

PROTECTION FOR ALL



2017

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2016 - JUNE 2017

Who We Are

HISTORY

Children's Future International (CFI) is a non-governmental organization in Battambang, Northwest Cambodia, founded to prevent human rights abuses and protect and uphold the dignity of some of Cambodia's most at-risk children. CFI came into existence in 2008 after its founders Jennifer Ciucci and Andrew Wolff witnessed persistent yet preventable human rights abuses against children in rural Cambodia. CFI exists to first provide for the basic needs and safety of 250+ children (ages 5-21) and their families in rural Battambang, and second to provide them with educational opportunities not

otherwise available. CFI's model of service takes a results-driven approach that delivers progress in a community with untreated trauma from the Khmer Rouge genocide, poverty, malnutrition, and illegal migration. CFI supports children who have been exposed to exploitative experiences such as child labor, physical and sexual abuse, underage sex work and neglect.

CFI empowers children and youth to break the cycle of poverty utilizing innovative social work approaches. CFI's services provide basic support needs and reduce risks regarding child protection

and unsafe migration for some of the most vulnerable children in Cambodia. CFI serves children who have no other support system. CFI's programs focus on providing the most marginalized children and youth with services to ensure safety and to support them to grow and sustain themselves and their community. CFI's community-based process begins with Cambodian staff assessing and prioritising children's needs, then developing opportunities that equip children to sustain the future of their village, community and eventually their country

MISSION:

To foster a generation of educated, self-reliant and compassionate role models for Cambodia, by promoting child rights and offering 21st century education and opportunities to the poorest children in rural Cambodia.

VISION:

A future where every Cambodian child is safe, healthy, educated and thriving.

VALUES:

- + Love every child equally.
- + Treat every child with respect and compassion.
- + Help others.
- + Work hard and be a dependable part of CFI.
- + Take initiative and be accountable for your actions.
- + Communicate openly.
- + Be honest.
- + Have fun.
- + Learn and grow together.

As an organization, we also abide by international covenants such as the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child.

More information available at:
www.childrensfuture.org

By the
numbers

115 families
227 students
17 college students



Reflections

Parents and caretakers who once thought that providing for their child's education was an impossible feat are now making positive steps towards doing just that.



CFI saw many exciting changes in 2017.

From our social work program to our after-school classes, our staff continuously improved the quality of services delivered to the children and families in rural Battambang.

In 2017, CFI fine-tuned our holistic delivery model, providing enhanced education, protection and community development services to the children and families in the Battambang area. First and foremost, our three program teams implemented the Child Status Index, a framework that ties together six key aspects of child wellbeing, each of which is represented as a section in this report. This has allowed us to track each student's progress against the same standard, to identify

the children most in need, and to deliver targeted services to those children.

Our social work team has further developed its use of Signs of Safety, an approach that empowers families with the tools they need to care for their children without ongoing support from CFI, thereby decreasing dependency. This year alone, we developed safety plans with dozens of families around Battambang and marked a significant behavioral shift among parents. Parents and caretakers are now taking steps towards self-sufficiency and changing the community's perception of the value of education.

CFI increased its presence on the regional and national child protection scene in 2017. We strengthened our collaboration with local authorities from the communal to the provincial level and joined two notable national child protection networks; 3PC and Family Care First, that enable us to share our model with other organizations around Cambodia. Through these partnerships, CFI is impacting children beyond the borders of Battambang.

Giulia Ciucci
Country Director

The Big Picture

COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

Children's Future's staff members work tirelessly to protect, educate and care for some of the most vulnerable children in the region.

Our team includes 13 Cambodian educators, 7 Cambodian social workers, 5 Cambodian operations staff members, 8 Cambodian housemothers and security guards and 3 members on the executive team. Our 36-member team is 95% Cambodian.

When new referrals are accepted or complex problems need to be solved, CFI's staff members collaborate closely across the programmatic areas to generate multi-agency plans that address the needs of the individual child or family. In order to understand the complexity of each situation, our team leaders work with each family to complete a Child Status Index Assessment (CSI) to assess their vulnerability. The CSI is an assessment tool developed by USAID to provide a framework for identifying the needs of children

in developing countries and creating individualized, goal-oriented service plans for use in monitoring the wellbeing of children and households, complemented by program monitoring and planning at the local level.

