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Dear partners, supporters and friends of the Aziza's Place family,

We are delighted to share with you the several noteworthy initiatives and events that have transpired at Aziza's Place since the last Newsletter, issued in November 2018. Please read on for further details and accompanying pictures.

This edition, we'd love to share the following stories with you

- 🍯 AP 12th Anniversary Celebration
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AP 12th Anniversary Celebration



In February, we celebrated Aziza's Place's twelfth anniversary - an important and special occasion indeed that was celebrated by former and current AP Beneficiaries, staff and friends and new Partners. Although a low-key affair, there was much joy in celebrating reaching the dozen years milestone.

Aziza's Place opened its doors on February 14, 2007 and recently celebrated its 12th Anniversary of serving our Beneficiary children and their families. We had a quiet and intimate gathering of children, Staff and AP alumni (ie. First Generation beneficiaries) on February 23, to coincide with the visit of Amjad Ghori, AP's co-founder and Board Member.

The mood was joyful as we celebrated our unexpected longevity from our origins as a small, residential NGO; grateful for the growth and achievements over the years; and, hopeful in our aim and collective commitment to continue supporting our Second Generation of beneficiaries with equal passion and determination. The spirit of Aziza lives on, brighter and stronger, attached to everyone that passes through our doors!



AP's Next Generation



At the start of the Public School academic year November, we happily accepted 14 additional children to our roster bringing the total Beneficiary count to 43 children

As the summer months of 2018 came to an end, Aziza's Place evaluated and accepted 14 new Beneficiary children in time for the start of the 2019 Public School Academic Year. With the

new additions, Aziza's Place now serves 43 children and their families through various programs - an increase of 48%, with girls representing 65% of the total. The new joiners, mostly 6 to 10 years old, come from Phum Russey, Prek Toul and Somson Kosal, three communities that are located within environs of the former Steung Meanchey Municipal dumpsite, one of the largest and most environmentally toxic garbage dumps in Southeast Asia.

All our efforts are sharply focused on providing these eager youngsters with the tools to support their emotional, physical and education development and to assist them flourish into the best version of themselves.

All fourteen children successfully passed their health checks at our local clinic and, after a one-month probation period, were gleefully accepted and enrolled on a permanent basis to become Beneficiaries of Aziza's Place.

Training & Development: *ChildSafe Agent* certification



At Aziza's Place child welfare is and fiduciary obligation to protect the children in our care from any manifestation of violence and abuse at all times Is paramount This includes physical,

sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and harmful practices. As a responsible and committed NGO where children are at the epicentre of all our efforts, we take ownership for ensuring their protection very seriously.

To this end, all Aziza's Place Staff members are mandatorily required to undergo appropriate training and be certified as a ChildSafe Agent. To accomplish this objective, we reached out to Friends-International (FI), who have developed The ChildSafe Movement, a global child protection initiative, and who trains and works with like-minded partners in in best practices of child protection.

Established in Cambodia in 1984, Friends-International is an international social enterprise and registered NGO focusing on children's empowerment. In January, FI's ChildSafe's team conducted a thorough on-site training for all AP Staff members, full and part-time, all of whom subsequently passed the test!

Community Outreach Activities

We purposefully embarked on various outreach programs to further strengthen our ties and support to the families of our beneficiary children;

Coincident with the acceptance of 14 new children as Aziza's Place beneficiaries, the AP Team embarked on a focused initiative to build relationships with the new families as well as strengthening relationships with the families already being served. We are very happy to report our efforts have been rewarded with much stronger connectivity between the families and their children and the Aziza's Place Team:

A) Monthly visit: Families of our Beneficiary children visit AP on a monthly basis to be apprised on the children's overall performance and to seek feedback / recommendations on how AP can better serve them.

On this occasion, we provided each family with mosquito nets and with 15kg rice bags with the intention to help alleviate some of their daily hardships.



B) Thanks to the generous donation of 650 garments by Teddy S.p.A., an Italian company owning and operating wholesale and retail apparel stores in Italy and internationally, in December AP made an initial distribution on a need basis to families across our target Steung Menchey district.



