

CASF university students on a beach outing



Please consider supporting our students
by going to our website at
www.cambodianscholarship.org
and clicking on *Make a Donation*,
or by sending a check made out to CASF
to P.O. Box 18186, Portland, Maine, 04112.
Your generosity will change a life forever.

CASF Board of Directors

Founder & President
Frederick Lipp

Suezan Aikins
Heidi Brewer
Elise d'Amboise
Merry Farnum
Kitty Lipp
Shawna Ohm
Jean-Claude Redonnet
Sam Rogers

Executive Director
Julianna Nielsen

Program Coordinator
Mong Kimna

www.cambodianscholarship.org



Investing in education
for poor and at-risk girls
in Cambodia

About CASF

The Cambodian Arts & Scholarship Foundation is committed to improving the lives of children through education, and focuses on poor, at-risk Cambodian girls who, for a number of reasons, are denied equal access to schooling. CASF works closely with local communities to identify potential students; provides the financial (direct cash scholarships), emotional and medical support necessary for them to attend school; and sustains this support for as long as the child wants to learn. CASF



started with three girls in primary school in 2001. Since then, we

have graduated fifty students from university and a number have gone on to graduate degrees in medicine, science, teaching, and business.

CASF was founded in 2001 by author Frederick Lipp, whose award-winning children's book, *The Caged Birds of Phnom Penh*, was inspired by a photo of a Cambodian woman selling birds by the side of the Mekong River. It tells the story of Ary, growing up poor in Phnom Penh, hoping for a better life. In the Cambodian tradition, Ary buys a caged bird to set free, with the wish for an education.

Educating Girls in Cambodia

In Cambodia, poor and at-risk children have little opportunity to attend school. Cambodian girls are particularly vulnerable, as their education is less valued than that of boys, and they often drop out around Grade 6, creating a gender gap that widens with the educational level. Labor by girls is often considered critical to a family's economic survival. Although schooling is free in Cambodia, associated costs can be prohibitive for the poor. Stereotypical attitudes can prevent the prioritizing of a girl's education.

Most higher education institutions are in Phnom Penh. Girls have limited access to a proper living space (they cannot live in temples, as boys do); this lack prevents many from attaining a higher education.

Targeting Children's Needs

We work within the local educational system to develop its sustainability, and we focus on evidence-driven needs in order to encourage secondary and higher education for Cambodian girls:

► We intervene with educational opportunities for girls around 6th grade, at the very time they often drop out or are taken out of school, and we follow them closely through high school, providing a local educational coordinator (usually a teacher in the local system) who works with students on a personal basis.

► For students who pass the National Exam and are accepted into a university, oversight continues, with housing (in the CASF University Women's Support Center), mentoring, medical care, food, and monthly stipend and tuition provided by CASF.



CASF supports students in the Cambodian provinces of Svay Rieng, Kampong Cham, and Kandal. Our students, who live in houses much like the one pictured above, are given a monthly stipend and mentoring by a local educational coordinator. Our program coordinator, Mong Kimna, oversees both the provincial program and the university program in Phnom Penh. CASF is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, governed by a board of directors in Maine and Canada.

Did you know?
When 10% more girls go to school, a country's GDP increases by an average of 3%.