This measurement of child vulnerability and resilience will form the basis of our Monitoring and Evaluation framework in 2018, demonstrating CFI's impact on the lives of the children we support.

The six student stories detailed in the rest of this report illustrate the diversity of situations faced by our children.



Education

WHAT WE DO

CFI assesses and promotes education and life skills for home, school and career. As part of our broad educational services, we:

- + Enroll and support K-12 students in public school
- + Collaborate with public schools to improve educational outcomes
- + Provide bicycles, school uniforms and study materials for children to attend public school
- + Tutor targeted grade 9 and 12 students for their final exams
- + Provide after-school classes at CFI's Learning Center in Khmer, math, English and computer skills
- + Award university scholarships and professional internships to graduates of the K-12 program

Daevy is an exemplary CFI student. In 2017, she won four academic awards for excellence in English, computer skills, Cambodian and math. Initially performing poorly, teachers saw her potential, assessed her weaknesses and helped motivate her to believe in her capabilities.

Sreyrath, CFI's Education Advocate, supports students in setting long-term goals and gaining an understanding of higher educational opportunities. She exposed Daevy to many career possibilities and found that she

was most intrigued by veterinary medicine. The prospect of being able to help animals for a living motivated Daevy to focus on her schoolwork, despite the challenging home environment she was facing.

As Daevy improved her study skills, she became an outstanding student who now models good study ethics for other students. She is often found reading books at CFI's library and has taken responsibility for advancing her own education.



110 primary students

71 secondary students

42 high school students

17 university students

Nutrition

51 families
on rice support at the
beginning of FY2017

39 families
on rice support at the
end of FY2017

WHAT WE DO

CFI ensures children have sufficient and nutritious food at all times of the year, that they don't go to school hungry and that they can lead an active, healthy life. CFI supports children and families as needed through:

- + Emergency short-term rice support for 96 food-insecure families
- + Daily lunch and dinner at the Learning Center for 54 students in need
- + Family and community workshops on healthy nutrition

Nia and Nia and Yourkhorun, parents of CFI students, live in Battambang and have four children. Before coming to CFI, their family lived in dire poverty their children were often hungry. Living in a dilapidated house in a rural area, without access to support, the three oldest children were sent to live with their grandparents in order to have access to primary school.

Their grandparents operated a small grocery stall, which generated insufficient income to support the children. To ensure that the children received adequate nutrition, CFI provided the family with a monthly stipend

of 40 kg of rice and cooking staples. To support the parents, CFI social worker Sonthea discussed budgeting and new ways to generate income. The parents attended nutrition workshops and learned how to provide nutritionally balanced meals for their children.

As is common in Cambodia, the children felt guilty for attending school and wanted to drop out and help earn money to support their parents. However, with the material support and guidance provided by Sonthea during regular home visits, the parents began to understand

the importance of education and wouldn't allow their children to drop out of school. Wanting a brighter future for their children, the parents encouraged them to focus on their education and were determined to support them through it.

The family is now in a much better position: all four children are in good health and attend school regularly and the parents earn enough money to support the family. CFI was able to end the monthly food stipend while providing ongoing counseling as needed.

33 Boys
and
21 Girls
receive daily meals
at the learning
center.



Shelter & Care

WHAT WE DO:

CFI assesses all children to ensure they have a stable home that is adequate, dry and safe. We also ensure that each child has at least one adult (age 18 or over) who provides consistent care, attention and support. CFI support includes:

- + Housing repairs
- + Rent assistance
- + Independent living support for individual older children
- + Social work support
- + Community workshops
- + Family workshops
- + Signs of Safety intervention and safety plans
- + Community engagement

Upon return from illegal migration to Thailand, Heng and some family members found themselves back in their home village in Cambodia living in a simple hut. Working in Thailand had not provided the financial benefits the family had hoped for, and they were unable to repair the house to provide adequate shelter. Heng, born prematurely, is physically weak and often gets sick. Living in a hut that leaked during the monsoon rains put a continuous strain on his health.

