



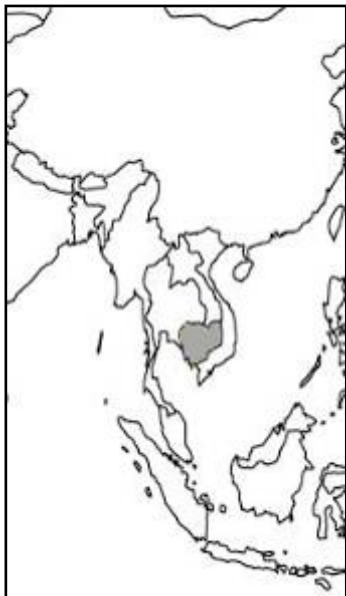
Cambodian Children's Painting Project

Creating a Brighter Future through Artistic Expression

Spring 2009
Sihanoukville,
Cambodia



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CCPP is a grassroots project that works with underprivileged children working and living on the beaches in Sihanoukville, Cambodia. These children live in impoverished households, are orphaned, or without consistent family support. They lack access to proper nutrition, clean water, regular education and medical care, and are vulnerable to economically and sexually exploitative situations. CCPP's objective is to provide them with a safe, stable, and emotionally supportive social environment which is critical for their development and protection. The CCPP Center does this by providing these children with the opportunity to develop their imagination and skills through artistic painting as the core activity, and through the sale of their paintings to generate some basic income for themselves and for their family needs. Further, we connect artistic expression to general education, and help the children pursue formal schooling. At the heart of our work is the belief that education and knowledge are the antidotes to poverty and exploitation. The Cambodian Children's Painting Project relies on the kindness of our sponsors and donors to keep its doors open. Our volunteers also make the day-to-day running of the project possible. Please read further to see how you might be able to help us help the children of Cambodia!

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Context

Ranking 129th of 177 on the United Nations Development Programme’s Human Development Index, Cambodia is one of SE Asia’s least developed nations and its children continue to be the principal victims of the country’s struggle. Rapid population growth, rural-urban migration, and weaknesses in the education system exacerbate the devastating consequences the civil war had on the economic, social and political development.

Sihanoukville is developing fast and is expected to become an increasingly popular international tourist destination within the next few years. Tourism will bring money and employment, but it will also bring added opportunity for exploitation and abuse, including an increase of sex tourism. SE Asia is a popular destination for sex tourism, particularly in Thailand. However, as Thai police continue to increase their enforcement of sexual abuse laws, it is expected that many tourists looking for this type of industry will come to Cambodia

instead, where enforcement is more lax. Indeed they already have.

Although it has been a longstanding government policy to align economic and national development by strengthening the education sector, children are currently on the wrong side of that relationship. Labor draws children out of the education system, decreasing their life chances and increasing their vulnerability and to abusive and exploitative situations.



Local Situation

There are an estimated 130 and 150 children between the ages of five and fifteen living and working on Serendipity and Ochheuteal beaches. However, the total number of at risk children and youth in this district is unknown since there is little data collected on this population. They are an extremely underserved and largely unprotected part of society and prior to CCPP, have had neither advocates nor the education to advocate for themselves. There are organizations that work with street children within the city of Sihanoukville, but currently CCPP is the only service provider for the children on the beach.

The children who participate in our project come to the beach to sell fruit and bracelets, or to collect cans and bottles for recycling. They come from extremely poor households and some are also orphans and street children. Generating income for them and their families is a critical factor in their daily survival. In impoverished households, many of the tasks traditionally carried out by parents often fall onto the children, particularly the girls who are often discriminated against by culture and customs. The levels of responsibility placed on children in poor families often leads to reduced or no education, physical exhaustion and poor health, yet the income provided by their labor prevents the families from falling deeper into poverty or simply enables them to survive.

At the moment, the children who work on the beach in Sihanoukville are the ambassadors of goodwill and friendship towards tourists, but they are also extremely vulnerable. Improving the living conditions of the children who are part of our project will certainly have a positive effect not only on them, but also on the wider community.



A local girl takes a break from selling sarongs on the beach. Many of these children are forced to work on the beach by their families, often for long hours into the night, leaving them with no supervision or opportunity to attend school.

The Challenge

The beaches are a dangerous environment for these children, especially with the rise of paedophilia. Children come into very close contact with foreigners in an attempt to sell their products successfully, leaving them vulnerable to abuse. We do not approve of child labor in any form, but we are not in a position to change the harsh realities of life in Cambodia overnight. The fact is that if they do not earn money they will not eat. Attempts to stop children from working usually degrade their situation further unless better alternatives are provided. By educating these children on the choices they have for their future, and providing them with the support necessary to make the most of the difficult challenges they face, CCPP helps the children of Ochheuteal Beach develop to their fullest potentials.



We believe that if you can't offer a child protection, then there is no sense in offering them any other services.

