



Heartprint Annual Report



July 2021– June 2022

Every human deserves to be treated as *a human*

Heartprint takes a holistic approach to charity.

Throughout the years we noticed gaps in what we were providing for families. We noticed families weren't moving forward as we would have hoped.

In 2020 we took our first step to becoming a holistic charity by building the Heartprint Community Centre. We are now able to provide the support that looks at the whole family structure, not just their living needs, considering their physical, emotional, social, and spiritual wellbeing.



OUR HEARTPRINTS TO DATE



1 UNIVERSITY
ENROLMENT



79 HOUSES



79 TOILETS



2 HOSPITALITY
TRAINEES



1 COMMUNITY
CENTRE



36 WELLS



2 HEARTPRINT
TRAINEES



324 BICYCLES



2 INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
ENROLMENTS



10 YOUTH
MENTORED

About us

Emerging from a compassionate action, a Heartprint is that which leaves a positive impression on your heart.

As an Australian-based charity dedicated to improving lives and empowering futures in Cambodia, our goal is to leave a generation-spanning heartprint on the individuals of our community in Siem Reap.

Our **MISSION** is to stop the poverty cycle and build new roads to lives of elevated potential and self-sustainability.

We **BELIEVE** every human deserves to be treated as human and live with equal rights and opportunities.

We are **REALISTIC** enough to know there is a lot of imbalance in humanity and want to do our bit to change it. We know we alone can't correct a global imbalance, but by working with one family at a time in our small community in Cambodia, we can help balance the scales here.

Our **GOALS** are to build houses for people living in extreme poverty; provide a structure that promotes and supports individual responsibility, education, training, and self-sustainability; provide sanitation and clean water to meet basic human needs, and prevent the spread of disease.



A brief history of Heartprint



It's hard to talk about Heartprint without first talking about the recent history of Cambodia. While it's true that people in every country, regardless of its relative prosperity, face challenges, Cambodians have had to overcome more adversity than most.

Forty-six years ago, in 1975, Pol Pot-led forces effectively took control of Phnom Penh and all of Cambodia when they forced city dwellers into the countryside and declared that it was now Year Zero. The next four years of Khmer Rouge control saw some of the most brutal atrocities in modern history. Starvation, disease, and mass executions killed an estimated 1.5 million people in a country of 7.5 million. Many, perhaps a majority, of those directly executed were considered enemies of the state because they were educated: doctors, teachers, civil servants, nurses, musicians, lawyers, and monks.

The heinous brutality of the Khmer Rouge was preceded and followed by civil wars that continued until the early 1990s. When the wars finally ended, it must have honestly felt like a Year Zero in Cambodia: starting from scratch.

How do you teach children when all the books were destroyed, and all the teachers are dead or gone? How do you prevent and treat disease when doctors exist only in the anonymous mounds of the Killing Fields? How do you build an economy when so few can read? Without schools, healthcare, housing, or sanitation, how do you rebuild communities that prosper and revive an ancient culture of great accomplishment?



A brief history of Heartprint cont.



It takes a lot of time and more than a village. It takes a world, really. Most of all, it takes the endless determination of Cambodians. Fast forward to 2015 and the progress was astounding, given the starting point of nearly nothing. Provincial schools had been established and there was some access to higher education. There was a growing number of doctors, nurses, and hospitals. Vocational training programs. International business investments and millions of international tourists. Peace.

Yet, poverty remained rampant, education was elusive to too many, and people still needed a hand up. They needed lots of Heartprints.

That's why Garry, Wendy, and Riannan founded Heartprint in November 2015 in a small village in Siem Reap, home to the famed Angkor temples.



Our Work



The Heartprint approach has always been a holistic one. We saw a desperate need for housing, water, and sanitation and began our efforts there. But we also saw a need to help build whole-life structures and individual accountability. People needed a way to learn new skills. Children needed to be able to get to school. The sick and elderly needed transportation to clinics.

Impoverished new moms needed a hand in providing essentials for their babies. When Covid hit and lingered, they needed food.

The last seven years have seen us maintain our original focus while also providing a variety of support structures for the families in our community. This report is an overview of our activities. It's important to note that, as it did everywhere, Covid-19 severely restricted our activities in late 2021 and somewhat in early 2022.

As vaccines became widely available and accessible and when borders re-opened, life began to return to normal – albeit a new one. This report is a snapshot of Heartprint's emergence from COVID into a different but steadily improving, growing, and joyful Cambodian community.

