



# cambodian children's painting project

**A Brighter Future Through Artistic Expression**



**NEWSLETTER** *AUGUST 2009*

CCPP has evolved dramatically since its humble beginning over four years ago and most impressively in the last six months. The project has grown in scope and focus, adding more activities, services and facilities for our ever growing number of children. We work with over 100 beach kids now and over half are full-time students! Obviously the goal is to have 100% school attendance, a figure that will undoubtedly be reached later this year when the new school year begins. With the continued hard work of our staff and volunteers, and the ongoing generous support of the extended international CCPP family, the future is bright for the project, our children and their country. Below are some of CCPP's recent accomplishments. We hope that you continue to support this project.

## COMPUTER CRAZY *May '09*

CCPP has entered the cyber age thanks to Joanna Spencer who organized a donation of 16 laptops from Australia. As computers and the internet are becoming more and more important and widespread in schools, workplaces, and everyday life in Cambodia, computer skills will no doubt be necessary for our kids to further their education and find good jobs. The chance to be taught computer skills for free by our qualified staff and volunteers is an amazing opportunity, and the enthusiasm that the children have shown is wonderful.



The kids run to be the first ones to the computers at every lesson, and we've had to split the lessons into two sessions just to be able to make sure all of them get a chance to actively participate. I'm sure they will be facebooking and g-chatting in no time.

## KHMER ART TEACHER VISITS *May '09*

On our last trip to Angkor Wat with the children we met a wonderful artist named Mr. Leng. He has been running a very small art project in Siem Reap similar to CCPP (visit <http://www.projectkidsart.blogspot.com> for more info). Leng is a professional teacher as well as an accomplished artist, and the art that the 15 children at his project produce is quite impressive. We have now partnered with his organization by sending volunteers and children to work with him and having him come to CCPP and teach art, but we need more funding in order to do this on a more regular basis. It is important that our children be taught traditional art by a Khmer teacher in order to maintain CCPP's goal of promoting and strengthening Khmer culture. Since his visits, the quality of art that the children produce is amazing. They are very enthusiastic, and have recently started painting much larger canvases. The older children have also started teaching the younger children the lessons and techniques they have learnt from Mr. Leng.





### THE "SCHOOL TRUCK" HAS ARRIVED June '09

Thanks to the very generous donation from Matt B., a past volunteer, we now have a school truck for the children of CCPP. As our project has grown and become more focused on education and child protection, the need to transport children to and from school, our Centre and their homes has become a priority. CCPP will establish "bus stops" throughout the community, which will enable us to ensure their safety and provide us with knowledge about their daily attendance in school. With the rainy season at hand, the school truck will also make it easier for the kids to get to CCPP and school even when it's pouring rain.

Amazingly the truck can carry over 50 children, and will do away with the need for motos to get to school, which has prevented some children from attending. Additionally, we are now able to plan monthly fieldtrips to national parks, landmarks, events, etc., furthering the positive experience this project offers these children.

### INTRODUCING NEW STUDIO ASSISTANT June '09

They were one of the very first CCPP children over 4 years ago. Now 17, he has grown into a very strong and dedicated young man. He has shown excellent leadership skills among the kids, and the younger ones respect and look up to him as a role model. They will work closely with Pheap (studio manager) and the volunteers in monitoring studio equipment and supplies and the children using them, to ensure a safe, clean and productive environment. He follows in the footsteps of our cooking and cleaning staff (Tong Ho, Srey Nich and Srey Lak), all of whom are former beach kids, as we aim to offer jobs, when possible, to CCPP children who have shown great promise and enthusiasm for the project. We would love to have the facilities to offer vocational training so we can give the hope of jobs to all our kids. We need funding to expand our offerings, anyone interested in helping us achieve this please contact us.



### DANCE, THEATER AND KARATE July '09

Volunteer Risa Abarientos from the USA has been teaching the children various forms of dance twice a week, hip hop proving to be the most popular. We have already produced two very successful theatre shows, incorporating drama and dance, "Silly Crocodile" and "Beach Kidz", both directed by Mr. Pheap, and at the end of July, we plan to put on another show, which will feature the hip hop dancing being taught by Risa. Also, once a week the children are treated to Karate lessons by black belt master Tim "Terabyte" Simon. Martial arts are an excellent way for the children to learn discipline, coordination and self-defense.



### CCPP ART ROAD SHOW WILL HIT AUSTRALIA August '09

Felix Brooks Church, Project Manager of CCPP, will be travelling across Australia during September/October to hold fundraising art exhibitions in Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Byron Bay, Brisbane, and Perth with the help of previous volunteers. The goal of the trip is to raise enough money to secure the future of CCPP for the next three years. With the global financial crisis causing a drop in tourism in Cambodia teamed with a substantial drop in international donor support, we are facing some very tough times. CCPP does not receive any government funding, local or international, and relies solely on the generosity of people like you. We really need to make this touring event a success, so please come along and support CCPP and the children of Sihanoukville. For the dates and locations of the art shows, visit our new website [www.letuscreate.org](http://www.letuscreate.org). If you would like to help at any of the events, or would like the road show to come to your town, please email us. If you live in Australia we hope to see you soon, but if you aren't able to make it to the exhibitions please feel free to support the cause by donating through our secure website. We need your support to keep our doors open!