Additionally, food was so scarce that Heng's family had to rely on neighbors to provide rice and other food when they first returned to Cambodia.

Hour, the social worker supporting Heng's family, helped develop a safety plan which recognized that the main priority for the family was to secure a safe and dry shelter. With help from their neighbors, the family home and fishing boat were repaired using bamboo. The boat allowed the family to collect wood and fish in the river to generate income. With CFI's support, Heng now has a safe home and enough food to eat, and can focus on his education.



Protection

*from trafficking,
exploitation and abuse*

WHAT WE DO

CFI assesses the child's safety, including potential abuse, neglect or exploitation and provides legal protection if necessary. To do this, we:

- + Perform safety assessments and create safety plans for the child and the family
- + Provide counseling and intervention in emergencies
- + Offer crisis prevention and awareness-raising workshops for the families and the wider community

FAMILY WORKSHOPS

Throughout the year, CFI provided family workshops twice a month to 35-50 families. The main topics included:

- + Domestic violence
- + Safety during the holidays
- + Drug and alcohol abuse
- + Human trafficking and safe migration
- + Parenting best practices
- + Reproductive health
- + Positive reinforcement and communication

When Atith was in 7th grade, he had severe attendance problems at school. Sreyrath, CFI's Education Advocate, monitors each child's public school attendance and noticed Atith's absences. Missing school is often an early warning sign of underlying problems in a child's life.

Social workers visited the home and learned that Atith was at high risk of being sent to Thailand for work. His family wasn't able to sustain themselves selling vegetables and, like many families in Battambang, were led to believe that better opportunities lay beyond the Thai border. Many migrants are not aware that brokers in the trafficking trade will often keep them locked in

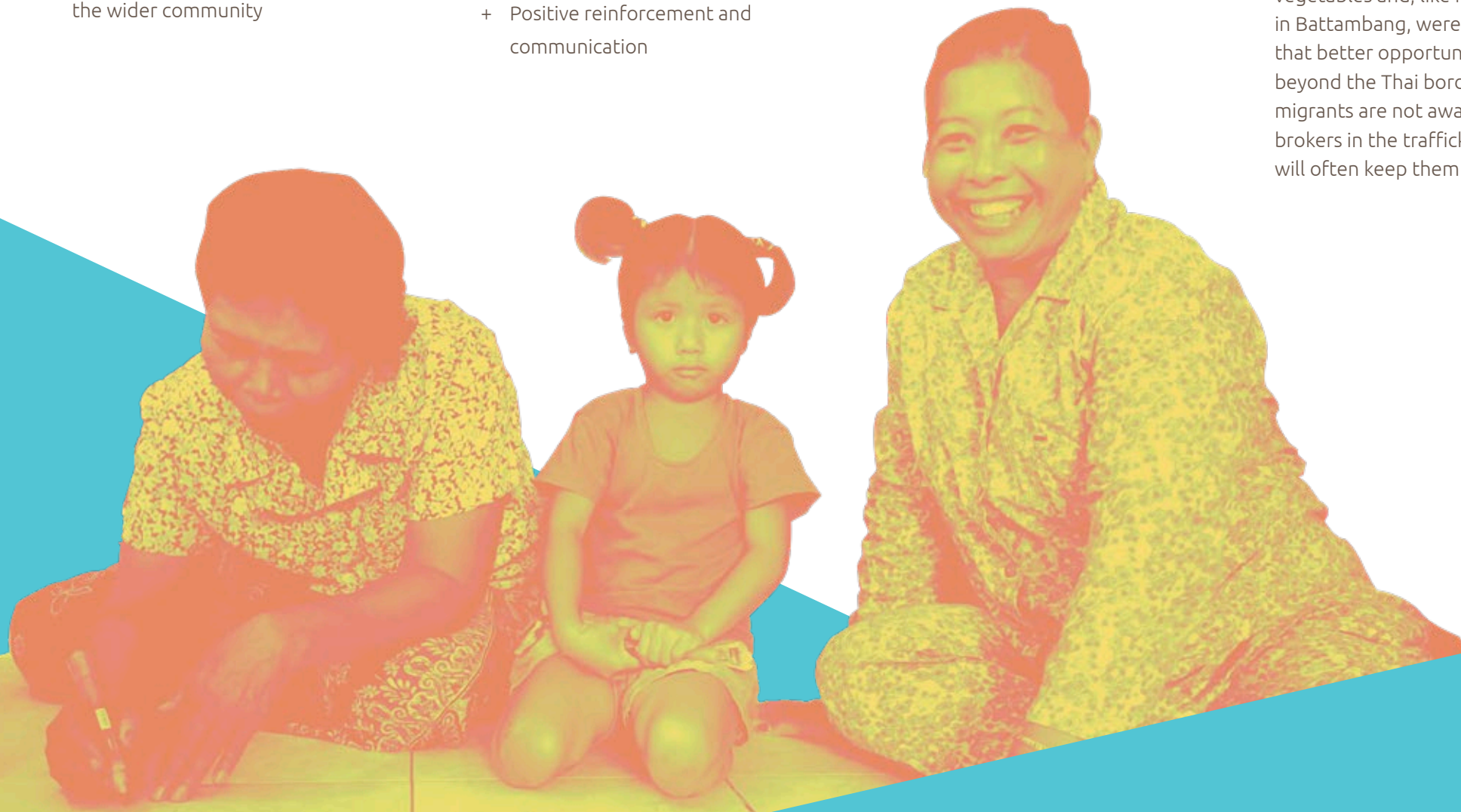
debt bondage upon arriving in Thailand, withholding their papers and wages and restricting their freedom of movement.

