



**Golden
Futures**

Dear Supporters of Golden Futures,

Since Golden Futures was founded in 2007, we have been working to ensure that children living in orphanages get the same opportunities as others when they graduate high school. Each year, as the charity continues to grow, we come closer to this goal. Over the summer of 2011, a group of volunteers from the University of Nottingham travelled to Phnom Penh, Cambodia for four weeks, with the task to extend the work carried out in previous years.

What follows is a round-up of what they achieved over the past month, and our vision for the future.

Support in careers and higher education

Our group of volunteers worked on a variety of different projects with the same overall aim: to give young people the skills they need to succeed once they have left the NFC centre.

One aspect of this was a CV clinic, which focused on ensuring that the students knew how to create a high quality CV for their future job applications. Our volunteers also held interview techniques classes and budgeting lessons, to give the children the skills they need to survive outside the orphanage. This led to us being invited to run a 3 hour workshop on these topics at Attitude Centre for Education (ACE), attended by children and students from five different NGOs.

Another priority was organising university visits for the older students, to open their minds to the possibilities open to them. At each university visit, the young adults were enthusiastic and full of questions, and passionate about discussing how they could work to form their futures.

Our volunteers successfully found work experience for four of the young adults at NFC. Savings accounts were also opened for two of the children who have a small income, yet nowhere to store their money safely.

On top of all this, each volunteer was assigned a number of students within the orphanage to mentor. The children discussed their worries and concerns, future ambitions and career options, academic achievements and previous employment, and volunteers added this to a stored record of the student's aspirations and needs. This provides vital information to help Golden Futures target support to where it is most needed.



The Golden Futures 2011 Volunteers!

Phnom Penh University Guide

Two of our volunteers were responsible for updating the Golden Futures Phnom Penh University Guide, first produced by Golden Futures in summer 2009. Now covering 25 universities, they have expanded the bilingual guide to 78 pages long! The guide contains information on tuition fees, scholarships and courses for the universities, as well as opinions and advice from current students. The guide has received an excellent response, with other organisations and schools clamouring to buy copies from us. It has been recognised as a unique and valuable resource, helping to make higher education more accessible to Cambodians, and we are optimistic about finding ways to distribute it even more widely next year!

Long-Term loans

Now that the Golden Futures' microfinance model is well established within NFC, it was quite easy to identify those who wanted to apply for a loan. Each candidate was mentored through the application process, helping them consider the options open to them, and not rush into things! After assessment of the loan applications, three loans were granted. Two of these were to pay for students' tuition fees while at university; whereas the final loan was to help further a student's education, by paying for a general computer skills course.

Conclusion

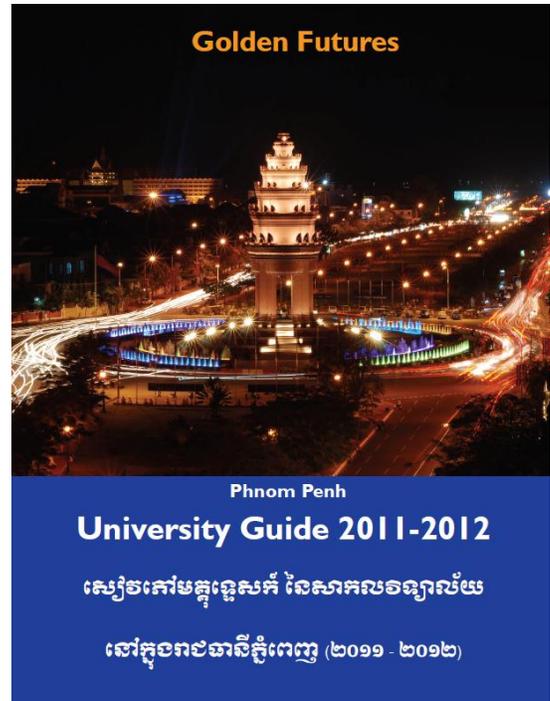
Ultimately, Summer 2011 has been a very successful project for Golden Futures, full of many significant achievements. We have delivered our first external training, processed our twentieth loan application, and expanded the Phnom Penh University Guide to cover 25 of the biggest universities in Phnom Penh. But now is not the time to relax! We know we've got a lot more to offer the young people of Cambodia and we need your support to continue to make a difference in their lives. Please visit our website, www.goldenfutures.org.uk, for details on how you can help us to give these children the opportunities they deserve!

Best wishes,



Joseph Bull

Trustee
Golden Futures



*The 2011 Edition of the Phnom Penh
University Guide*