



Dear friends,
February was an extraordinary month for Aziza's Place as we celebrated our 10th anniversary. Also, our youngest are starting to feel at home and our oldest spontaneously visit and help them out whenever they can. Sreythea got selected to train with the National Karate Team, some children are making great progress and our reintegration program has turned us into experts for other organisations to follow in Phnom Penh. Oh, and then there were the unpleasantities of dental visits and vaccinations.

Sreythea joins the National Karate team!
Sreythea has been selected to train with Cambodia's National Karate team! She now has the chance to start participating in international boot camps & competitions. In order to best support Sreythea's accomplishment, AP is seeking donors who are willing to fund the non-trivial costs associated with getting her ready and able to participate.

At the age of 8, Sreythea was among the first children to join Aziza's Place. Those among you who've been our supporters for a long time know her very well. Today, age 16, she is making us proud as she is showing so much progress in many different fields (arts, sports, languages, ...). We are convinced our unconditional support has contributed to where she is today. Like all our kids, Sreythea has had Karate lessons twice per week since her arrival in 2007 and in 2014 she obtained her black belt. Her coach, Sreythea will be training with the National Team for 5 days per week (!) and can only have light dinners before the training (but our loving Moms give her a daily lunchbox for after training :-)).

A big Thank You goes out to her Karate teacher, Peanak, who has been training our kids for the past 5 years. And to all of our Donors who have been supporting her along the way for the past 10 years.

Call for support
AP's goal is to give all children the possibility to reach their maximum potential, so we are committed to supporting Sreythea in taking full advantage of this fantastic opportunity.

In April she can participate in a 5-day competition in Thailand. For this and future trips we will need to get her an international passport, new gear and cover transportation & accommodation costs for herself and 1 supervisor. We hope to find some friends among you willing to help us out & BT, as the total unforeseen cost mounts up to 800\$. Please let us know: you can contact us via help@azizasplace.org and donate to our local account.

1st in Class!
Pheakdey (lovely 10) is one of the children that joined us last year, together with her younger brother Sengy. Upon arriving Pheakdey was already 3 years behind in class due to the very low quality of the public school she was going to and lack of attention/effort from the teachers there. The loss of their mother in 2010 had a big impact on her family, resulting in Sengy and Pheakdey joining Aziza's Place 6 months later. Given what she's been through the past years, she still has challenges ahead of her, but what we see today is very promising: school results are quickly improving and last week for the first time she even became first of her class! Well done Pheakdey!

Our youngest making progress
Our younger kids are making progress at school. The most remarkable change we've recently seen with Sengy (7) and Kaka (6). Upon their arrival at AP, both weren't very motivated to study. But past months they've been rapidly picking up and improving their reading and writing skills.

Mango time!
This time of the year, the mangoes on our trees are ready for picking. And we have a lot of them! Every year this leads to 'fights' among the children over who gets which and how many. So this year Mum Sarik decided to pick and collect them all herself. Once ripe, all kids will get their equal share! How fair's that and see how they will need to that in the next weeks.

Piggy Banks
Our kids Sreyrath, Sreythea and Sreyrya made these beautiful piggy banks out of plastic bottles. This was part of their English class with The at Aziza's Place we go beyond classical English classes so they learn how to use English in practical situations. This way, they train their English skills in a fun context and we get to teach them about the value of recycling products that seem waste at first. And now they have their own piggy bank to take care of.

Reintegration: a big success
In 2016 we successfully finished the reintegration of all our children into their families. This was a milestone and a very important step to take: from now on the kids sleep with their families and Aziza's Place has become an important partner to the families and communities by giving advice, guidance, support... We can definitely call our actions a success as we already see clear improvements in behaviour among the children.

Wishlist
We updated our [wishlist](#), containing the unforeseen items we currently need most and for which we hope to find support among our friends.

Not only are we doing the right thing, we are now among the very first officially recognized NGOs that are no longer serving as a full-time care centre and this whole experience has turned Socheat, our Director of Programs, into a specialist on reintegration. Today he is visiting other NGOs to share his expertise and give advice on how to manage this difficult process. And there is definitely a large demand among NGOs and shelters as the Cambodian government has significantly increased inspections in the past year with the goal of [closing down](#) those who are still operating as a full-time care centre. We are proud to have done the Reintegration Program and see now how we can have an even more positive impact on our children's lives by providing community-based care, together with the families and inside their communities. Still a lot of work to be done, but we are ready for it.

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