

HELP + CAMBODIA

In 2016, a small charity, completely volunteer run, located in Wagga Wagga, NSW fundraised to build and operate a school in the slums of Steung Mean Chay, Cambodia. This was to bring forth the dream of local man, Bophal Chuon, who had been running classes from his home since 2010, rolling up family bedding each day to make room for the students.

The running costs of the school are primarily funded by a student sponsorship program and in 2019 a university scholarship fund was launched to support the ongoing education of some of the hardworking and committed students. Since that time six students have graduated with degrees, with one in law and two in IT.



2020 Astron Technology made a huge impact by signing up to sponsor 10 students. Astron was our first corporate sponsor, and it has made a real difference to the school and community. There are 120 students at the school and in 2022, when Tony became aware not all students had a sponsor, Astron pledged support for a further 10 students. The HELP Cambodia team were blown away by the generosity of Tony and Astron Technology. Sponsorship is \$40 per month per student.

After a four year gap, the HELP Cambodia team travelled to Cambodia in November 2023 to reconnect with the students and spend time with Bophal making plans for the future. Covid was a very difficult time for the school and community and HELP Cambodia's support extended beyond the classroom, for example, funding two food drops during harsh lockdown periods. The school adapted and continued to operate during this time however our recent visit highlighted some areas needing funding, the most pressing being the replacement of the computers in the IT room.

While still in Cambodia, HELP reached out to Tony at Astron, who immediately stepped up and donated funds to cover the cost of 15 replacement desk top computers. The generosity and ongoing support from Astron Technology is greatly appreciated by HELP Cambodia and is making a real difference to the lives of the community living in Steung Mean Chay.

The HELP Cambodia website [HERE](#) has more information and contact details for those interested in sponsorship. The school is a Rotary RAWCS endorsed project and donations are tax deductible.

