

# EMPOWERING CAMBODIAN CHILDREN

Fiscal Year 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

## INTRODUCTION

#### A Message from the Board President

We are proud to present our latest Annual Report for the 2018 fiscal year. For 10 years the Children's Future International (CFI) team in Battambang, Cambodia has worked hard to provide safety, deliver sustainable education and support family-based care for children and families in the local community.

By enhancing the professional abilities of our Cambodian staff and supporting children and families to develop the skills they need to survive and thrive, we continue to focus on building long-term sustainability for both the organization and the community it serves.

Your continued support is invaluable, with every dollar we receive directly funding CFI's programs and making a genuine difference in the lives of hundreds of children and families.

And for that we thank you.

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**David Asseoff** *Board President* 



### Vision:

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

### 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 Battambang.



- >>> 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.
- > Be honest.
- ≫ Have fun.
- >>> Learn and grow together.

### Quick Facts:

#### CFI currently supports:

275 Children and Young Adults111 Families17 University Students



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### programs at a glance

- >> Child well-being
- >> Family birth care
- >> Foster care
- >> Kinship care
- Sign of Safety planning

- >>> CFI Learning
- Center
- >>> Public school CFI
- >>> Higher education
- >>> Vocational training and Internships

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

Learn more at www.childrensfuture.org

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR AND LOOKING AHEAD

Sousadey, and greetings from CFI's executive team.

This year we continued to build upon CFI's educational programs, introducing a new Information and Communication Technology curriculum, improving the absence system, and incorporating more positive reinforcement practices in the classroom. For our older students, CFI has implemented a "Next Generation Initiative" aimed at developing valuable life and employment skills.

CFI social workers continue to collaborate with the 3PC and Family Care First networks to reintegrate Battambang's children into family-based care. At the same time, we've had several exciting opportunities to share our successes with social workers around the world, including a presentation on Signs of Safety at an international conference in Kansas City, USA, and another on safe migration at a regional conference in Kupang, Indonesia.

Over the next year we will be building on what we have learned and focusing strongly on safety and sustainability. To do this we will be:

- >> enhancing entry and exit points for services;
- >> building our national networks and partnerships;
- increasing consumer advocacy and improving community engagement;
- >> enhancing employment support for families;
- and implementing new contracts: USAID and the Australian Volunteer Scheme.

CFI is entering a new phase of growth and development, extending our professional approach to delivery of services. This includes regular professional development and training for staff. We look forward to continuing to receive your support so we can improve further

Orkun, and thank you.

Lee Henley Executive Director



Hor Sokhors Technical Director

Zoey Henley Managing Director

## FISCAL YEAR 2018 PROGRAM OVERVEW

Child Protection | Education Community Development

## **CHILD PROTECTION**

The Child Protection Program ensures students' basic needs are met through an initial assessment, ongoing intervention and review, material goods (including food stipends), counseling, nutrition and health care. A team of social workers ensures that students are safe, healthy and thriving—working each day in the community with students and their family members.

#### This year CFI:

- >> Increased psychosocial services,
- Decreased instances of trafficking and child labor,
- Secured opportunities for CFI to provide training to other organizations,
- Participated in the development and strengthening of national child protection networks and strengthening communitybased care models, and
- Protected children through the 3PC and Family Care First programs.



### SHELTER & CARE

Two previous residential students were successfully reintegrated to family based care.

Eleven migrant families that were deported from Thailand with their children received emergency support including food stipends, counseling and access to housing, and their children were enrolled in school.

CFI engaged with a local orphanage to support the government's plans to reduce the number of children in residential care by 30%. We have started to train this orphanage in how to begin the reintegration process for children.

### 

More than 100 families and children received food stipends and nutritional support. Alongside this, CFI successfully transitioned 12 families out of the food support program and towards selfsufficiency.



Not one of CFI's 110 students in primary school children dropped out of school or was sent away from their home for work.

### PSYCHOSOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

CFI provided more than 700 counseling sessions to individual students.

CFI recognises the importance of empowering the people who use our services. We have established a Youth Participation group to ensure we receive the views of young people using our services.

#### **+** HEALTHCARE

We had a total of 1283 student visits to the CFI healthcare facility and funded 88 hospital visits.

### PROTECTION

70 children were supported to live in kinship care, ensuring a safe and loving home environment.

CFI worked with local authorities to identify safe solutions within the community, ensuring children were neither placed in residential care, trafficked to Thailand, nor forced to work in servitude.

