



AKUN ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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

This is now the 7th anniversary of AKUN and I am so thankful for everyone's hard work during 2021. This annual report presents in detail our regular programs like the Sunday Feeding Program and the Scholarship program both of which are thriving. We have also conducted smaller activities during 2021 that will be summarized in this letter.

But firstly, none of this could have happened without the support of our volunteers and our donors. Not only have we kept our regular members and donors but we have gained some welcome additions. Anna, Barbara, Christine, and I have been members of the Board from the start in 2015 adding Pam, Rachael and Ariane as volunteers a few years ago. This year, we welcomed Shari who joins us from Sarajevo! Our partners in Cambodia still include Father Gianluca and his team who transform our projects and funds into reality.

In 2021, we continued our long-term support of the Chumkiri community and despite the pandemic, we saw the area of Tropeang Skun develop further. There, a teacher named Som has started classes in the same building that AKUN uses for the Sunday Feeding Program. We decided to support Som by sending him a small salary (6 months) for his classes and a printer.

In July 2021, we sent funds to Peru after one of our friends sent us a call for help for the Peruvian people who were highly affected by the pandemic. We opened a FB fundraiser to raise funds for one much-needed oxygen concentrator. AKUN's funds completed the remaining

amount and we sent \$1800 to the local partner for this project in Northern Peru. A portable oxygen concentrator was quickly bought with the funds and is still used in the villages around Tambogrande. This is another example of a small action generating a large impact, as the concentrator is brought from one home to the next as needed. This group effort has saved lives as well as reducing the suffering of others.

As part of our Scholarship program, we have supported five students in 2021 to further their education at university and online. So far, none of our students have failed a year and they all have good grades especially knowing the circumstances that they are in and the pandemic situation. We are so thankful to the several families and the Rotary Club of Speyside and Aberlour, who have directly sponsored 4 out of 6 this year. This program has a major impact because these students are becoming the educated future of their community, family and country.

In 2021, just like in 2020, our Sunday Feeding Program (SFP) was stopped for some of the year but we managed to continue helping the children, the youth and the staff in the Chumkiri, Phum Or and Tropeang Skun villages. This program only operated when it was safe and allowed by the local regulations. The need is still very much there and we look forward to a more active year in 2022.

Our Facebook presence has been enhanced thanks to Barbara's posts using Canva.

I am very impressed by the big impact that our small organization is continuing to have on individuals, communities and families.

It is an honor, a privilege and a duty to help people in desperate situations even as little as we do. So, thank you to all of those who helped our AKUN programs by whatever means in 2021

Sunday Feeding Program 2021

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 organisation 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 organise 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.

In Cambodia, each program has a co-ordinator who organises the program in their village to ensure the program runs efficiently. The co-ordinators are: Danoun in Chumkiri; Pu John in Phum Or and Rem in Tropeang Skun.

Program in 2021

In 2021, the SFP initially ran for 7 weeks from January 17th to March 7th when the Cambodian Government halted large group gatherings due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The program was suspended until October 24th when the children were able to meet in Chumkiri. The program was unable to start in Tropeang Skun as there were still Covid-19 cases.

While the program was paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic, salaries continued to be paid for the 3 program coordinators by Fr. Gianluca. Donors were informed via email and were able to say if they didn't want their donation used for this purpose. No-one objected.

Whilst the program was not operating, the AKUN Board made the decision to ask all donors, via email, if they would be happy for their donation to be added to AKUN's general fund for the SFP rather than transferring it to a specific date in 2022. All donors were asked to contact Barbara Sanders with any objections. No objections were received.

How the Sponsorship Works

This year, we asked donors to sponsor a Sunday/part of a Sunday for Chumkiri, Phum Or, and Tropeang Skun up to the \$100 needed for all 3 programs. Donors chose a Sunday often a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion and receive a personalized certificate via email. They were able to see monthly updates of the children on Facebook whilst the program was able to operate.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic's impact on the number of weeks the program was able to operate in 2020, some people's donations for 2020 had been re-allocated to their chosen Sunday in 2021. Additional fundraising via Facebook fundraisers (Linda Franks and Barbara Sanders) and emailing previous donors was carried out.

Amount required for all 3 programs: \$100 x 52 = \$5200

Amount with Fr Gianluca in Cambodia from SFP2020 as of January 2021 = \$150

Amount in AKUN account from 2020 = \$1657.89

Amount raised from 2021 FB fundraising = \$2228.61

Amount raised from PayPal = \$192

Total = \$4228.50

Reimbursement from AKUN General Fund for SFP co-ordinator salaries in 2020 = \$960

Total = \$5188.50

Funds were sent to Fr. Gianluca for the SFP in January 2021 for 40 weeks totalling \$4,060. From these funds \$700 was used by March 7th, when the program was able to operate. When the program was suspended the cost of the 3 co-ordinators \$30 x 28 weeks totalled \$840. The funds remaining were used for the operation of the program from October 24th with all other funds transferred to the SFP for the 2022 program.