Atith, like many Cambodian children living in poverty, wanted to leave school for work in Thailand to help ease his family's financial burden. Children often face severe pressure from their caretakers to contribute financially, especially once they've reached puberty and can perform manual labor.

Sreyrath and CFI's social workers visited Atith and his family for several months to help the family understand the risks of illegal

migration. Eventually, the family came to recognize the long-term benefits of education and how to better support Atith in attending school. His social worker supported him with one-on-one counseling to improve school attendance and study skills.

In communities such as Ek Phnom, where CFI is based, intergenerational poverty is a risk factor for many families. CFI believes education is the key to changing that narrative.



24 workshops
provided in 2017

Health

WHAT WE DO

CFI supports students' physical health by offering:

- + Onsite first aid for minor injuries and illnesses
- + Referrals to community health centers
- + Access to hospital, dental and specialist care
- + Education on health issues to children and their families

Chhay lives with his father and three brothers on a small plot of land near the Ek Phnom temple. He first joined CFI in 2016, when his mother passed away from a rare condition known as Epidermolysis Bullosa, or Butterfly Disease.

During his first year at CFI, Chhay started showing symptoms of Butterfly Disease.

His family had no mode of transportation to bring him to a clinic or emergency room, so CFI

arranged for access to medical treatment at Handa Hospital in Battambang. Even there, though, doctors were unsure how to treat such a rare condition.

In Cambodia, many families are skeptical of modern medicine. Instead, they prefer to rely on traditional healers and strongly held religious beliefs. The social workers and CFI's health worker Sophat dispelled myths about hospitals and helped the family with his treatment.

CFI's health worker then referred Chhay to the Kantha Bopha Children's Hospital in Siem Reap, where Chhay was successfully treated over a period of months.

CFI's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Handa made the medical treatment there affordable and accessible to Chhay and his family. CFI also provides stipends for transportation and care at the Kantha Bopha Hospital, where treatment is free.