The year in review

*A Word from
our Chairperson*



Since 2015 Heartprint has supported the development of a more sustainable and equitable world. Our passion to assist those living below the poverty line, and provide opportunity for those who have been placed at a disadvantage in Siem Reap, continue to drive our systems, values and program delivery in 2022. A world where girls are just as likely to gain an education and a job as boys, where families can own their own home and provide food for their families, where disability can be seen as an ability, and where families are able to remain together to support and educate their children. Poverty is an ongoing issue affecting individuals, communities, NGOs and Government in Cambodia.

Heartprint continues to fight to promote ways to achieve this and remove barriers that stand in the way of development for a more sustainable future for the communities with which we are involved.

Though the challenges we face may seem daunting, we must not accept the world as it stands today.

Children should not go hungry, they should not be forced to drop out of school to start working, and families should not be broken apart by lack of adequate shelter, steady income, hygiene and medical support, and opportunity for meaningful work.

Heartprint remains steadfast in our commitment to overcoming these barriers. We continue in our conviction that positive change is possible for individuals, families and communities as a whole when we work together.

Heartprint continued to tackle these issues head on in 2022 despite the added challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic saw the cessation of international volunteers and a need to pivot our funding into emergency food relief as people lost their employment. This report highlights some of our work in these areas. As we move forward, we endeavour to prioritise the areas of highest need to ensure that each year we are closer to achieving equality and opportunity for the people of Siem Reap.

Riannan De La Torre



OUR HEARTPRINTS THIS FINANCIAL YEAR



10 HOUSES



10 TOILETS




6 WELLS



109 BICYCLES



21 BABY BASKETS



"It's not just about throwing money at a solution, we ensure that all donations go toward providing a sustainable future for the people of Cambodia"

- Wendy O'Brien / General Manager

Community Builds

Building homes, sanitation facilities, and wells were the original core mission of Heartprint.

Too many families in our community live hand-to-mouth and survive in makeshift structures that provide little shelter, leak furiously in the monsoon rains, and are especially unsafe for children and the elderly. A stable, sanitary house that provides family safety and comes with real, individual responsibility helps people thrive. It helps their children study and get to school on a regular basis. It becomes a sanctuary. A fresh start.

Most people don't want a handout; they just want a simple chance. This helps give them that chance.

We build stilted houses in and around Siem Reap. We construct them from concrete, steel frames, and tin surrounds with wooden floors. They have windows, so there is interior light, and parents can watch their children play outside - and the windows and doors have locks to provide safety for the family and security for their possessions.

If there is sufficient space on the building site, we provide a toilet and well for clean drinking water.

Before Covid halted international travel, many of our houses were built with the assistance of interns and volunteers from overseas. During Covid, we kept on, but with fewer hands, leading to a decreased rate of building. Now that volunteers are coming back, we are increasing our ability to build - and there is never a shortage of need. These houses are provided for families in the direst straits, identified through a strict vetting process.

All of our home-building projects require the assistance of family members if they are physically and mentally able.



The Heartprint Community Centre

Formerly known as the Heartprint Opportunities and Education (HOPE) project, our Community Centre is a hub of activity, learning, creativity, and connection.

Through our extensive work in Cambodia, we know that creating a safe learning environment for everyone is critical to make up for the lack of government and societal attention given to individuals living with the challenges of an intellectual disability.

By employing trained, local people who understand the dominant cultural and religious beliefs, the difficulties faced by people with disabilities, and the support they need to surmount them, we are creating opportunities and changing the mindset of Cambodians. It takes courage, perseverance, and strength for people to make these changes. But breaking down barriers is not new to us. We are determined to make a better life for all Cambodians

Our Centre creates employment and vocational training for disadvantaged people, people living in poverty, and people with special needs. We also provide learning opportunities for local children within our Education Support, Creative Arts, and Get Active programs.



The Heartprint Community Centre cont.