Chumkiri, Tropeang Skun and Phum Or Sponsorship Funds

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
2020	44	25	\$3178.89
2021	43	31	\$2420.61

For 2021, the money was raised through: Giving Tuesday Campaign on Facebook, starting in November 2020 and donations from regular donors.

Donor Information

Year	Money raised	Number of donors	Number of new donors	New donor donations	% of money raised
2019	\$3663.55	23	8	\$1144.76*	31
2020	\$3178.89	23	6	\$512.49**	16.12
2021	\$2420.61	30***	9	\$447.11	18.47

As in previous years, all donors were asked if they wanted a certificate via email, to keep or give to the person they were donating in honour of. Certificates were sent to those who wanted them. A new certificate is designed each year using a photo from the previous year's program. As were transferred donations from 2020 to 2021, some donors chose to donate for 2021 but a few did not. This was to be expected as 2020's donors were aware that their donations would be used for 2021.

* includes \$811.61 from French Dinner, Banchory Scotland

**subject to exchange rate

*** includes donors who transferred donation from 2020

Monies received

Donations for the 2021 sponsorship program came via: PayPal (1); Facebook (19); plus 1 check. Recordkeeping of our donor information for all SFP donations is kept by Barbara Sanders, the vice president.

Updating donors/raising awareness of SFP

Donors were updated via a Facebook post at the end of each month until March. Photos showing the children at the program from each month are sent by SreyMom from the program in Chumkiri, with photos from Tropeang Skun also being sent when possible. The website updates regarding the Covid-19 situation were posted in March and November.

Strategic Plan Results from 2021

1. In November 2020 the decision was made to raise funds for all 3 villages under the SFP jointly in 2021, with Barbara Sanders and Linda Franks working together to raise the funds needed. Barbara will continue to take responsibility for the organization of the program regarding sponsors, certificates and bookkeeping. This has worked well in 2021 and will continue in 2022.
2. The target date for the 2021 holiday email was January 2022. The email wasn't sent in 2022. Instead, we added Christmas photos for 2021 to Facebook.

Strategic Plans for 2022

1. The AKUN Board agreed that due to the extra work with 3 villages and the difficulties involved during the Covid-19 pandemic with the program not operating, it would be simpler to fundraise for the SFP as a whole in 2022, rather than for sponsors to donate for a specific Sunday.
2. Many repeat donors donate without wanting a certificate so in 2022, they will be able to get a certificate only if they want one.
3. 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. As there are 3 programs, each one location could send photos for 4 months. We will evaluate this in the last quarter of 2022.

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 rural Cambodia and is awarded on a yearly basis, renewable until 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 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 2020: \$7121.02

Amount donated 2021: \$4536.76

It costs approximately \$500-600 per year to sponsor a student scholarship to university or trade school in Cambodia. Five students were sponsored in 2021. All five students are currently pursuing 4-5 year degree programs. Three of the students received direct sponsorship from the Aberlour & Speyside Rotary Club and four other families. The other two students received scholarship funds from the Sarah Meredith Fouad scholarship program.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all of the students spent most of the year studying online from home, thereby reducing their living expenses. Any remaining funds not used in 2021 are to be carried over to 2022 to be used for their tuition/expenses that year.

In 2021, the program raised \$4,536.76 consisting of: \$2385.68 from the annual Facebook Fundraiser, \$600 from Shell's double matching donation program, and \$1551.08 from direct sponsorship by four families and the Rotary Club of Aberlour & Speyside. An additional \$1200 was donated and will be received in 2022 via Shell's double matching program. The balance on our books is intended to support these students through the end of their studies.

Scholarship Students

STUDENT NAME	DEGREE	YEAR	SCHOOL
Set Raksa	Rural Development	4 of 4	The Royal University of Phnom Penh
Seun Kim Chhan	Accounting	4 of 4	National University of Management, Phnom Penh
In Srey Touch	Chemistry	3 of 4	The Royal University of Phnom Penh
Sam Vicheka	History	1 of 4	The Royal University of Phnom Penh
Noun Minea	Civil Engineering	2 of 5	Norton University

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 each July, to ensure sufficient funds are available for new students to receive scholarships from SMF fund each year.
- Expand scholarship opportunities in other regions/countries as needed where accountable, secure local oversight is available.

Financial Summary

Like much of the world, the COVID-19 pandemic affected the workings of AKUN during 2021. The Sunday Feeding Program was suspended for a period of time and our scholarship students transitioned from in person classes to those held online. However, our donors remained faithful and contributed generously and we are thankful for that. We ended the year with a positive balance and we are ready to continue funding our projects & students going forward.