

JOURNEYS WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY



ANNUAL REPORT 2017





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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Dear JWOC community,

In 2017, JWOC continued to live by our motto 'Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow'. The Community Support team delivered livelihood skill training to hundreds of women, children and teachers in rural villages with impressive results and sustainable solutions. Our Free Classes program, now under the leadership of Konthea (our first ever Khmer Education Manager!), increased the local community's involvement in the program through the recruitment of a record number of Khmer volunteer teachers, as well advancing our STEM initiatives with our first ever science fair – And all of this was made possible by JWOC's beating heart, our scholarship students, whose dedication to their own education and those of others continues to push our community forward.

It is not only our community who are learning, but also JWOC as an organization. It would be untrue for any non-profit organization to state that every project is a success all of the time. The most important thing is we continue to learn. As you will read in this year's report a percentage of scholarship students did not complete the program for varying reasons. Cambodia continues to develop and evolve, and so do the needs of our students. In response, we have conducted extensive research into the wellbeing (health, social) of our students (report to be released later in 2018) and are hiring a Scholarship Coordinator to ensure our students are supported and able to succeed on each step of the way to becoming the leaders of tomorrow.

As always I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our supporters who make our work possible. Monthly givers, long-term donors, foundations, clubs, Race4Education participants and so many more! You are all part of our community and not a day goes by where we do not feel grateful for all that you do. I hope you read this report with a sense of pride and accomplishment!

Looking forward, 2018 will be my final year as JWOC's Executive Director. After three-plus amazing years I will move on to new projects, but I will always be part of the JWOC community and I am excited to see who our new Director will be. They will have an amazing team supporting them and I'm excited to see how the organization will continue to develop. But, before I break out the tissues and brush up on my Khmer for my emotional goodbye speech – I'm pleased to say I have another ten wonderful months ahead of me. This year, among many other initiatives, we will be carrying out a large assessment of all our programs with our beneficiaries making the decisions that affect them the most every step of the way – for they are the leaders of tomorrow. It looks set to be another great year for JWOC and I look forward to being part of the journey with you all.

KNEATH HEARD

Executive Director

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

JWOC Science Fair

In September JWOC held the first annual Science Fair which had 20 participants and 12 science presentations. The aim of the Science Fair was not only for students to see the practical side of science but to encourage more students to sign up for the JWOC Science Classes. The fair was met with excitement from parents and children, many of whom were attending a Science Fair for the first time! There were microscopes on display so participants could learn about the differences between animal and plant cells, there was a Lego station where students had recreated miniature cars and trucks and learn more about coding and engineering. There were 70 people who attended the event including many parents who were able to interact with their children on an educational level. JWOC was happy to have so many enthusiastic participants and looks forward to hosting the event in 2018!

Scholarship Team Building

On the 18th of June JWOC scholarship students and staff went to Peung Tanon, a lush area with tall sandstone formations to participate in the Scholarship team building day! Students completed a range of team building games and tasks to build their skills. The team explored the surrounding area and made a large dinner together before setting up camp for the night. This not only gave them time to relax and bond, but also build their skills that help them serve their local community!





Race4Education

Race4Education is JWOC's biggest end of year fundraiser with participants joining us to highlight and support educational opportunities that JWOC and scholarship students provide to the local community. Through the generous support of our supporters worldwide we were able to able to fundraise a fantastic \$22,805! One stand out participant was Vantha Kuon, JWOC Office and Scholarship Manager, who walked 22km from the famous mountain in Angkor Thom Bakheng Temple to Phnom Krom. JWOC Scholarship students, staff and alumni cycled 37km around Angkor Wat, and participated in the Angkor Half Marathon (21km & 10km). JWOC supporters took part in events across the world! It is always a delight to have all of the JWOC family come together to support our community!



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Goals and Achievements

IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING OF OPTIONS FOR LOW INCOME STUDENTS TO ATTEND UNIVERSITY, WHILST COMMUNICATING THE VALUE OF JWOC'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM THROUGHOUT THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS.

