

Dear friends,

As Khmer New Year approaches (14th to 16th of April), we prepare ourselves for the hottest month of the year and a special New Year celebration day but of fun for the children, staff and teachers on the 11th. We will close our premises during the festivities and wish everyone here a nice vacation with their families.

Thank you for supporting us and special thanks to those friends who responded to our call last month and made sure Sreykha will be joining the National Karate team to train in Thailand!

From now on every month we'll share the life story of one of our children. In this edition we also want to give you a better idea of how a day at Aziza's Place looks like. But first we regret to share some sad news...



Making a group picture is never easy... :-)

In loving memory...

We at AP were very sad to hear of the recent passing of Barbara Devine, a dear friend, former volunteer, Staff Member and a much loved member of the AP family.

Barb first arrived at Aziza's Place from Victoria, BC (Canada) in April 2012 to volunteer for a few months but returned shortly thereafter as our English Teacher in August 2012. During her time at AP, she became so much more than just AP's English Teacher. She helped organise every Family Night which was then held every month, chaperoned the children on a memorable field trip to the mountains, and was the merry leader in many of the fun activities like excursions to the swimming pool and residential group games. As she got more involved into each child, she also took on the responsibility as a guidance counsellor and assisted many of the older residents in securing valuable internships and part-time jobs. Barb infused each of her roles with her infectious enthusiasm and captured the hearts of all the children and other staff members. She will always remain an integral and much loved member of the AP family. We will miss her dearly and cherish the fond memories of our time with her at Aziza's Place.



Barb at AP in August 2012

Our deepest condolences go out to her family and all who were close to her.

— The Board, AP team and children

The story of... Sophy

Every month we want to share the story of one of Aziza's Place's children. We share the good and the bad, so you know who we are supporting and what challenges lie ahead of us and their families.



Sophy joined AP in August 2016 at the age of 10. She is a sweet and caring child, always (truly, always!) smiling and cheerful. She is very small for her age, but this is linked to her past...

Sophy is the daughter of a factory worker and a construction worker and has 1 brother and 1 sister. Since she was a baby, Sophy suffered from anaemia, a shortage of red blood cells, resulting in extreme fatigue. As a result, Sophy never went to school before joining AP and time that should have been spent on growth, she spent on fighting this disease.

Today she is cured but also 4 years behind in school on children of her age. Immediately after joining AP she started in the first year of primary school, with children of 6-7 years old. For now, this gives no problems and carefully we try to give her little pushes to make her progress faster.

At Aziza's Place she is loved by the other children and together we celebrated her first anniversary while at AP.

11 years old now. Congratulations Sophy!



A day at Aziza's Place

In Cambodia, schools are open from Monday to Saturday, with children attending classes daily for only half a day. Every month classes alternate between morning (from 7:00 to 11am) and afternoon (from 1pm to 5pm). For example, our children attend school in the morning in February and in the afternoon in March. In April they will go back to school in the morning.

Aziza's Place builds its programs around these school hours and so all our teachers and staff adapt and change their working hours and/or habits every month. Not easy, especially for our teachers who work part-time and have to be very flexible.

So what did a typical day in the past month look like for our children?

6:15am - our kids arrive at Aziza's Place.

For those whose parents can't bring them, our driver picks them up at home. They take a shower, brush their teeth and enjoy a healthy breakfast together with the others.

It sometimes seems to be the only moment in a day that the children are absolutely calm and quiet... :-)



Morning pickup in the community



Waking up at the breakfast table...

7 to 10am - AP classes!

The children are divided into 3 age groups and get 3 consecutive classical courses every day with short breaks in between. In these classes we focus on their English, Khmer, Math and Computer skills.



Khmer Class

Math Class

English Class

10 to 11am - AP arts & sports!

Depending on the day, the children get 1 hour of Karate or Dance.

Exceptions are Friday and Saturday: on Saturday they have 2 hours of music lessons and on Friday they get to go skateboarding and do small, fun projects like learning how to grow and take care of plants.

With the older children we also do projects where they train their English skills while creating or building things. In the picture on the bottom left you see our English teacher, Taz, together with Phea, Sros and Nath as they recycle old wooden planks into photo frames.

We are looking into new types of classes, but more on that perhaps in the next newsletter!



11am - Playtime!

While lunch is being prepared, the children can play outside... games like rope skipping and building towers, but also playing guitar or singing songs. On the right you can see their favourite game for the moment. Check out [this video](#) and see how crazy they go playing it.



11:30am - Lunchtime & nap

After firing those bodies and minds, it is lunchtime! A big lunch and some fruit for dessert, to get everybody energized for the rest of the day. This is followed by the last shower of the day. After that we always foresee some time to rest and relax before the children go to school. The younger children take a nap with our Moms and the older children play, study, make music...

1 to 5pm - Time for school!

By 1pm the children put on their school uniforms.

Our driver takes the older children to secondary school. He also picks them up and returns to Aziza's Place by 5pm.

Our Moms take the young children to primary school, as this is within walking distance. See our little video of them leaving to school in [part 1](#) here.



5:15pm - End of the day

Time for the last meal of the day before returning home to the parents.

After the meal we let the kids play until their parents/family picks them up.

The final aim of the reintegration process will be to see the children having dinner at home with their parents since this is the most important family moment of the day in Cambodian culture. Work in progress.



Call to action

To all our former volunteers, donors and friends who have supported and known (or even visited or worked at) Aziza's Place over the years: if you'd like to share your story and have time to write us a nice review, please help us out by going on the [Global Non-Profit website](#). This might help us find extra donations to help us sustain and grow our NGO. Thank you!

Thank you for reading our stories and supporting us along our [Aid's](#) and our NGO's journey! See you next month!

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