

AKUN ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Our Mission

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

About Us

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 tiny but mighty – which can be seen through the many accomplishments we have achieved over the last 5 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 to a better future.

The report contains a summary of each of our main programs: Sunday Feeding Program, Housing Program, and our Scholarship Program.

Sunday Feeding Program 2019

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 and in the village of PhumOr both in Kampot Province, Cambodia. The annual Christmas party for 2019 was held in December.

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, by bicycle and on the rowie. 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 and/or take home.

The bobo (rice, vegetables, meat/egg) is made by 2 women each week, from the Chumkiri women's group. The cooking is shared amongst the women to ensure everyone gets a chance to be a cook. Each cook receives \$5 for gathering the ingredients, cooking the bobo and for cleaning and putting away all of the equipment.

As of 2018, AKUN has sponsored students who were teenage volunteers at the Sunday Feeding Program for a number of years, as they continue their studies, through the Sarah Fouad Sponsorship Program. In 2018, Set Raksa began her studies at the Royal University of Phnom Penh. Then in 2019, Em Sophia, who was the leader of the Scouts program at the Chumkiri location, started a 2 year Associates Degree in Secretarial Sciences. Srey Touch, the vice leader of AKUN's Sunday Feeding Program, also began her degree in Chemistry at the Royal University of Phnom Penh.

How the Sponsorship Works

The program runs year round, 52 weeks. We solicit sponsors for each of the 52 Sundays. In 2019, all 52 weeks were sponsored by donors. This is the second year the program, under AKUN's sponsorship, has raised enough funds to be self-sufficient. We raised \$23.55 more than required; this money will be carried over into 2020.

Amounted required for program: \$3640

Amount donated: \$3663.55

Donations exceeded those required by \$23.55

Year	Weeks sponsored	Number of donors	Total raised via sponsorship
2016	28	15	\$1940
2017	28	15	\$1985
2018	52+	18	\$3680.55
2019	52+	22	\$3663.55

For 2019, the money was raised through: Giving Tuesday Campaign on FaceBook, starting in November 2018; an email sent in November 2018 to previous donors and a follow up email in January 2019. Linda Franks supported the program, using the funds raised at the Banchory, French Dinner. This covered 11 weeks.

Donor Information

Money raised	Number of donors	Number of new donors	New donor donations	% of money raised
--------------	------------------	----------------------	---------------------	-------------------

\$3663.55	22	8	\$1144.76*	31%
-----------	----	---	------------	-----

As in previous years, all donors received a certificate via email, to keep or give to the person they were donating in honour of, though a couple of people didn't require one. A new certificate is designed each year using a photo from the previous year's program.

*includes \$811.61 from French Dinner.

Monies received

Donations for the 2019 program mainly came via: PayPal(6); FaceBook (15); plus 1 check. Recordkeeping of our donor information is kept by Barbara Sanders, the vice president. We have 15 regular donors (2+ years), who accounted for \$2518.79.

Updating donors/raising awareness of SFP

Donors were updated via a FaceBook post at the end of each month, showing photos from that month, sent by SreyMom from the program.

They received an email in February 2020 on the success of the Christmas party for the children in the SFP including photos. As not all donors are on FaceBook, the post-Christmas email is important for reaching out and communicating with our donors, so they get to see the children they are sponsoring.

Strategic Plans Going Forward

As we are always looking for ways to progress and improve this program, these are some of the plans we have:

1. Updating of the www.supportakun.org page for SFP should be done quarterly, to increase the accuracy and timely information given to donors.
2. The Christmas email in 2020 needs to be sent in January.
3. In 2020, a June mid-year email should update all donors with how the program has done in the first 6 months.

Scholarship Program 2018-2019

This program was created in 2018 to honour 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 rural Cambodia and is awarded on a yearly basis, renewable until degree or certification is received, providing passing grades are achieved.

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

Program Funding

Annual sponsorship goal for program: \$3000

Balance from 2018: \$2673.27

Amount donated 2019: \$4,190.70

It costs approximately \$500-600 per year to sponsor a student scholarship to university or trade school in Cambodia. Three students were sponsored in 2018, at a cost of \$1700. In 2019, those 3 students and an additional 2 students were sponsored at a total cost of \$2800.

In 2018, the program raised \$4373.27 from fundraisers and direct sponsorship. The balance remaining is intended to support these students through the end of their studies.