In addition, the Centre:

- Integrates people with learning difficulties and intellectual disabilities into the broader community
- Provides employment opportunities within Heartprint
- Conducts workshops in sewing, woodwork, printing, plant nurseries, metalwork, and more.
- Identifies and helps members of our community apply for training opportunities outside of Heartprint.
- Holds sessions on hygiene and women's health.
- Provides Physical Education in our I.D. Active, Get Active, and dance and movement classes.
- Offers creative classes in music and writing.
- Offers computer skills training.
- Provides swim gear and swimming lessons to help save lives – and let the kids have fun.
- Provides mentors and a support network for at-risk youths.
- Offers support and education for families with a child who has learning difficulties or an intellectual disability.
- Provides tutoring in both Khmer and English.
- Offers a counseling program through its All Minds Matter program to help people understand there is a way through concerns from addiction to anxiety and depression.
- Published and distributes a book, "I know the World's Worst Secret," about how addiction affects the life of the ten-year-old protagonist, Thida.



The Transition from Covid Emergency



When Covid-19 hit in early 2020, the economy quickly contracted in Cambodia, especially in Siem Reap, which is so dependent on international tourism. Siem Reap began to resemble a ghost town. Hotels and restaurants closed their doors; tuk-tuk drivers had no one to transport, and vendors had no customers to supply. Jobs disappeared overnight with no safety net to cushion the fall. With so many already living in poverty, it was immediately evident they would be forced into even more extreme circumstances.

We started, in 2020, a food relief program to help our families make it through what we all hoped would be a short-term downturn. Generous friends from across the globe provided financial support for us to eventually provide regular food support to some 110 vetted families during the worst of the pandemic months. We continued this program through May of 2022 when Siem Reap began to awaken, and families regained some self-sufficiency.

Our families faced another challenge when schools were closed in 2020 and into 2021. Heartprint is not, and will not be, a school, but we wanted to ensure the children in our community did not fall too far behind in their studies. We hired a certified teacher to develop weekly school packages for children in our village to try to keep their learning on track in Khmer and English. The response was overwhelming. These young people cherish their education. Some of the girls even wore their regular school uniforms to collect their weekly packets. We were able to discontinue this when schools re-opened in September and October of 2021.

As we discontinued some programs, we got back on track with others:

- Purchased a reliable means of transport (a small tuk tuk) to transport small groups for near-by outings, the elderly and ill to clinics, small emergency food drops, and much more.
- Restarted our internship and volunteer programs as borders opened.
- Placed more of our young people in local training programs.
- Restarted our community swimming lessons
- Distributed donated bikes as schools reopened



HEARTPRINT FUNDING

We are funded solely through donations from supportive individuals and businesses in Cambodia, Australia and many other countries. Some of these donations are made monthly, others through a specific fundraising campaign, still others whenever an individual has a few dollars to spare.



Heart of Gold Club

Our Heart of Gold Club is the central source of reliable funding from our most dedicated donors and volunteers. Each member contributes on an annual or monthly basis. Their donations fund much of our Community Centre, Community Builds, and general operating expenses. And, we honestly would not have made it through the pandemic without them.



Match it May

The original purpose of this program was to help fund our Covid Food relief program. As this program was phased out, we used our Match it May campaign to raise the money we use to keep all of Heartprint running steady. Once again our donors stepped up and matched – dollar for dollar – individual donations made during the month of May. The funds are set aside to pay for basic needs such as rent, water, electricity. And pencils.



Silent September

Silent September is an annual event held by Heartprint to raise awareness of and funds for our work to address mental health needs in our Cambodian community. We call this program All Minds Matter because, well...they do.

Silent September asks supporters to commit to a certain number of hours or days they will remain silent in September – in symbolic support for those in our Cambodian community struggling to find their voices. Those who commit to this program invite family, friends and co-workers to pledge a certain amount to sponsor their Silent campaign.



Christmas giving

As Cambodia is a primarily Buddhist country, Christmas is not a real holiday here. But we decided to use it as an opportunity to provide both useful and just-for-fun gifts to children who rarely receive any gifts at all. Christmas 2021 saw a return of our in-person celebration (with the prescribed Covid safety precautions). It's one of the most joyful times of the year at Heartprint as staff wrap all the presents, the music plays and all the families gather for some welcome cheer. Through many individual donations, we were able to give 389 gifts during our 2021 Christmas party.