C) In mid-November Ms. Marady Kham, our Social Work & Community Engagement Manager and Mom Rik, our House Cook, used material furnished by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (U.N. FAO) and hosted a cooking workshop for mothers and fathers of AP children at our centre.

The aim was to engage parents and involve them in the collective preparation and cooking of meals based on protein, fresh vegetables and fruit.

The culinary concoctions they created, demonstrated the healthy alternatives available to

supplement their habitual carbohydrate-intensive diet. The educational event offered AP staff and parents the opportunity to mingle in an enjoyable setting and to explore nutritious meal options that can be repeated with other members of their extended families and communities.



Partnerships / Collaborations with local NGOs

Our dynamic management Team ably forged new partnerships and strengthened existing ones with like-minded local NGOs.

A. Animal Rescue, 3-part exercise (neutering, spraying, vaccinating and microchipping dogs)

A significant amount of work at Aziza's Place consists of serving the children's immediate families and their broader communities. In many cases, we aim to deliver material support and education through healthy cooperation with select equally-committed local partners. In mid-February, Aziza's Place partnered with *Animal Rescue Cambodia* and with the endorsement of the local authority and conducted an outreach program that targeted the care and well-being of the myriad animals / pets in Phum Russey, the largest of our three focus neighbourhoods.

The first phase of the three-part exercise involved the collection of 22 dogs, their neutering, vaccination against rabies, and microchipping for future identification.

This was followed by an animal welfare awareness session in Phum Russey for our dog owners about responsible pet ownership and health care for their animals. The third and final leg involved in an interactive workshop with the children at our centre and who were involved in role play and Q&A related to animal welfare.

All three activities were well received, with discussions around dog nutrition, diseases such as

rabies and around the painful and complex issue of dog trade for meat consumption.



B. Skateistan

This year's Valentine's Day not only celebrated AP's 12th birthday. It also marked a day in which we further strengthened the existing friendship with Skateistan, an award-winning international NGO that aims to empower children and youth through skateboarding and education. Aziza's Place's visiting physician, Dr. Theara Nget and Ms. Marady Kham, Social Work & Community Engagement Manager, met and offered a full-day First Aid workshop to Skateistan management and staff.

Our long-standing partnership with this NGO enables AP children to enjoy a fun activity that is about giving life skills and hope for the future as much as about giving all children, especially girls, a sense of community and an opportunity to play and learn off the streets.

The presentation involved role-play, Q&A and equipped Skateistan staff with essential knowledge and competencies required to address any unforeseen injury involving the numerous children that each week enjoy supervised lessons at their 500 square meter skatepark.



C. Mini Molars

On March 13 and 14, a team of highly-qualified German and Cambodian dentists from Mini Molars Cambodia (MMC), led by Dr. Ulf and Mrs. Sombo Zuschlag and by Ms. Sreyleak Hout carried out oral hygiene checks and thorough dental treatments on thirty five children at our centre.

Mini Molars Cambodia is a local NGO based in Phnom Penh's Sangkat Stong Meanchy district. It offers cost-free, highest standard oral hygiene, dental treatments and education to the poorest children and their families.

The extraordinary task was seamlessly and professionally executed and is part of MMC's ongoing mobile mission program. It will be extending this service to children at Aziza's Place on a quarterly basis.



Staff spotlight: Andy's journey



Andrew Robson began his adventure teaching supplementary English classes to all the children at Aziza's Place in the beginning of December last year.

"Everyday, when I turn up at Aziza's Place to start my classes, I am consistently greeted by the warmest smiles, invited to join in what the children are playing and hear words that we have used in previous classes. It is a lovely start to the day and is something I treasure. My hope is that I can reciprocate this feeling back to the students with how I teach and what I teach. So far, in my time at Aziza's Place, I think I have succeeded at this."

Q: Andy, tell us what your initial chapter at AP has been like?

A: Having the opportunity to work with children at Aziza's Place has given me an insight into the Cambodian culture and has helped me understand the importance of education here. It has also helped me develop my own teaching skills thereby having a more meaningful impact at AP.