The scholarship students are the beating heart of JWOC as they work closely with the community to provide support to all of JWOC's programs. JWOC initially received 91 Scholarship application forms in 2017, 4.5% higher than in 2016. We then went on to accept 24 new Scholarship students, a record high! Of these 24 new scholarship students, 5 were already in university but were struggling financially and were on the brink of abandoning their studies.

Goals and Achievements

75 OF 75 STUDENTS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE YEAR, 0% CHURN.

Unfortunately, JWOC saw the highest number of Scholarship Students unable to complete their studies in 2017, with a 12% churn rate for the year. Of the 9 students who left 4 were in their third year of university and five were in their first year. The reasons varied from students leaving school to start their own business to pressure from families. We will continue to examine this data in early 2018, while introducing activities in the 2018 goals that look to support students. JWOC is currently looking to hire a Scholarship Coordinator to mentor the Scholarship Students, particularly the 1st year students. Additionally, all the parents of the new Scholarship Students were invited to JWOC to better understand JWOC's Scholarship regulations and to ensure we had their support for the years ahead.

Success Corner

Meet Buntha an IT student at the University of South East Asia. Living in a family of 10 people whose main source of income was farming, Buntha's prospects of graduating from high school let alone university were very slim. To earn more of a living, Buntha and his family relocated from the village to live in town.

His father became a mechanic but his mother continued to farm. Buntha struggled in high school and contemplated dropping out so he could support his family, however his father encouraged him to stay in school, knowing that

education was their only chance of a better life. Despite his misgivings Buntha graduated from Kos Smo Poly-Tan High School in 2014. After graduation Buntha decided to improve his English and would go for lessons while supporting his father's mechanic shop. After 4 years Buntha decided to pursue higher education and applied for a Scholarship with JWOC and was accepted. Buntha now works part time to support his family while he studies. Buntha hopes to open a small computer shop in the future to improve Digital Literacy in his community.





FREE CLASSES PROGRAM

Goals and Achievements

STRENGTHEN OVERALL PROGRAM EFFICIENCY

The JWOC Community Centre hopes to target those most in need of quality education and to do this we must ensure that all resources are being appropriately utilized. There was an overall review and a discussion on whether fees would be charged for the program. As a result, Free Classes charge all students for textbook copies. This saves the program more than \$1,000 per year—whilst decreasing levels of dependency on hand-outs and encouraging families to value education. Books cost \$1, and all students purchased books.

The English and IT programs had a pass rate of 84% in 2017. This is thanks to improved teaching performance—resulting from teacher training which occurs every month. Additionally, the Free Classes management team observed teaching practice and provide feedback, as well as getting the teachers to do peer observation and support each other.

