

Grace House Cambodia Charity Inc.



You are receiving this newsletter as you have visited or volunteered at Grace House, are Australian, and/or are aware of the Grace House Cambodia Charity, Inc.

FROM THE CHAIR

Happy New Year and welcome to the first Grace House Cambodia Charity newsletter. The year has started well for the Charity with news last week that we may be very close to gaining DGR (deductible gift recipient status). After almost completing the process in October, the ATO advised us that it would be more beneficial to apply for PBI subtype within the charity classification. This was speedily completed and hence some delay in getting our final step completed. The Bank account is active and earning interest and the first overseas payment of just over US\$6000 was transferred in December.

Gillian (Secretary), Clare (Member) and I have been able to spend time together volunteering at Grace House this month. Gill and Clare worked in the classroom in addition to doing lots of cleaning and culling! My time is spent working predominantly with the Project Manager Loung completing the annual report, reports to donors and refining the strategic plan for 2026. Gillian and Clare have returned to Australia and I will return on February 18.

I am excited to report that Peter May, a member of the Toowoomba Rotary Club will be visiting Grace House on the 27th January to get to know the project and to discuss future collaborations. Several Rotary Clubs are interested in the work done at Grace House. Treasurer Craig Mathieson has me booked up to speak at upcoming meetings for each of the clubs! Thank you, Craig, for making these introductions.

A membership drive will begin in earnest as soon as the Australian Tax Office advise us of the Deductible Gift Recipient status. This will allow receipts to be issued. We are striving for 100 members. At \$50 per member this would make a significant contribution to sponsoring a classroom – one of the goals set for 2026.

Thank you for your support of Grace House Cambodia Charity. Arkun chran. Ann.

NEWS FROM GRACE HOUSE

The Cambodian school year starts in November and by January, the children are settled into their new classes and well into the routine of their learning. Five classes of general education and three classes supporting children with special needs operate morning and afternoon (a new group changing at lunchtime). Cambodian state schools offer half day learning only, so children come to Grace House when not attending State School. Enrolments are around 180 children and another 32 as part of the special needs unit. 4 classes of ‘part time students’ attend from 3-4pm.

Two big boxes ticked already this year. Firstly, Danielle Gleeson (Brisbane Catholic Education), supported the teachers in learning about phonics, the role in the classroom and the instruction techniques to support the learning of phonics. Secondly, a class to cater for older students who have no previous English instruction will begin in February. The demand for this is high and families have been requesting additional classes for some time. Thank you to volunteers Gillian, Clare, Grace, Danielle, Simone and Ann.



MEET THE STAFF CHIVV LOUNG



Position at Grace House:
Project Manager and Executive Director.

Years at Grace House:
2009 – 2016 , 2018 - present.

Other Positions held at Grace House:
Class Teacher, Head Teacher, Special Needs Manager.

What I love about Grace House:
“We all work as a team and we love to see the children grow and learn”.

Goals for 2026:
Make the play area safer and more comfortable for our general education children and our special needs children. Improve the quality of the side boundary fence. Investigate a sustainable food production project.



Support Grace House by:

- Become a member - Membership will open Mid February
- Follow Grace House Community Centre - Cambodia on Facebook and Instagram.
- Like and share the Grace House Community Centre posts
- Hold a fundraising event
- Donate to Grace House Cambodia Charity Inc. All funds go directly to Grace House Cambodia.
 - BSB 638-260
 - A/c# 16879465
 - ABN: 21160477178
 - Incorporation# IA4871467
- Volunteer at Grace House Community Centre - Cambodia