Q: How important was it for you to create a connection with children?

A: The children are friendly, funny, enthusiastic and keen to learn. Building positive relationships is a priority for me and I believe it will assist them on their own learning journey.

Q: How do you engage the children during class time?

A: We may be playing a fun activity, learning useful vocabulary on the whiteboard or having a class discussion but we may also be playing football, singing, dancing or skipping or simply sharing moments in groups as we practice conversational skills. I like to encourage movement, play, invite conversation and experience into what we all do as a class and feel that the students enjoy this.

Q: How do you monitor and measure a child's progress at AP?

A: Students are assessed on a daily basis in class and at the end of each month and/or topic, a short report is compiled for each child. Effort, Behaviour and Attainment are observed and recorded are also included.

Q: What do you aim to contribute to AP?

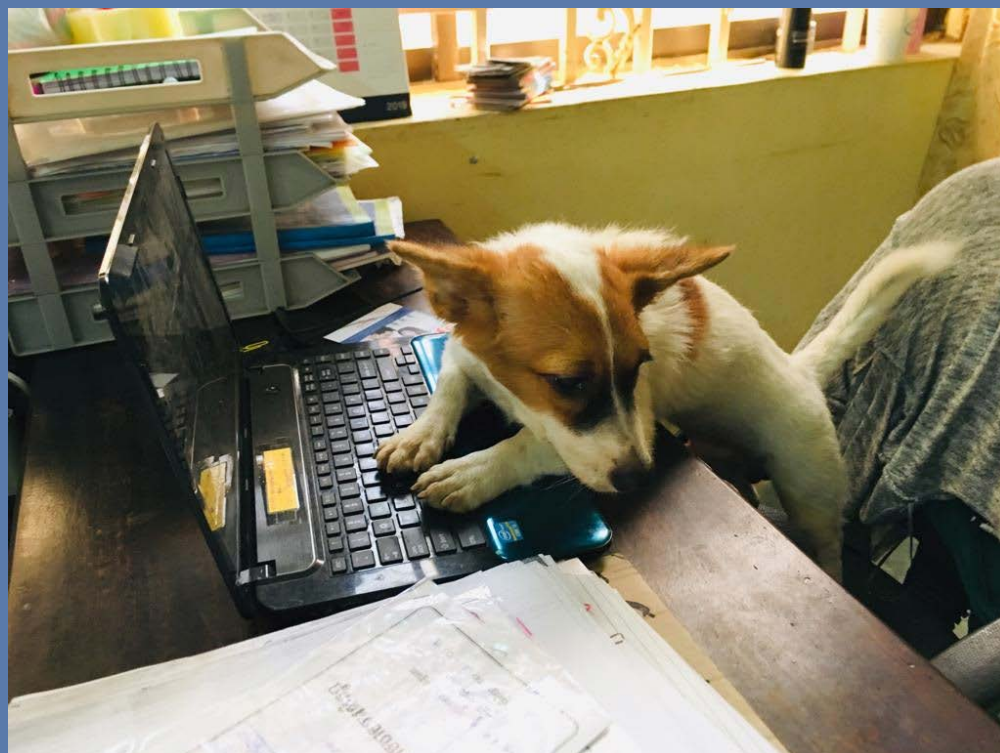
A: I hope to bring plenty of enthusiasm, energy and experience to Aziza's Place. My approach is flexible and holistic and my goal is that the children can access this education in order to understand the surrounding environment and become productive and valuable members of society.

And finally, AP's Furry News – Somang: No longer a cuddly puppy...

Many of you will recall an introduction to Somnang, the cutest mixed-breed, barely weeks-old Khmer puppy found and rescued by one of AP's younger children last September and brought into the centre in a critical state...



Well, fast forward a few months and...



...that sweet, heart-melting little thing has grown into quite a vocal presence at Aziza's Place and developed into a confident and assertive member of the AP family - and an integral Staff member!

The children have grown very fond of "Lucky" (English translation of his name) and have learnt

much about animal care and respect in the process.

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