Founding the Project

CCPP is a continuation of an activity initiated by Roger Dixon, a professional artist, who during a visit to Cambodia in 2004 came to paint on Sihanoukville's main beach. Whilst on the beach, he was approached by local children who expressed the desire to participate. So he bought the necessary materials and the children started to paint. The activity proved so popular and successful, that Roger made it into a regular feature during his annual visits to Sihanoukville, financing it from his limited personal means. Backed up by an enthusiastic group of volunteers the activity grew in size and scope, and diversified.

In April 2006 the project was registered as an NGO to provide it with a legal status and to make it possible to sustain and expand the activities, and in January 2007 we opened our new CCPP Centre. Since its humble beginnings almost five years ago, over two hundred children have participated in the project. So far they have painted well over seventeen thousand paintings, selling more than half of them!

Our Approach

CCPP has responded to the challenges that beach-working children face by providing an escape from the beach. The children no longer have an incentive to go and sell on the beach since CCPP provides them with an opportunity to generate an alternative income.

Paintings are sold through the CCPP gallery by our staff for \$4, two of which goes to the child to help support their family, and the rest to a communal education fund, insuring that all the children can attend school. By giving the children an alternative income to selling to tourists on the beach, it frees them to paint, play and be kids again in a safe and supervised environment.

Providing children with the opportunity to develop his/her artistic expression, especially in the years of early childhood, is a critical factor in their social and psychological development. Further, artistic expression is an integral part of a well-rounded education.

To develop fully, children need the opportunity to be imaginative, innovative and proud of their own creative skills.

The on-going enthusiasm and creativity is displayed by the children is amazing; the painting project is a big success. The children have greatly enhanced their self-esteem and now form a much more friendly and cohesive group. They have learned the importance of helping each other and working together. This provides protection and an improved sense of security and knowledge of what to do and who to talk to in case of need.

The project has opened a window of opportunity for the children that have participated, allowing them to be creative and to express themselves, to earn an income, and most importantly, to learn about other alternative possibilities for empowerment through education and art.



CCPP Provides the Children With:

- Nutritious meals each day
- Fresh, clean drinking water
- First aid, dental & eye care
- Mentoring & family support
- Clothing & foot ware
- School sponsorships & supplies
- English & computer classes
- Eco awareness projects
- Protective, loving environment

The Art

Here at the CCPP Centre, the children are given complete artistic freedom and a chance to express themselves through daily activities such as painting (on boards and canvas), drawing (pastels, crayons, pencils), and sculpture. In addition we offer extracurricular activities such as arts and crafts, physical education (football, volleyball, swimming, badminton), bicycle repair workshop, and eco awareness programs. Some of these children have been painting with the project for almost three years, and the quality of their work is indeed impressive. Roughly 60 children come to paint every day, ranging in ages five to fifteen, and equal number of boys and girls. Below are just a few examples of their impressive art work.



Why Creativity & Painting

We believe creativity contributes to the overall development of a child. It can help build their imagination, introduce them to problem solving skills, fine motor coordination, emotional release and expression. As well it gives children an opportunity to develop social skills and language in a nurturing and supportive environment. At CCPP children develop a sense of belonging and achievement. Painting gives children an avenue to interpret the world around them through their own eyes, and is an appropriate way to express their inner world. As well as building self esteem, painting and creative experiences builds a relationship with the environment in which they live, their community and their cultural background.

Social Work & Outreach

Our staff now consists of two fulltime social workers who work as outreach officers to all the families of our kids. It is imperative that CCPP understands the family situation and living conditions to fully support the beach-working children. Many times it is the family that is keeping their child out of school to earn a living peddling on the beaches or collecting cans and bottles for a meager return. Having social workers we are now able to work together with the families, bringing awareness to them of the benefits of attending CCPP and receiving an opportunity of an education.



Rice & Bicycle Funds

In an effort to promote child protection CCPP aims to decrease the number of kids collecting cans, selling or begging on the beach at night when they are at their most vulnerable. Our **Rice Fund** is one of our new initiatives to help the parents of these children alleviate the need to send them out at night. In return for a written (and monitored) contract promising to allow the child attend school during the day and to keep them at home at night, these poorer families are supplied with a basic supply of rice that otherwise the child would be burdened to fund

their families out of the circle of poverty in the long term. We hope that their children can now be given a better chance for their futures. We have also launched a donation based project, our **Bicycle Fund**. Many of our children live quite far from school and the CCPP centre. Having transportation greatly improves their attendance levels and offers them a safer way to get around. We hope that these and other projects will make an impact to help local people help themselves.

Education

Along with the benefits of being a part of the CCPP family, we help our children as they progress through life, helping find sponsors for English school, placements in universities, art schools and trade schools, where they can learn skills to get a decent job in the future.

Transitioning out of school youth into formal education is a major focus of the project. By keeping track of their daily activities, staff members and volunteers ensure that all of the children taking part in the project go to the local Cambodian school. The communal education fund, supported by a portion of painting sales, funds our *Back to School Program* paying for teacher fees, uniforms, bags, books, pens and pencils for all students who wish to attend school. Since many of them have never gone to a formal school, CCPP also offers daily tutoring so that they're able to catch up to their appropriate grade. CCPP also acts as a go-between for foreigners who upon encountering the children on the beaches and learning about CCPP, would like to financially sponsor a child to attend private English and computer school.



