



# Building Brighter Futures Foundation Middle School Scholarship Program





# MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

## Background

Building Brighter Futures Foundation (BBFF) is a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission since 2013. Its primary focus is the education of children living in poverty in the Prey Thom Community, Cambodia. An associated local Cambodian NGO of the same name (BBFF Cambodia) has also been set up to enable BBFF to work directly with the community.

Education is the pathway from poverty for needy children, their families and their communities.

As an extension to our sponsorship program, which supports children in poverty through primary school, BBFF established a middle school scholarship program in 2016. This scholarship program supports selected children from our sponsorship program who show academic ability and motivation, through middle school.

## Program Overview

Each year, Grade 6 students in BBFF's sponsorship program are given the opportunity to apply for a scholarship that will support their tuition through the 3 years of middle school. Scholarships are donated by corporate or private sponsors and the number of scholarships available from year to year will vary accordingly.

A scholarship consists of a fixed amount over the 3-year period. This amount will pay for education related expenses (uniforms, tuition fees, a bicycle, etc) to accommodate the recipient's unique circumstances as assessed by BBFF representatives. Tuition fees are paid quarterly and other items are purchased prior to the start of each school year. Payments are not made to recipients as cash.

Each recipient must demonstrate a commitment to continuing their education, and this commitment must be supported by their families.

A donation of AU\$1,500 (approx USD\$975) will provide one middle school scholarship for a child commencing in November each year. Sponsors are committed to the full donation at the time the scholarship is awarded but can choose to pay the amount up-front in full or by 3 equal annual payments.

## Sponsor Recognition

Sponsors will be asked to nominate a name/names for scholarships they fund (eg The John Smith Scholarship) and an attractive personalised certificate of recognition will be given to the sponsor once the scholarship has been awarded. Acknowledgement of the sponsor's involvement will also appear on BBFF's website.

## Eligibility

Children with BBFF sponsorship at Prey Thom Primary School who are completing their final year (Grade 6) may apply for the scholarship. A student cannot receive a BBFF sponsorship unless individually assessed by BBFF representatives as living in poverty.

## Application and Assessment Process

At the start of Grade 6, eligible students are informed about our scholarship opportunities and invited to apply.

Applicants must attend an interview with their teacher and BBFF representatives to discuss the process and commitment. This interview is held in the first semester. A second interview/review is held towards the end of the school year if possible. Topics discussed include the student's goals for education and how the scholarship will help them and their family. Answers during the interview(s) are considered when determining successful recipients.

The Grade 6 teacher also assesses each applicant throughout the year against specified criteria based primarily on commitment to education, future goals and demonstrated motivation to study. School participation and achievements are also monitored.

Scholarship recipients are determined by a panel of not less than 3 persons and must include the Grade 6 teacher, one representative of BBFF Cambodia and one representative of BBFF Australia. An applicant with the highest grades will not necessarily receive a scholarship, although grades will be used where two applicants cannot be split on other factors.

Recipients are announced during the last two weeks of the school year and receive a certificate and scarf. If the named recipient then fails to commence middle school, the scholarship is withdrawn and will be awarded to the best unsuccessful applicant.

## Scholarship Provision

Middle School Scholarships are awarded during the end of school ceremony (late August) at Prey Thom Primary School, at which time the certificate and scarf are presented to successful applicants.

Scholarships support the child's education over 3 years by subsidising lesson and supplies costs as follows:

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|--|--------------------|
| ▪ Private English tuition                              | \$130 USD per year |
| ▪ Private Maths and Science tuition                    | \$120 USD per year |
| ▪ Uniform provision                                    | \$25 USD per year  |
| ▪ Bicycle provision (first year only)                  | \$50 USD           |
| ▪ Discretionary items* (as approved by BBFF Australia) | \$100 USD          |

(\*Discretionary items may include stationary supplies, additional uniforms, purchase of books etc).

Prior to the beginning of the school year, a BBFF volunteer visits each scholarship recipient and their family. The terms of the scholarship are conveyed and the family is interviewed to gauge their support for and commitment to their child's education. The family and child are reminded of the scope of the scholarship and the requirement for proof of any expenses that may be eligible for reimbursement. Discretionary items are discussed, and a list is developed for approval.

Throughout the school year, items are distributed to the students as necessary. A BBFF volunteer

maintains contact with the family and reviews the progress of the child during the year. Private English fees and other tuition fees are generally paid by the family and reimbursed on provision of a receipt. Uniforms, bicycles and other items are purchased by BBFF and provided to the child.

## Sponsor's commitment

A sponsor must commit to payment of funds to provide the scholarship for 3 years. Payment is made either by a lump sum of A\$1,500 or by 3 equal instalments payable each year in July for the impending school year.

BBFF will carry any shortfall over the term of the scholarship. Any excess at the end of the scholarship will be applied to any program shortfalls, special needs of recipients and then to the administrative costs of program.

As a registered Australian charity, BBFF has DGR status. As such, all donations to the scholarship program are tax deductible in Australia.

## BBFF's commitment

BBFF Australia oversees the scholarship program with the assistance of BBFF Cambodia's Director, who has been working with Directors of BBFF Australia as a volunteer since the Charity was established.

A Director of BBFF Australia is a member of every interview and selection panel. BBFF Australia also receives regular reports on each scholarship recipient and provides a report annually to each sponsor on their progress.

At a financial level, Cambodian law requires payments to be made from a Cambodian bank account controlled by Cambodians. BBFF Cambodia's Director controls that bank account. However, the legal and political realities require that program funds are held by BBFF in Australia until required. Funds are not transferred to BBFF Cambodia's bank account except for itemised expenditure. BBFF Cambodia provides copies of relevant receipts in USD (translated into English) to BBFF Australia.

## BBFF Contact Information

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