Goals and Achievements

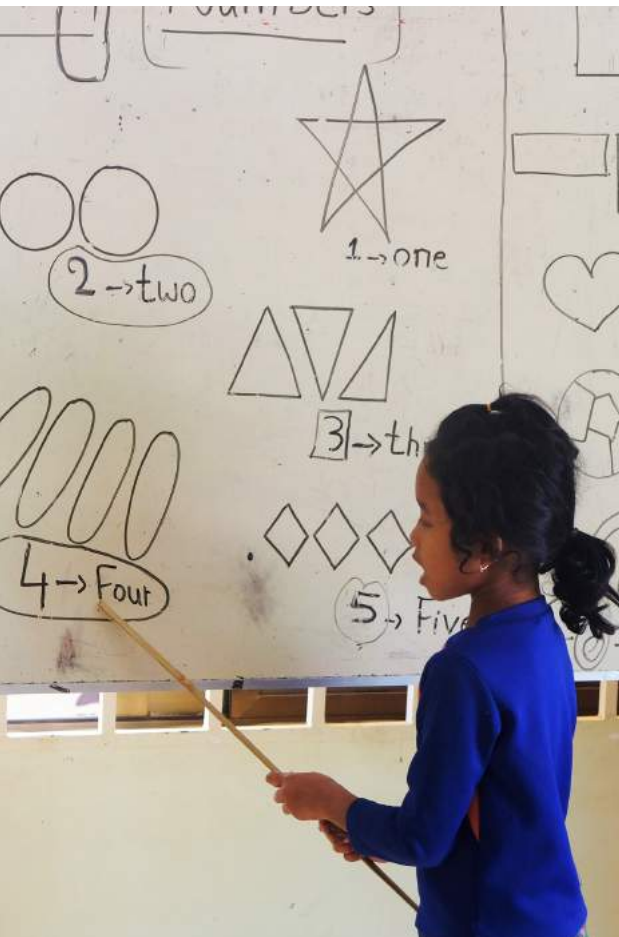
ENSURE QUALITY EDUCATION ACROSS THE FREE CLASSES

Additionally, the Free Classes team were fortunate to international volunteers as well, Adam, an International Development student from London contributed to JWOC Free Classes program by improving ICT teaching methods for children in Digital literacy classes. Sitham, former IT teacher worked closely with Mattieu, Pwc Senior Auditor, to improve our Data management system through excel trainings for staff as well as some other operational trackers.

As important as the scholarship student teachers are to the Free Classes team, JWOC is also happy to welcome volunteers from the local community to support the work we do! There are currently 25 volunteers in the Free Classes Program who have been evenly distributed based on their teaching ability. Depending on their English ability some will be teachers while others while be assistant teachers. We look forward to their continued support of our community!

ALL FREE CLASSES ACTIVITIES ARE COMMITTED TO THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN.

The Free Classes program aims to improve quality education for low income communities in Siem Reap through language and skill-based lessons in a safe environment. As such all of JWOC associates working with children receive child protection training and adhere to JWOC's child protection policy. Librarian and Child Development Coordinator, Nesa, piloted an age-appropriate, child-centred child protection workshop for our youth in late June with her Way Ahead class.



Progress Corner

7-year-old Yet has been coming to JWOC's Free Classes for 2 years. As a new student Yet struggled with her studies and her behaviour, it was a challenge for her to focus in class and there were many times Nesa had to speak to her about her behaviour. However, she began to focus on her lessons and complete her homework. Yet is now in Let's Begin class where she's an active student in the lessons. During her free time, she enjoys learning about colours and drawing.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Goals and Achievements

DELIVER HYGIENE TRAINING TO 540 STUDENTS AND 20 TEACHERS ACROSS 2 SCHOOLS, AND MEASURE IMPROVED HABITS

The JWOC Community Support Program aims to promote sustainable and improved livelihood opportunities through tailored education and capacity building activities for communities in the Siem Reap area. At the end of 2017, 900 children from 2 primary schools in the community, Peam and Kok Pnov were trained on 4 main topics, Hand Washing, Oral Hygiene, Environment and Nutrition. The Community Support team utilized, visual aids, songs, and real-life examples to educate the children on the importance of proper hygiene. To ensure that the trainings would have a lasting impact, toothbrushes, toothpaste and soaps were donated and the Community Support program advised the teachers to remind their students to practice proper hygiene. 6 months after the training the Community Support team and the teachers of the schools observed the children for any change in hygiene habits and found 70% of students have improved their hygiene practice and the school environments were observed to be cleaner after the trainings. It is crucial that primary students receive such trainings to ensure they have the best start in life and miss less school through illness.



Success Corner

Maternal Health was the first training to be given by JWOC's mobile education project and due to the success, all the other trainings have followed suit.

JWOC prides its programs on being a direct representation of the needs of the community and how we can best contribute to upward social change.

Goals and Achievements

INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WHO DEMONSTRATE GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF MATERNITY CARE 6 MONTHS AFTER THE TRAINING FROM 7% IN BASELINE TO 57%.

This maternal health project aims to contribute to the Cambodian Ministry of Health's goal to reduce rates of maternal and infant mortality in Cambodia which are some of the highest in Southeast Asia. The overall objective of JWOC's Maternal Health Training is to increase awareness, use of health care services and reduce misconceptions around maternity care. As a result, 250 women across 5 villages in Doun Koe Commune attended the Maternal Health trainings. Interestingly, in the later trainings there was an increase in the overall number of women attending the training who were over the age of 40. This is worth noting as it is the older generations who are most reluctant to abandon some of the more traditional, and subsequently, dangerous practices that prevail in the commune and could suggest an openness towards accepting healthier approaches to maternal care for the women in their families.

