

# Roots That Give Back

*There is something quietly powerful about watching people who were once supported by a community turn around and become the ones doing the supporting. That is exactly what the PEPY Alumni Association has been doing in 2026 — and your generosity is helping make it possible.*

## From Planning to Action



The Association entered 2026 with purpose. When news reached the Alumni Association about families displaced along the Thai border, members responded immediately. Between February and March, the group held a series of online planning meetings before traveling to Banteay Meanchey Province on March 29 to put their plans into action.

The program was designed to be joyful and educational. At the temporary school at Bat Thkav Pagoda Safety Camp (*left*), volunteers spent the day alongside children and teachers leading painting, storytelling, and educational games, organizing hygiene awareness activities, and distributing small scholarships to recognize students' commitment to

learning, even in the most difficult of circumstances.

## A Pause, Then New Energy

April brought the Khmer New Year celebration, a time for rest, reflection, and family. The Association observed the holiday with a natural break from formal meetings and joined PEPY's Annual Khmer New Year Party in mid-April.

## Running Toward a New Goal

After the Khmer New Year break in April, the Association shifted focus to an exciting challenge ahead. In May, members gathered at Creative House (*right*) in Siem Reap, joined by PEPY Executive Director Savoeng Skut, to reflect on the year so far and turn their energy toward the **Angkor Wat International Half-Marathon** in December 2026. Two further team building and strategy meetings in June kept the momentum going. Training is underway, fundraising plans are taking shape, and the enthusiasm within the group is unmistakable.



## Looking Ahead

The second half of 2026 promises to be a defining period for the PEPY Alumni Association. The team will continue preparing for the Half-Marathon while remaining attentive to the needs of vulnerable communities in their region. They carry with them the lessons, values, and friendships that PEPY helped nurture — and they are determined to pass those forward.

*Your support makes this circle possible. The young people you helped lift up through PEPY are now the ones reaching back — into border camps, into classrooms, into their own communities — to lift others. Thank you for believing in them, then and now.*