



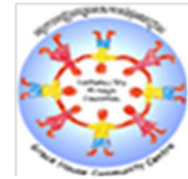
## **GRACE HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE (GHCC) CAMBODIA**

### **SPONSORSHIP/DONATION**

#### **GHCC Fund Raising Dinner**

**Saturday 21 April 2018**

**Pullman Melbourne on the Park, Melbourne**



Dear Prospective Sponsor,

Education is a means of fighting poverty at an individual, family and community level. For a developing country like Cambodia, education is a proven pathway for young people to improve their quality of life; to be able to reach their full potential; and to create sustainable change both locally and globally. But the cost of tertiary education in Cambodia is disproportionate to the minimal income of many families. This is why we are holding a fundraiser in Melbourne to establish a Tertiary Education Fund for students of Grace House Community Centre (GHCC).

Hello – my name is Fiona and I am the Program Manager at GHCC. As a social worker and an educator who has worked with marginalised young people for over 25 years in Australia and the UK, I aspired for my 'next career' to be in community development and international child protection. In November 2016, I was given the opportunity to move to Cambodia and take up my current position.

Cambodia is known as the Kingdom of Wonder, and that it surely is, but what is most wondrous for me is the resilience of the Khmer people; their humility, gratitude and kindness; and the motivation of children and young people to learn and involve themselves in education. This enthusiasm and drive comes from the young people themselves, not the parents, as we often see elsewhere. In fact, the children's education is sometimes stopped or discouraged as the family requires them to work on their farms, or in their market stalls, or look after younger siblings, or do household chores while parents work long hours. Many families still have more than 5 or 6 children living in one room house with no toilet, no running water and money to pay for food or electricity. Life is tough.

In a society where a generation of educated people was effectively erased by the Khmer Rouge genocide in the late 1970's, an incredible value is now placed on education, yet it still remains inaccessible and unobtainable for many. I am very passionate about education and especially when you see these Khmer young people so keen and committed to learning, you cannot help but want to do anything you can to assist them to achieve their goals.

By establishing a Tertiary Education Fund at GHCC, we will hold true to our mission of *"Strengthening the Community through Education"*. The fund will demonstrate to young people that we believe in them and in their abilities, and it will also provide them with a means to fulfil their dream of a brighter future.

Thank you for considering sponsoring our Fundraiser Event in Melbourne. I hope I can inspire you to feel as passionate as I am about improving the lives of some of the world's poorest and most disadvantaged children.

With kindest regards

*Fiona Cameron*

Fiona Cameron  
Program Manager  
Grace House Community Centre