The follow up survey was conducted 6 months after the training and those who demonstrated as having good knowledge was 46% which is 11% less than the target, but we were able to decrease some misconceptions reported through their responses. Lastly, the health care centre reported a higher number of women attending their centre for maternal health care services. All the training was facilitated by scholarship students, staff and a professional midwife.



2017 IN PICTURES

JWOC Puppet Parade!



Science Competition in Phnom Penh



Graduating JWOC Scholarship Students!



JWOC Executive Director Kneath visits supporters and the board in the US!



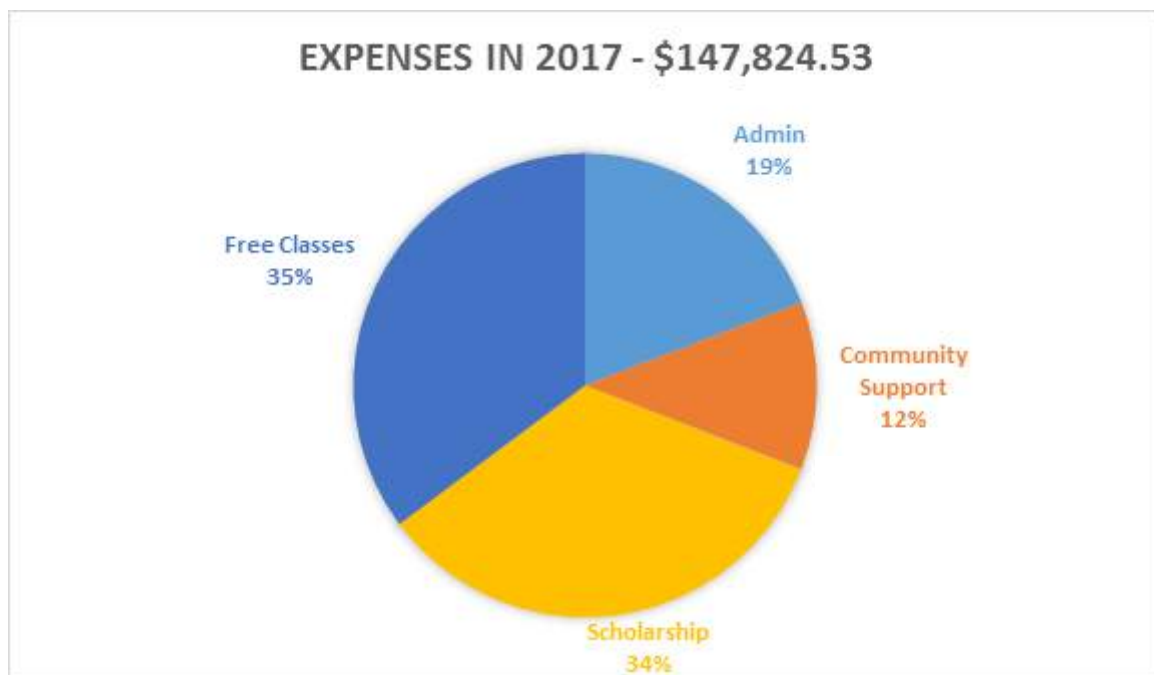
JWOC's Got Talent!



JWOC's first ever Reading Week!



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



JWOC's revenue for 2017 was \$167,197.67 which included donations and was also self-generated income through Tours.

Journeys Within Our Community is a tax-exempt non profit charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the US tax code. Details of information submitted to the IRS can be found at www.guidestar.org.

THANK YOU

Due to your continued support JWOC has been able to work with communities to make resources available for the education and development of low-income Cambodian students both children and adults, who have the motivation to take leadership roles in and for their communities.

Donate Today