In 2019, the program raised \$4,190.70 (\$1100 to be received in 2020 via Shell matching). The money was received through an annual Facebook fundraising campaign in September (\$2400), as well as direct sponsorship from four families and the Rotary Club of Speyside and Aberlour, Scotland.

Year	Students sponsored	Amount of Scholarships	Total raised via sponsorship
2018	3	\$1700	\$4373.27
2019	5	\$2800	\$4190.70

Student Recipients

2018

STUDENT NAME	DEGREE	SCHOOL
Set Raksa	4 year degree in Rural Development	The Royal University of Phnom Penh
Seun Kim Chhan	4 year degree in Accounting	National University of Management, Phnom Penh
Oem SokLa	2 year diploma in Electrical Studies	Don Bosco, Phnom Penh

2019

Set Raksa	Year 2 of 4	The Royal University of Phnom Penh
Seun Kim Chhan	Year 2 of 4	National University of Management, Phnom Penh
Oem SokLa	Year 2 of 2 (final year)	Don Bosco, Phnom Penh
In Srey Touch	Year 1 of 4 yr BS in Chemistry	The Royal University of Phnom Penh
Em Sophea	Year 1 of 2 yr diploma in Secretarial Science	Don Bosco, Kep

Raising Awareness

In 2018, an Open House was held in Houston, TX to raise awareness and educate possible donors about the scholarship program and how they can support this program. Updates on students' progress are posted on Facebook and AKUN's website at least twice per year, after each semester is completed.

Strategic Plans Going Forward

Some plans we have to improve overseeing this program:

- Identify families and/or organizations to provide direct sponsorship of current students by July, to ensure sufficient funds are available for new students to receive scholarships each year.
- Establish a regular reporting schedule and guidelines for students to provide feedback on their educational progress.

Housing Program 2019

This program began in 2015 and has been solely funded by AKUN since then. The program aims at improving the homes of desperate families in the area of and around Chumkiri in Kampot Province, Cambodia. Throughout the year, and sometimes through the SFP, families are identified as candidates for the program. The criteria are for the families to be very poor and to need an improvement of their existing shelter or to acquire a new one. It is also very important that a positive change would be likely if the family was to become a beneficiary of the program.

The program, under the guidance of Fr. Gianluca, is run by a local group of men and women from Chumkiri. Some of them also participate to the SFP. The main participants are Srey Mum, Srey Ni, Ming An, Puk John and Kim. During the year, they visit families that they hear are in need in the countryside around their area. Fr Gianluca visits some of them with the group and makes a short list that he recommends to Linda Franks in preparation for her visit. She then visits each family recommended and takes notes and photos of each of them (with their consents). After her return, she reports all the notes and photos to the AKUN board who will decide which families will benefit. The decision also depends on the available funds.

Between 2015-2018, AKUN helped 10 families by giving them a new home or improving their existing one. In 2019, two families were helped: Puk Tray and Puk Chea.

Puk Tray.

Notes taken by Linda Franks during her October 2018 visit to Puk Tray's family:

Puk Tray, 45yrs old, was very active and hard working. He lives with his wife and 3 grandchildren. He also has 3 grown children living far away. He also has 3 sisters living there. Of his grandchildren, 1 is disabled and the other two are in primary grades (4 yr old in Kindergarten, 6 yr. old grade 1). Their father works at a rice mill nearby and is very punctual to bring kids to school. They had to sell the motorbike because the wife was sick. She is ok now. She had a cyst in the ovaries.

Action taken by AKUN:

Many family members rely on him to have a roof over their heads. Their goal was to improve their current condition of their house and also to get a couple of bicycles to commute to work and kids could get to school. We helped fund purchasing a house already built and having it moved to his property. We purchased 1 adult bike and 2 kid bikes.

Puk Chea

Notes taken by Linda Franks during her visit to Puk Chea's family:

They own the land but have no house. They are very desperate.

Puk Chea is a 32yr old man who is very sick; he came sick about 2 yrs ago with Tuberculosis. His grandmother Yeyi Trut is with him. While visiting, some men and boys were all cooking together. Yeyi Trut (more than 80yrs old) is the great grand-mother. Her daughter (56yrs old) lives in a house nearby (very basic). No electricity. Puk Chea married a woman who had 5 kids. They have a baby boy together (10 months old). Puk Chea has not been to a hospital to get treatment. The treatment will be free but need to pay for the food and also need to send help for the family staying behind because no earning while sick. Fr Gianluca took him and his wife to the emergency of a major hospital in PP. He has been there since and he is getting a little bit better but very slowly.

