



Riverkids Foundation

School Food and Hope

Proposal for grant of HWC

Riverkids is a private charitable trust in Singapore and a government-registered charity in Cambodia. It strives to prevent child trafficking and exploitive child labor by working closely with community members in a Phnom Penh slum to provide education, counseling and other services to children who are identified as at a high risk of being trafficked.

In 2008 Riverkids sent around 32 young teenagers to attend the Saturday football training at a high school football field in Phnom Penh and finally 2 young teenagers from Riverkids were selected to attend the Homeless World Cup in Australia in 2008, which was sponsored by Happy Football Cambodia Australia organization.

It was an amazing opportunity for these children, from a slum in Cambodia, to enjoy the adventure of a lifetime - traveling abroad to meet other teenagers from 65 countries in the world.

After attending the Homeless World Cup and arriving home, we noticed a change in these children. They were so happy, proud and much more confident. They become the leaders of kids at their community and would take it upon themselves to organize football matches with their friends at the slum. They had such a positive attitude and that influenced other children as well. They had pride in themselves, in their country - and that is something that we very much want to encourage at Riverkids.

The community also noticed a difference - and everyone was very happy when they heard about the news. It proved to families that sending their children to Riverkids, getting them educated and interested in activities such as football was a positive step - and it could result in their child one day being selected to go on such an adventure. So they started to send their children to Riverkids more regularly - which is such a benefit to these children.

Riverkids' reputation also grew - both in the eyes of the community and authorities in Cambodia.

We are still noticing the impact that the trip to Australia has had. Before, not many students wanted to take part in extra activities such as football - this has now changed. Most of the teenagers from the Riverkids Community have asked us if we can attend the Saturday football training which sponsored by Happy Football Cambodia Australia organization. This is such

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good news and will help to engage the children further and give them goals to aim for - both on the pitch and in their everyday lives!

The Homeless World Cup is a great event for vulnerable teenagers because it helps with their recovery. It gives them hope - something to aim for. It also provides a link to education, which is vital to stopping the circle of poverty. It helps them to strive for a better future - for themselves, their families and their friends.

It gives them a new dream for a better future lives. And this is something which is at the heart of Riverkids.

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