1283 student visits

at the CFI health care center last year

5 family visits

at the CFI health care center last year

88 hospital visits

funded by CFI

Psychosocial

WHAT WE DO

CFI assesses the child's emotional status and wellbeing and promotes cooperation and positive interaction with other children. Our services include:

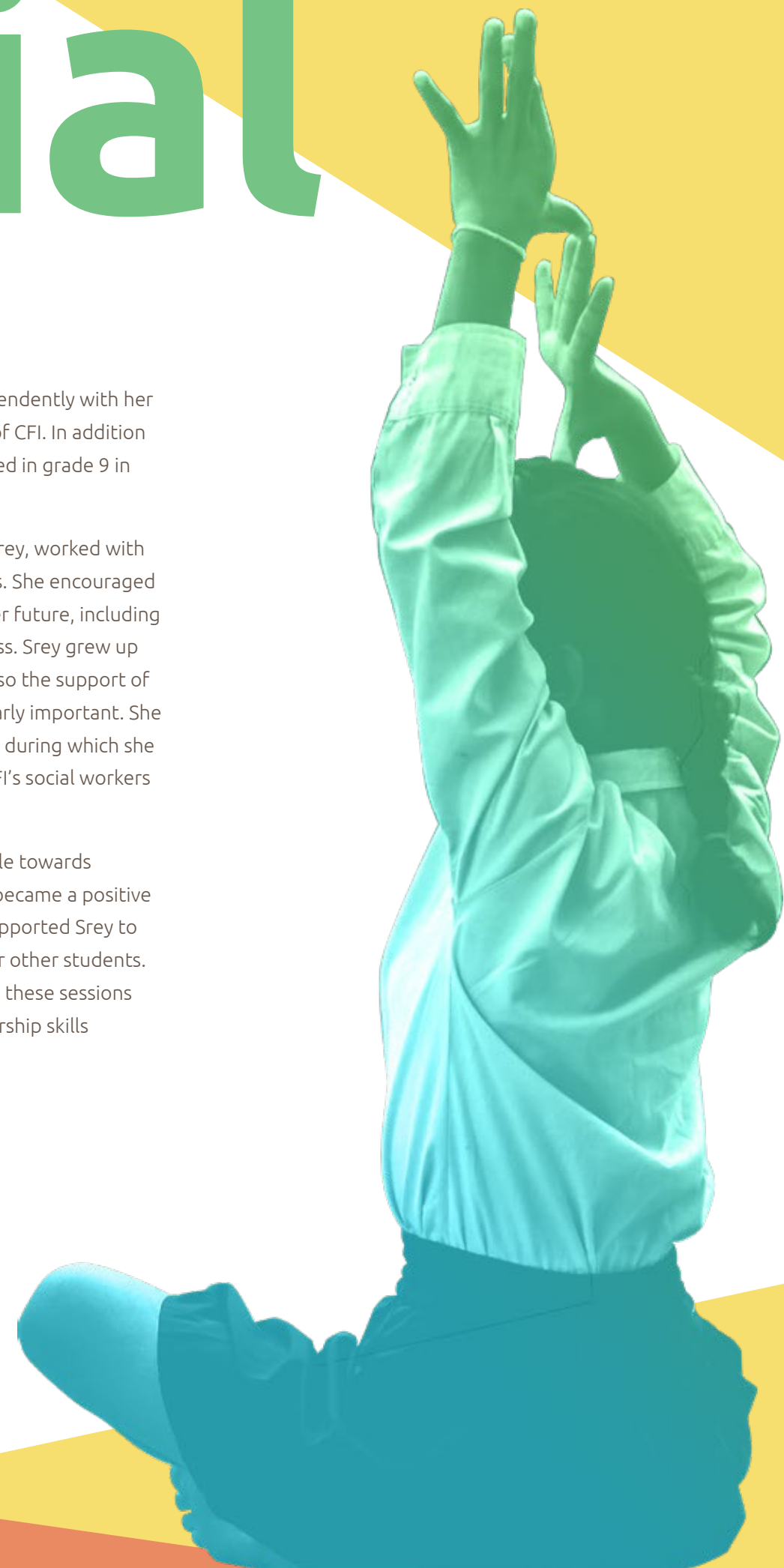
- + Counseling as needed
- + Role modeling and behavioral support
- + Child and youth workshops
- + Community workshops
- + Social work support
- + Social and recreational activities during vacations

176 counseling sessions
in the second half
of FY 2017

Srey, 16, is an orphan living independently with her older siblings through the help of CFI. In addition to taking classes at CFI, she is enrolled in grade 9 in public school.

