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Dear Aziza's Place Family of Friends and Partners,

[Welcome to our May-October 2020, COVID-19 Special Newsletter!](#)

Aziza's Place is dedicating this Newsletter to our Family of Friends and Partners who have provided generous and thoughtful assistance that has allowed us to continue caring for our Beneficiary children and their families over this very testing 6-month period. We had to implement various new projects and adapt new ways to continue providing services during the Covid-19 pandemic which we were only able to accomplish due to the incredible support we received from our international and local partners as well as from caring individuals who donated provisions and supplies for us to distribute to our Beneficiary children, their families and their communities. We remain humbled and are very grateful for this show of faith in Aziza's Place which allows us to fulfill our Mission.





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- ***Update on Education Program/Distance (Remote) Learning***





After being shut since late-March, schools in Cambodia re-opened on very short notice in late-September on a staggered class schedule basis. This allowed AP Beneficiary children to attend classes in person at the Khmer public school twice a week and then have the remaining days' classes covered by the Ministry of Education's distance learning program that everyone was expected to follow. Accordingly, Aziza's Place re-opened our center with supplemental tutoring classes for small groups (15) of our Beneficiary children to coincide with their public school class schedules. The rotating schedule adopted by AP, allowed all of our Beneficiary children to come to AP twice a week so they can receive the much needed tutoring support to help them keep pace with the Distance Learning program as required by the Cambodian Ministry of Education.

- **Updates on Food Program Initiatives**





One of the biggest challenges we faced since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic is how best to continue support the health and well-being of our Beneficiary children and their families. In normal circumstances, AP's Food Program, typically provides three meals a day, six days per week for all of our 50 Beneficiaries. The pandemic and the subsequent shutdown of schools, businesses and NGO programs in Cambodia, forced us to reduce the number of meals we provided to only once a day which were prepared and delivered by the AP Team to the homes of the Beneficiaries. This initial effort of preparing, packaging and delivering one meal per day, five days per week to all 50 of our beneficiaries was graciously supported by an Emergency Grant from our Partner, The Women's International Group (WIG – www.wigcabmodia.org) of Phnom Penh. After a short while, another one of our Partners, Mama's Kitchen (www.mamaskitchencambodia.com), a Vegan restaurant joined the effort by preparing one Vegan meal a day for delivery by AP Staff to our Beneficiary children. The gracious support from WIG and Mama's Kitchen allowed us to provide two meals a day, five days a week to our Beneficiary children. This collaborative effort partially assuaged one of primary concerns of how to best support the health and well being of our Beneficiaries in these trying times.

- **[Update on Health Care Activities:](#)**





AP's Health Program includes health insurance coverage for all of our Beneficiary children as well as guidance and assistance for their families in the case of any medical emergencies. During the pandemic, AP's staff has been extra-vigilant about identifying and health concerns at the outset through regular visits to the communities in which they live and also continuously monitoring their weight to determine whether the lack of three full meals a day (plus snacks) is adversely impacting the overall health of the Beneficiary children.

Beneficiary children or family members who present any health concerns, are accompanied by an AP staff member to our partner healthcare facilities and their condition is consistently monitored with follow up visits by AP staff. The regular contact with the families of the Beneficiary children also allowed us to relay up-to-date announcements from the Ministry of Health and Medicine and encourage recommended practices to stop the spread of Covid virus.

We are happy to report, to date, that all of our Beneficiary children and their family members are healthy. In addition, the weight and overall health of the children and their families has not been adversely impacted by the virus.

- ***Update on Monthly Basic Support Program Efforts :***





The AP Team is incredibly pleased to report that we have been able to increase our Monthly Basic Support to the 32 families of our Beneficiary children, Thanks in great part to the incredible support of several local humanitarians (listed in detail below) who came together to augment AP's regular donations of supplies, including rice, cooking ingredients and hygiene supplies. Our AP family has been touched by the support offered throughout this time and we extend our thanks for the assistance that has made the continuation of our monthly basic food support program possible.

◦ *Staff Farewell :*



The entire AP family was saddened when our beloved Education Program Director, English

teacher and Communications support provider, Julia Cady, announced her departure after spending an eventful 12-months at Aziza's Place. After many attempts, Julia's husband was granted a Visa to immigrate to the US allowing them to relocate and join the rest of her family in Iowa. Julia will be missed greatly given the tremendous impact she had on AP by capably reorganizing the Supplementary Education curriculum; calm nature; general bonhomie; and, her fluency in Khmer, which allowed her to communicate effectively with the Beneficiary children, their families and the AP Staff. We wish only the very best for her in her new adventure in the US and will welcome her back with open arms should she ever choose to return!

- **[New partners during COVID-19](#)**

Throughout the many challenges and obstacles Aziza's Place has faced during the Covid-19 pandemic and ensuing economic crisis, our team has been touched by the many individuals and groups that have come forward supported us in serving our Beneficiary children and their families. We like to express our grateful Thank You to the organizations and individuals listed below:

- The team from Digital Divided Data (DDD) and Jeremy Hockenstien from Follow Your Dream – for a \$2000 Grant to support AP's activities during the pandemic;
- The Global Fund for Children (GFC) - especially, Kulsoom Khan, who helped facilitate a \$2500 Emergency Grant;
- Ms. Ly Sovann Leap (Golden Sea Shop) - who donated vast amounts of fish and seafood for use in preparing meals for delivery to Beneficiaries;
- Mr. Mao Vutha (The Salmon House Restaurant) – who donated seafood meals for delivery to AP Beneficiaries;
- Yulia Khouri and Mama's Kitchen - whose team prepares one vegan-meal, six-days a week, for delivery to AP Beneficiaries and who have committed to provide this support through December of this year;
- Mr. Bou Saroeun (Bike for Education) - whose organization not only provided several bicycles for use by our Beneficiary children but who also personally donated towards the Monthly Basic Support Program;
- Ms. Por Vannet (AP's Landlady) - who has been incredibly generous by regularly supporting funding the Monthly Basic Support Program.

We apologize in advance if there other individual or organizations that we may have missed listing above but we extend our gracious Thanks for your support. We couldn't continue serving our Beneficiary children and their families with your welcome support!

Please stay safe and be well as can be in these unprecedented times!

The Aziza's Place Team

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