



AKUN ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Our Mission and About Us

Our mission is to improve the lives of those in desperate situations and in personal crisis by providing shelter, food, education, and hope.

AKUN was founded in 2015 by a small group of women who wanted to make a difference. All members of our team are volunteers. We are small but mighty – demonstrated through the many accomplishments we have achieved over the years. We focus on raising awareness of desperate situations. We work with communities, to help grow their community. Realizing that the children are the foundation of the future of the communities we help, our programs are centered on the children and their families. We work to give them hope and a path out of poverty and into a better future.

President's Letter

2022 has been one of the most exciting years of AKUN's history!

We gained two new volunteers: Shari and Maria who got involved and were active right away. We have also gone through several changes in roles: Christine replaced Anna as Treasurer and Shari replaced Christine as Secretary. Barbara has taken our Facebook communication to a whole different level with regular and well-designed posts. Pam has been very busy with fundraising and managing the Scholarship program: we now sponsor 3 students in Cambodia, 3 in Guatemala and 1 in Ethiopia.

Shari and I went to Cambodia early November and were accompanied by three other ladies: Sherita, Debi and Julie (met thanks to Rachael in Scotland). It was great to see everyone again after almost three years of not going there due to the COVID pandemic. Friar Gianluca, with whom we have been working in Cambodia for more than 10 years, has moved to a new area about three hours from Chumkiri. It is now Fr. Giovanni who is in charge of the activities in Chumkiri. The SFP is still running in three villages in the province of Kampot and the ladies group is bigger than ever.

On the fundraising side, we have also done well with enough funds to sponsor all of our students and the SFP for the year 2022. Thanks to our donors, we finished the year with a good financial balance to look forward to 2023.

So overall, 2022 was a challenging but rewarding year for AKUN and I truly hope that 2023 will be just as exciting. I want to thank all our donors and volunteers for their support and help in 2022! What's to come in 2023? Undoubtedly, Fr. Gianluca will have new projects soon in his area, a new Lindalva Centre (one of our first projects) is being built and might need support, Fr Giovanni will continue the activities in the newly built health centre in Chumkiri and wants to develop activities in Tropeang Skun and Tropeang Rung, the school in Guatemala needs more students to be sponsored and there will also be more applications in Cambodia. 2023, AKUN is ready!

Sunday Feeding Program

History of the program

This program began in 2008 and has been funded by AKUN since 2016. The program feeds up to 180 children each Sunday, throughout the year, on the grounds of St. Joseph's Church in Chumkiri, the village of Phum Or, and Tropeang Skun, which are all located in Kampot Province, Cambodia. The program started in Chumkiri and has expanded over the years to include the villages of Phum Or and in 2020 Tropeang Skun.

In September 2019, Fr. Gianluca requested that AKUN extend the program to a third village, Tropeang Skun where a new library/education building was being erected, he was keen for the Sunday Feeding Program to expand to feed the children there. It would help the program reach new children and enable some who were travelling to the program in Chumkiri to go to a Sunday Feeding Program closer to their homes. AKUN agreed to fund the program for 1 year to see if it was viable financially for AKUN as an organization to raise funds for it and to assess the value of the program to the children in the community. With the addition of a new village and the increased expense, \$30 extra per week, Linda Franks, AKUN President, agreed to raise funds for the new program during 2020. The Tropeang Skun Sunday Feeding Program began on February 9th, 2020.

The program, under the guidance of Fr. Gianluca, is run by a group of teenage volunteers, who also organize a scout program, prior to the feeding program each week. It is open to all children in the area. The children arrive on foot or by bicycle. The volunteers ensure the children wash their hands before eating and all the children receive either rice porridge, known locally as bobo, or occasionally they have a cup of Milo and a small loaf of French bread which they are able to eat on the site and/or take it home.

In Cambodia, each program has a coordinator who organizes the program in their village to ensure the program runs efficiently. The coordinators are: Danoun in Chumkiri; Puk John in Phum Or and Rem in Tropeang Skun.

Program in 2022

In 2022, the Sunday Feeding Program continued in all three villages, with the youth organizing the children in Chumkiri. The SFP organizers have been asked to send photos or videos from the

SFP once a month, showing whatever activities they think are interesting for donors. Both Tropeang Skun and Chumkiri have sent photos though not as regularly as requested. Fr. Gianluca left the parish in July 2022 to take up a new post and Fr. Giovanni is now the parish priest.

This year the Board agreed to change the funding for the SFP, rather than weekly sponsorship of each Sunday, AKUN would simply fundraise for the program throughout the year and via the #GivingTuesday Facebook Fundraiser.

Following a request for a speaker and microphone plus crayons to help carry out the SFP activities in Chumkiri, additional funds were sent in December 2022 from General Funds.

Monies received

Donations for the 2022 program came via: PayPal (2) and Facebook (20) donors. Record keeping of our donor information for all SFP donations is kept by Barbara Sanders, the vice president. In 2022 we raised enough funds to cover all 52 weeks in all three villages.

Funds	Amount in \$
In Cambodia from 2021 SFP	1420
In AKUN account from 2021 SFP	1212.72
Giving Tuesday 2021 Facebook fundraiser	2220.49 *
Donated via PayPal	406.61
Total raised	5259.82

*Includes \$83.98 sent from 2021 Giving Tuesday Match from Facebook via Network for Good

Amount required for all three programs: \$100 x 52 = \$5200

Funds totaling \$3800 were sent to Fr. Gianluca for the SFP in May 2022. With the funds already in Cambodia (\$1420) from 2021, there were sufficient funds to run the program for the year. In December, money from General Funds was sent for a speaker with microphone and crayons which had been requested for the SFP in Chumkiri for the activities there.