Solida, the caseworker supporting Srey, worked with her to assess her skills and strengths. She encouraged her to learn new skills relevant to her future, including hygiene, budgeting and assertiveness. Srey grew up without many positive role models, so the support of a trusted social worker was particularly important. She had experienced a challenging time, during which she received consistent support from CFI's social workers until her situation stabilized.

Over time, Srey took a leadership role towards younger children at the center and became a positive role model. The social work team supported Srey to lead a workshop about migration for other students. Srey enjoyed mentoring and leading these sessions and plans to implement these leadership skills throughout her life.



Sustainability

Striving to build lasting change from within the community.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CFI is an International NGO that has been registered with Cambodia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2009 and has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the Ministry of Social Affairs as well as the Ministry of Education.

We work in Northwest Cambodia in rural communities outside the city of Battambang, the country's second-largest city. Our programs

are supported by local authorities at the village, commune, district and provincial levels.

Many CFI families in the Ek Phnom district are poor, and domestic violence and illegal migration to Thailand are frequent. This contributes to children experiencing neglect as well as physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

WORKING WITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Our education advocacy team checks attendance weekly of all absentee students, as we know that dropping out of school is an indicator of problems at home. This includes the risk of potential illegal migration to Thailand, child trafficking and child labor.

BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY

95% of our 36 staff members are Cambodian. We offer in-house and external training opportunities to ensure CFI staff members are supported in developing their professional skills.

CFI offers internships for recently graduated students that can lead to management roles at CFI and other institutions, including social work agencies and schools. These students contribute to their

communities by serving as role models, fulfilling CFI's mission to shape a new generation of Cambodian citizens who are healthy, educated and thriving.

PARTNERSHIPS

3PC: The Partnership Program for the Protection of Children (3PC) is a Cambodian child protection program led by Friends-International (FI) in collaboration with UNICEF and the Cambodian Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY). CFI is an implementing partner, supporting the coordination of social services, participating in the capacity building of NGOs, contributing to the creation of a national child protection system, and advocating for family care rather than institutional care. CFI participates in the "Migration Specialist Group" of 3PC, protecting individuals from unsafe migration and facilitating referrals and return of deported or exploited families and their children from Thailand back to the Ek Phnom region..

FCF: Family Care First (FCF) is a growing partnership, comprised of global and community partners from all sectors of Cambodia committed to increasing the percentage of Cambodian children living in safe, nurturing and family based care. In FY2017 CFI played a supporting role to the "pilot, learn, grow" approach of FCF, most significantly by providing key social work training to other NGOs in Battambang and providing technical assistance to thematic sub-groups. CFI plans to expand our involvement in this initiative in the coming year.

Financials

BALANCES	FY 2017	FY 2018
Assets	117,821	118,261
Liabilities	33,528	33,989
Total Net Assets	84,293	84,272

REVENUE		
Individual Donations	138,763	70,217
Grant Revenue	126,987	132,846
Partnerships	52,016	40,209
Corporate Gifts	40,569	42,889
Events	36,316	62,751
Less: expenses	(6,722)	(6,467)
Fees for Service	2,070	-
Interest Income	154	120
Other	1,418	2,601
Total	391,571	345,167

EXPENSES		
Program Services	309,735	369,647
Administration	32,884	55,921
Fundraising	48,931	33,508
Total Expense	391,550	460,076

Children’s Future adheres to best practices in financial accountability. The above numbers reflect the findings of an independent financial review.

Thank You

A special thanks to all those that have invested in the children of Cambodia, including:

- THE MAX J AND WINNIE S
ROSENSHEIN FOUNDATION
- BASAID
- THE INTERNATIONAL
FOUNDATION
- THE WADE FAMILY
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
- THE POSNER CENTER FOR
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- FIELD SERVICES UNLIMITED
- THE ROTARY FOUNDATION OF
NYON
- ADPERIO
- GRANT INDUSTRIES
- TAIKI BEAUTY
- LITTLE MAN ICE CREAM
- TRIBE APPAREL

And all of the wonderful donors who have made the organization’s work possible.

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