooperation and working together and to encourage fitness. CLS encourages students to make use of the sporting facilities at the Learning Centre. CLS also ran sporting activities for 223 secondary students, entering both girls and boys teams in the Provincial Sporting Tournament. Our boy's team came second among the 26 teams from all the provinces.

Our Salt field project has continued to focuses on families who live and work in the salt fields around Kampot. Life for these people is very hard as wages are very low, just a few dollars for a long hard day's work. Families cannot afford to send their children to the state school as they live too far away, they do not have enough money, and many do not understand why education is important. CLS works with the state school, local authorities, and other organizations to provide equal access to education for the children from the salt fields. We provide transportation and school supplies so that students can attend CLS and the state school while teaching parents the importance of education.



In 2016, CLS supported 37 students. 10 students moved to secondary school. 4 students are in grade1.

Our soup kitchen project continues to provide a healthy and nutritious lunch for 35 students five days a week. These students are from families who cannot afford to feed their children. Without this lunch meal, these children would often be sick and would not attend school regularly. We are very pleased to report that all 35 students who attend the soup kitchen moved up a grade this year.



Our Computer Project continues to be well supported. In 2016 we provided computer class to 82 from community members (adult) and 193 Chumkreil Secondary school students. Students were taught how to use the internet and Microsoft Office Suite, how to type in English and Khmer, how to access online information and resources and improve their communication through email. These computer skills will improve our student's chances of finding formal employment after high school. These skills will be necessary for all students who wish

to go on to complete university or vocational training.

Shelter building: CLS has continued to work closely with the local Commune Chief and community to respond to families in crisis. In 2016 CLS provided shelter for 8 families facing difficult situations.

