

Greetings! We closed out the year 2021, with an amazing quarter of events and activities. It could be summed up in these famous words, *"Any good thing can happen in that little margin of time when you persevere and don't give up!"* And so it was!

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Schools Reopen in Cambodia!

In late October it was proclaimed that all schools, both private and public, from grade 1 through university could soon apply for permission to reopen! By late November, the door also opened for kindergartens and preschools. After nearly 2 years without in-class learning, there was much to catch up on. Authorization from the Education Departments needed to be secured from the Commune, District and Regional levels. Considerations for limited number of students per class had to be made and schedules coordinated with public schools, who were also tackling the same issues. Equipment for our IT labs were tested and upgraded—monitors, PC's, headphones, electrical outlets & wiring. Classrooms and play areas were cleaned and repainted. One thing we *didn't* have to do was advertise for enrollments. Students quickly signed up in all of our rural-ed programs. December marked the full restart of operations with 370 students in Sierm Reap & 100 in Kampong Speu!



Major Renovations for the Restart

The wall at Phum Thnal school was accidentally damaged during a city roadwork project and needed to be rebuilt before school could reopen. The school couldn't afford such a costly project, so we contributed to the repairs so classes could resume quickly. Meanwhile, at Sandan school, the small building with our English & IT classrooms got a new roof & new ceiling as part of the school's major reconstruction work. *"Give and it shall be given unto you."*



"Christmas Angels"

A BIG thank you to everyone who participated in our Christmas Angel project, blessing each of the 14 resident children at our village Ruby School, with a Christmas gift, goodie stocking, new clothes and special dinner for the community. It was the most wonderful, joyous Christmas ever!



The Final Events of 2021

We closed the year by answering the eager pleadings of our Ruby School students for a school party to celebrate Christmas and New Year. The children had not had a fun school event for many long months and were so excited when we called them to come on the 28th of December, ready to party hearty! We divided the 90 children into 3 groups. For the next 2 hours the teams rotated through balloon games on the soccer field, musical games on the patio and a flannelgraph Christmas story plus carol singing in a classroom. A yummy donut and fruit snack was served and then a small gift for each child. They were beyond excited!





Thank you so much for your concern & help this past year. Words cannot express how much your friendship meant to us. We look forward to an amazing 2022 partnering with you!

Family Care Cambodia is a non-profit, volunteer organization. The activities you have just read about were made possible through donations from businesses and concerned individuals. If you would like to help sponsor our projects or volunteer, visit our website, www.familycarecambodia.org

> We look forward to hearing from you! Alex and Ann Soldner