



Empowering Youth in Cambodia

2017: Year in Review



"Talent is Universal; Opportunity is Not" (Nicolas Kristof)

The slum communities of Phnom Penh are filled with talented youth. What is missing, however, are the opportunities to release this talent. In 2017, EYC served over 800 students daily in four community-based schools providing programming for students ranging from primary school to university. Programs included:

- **Education:** Daily English and computer classes.
- **Health:** Weekly medical clinics, dental visits, and family planning education/services.
- **Sports:** Cycling, football, yoga, Frisbee and jujitsu
- **Arts and Music:** Weekly art, piano, guitar, violin and singing classes.
- **Community Service:** Various projects including community clean-ups, awareness campaigns, community organizing, etc.

With a focus on the individual student, EYC provided additional opportunities to high-performing students and those in need of targeted support.

- **Social Work:** Address challenges of slum life including pressure to drop out of school, loss of housing/communities, hygiene & drugs/violence.
- **Scholarships:** Financial assistance to 40-50 high potential high school and university students.
- **Leadership & Personal Development:** Training and development to encourage critical thinking, self-confidence and gender equality.
- **Job Placement:** Interview and CV training plus job/intern placement.

A Letter From Our Country Manager



Dear Friends of EYC,

On a rainy day in November, as I stood in front of a room packed with students, alumni, staff, partners, and friends, to offer closing remarks at EYC's first ever "Celebrating the Journey" event, I was filled with hope.

Hope for the young students starting to explore their talents, hope for the alumni finding opportunities to build a better future, hope for the entire EYC community rising to meet the challenges ahead, and hope for the future of Cambodia.

Working on a daily basis with the staff of EYC, I experience first hand their dedication and resourcefulness. Visiting the schools, attending sporting events, and participating in trainings gives me the chance to interact with and be inspired by the talented students of EYC. However, on that day in November, we had a chance celebrate who we are as individuals and who we are collectively as the EYC family.

We are more than the number of students honing their English and computer skills each day. We are more than the number of scholarships granted. We are more than the number of community members receiving free medical and dental services.

We are the stories of tenacity, courage, and resilience.

We are the story of Aziza students coming together to create a song that both mourned the loss of the White Building and celebrated the community that was forged within its walls. We are the story of a staff committed to keeping the learning going even through upheaval and uncertainty. We are the story of a young man once ostracized in his own community sharing how he found a new community and family within EYC.

We are the stories of compassion, of collaboration, and of community.

I joined EYC because I wanted to give back and share what I have learned throughout my career in humanitarian and development work. I also wanted to work directly with the youth of Cambodia because I saw such possibility there. They are our future leaders. They are the change agents. Working with the students of EYC has reinforced my belief in the importance of investing in our youth.

In 2017, we penned a new motto that we feel captures why we do the work we do. "Find Your Talent. Shape Your Future." This is EYC - kids from the slum communities creating futures dictated not by the circumstances of their birth but by their talents, skills, and desires.

We don't know where our students will find their talents. Music may be the opening that connects them to their talent, or perhaps sport. An interaction with a community partner, a field trip, or class at university may open a door yet unseen. What we do know is that we will help them nurture their talents, connecting them to the opportunities that will allow them to create and shape the futures they imagine.

With Gratitude,

Delphine Vann
EYC Country Manager

Impact by the Numbers



800

ENGLISH STUDENTS



300

COMPUTER STUDENTS



150

SPORTS PARTICIPANTS



100

ARTS & MUSIC STUDENTS



40

SCHOLARSHIPS & LOANS

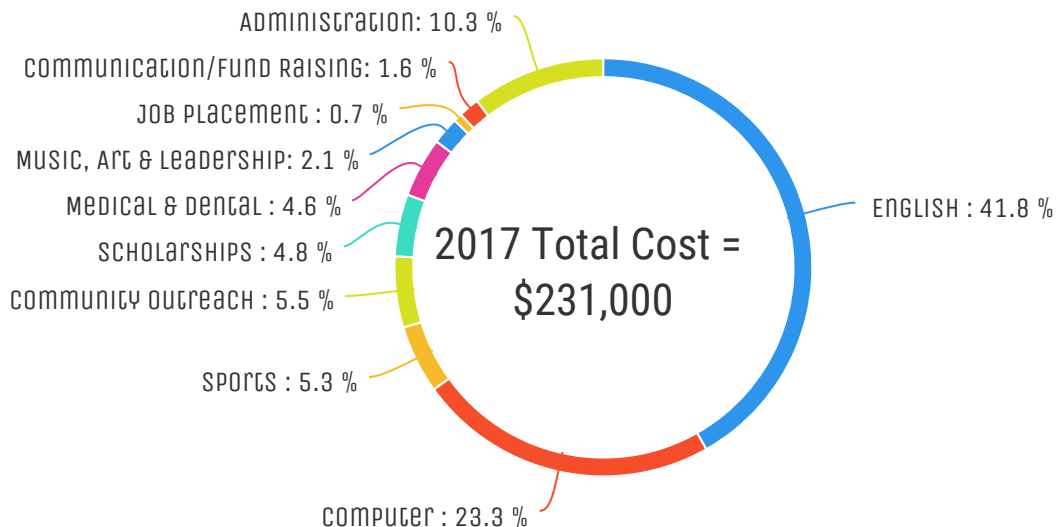


3,500

DOCTOR & DENTIST CONSULTS

Impact by the Cost

Private donors cover all of EYC's operating costs; 100% of your donations go directly to programming for the children.



The Challenge



The realities of slum life are difficult to fully grasp. EYC students live in vulnerable housing structures surrounded by open sewers, uncollected garbage, harassment, gambling, drug dealing, prostitution, alcoholism, and domestic violence. A constant threat of eviction adds ongoing anxiety.

EYC students live on the thin edge of poverty – they are an illness, job loss, death or eviction away from having to drop out of public school. Many young kids have to help support their families by working in garment factories, selling food on the street, scavenging for garbage, or sometimes worse. Often they are too exhausted trying to balance school and work to succeed.

These challenges are even more profound for our girls and young women who face daily inequities because of their gender.

The Potential

In Their Words: Meet Sreynuch



Hello! My name is Sreynuch. I am a 20 year-old EYC scholarship student studying Tourism and Hospitality at the Royal University of Phnom Penh.

My life was difficult growing up. My parents divorced, and people told me I would never be successful because of my parents' situation. I was afraid to talk to strangers and felt depressed a lot. That all changed in 2012, when I was in Grade 9, and my sister introduced me to EYC where she was a computer teacher. EYC has helped me to develop new skills, find a part-time job, get a scholarship, build my confidence, and be open to new experiences.

After graduation, I plan to work in a hotel so that I can earn money to help support my mother who is sick. However, one day I would like to open a book exchange so I can make reading more accessible to people in my community.

Before EYC, I would compare myself to others in terms of what they had and what I didn't. Now, I like myself just the way I am!

Sincerely,
Sreynuch

P.S. - Amnach, which means "Empowered", is the word I would use to describe who I am because of EYC.