



VOLUNTEER BUILDING CAMBODIA

Newsletter
Edition 2
January 2015



First and foremost

We wish you all a wonderful, happy, beautiful, lovely, great, joy-filled, amazing, awesome 2015 (and hope to see you in sunny old Siem Reap)!!

Well, this year has kicked off for us in full swing. We welcomed our first group for 2015 - also our first group from New Zealand - and built our first house for the year in just under two weeks. The boys - Kym, Adrien, Todd, Ben and Joel - put us in touch with our first ever Khmer volunteer - Nicky - who owns a guesthouse in Phnom Penh and followed them up to Siem Reap to help out with the build for a few days. Nicky donated US\$150 to our project and has

also put some flyers out at her guesthouse (**11 Happy Backpackers** - check them out!!) in the hopes of generating some more interest. We also had Gwen join us for a day; a journalist from Hong Kong, who was putting together an article about volunteering in Cambodia (***check it out via the link below!**)! The house we built was for two teenage boys who have been abandoned by their parents. The younger (15 years old) was left with brain damage after being hit

by a moto when he was crossing the street outside his house - his older brother (18 years old) studies Grade 11 and otherwise works to pay for his brother's medication and their bills and food. A very kind neighbour looks after the younger boy during the day whilst his brother is out working and studying, and actually gifted them with the land we ended up building on. What a beautiful lady and deserving couple of boys! It was such an honour to build for them.

MEET THE TEAM



My name is Bunthourn and I have been helping Sinn build for almost a year and a half now. In August 2014, I began working for VBC full-time with my wage sponsored by a very kind person in Perth, Australia. I have a wife and three beautiful daughters. I recently started studying English 5 nights a week and for the first time ever was able to write my own name in the concrete slab at the base of the stairs of House #14. I was so proud. Unfortunately my sponsor is no longer able to support my wage. It's only US\$200 per month...

Can **you** or **someone you know** help?

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www.volunteerbuildingcambodia.org

* <http://hk.apple.nextmedia.com/supplement/travel/art/20150123/19011957>



CONNECT WITH US





Improving the living conditions of local Cambodian families

VOLUNTEER BUILDING CAMBODIA

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Khmer 101 Learn the basics before your trip

Hello (formal): Chum reab soo-a

Hello (informal): Soo-a s'day

How are you: Sok sabay

What's your name: Ch'moo-ah eh?

How old are you: Ayuk boon mahn?

I come from _____: Khnyom mow pee _____



Our buff, rugby-playing volunteers from New Zealand caused quite a stir this month with their shirtless pics all over our Facebook page... which gave us a bit of a fundraising idea! **Wait for it...**

A ~~nude~~ semi-nude VBC volunteer calendar. To raise money for our projects (of course).

What do you think? Would you buy one?

YES

YES

WHATAGREATIDEA
YESSSS



We have also started our second house for the year, House #18, with our second lot of volunteers: mum and daughter combo from Australia - Megan and Jess; and high school friends and recent college graduates from the US, Selina and Katie! A big thank you to Carina and Niels from Austria for helping to fund this build! We love you guys!



WHAT OUR VOLUNTEERS SAY

Without a doubt the best thing I have done in my 52 years. If you have the chance to join these wonderful people to build a house for a poor family, jump at it! You will spend the rest of your years telling anyone who will listen how good it was.

- Maree Sweeten, Australia

Somehow a game-changer in my life... VBC guys were on the building site ensuring that everybody felt comfortable all the time, that no one was bored and work safety was ensured. I never felt unsafe or uncomfortable but enjoyed a wonderful satisfying feeling after finishing every day... If you want an experience for life, I would definitely volunteer for VBC. And I know for sure - as my famous Austrian countryman Arnold Schwarzenegger once said - 'I'll be back'.

(+ he has returned!)

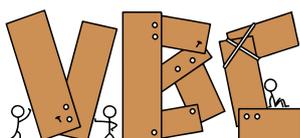
- Michael Krinner, Austria

I can remember it so clearly: It was the beginning of the fourth day of our building project. The father of the recipient family came up to each and every volunteer with his palms joined together and gave a slight bow. There were no words involved, nor were they needed. The excitement and gratitude in his eyes was unmistakable. At that moment it really struck me that all the hard work we had put in was starting to materialize and just how tremendously the recipient family was going to benefit from it.

- Griffith University group, Australia

CONTACT US

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UNTIL NEXT MONTH