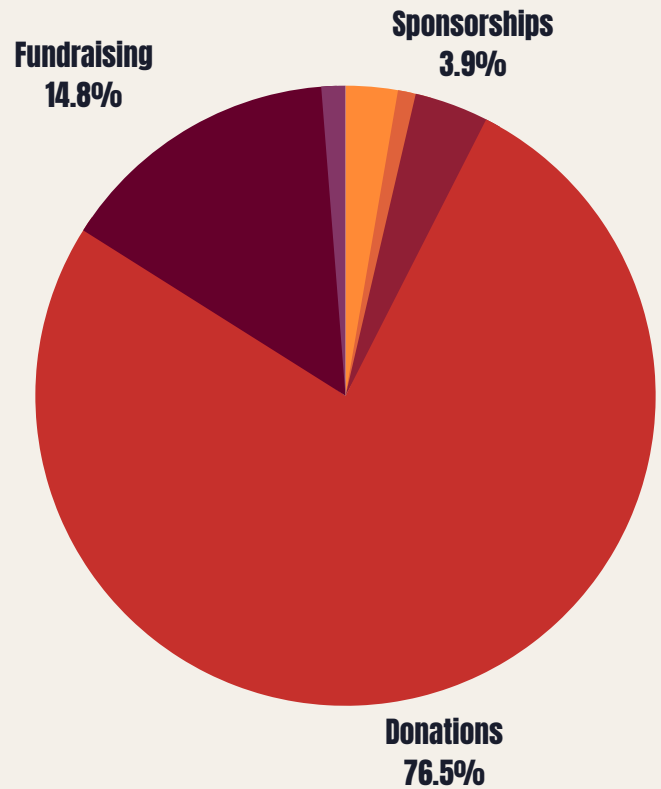
Our Year in Figures



Income

Volunteers	5,537
Merchandise Sales	1,898
Sponsorships	7,875
Donations	156,200
Fundraising	30,221
Miscellaneous	2,555

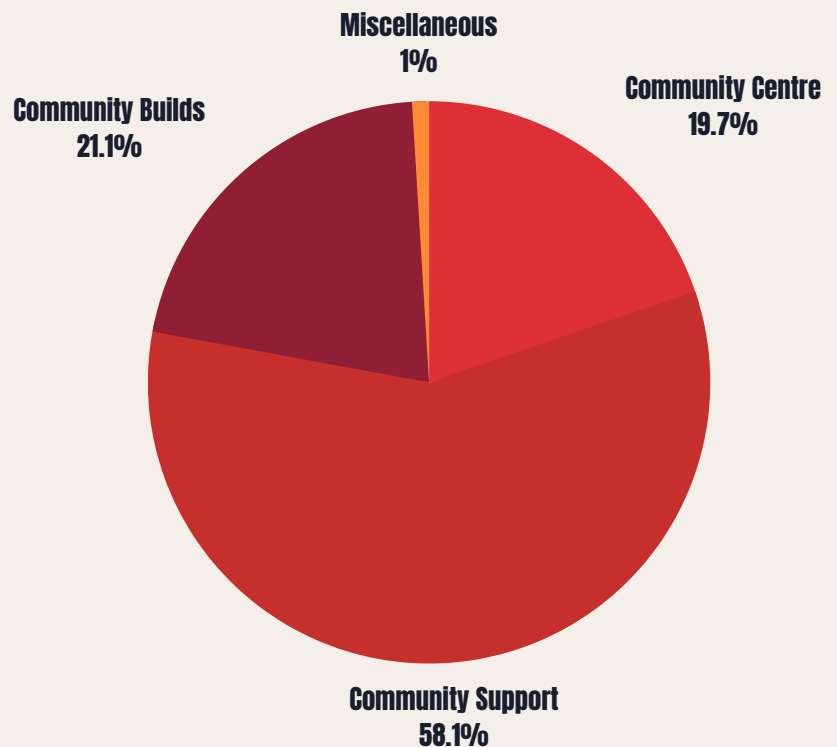
TOTAL **\$204,286**



Expense

Community Centre	45,803
Community Support	134,876
Community Builds	49,022
Miscellaneous	2,255

TOTAL **\$231,956**



Quote

We'd like to thank all our donors for their generous **support**



There are many ways our partners work with us to leave Heartprints. Brain power, volunteer hands, in-kind support and direct funding all keep our work going. We work with individuals, non-profits, government authorities, companies and other organisations on multiple projects. We'd love to work with you, too.

Below are just a few of our donors that made things happen this year.

Girls with Hammers
David Meikle
Mark Caldwell
Black & White Accounting
Adam McDonald
The Weckert Family
Janet Thompson
Hayley Clough
Gordon and Christine Ryder
KJ Mann
Anne Ford
The Dunn Family
For Riel
Penhjet Counselling Services
Haven Training Restaurant
Jayday Music Education
Raksa Koma Foundation
CBC
Wing Bank

