



TEEN CHALLENGE CAMBODIA



A PLACE TO BELONG

Sam Soy is 23 years old, and he now works as the security guard at the Teen Challenge Men's Center in rural Cambodia. For now, this is a place where he feels safe and where he can belong. He has not always felt this way.

Soy grew up as an orphan in Kratie, a province northeast of Phnom Penh. While he was still young, Hagar International accepted him from that orphanage and placed him in their center in Phnom Penh. Hagar is one of Teen Challenge's partners, and Hagar works with women and children who have suffered from human rights abuses. Soy did very well in their center, and he was even a worship leader.

When Soy was university-age, he left Hagar's center and began studying at the National University of Management. He stayed in a small rental room in Phnom Penh, and he managed to get a job as a chef's assistant in a well-known restaurant in the city. It was not long, how-

ever, until friends in these new places were inviting Soy to a new kind of life.

As an orphan who grew up in a center, Soy did not have any strong family connections, and he soon fell in with this new crowd, using meth and abandoning his studies. During one of Hagar's follow up visits with Soy, the case worker found Soy in this new life, and the case worker encouraged Soy to make a new choice and move to Teen Challenge's center.

Soy agreed, and in 2014 he moved to the center because he wanted a change in his life. Again, he did well in the recovery program at the Men's Center, and he actively participated in the counseling and training.* He also made two close friends, Punleu and Pannha, who were also clients at the center.

When Soy left the center in 2015, he moved to a dormitory run by a church in Phnom Penh. Here he continued to meet with Punleu and Pannha who

encouraged him to persevere in an addiction-free life. The temptations of the city were too great, however, and Soy returned to his old job at the restaurant where he connected with his old friends. This time he did not fall as low as before, but he left the church dormitory and began abusing alcohol.

However, deep inside, Soy knew this was not the life he wanted. By the end of 2015, he came back to the Men's Center, and he asked if he could just stay there. He had nowhere to go, and he knew he was not strong enough on his own. The staff had compassion on him and took him in again, and they have seen him improve.

Soy is incredibly thankful for this chance. He dreams of studying a short course at a Bible school and becoming a pastor someday. For now, though, he's thankful just to be at the center again. "Teen Challenge is like my home, and the staff here are like my family," Soy said.

WAYS TO GIVE

SMALL

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for new clients and children which may include but is not limited to...

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\$120 per year

MEDIUM

OUTREACH MINISTRY

\$3,600 per year

HOUSING AND EDUCATION

for clients's children
\$1,500 per year

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LARGE

FOOD SUPPLIES

Men's Center: \$9,900 per year
Women's Center: \$4,500 per year

TRAINING / REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Men's Center: \$8,000 per year
Women's Center: \$4,000 per year

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STUDENT PAINTERS

"Faith, hope, love. But the greatest of these is Love." These words from 1 Corinthians 13:13 are painted in English and Khmer on the inside of the wall that surrounds the Teen Challenge Women's Center.

The painters were local volunteers, students at Logos International School. As part of their education at Logos, students are encouraged to organize and lead service projects in their community.

One of the students at Logos is the son of a missionary who has a close relationship with Teen Challenge's director Vuth, and he helped make the connection for the students to come.

The students came on two Saturdays to do the work, April 23 and April 30. These dates fall right in the middle of the hot season, and this year's hot season was one of the hottest on record. It did not deter the students though.

Their group of about 25 persevered through the heat and even managed to have some fun with a little paint fight now and then.

Teen Challenge is thankful for the heart of service that these students showed. The Women's Center is not yet complete, but we know that when the center is finished, the students' message of love will be a constant reminder for our clients and staff.





Thanks to GDG for their support of our development activities!

* indicated sections are part of Teen Challenge Cambodia's development activity (J628) with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993), for which gifts over \$2 to GDG are tax deductible. Any excess funding may support other approved activities. Any gifts or costs mentioned are representative only, and no non-development activities (welfare, evangelism or political) are a part of or funded by GDG. For more info: www.gdg.org.au/InfoJ628 Australian donors can support this project (J628) directly through GDG's website: www.gdg.org.au/GiveToJ628



SEWING TRAINING

The Women's Center is excited about the new part-time staff member Pov. Pov operates her own tailoring shop in Phnom Penh, and she has agreed to come to the center for a few hours every afternoon to teach our clients how to sew.*

The Women's Center previously had a sewing program as part of the vocational training for the women, but the training was put on pause when the former teacher had a baby. Pov has been filling in the gap since April 1.

In addition to being a skilled tailor, Pov is a Christian with a heart to help the clients, and she's a natural teacher. Two of our clients are currently learning from her, and they've been able to make clothing as well as handbags.

For now, the clothes that the women make are just for personal use. Handbags require a greater level of skill, and the women hope to be able to focus more on handbags as their skills improve. There is potential to expand the sewing train-

ing to a small business, and this is a potential next step after the women's program moves to the new center we are building.

Having a skill like sewing will certainly be an asset for our clients after they leave the center. The garment manufacturing business is quite large in Cambodia, and therefore, there are a lot of jobs available for people who know how to sew. Sewing their own clothes has also provided the clients with a sense of dignity and accomplishment.