Action taken by AKUN:

Ariane, one of our supporters, gave \$100 to Fr Gianluca to buy food at the hospital (free treatment but patients have to pay for food) and for a big bag of rice for the family in the countryside. AKUN agreed to send another \$200 to buy food for Puk Chea and his wife at the hospital as well as the family back in the village.

Unfortunately, Puk Chea died from the consequences of Tuberculosis on the 27th of October 2019 just a week after Linda's visit.

Funding

Amount used for this program: about \$2000

For 2019, general funds were raised throughout the year with campaigns on FaceBook, Shell matching program, appeals to friends and families etc. Linda Franks also raised funds in Banchory and France by having a table at local events and markets. The funds for the Housing Program came from the general funds and there was no specific campaign this year for this program.

Donations for the 2019 program mainly came via: PayPal, FaceBook, bank transfer (rare), check (rare) and cash (most common at local events and markets).

Raising Awareness and Informing Donors

Donors were updated via FaceBook posts when we built a house and while Linda Franks made her visit to Cambodia in October.

Strategic Plans Going Forward

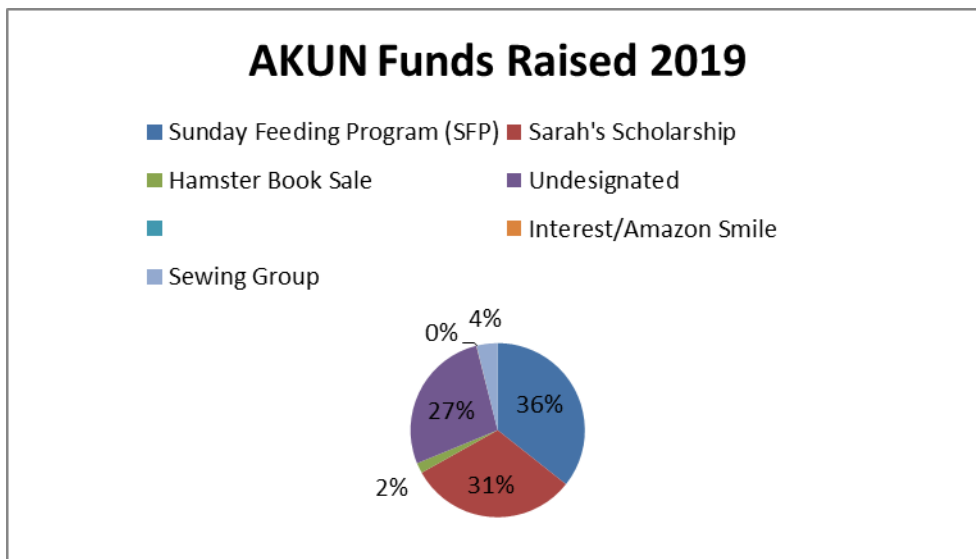
At the end of 2019, under the advice of Fr Gianluca, it was decided to stop this program for one year because of tensions in the community and potential for corruption. The Board will decide at the end of 2020 whether to resume this program or not.

1. Updating of the www.supportakun.org page for the Housing Program should be done every time a home is improved during the year. This would increase the accuracy and timely information given to donors.
2. If this program starts again next year, a June mid-year email should update all donors with how the program has done in the first 6 months.
3. Evaluate ways to have posts about the families.
4. It would also be nice to find a way to restart this program having addressed the tensions in the community and the potential for corruption.

Financial Summary

Allocation of Funds Raised in 2019 to each program

Sunday Feeding Program (SFP)	\$4090
Sarah's Scholarship	\$3581
Children's Book Sale	\$218
General/Undesignated	\$3127
Interest/Amazon Smile	\$5
Sewing Groups	\$447
TOTAL	\$11,470



Funds Distributed in 2019 for each program

Sunday Feeding Program (SFP)	\$5227
Sarah's Scholarship	\$2800
Housing Program	\$1425
Women's Sewing Group	\$200
Purchase of Scarves & Books	\$730
Bank Fees	\$203
TOTAL	\$11,470