CFI's social work team received ongoing professional development and continued to use the internationally recognized social work tools Signs of Safety and Child Status Index in case management. These approaches mean CFI supports families to develop their own safety goals, while still assessing for risk.

CFI senior social workers provided regular training and development on strengths-oriented case management to two partner organizations in Cambodia, strengthening local partnerships and building capacity in child protection.

Fourteen community members were trained to become Child Safe volunteers, acting as advocates for children's safety and well-being within the community and expanding CFI's reach and access to information in critical situations.

CFI has developed and implemented a clear entry pathway for children entering CFI services. This involves an initial assessment and panel decision. Children can then be allocated the correct services which ensures CFI is working with the children with the highest need. We found that not every child required all services, thus maximizing the use of resources.

## EDUCATION

At our Learning Center, and through collaboration with local public schools, CFI's Education Program provides children and youth with the knowledge and skills they need to live fruitful, productive lives. CFI covers all costs required to access education, including school materials and bicycles.

CFI's Learning Center provides not only access to modern education such as computer classes, but also a safe haven for children to learn, play and grow. CFI's teachers receive ongoing training to work with children affected by trauma and adversity to foster a learning environment that accounts for the individual needs of each student. Our Education Advocate collaborates with teachers, social workers, tertiary education providers and the students to set educational goals with our youth and support them in achieving their goals. We encourage parents and caregivers to discuss any issues affecting attendance.

### 2018 Education Success



CFI collaborated closely with the 17 public schools our students attend, thereby securing a more child-friendly learning environment for hundreds of children. In collaboration with several vocational training providers, Children's Future placed youth and young adults who had dropped out of school or decided not to pursue formal education after grade 9 in vocational training programs such as car mechanics, electronics installation, and hospitality training.

Ten university students secured professional internships at CFI, through which they gained valuable employment and communications skills. The Next Generation Initiative (NGI) was a comprehensive curriculum that provided employment and life skills to all CFI youth at grade 9 and above.

STUDENTS LEARN TO USE MODERN PROGRAMS IN THEIR COMPUTER CLASSES

> CFI teachers received continuous training through a partnership with See Beyond Borders to enhance their teaching methods.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Community Development Program engages local families, community members, local authorities and partner organizations collaboratively. Our goal is to to strengthen child safety and protection at the local and national level.

CFI fosters self-sufficiency and income generation initiatives among the students' families wherever possible. We engage in a participatory approach to support families in identifying solutions to improve their economic status. While this remains a challenging task due to problems such as widespread domestic violence and substance abuse. CFI employs and strength-based approach to work with families that has been especially successful with mothers and female caretakers.

### 2018 Community Development Successes

Acceptance of Children's Future as an implementing partner into the two national child protection networks, the Partnership Program for the Protection of Children (3PC) and Family Care First Cambodia (FCF), funded by UNICEF and USAID respectively.

Participation in the "Migration Specialist Group" within the 3PC network; protecting individuals from unsafe migration and facilitating referrals and return of deported or exploited families and children from Thailand.

Regular community-based interactive workshops on topics such as unsafe migration, trafficking and child labor, domestic violence and substance misuse, positive parenting, family budgeting and reproductive health. We have measured behavioral change among families in the community as a result of these workshops.

**A CARETAKER** 

**EARNS EXTRA** 

**INCOME BY** 

RECYCLING

**SOAP FOR** 

PROFIT.

With CFI's Eco-Soap partnership, four caretakers have been employed to recycle and resell used soaps, generating independent income and decreasing dependency on CFI.

## FEATURED SUCCESS STORIES







### CFI College Graduates: Where are they now?

CFI has sponsored a total of 23 students in university programs with tuition expenses and mentoring. Our graduates demonstrated commitment, dedication and resilience, often living in adverse circumstances to purse their education.

Every one of these young adults overcame unimaginable hardships, persevered for years to pursue their education and spent months, if not years, without taking a single day off. Besides living in difficult home environments, for many of them pursuing their education required getting up as early as 4am every morning, riding their bicycle to school for miles in the scorching heat, washing their school uniform by hand each night, and spending every "free" minute doing either homework, household chores or working a part-time job. The two young women in particular, Savin and Sokha, had to endure relentless pressure and stigmatization by family and community members simply for pursuing education as a young Cambodian woman. Today, every one of these young adults is already contributing to their communities, "giving back" both professionally and personally. We couldn't be more proud of what they've achieved.