Our volunteers and staff constantly provide our kids with trustworthy adult supervision, guidance, counseling and care.

The Future

We are developing CCPP into a fully functioning children's art and education centre. The aim is to have a more significant role in providing the children with necessary life skills on an ongoing basis and this is achieved through closely monitoring their progress at school and beyond the CCPP program. Through close collaboration with other NGOs and government organizations we want to ensure that the children's education continues once they have left CCPP and that they have the opportunity to attend secondary school, university, business and/or trade schools. We truly believe that this special group of children is the future of this nation, and we need to give them every opportunity to succeed in a new Cambodia.

Human Rights

The Cambodian Children's Painting Project's mission is grounded in the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The UN created the CRC in recognition that children hold not only universal human rights, but a set of rights in addition to those granted to adults because of their especially vulnerable status. The concept of children having particular human rights separate from adults is held in most societies, but the CRC represents a landmark treaty, the first in history, which internationally outlines these rights. By educating children and the community of these rights, CCPP hopes to spread awareness of the importance of child protection and the extent to which children must be protected. Other NGOs in the region do similar work to CCPP but with different populations. By coordinating efforts this project can expand the reach and credibility that the CRC can have. It is particularly important for the community and providers of tourist services to embrace these concepts to combat the growing incidence of child sexual abuse and exploitation. It is just as important for each child to know when their rights are being violated as it is for the community must be first line of defence against abuses.

Our Mission

The vision of the Cambodian Children's Painting Project (CCPP) is to create a brighter future for underprivileged children working and living on the beaches of Sihanoukville, Cambodia. CCPP aims to provide these children with:

- 1) A physically, emotionally and developmentally safe environment.**
- 2) An opportunity to develop their imagination and skills through artistic expression.**
- 3) Opportunities for formal education and skills training to develop alternative livelihoods to working on the beach.**

Articles of Importance in the CRC

Article 29 - Aims of Education

Education shall aim at developing the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to the fullest extent. Education shall prepare the child for an active adult life in a free society and foster respect for the child's parents, his or her own cultural identity, language and values, and for the cultural background and values of others.

Article 31 - Leisure, Recreation, and Cultural Activities

The child has the right to leisure, play, and participation in cultural and artistic activities.

Article 32 - Child Labour

The child has the right to be protected from work that threatens his or her health, education, or development.

Financing the Project

CCPP is a non-profit organization working on a limited budget and dependent on the support and involvement of dedicated volunteers. Administrative costs are kept to a minimum. The warm response and interest of many individuals and their willingness to make small contributions has served as a morale booster to those involved.

CCPP relies on donations, sponsorships and grants to continue to operate. CCPP is forever grateful for the support of a few, enthusiastic individuals and as we expand, we hope to create a more secure future for the organization. We hope you will consider helping to fund this project.




We are proud of our transparent accounting practices. If at any stage you would like to know more about how the funds are distributed, we are more than happy to provide you with these details.

Program Budget for 2009

Expenses	Monthly Cost in USD
Rent: Center, Studio and gallery	\$800
Food	\$138
Rice	\$90
Water	\$25
Total Wages (4 Staff)	\$850
Medical Supplies	\$18
Paint	\$90
Paint Brushes	\$6
Wood Boards for Painting	\$57
Arts & Crafts	\$18
Turpentine	\$34
Tools & Hardware	\$50
Stationary & Office Supplies	\$43
Communications	\$35
Shipping & Transportation	\$23
Waste Management	\$19
Security Guard	\$11
Cleaning Supplies	\$9
Kitchen Supplies	\$65
Total Monthly Expenditures:	\$2,381

Donor Information

Thank you for considering donating to our project. The children who participate are a dynamic, intelligent, creative group who deserve our support and encouragement. This is an opportunity to do something at the local, grassroots level that has tangible and lasting benefits for a relatively small amount of money. After 4 years we can clearly see large improvements in these children's lives and your contribution will ensure the effort continues.

All donations may be transferred safely via  on our website or made by direct wire transfer to our bank account (use **all** details below)

United States Intermediary Bank (IBK):

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., New York

Fedwire Number: 021000021

SWIFT: CHASUS33

Beneficiary's Bank (BBK):

ANZ ROYAL BANK OF CAMBODIA LIMITED

Swift Code: ANZBKHPP

Sihanoukville Branch:

#215, Ekreach Boulevard

Khan Mitthapheap, Commune 2

Sihanoukville, Cambodia

Beneficiary (BNF):

Account Number: 493834

Name: CAMBODIA CHILDREN'S PAINTING PROJECT (CCPP)

Address: SIHANOUKVILLE, CAMBODIA

Tel: 017 500 402

Contact Us

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