Updating donors/raising awareness of SFP

Donors were updated via a Facebook post with photos of children attending the programs in Chumkiri or Tropeang Skun on a monthly basis.

A mid-year SFP email was sent in July to all 2022 donors to provide them with an update. In November an email was sent to everyone on the AKUN database updating them on the visit to Cambodia by Linda Franks, AKUN President and Shari Kruger, AKUN Secretary. A brief update on the SFP alongside photos was included within it.

Strategic Plans for 2023

1. The SFP organizers have been asked to send photos or videos from the SFP once a month, showing whatever activities they think are interesting for donors. Photos have been sent in 2022, but not as regularly as requested. In 2023, ask Tropeang Skun and Chumkiri to send photos or videos once a month to ensure sufficient photos to update Facebook.
2. Barbara will be stepping down from her role as SFP Chair, so a new Chairperson is needed.

Scholarship Program

This program was created in 2018 to honor the life of Sarah Meredith Fouad, the daughter of one of AKUN's members, who passed away at the age of 19. The program currently sponsors higher education scholarships for qualified students in Cambodia, Guatemala and Ethiopia. These scholarships are awarded on a yearly basis and are renewable until their degree or certification is received, as long as passing grades are achieved.

There is a selection process and well-defined criteria a student must meet in order to qualify for a scholarship. All current students have met AKUN's criteria by our local contacts in each country. It is imperative to the program's success to have someone who can verify student details, the course program, and handle funds distribution.

The program is administered by Pamela Meredith and Maria Saenz, two AKUN volunteers.

Program Funding

Annual sponsorship goal for program: \$3000

Balance from 2021: \$9,155.78

Amount donated 2022: \$4282.35

It costs approximately \$500-1500 per year to sponsor a student scholarship to university or trade school. Eight students were sponsored in 2022. Four students graduated this summer! Three are currently pursuing 4 or 5-year-degree programs. The remaining students is completing a one-year trade school certificate.

In 2022, the program raised \$4282.35 consisting of \$2849.19 from the annual Facebook fundraiser, \$1400 from Shell's double matching donation program, and \$433.16 from direct sponsorship. A total of \$4,459.10 was spent to support students in 2022. The balance on our books is intended to support current students through the end of their studies, as well as sponsor new students in 2023.

Scholarship Students

STUDENT NAME	DEGREE	YEAR	SCHOOL
Set Raksa	Rural Development	Graduated this year!!	The Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Seun Kim Chhan	Accounting	Graduated this year!	National University of Management, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
In Srey Touch	Chemistry	4 of 4	The Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Sam Vicheka	History	2 of 4	The Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Noun Minea	Civil Engineering	3 of 5	Norton University, Cambodia
Luisa Evelyn Tzina Tacaxoy	Bachillerato in Science and Diploma in Ecotourism	Graduated this year!	Liceo Urrutia CEE, Guatemala
Ingrid Maribel Diaz Perez	Bilingual Secretarial Diploma	Graduated this year!	Liceo Urrutia CEE, Guatemala
Abey Mamo Setbelay	Cosmetology Certificate	1 of 1	Nebyu and Tsehay Women's Beauty Salon Training Center, Ethiopia

Program Communication

Updates on students' progress are posted on Facebook and AKUN's website.

Strategic Plans Going Forward

Some plans we have to improve this program:

- Identify families and/or organizations to provide direct sponsorship of current students to ensure sufficient funds are available for new students to receive scholarships from Sarah Meredith Fouad scholarship fund each year.
- Expand scholarship opportunities in other regions/countries as needed and where accountable, secure local oversight is available.

Financial Summary

AKUN has a new Treasurer, Christine Shaw. Anna Andrews was our amazing Treasurer for the past 6+ years and was much appreciated for all she did. Christine spent the better part of this last year shadowing Anna learning the tasks associated with the Treasurer position. One of the tasks accomplished was to update our financial tracking spreadsheets to a new Excel version.

2022 was a busy year for us. We brought in \$12,500 in revenue from both active fundraising and passive income. We distributed \$15,300 this year to all the different programs we support. We could not have done this without the generous support of our donors. We always set aside a minimum balance of \$500 in our account. With that said, we are ending the year with a healthy balance in our general fund (funds not specifically designated to a program) as well as for each of the programs we have.

ENDING BALANCES FOR 2022

General Funds	\$4024.51
SFP Funds	\$2021.54
Scholarship	\$7229.03
Minimum Funds	\$500

We look at ways to minimize fees associated with financial transactions. We have used Western Union to do money transfers when it is more economical. We will continue to look at ways to reduce costs in 2023. Our operational cost this year (in fees) was \$267. We keep our overheads to a minimum to ensure all donations go straight to the programs they have been donated to.

Operational Costs 2022

PayPal Fees	\$68
Wire Transfer Fees	\$199

We also have miscellaneous, passive income we gain from Amazon Smile when people make purchases and designate us as “nonprofit.” We have royalties from the sale of AKUN’s book on Amazon. We will continue to look at ways to increase income other than from donations.

Miscellaneous Income

Amazon Smile	\$34.50
Amazon Book Sales	\$23.67