Fong received multiple scholarships to study programming and is now employed as an IT teacher at a technology school in Phnom Penh; Savin worked for many years as a social work intern at CFI and is now employed as a social worker by a local NGO; Sokha secured a fantastic job in HR at Norwegian Aid after completing an internship at CFI; Sopheak works as an IT teacher and is nationally known for having acted in several TV spots; and Sonthea is a senior social worker at CFI and an inspiring role model for students and staff members alike.

### USAID Awards CFI Grant for Innovative Social Services Programs

In July 2018 USAID awarded CFI a two-year grant that will significantly extend its work protecting Cambodian children from trafficking and violence and reintegrating impacted families.

#### The \$87,300 grant will fund:

- A review, strengthening and expansion of CFI's social work programs to reintegrate families affected by illegal migration,
- » A reduction in the risk of institutional care for children,
- » An increase the number of children receiving protective social services.

#### Funding

The grant will be funded through the international NGO Save the Children and implemented in collaboration with Family Care First (FCF), a network of organizations working the with Cambodian government social services agency to support children living in safe, nurturing family-based care.

#### Trend to family-based care

A primary goal of the grant will be development of programs to reduce child and family separation and identify children for safe reintegration from residential services into family and community-based care. Cambodia is moving away from the prevalent placement of at-risk children in residential care institutions (RCIs), or orphanages, because of the welldocumented harmful effects of institutional care.

A 2017 study by the government social services agency MoSVY estimated that there were 16,579 children living in 406 RCIs across Cambodia; 75% were placed there by families because of poverty and lack of access to education. The government's goal is to safely reintegrate 30% of



these children back into their communities and families, but social service resources are limited. An estimated 3,500 children will require reintegration nto family or community-based care by the end of 2018.

#### CFI's expanding role in family reintegration

The work supported by this grant will extend CFI's social services from two to four communes in the Ek Phnom province, where preventative services do not currently exist. CFI's target will be to safely and successfully reintegrate 20 children and prevent 20 children from entering RCIs.

#### CFI will develop and implement:

- Community-based prevention workshops to improve knowledge of the risks of child and family separation and to reduce its occurrence;
- Educational programs on mental health issues, hygiene and vaccinations awareness and fetal-alcohol syndrome;
- Professional staff development training to address best practices in mental health assessment and treatment, addictions, co-existing disorders and disability issues;
- >> Expanded staff supervision and competency guidelines; and
- Partnerships and networks with other local and national NGOs, RCIs and governmental agencies to share supervision, training and referrals, creating better utilization of regional social services resources.

FY2018 Expenses	Program Ops	\$93,730
	Child Protectio	n \$67,971
	Community De	velopment \$34,521
	Education	\$69,844
	Next Generatio	on Initiative \$19,771
	Fundraising & I	Management \$73,006
	Total Expenditur	es \$358,842
FY2018 Revenue	Corporate	\$20,326
	Events	\$67,862
	Grants	\$90,103
	Individual	\$42,555
	Partnerships	\$99,978
	Miscellaneous	\$8,381
	Total Revenue	\$329,209

## THANK YOU

- 3PC BASAID Better Lives CFI Gonnerverein Family Care First Filed Services Unlimited Global Ministries
- Kapadia Education Foundation Kidz Help Kirchgemeinde Olten Max J and Winnie S Rosenshein Foundation Rotary International



And thank you to the many individuals, whose ongoing regular support maintains the high level of services we can provide at CFI.

## THE CFI FAMILY

CFI has a team of 38 staff in Cambodia, 95% of whom are Cambodian nationals (Khmer). CFI is led by our management team and ably supported by a group of social workers, teachers, operational staff, cooks, guards, support staff and interns.

#### **Management Team**

Lee Henley Executive Director

Hor Sokhors Technical Director

**Zoey Henley** Managing Director

Hach Hour Social Work Manager

#### Board of Directors

David Asseoff Board President

Sue Shalley Vice President

Peter Jacobson Treasurer

Davis Phan Secretary Jan Vittum-Pilcher Sarah Hidey Melissa Theesen Florian Calmbach

Leng Kunhean

Thou Sreyrath

Vann Sokha

Project Manager

*Education Advocate* 

Learning Center Manager

Susie Johnston

Austin Klemmer

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

CFI, founded in 2008, provides basic needs, safety and educational opportunities to nearly 300 children, ages 5-21, and their families.

\$5 per month buys a student's school supplies

\$10 per month sponsors a student's lunches

\$70 buys a student a bicycle

\$100 per quarter feeds a family

\$420 per year sponsors a student's education

\$2000 over four years sends a student to University

CFI is a registered United States 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are taxdeductible.

For more information or to donate please visit:

www.childrensfuture.org