

WFP USA: School News from Cambodia

Yuka Takahashi
April 2, 2022



Report from visit on April 2, 2022:

Compared to our last visit, which took place six months ago, it seems that the COVID-19 situation in Cambodia has improved dramatically. Although many safety protocols are required, including sanitizing using alcohol-based products, wearing masks, and maintaining proper social-distancing requirements in places of large gatherings, circumstances pertaining to the virus have become increasingly better.

Every visit, we meet the students attending the Wat An Junior High School in Kiribbon; we also attend a meeting with the children at the State Public office located in the corner of Takeo State Government Building.



The new school year has already begun, and all the children have entered a new grade. To start our program, we asked them to write about their new school, how they are doing and what new things they have experienced, and their exciting plans for the Cambodian New Year.

Afterwards, the officer from Riatchsei Association provided the children with some helpful advice. Especially with the new conditions and circumstances the children had to adapt to due to the pandemic, it was important to maintain and develop healthy relationships with the children involved in the Cambodia Project. Learning different perspectives and actively listening to diverse experiences was a great learning

opportunity for the children.

The Riatchsei Association called the National TV Station, who came, documented, and then aired the inner-workings of the Cambodia Project. Despite the program being broadcasted for only a few minutes, I believe that this was a great opportunity to share the work of WFPW Cambodia to the Cambodian public.

To read more about how the Cambodia Project click [here](#)



Editor's Notes: Since 2015 WFPW NJ has supported children in Cambodia, in partnership with WFPW Cambodia. Foster parents sponsor a student's yearly education, books, and more. In exchange, the foster parents receive letters and school reports from the children. Below is an excerpts from a letter written by Mrs. Yuka who lives in Cambodia and works for WFPW Cambodia, and personally visits the children.



BE A FOSTER PARENT FOR CHILDREN IN CAMBODIA

November 3, 2015 · Denneze Nelson



Yumi Tanaka & Tomomi Ueda speaking about fostering children from Cambodia

One Sunday after church service, Mrs. Tomomi Ueda, a WFWP member in New Jersey, decided to make a bold move to share about a WFWP International project that she has been supporting for many years. Mrs. Ueda has been a foster parent for students in Cambodia and fosters three children by providing for their school education, school meals, and books for only \$150 a year. Mrs. Ueda had long been asking herself if there was a way for WFWP USA to join her in supporting this project that so desperately needs more foster parents. She brought this project to New Jersey Chairwoman, Rev. Denneze Nelson for consideration. After discussion with WFWP National President, Mrs. Angelika Selle, the NJ Chapter launched the project on September 6, 2015.

The Cambodia Foster Parent project is a project that WFWP Japan initiated and has managed for many years. This amazing initiative gives people the unique opportunity of making a child in Cambodia part of their extended family, as they sponsor their educational and, to a large extent, their moral wellbeing. Each foster parent is updated on a regular basis on the grades, growth, and overall performance of the children they are sponsoring. Cooperation between WFWP Japan and local Cambodian schools and

teachers is one of heart and familial engagement which truly embodies the meaning of “it takes a village to raise a child.” Tours are also arranged for foster parents to visit the children at certain times in the year.



The New Jersey Audience

Eighty percent of the Cambodian population is under 40 years old; so it is a very young country. Photos of 4-year-old children with babies in their arms, standing on the street and begging, are commonplace and a heart-wrenching sight in Cambodia.

Mrs. Ueda’s sister, Mrs. Yumi Tanaka, is one of the wonderful WFWP Japan volunteers who is responsible for the Cambodia Project and frequently goes to Cambodia. When Mrs. Ueda and Clifton Chairwoman, Mrs. Hiroko Nitro, told her they were planning to introduce the project to New Jersey, she flew from Japan to New Jersey to speak at the launching of the Cambodia Project. Mrs. Tanaka gave a riveting presentation which inspired many. As a result, 25 out of 70 attendees signed up to become foster parents with others promising to sign up before the end of the year. High School students who attended this event became foster parents and volunteered to sell T-shirts in support of WFWP on that day.





T-Shirt Sales

Mrs. Ueda and Mrs. Nitro planned and executed an outstanding launch of the Cambodia project. Overall, the event was spiritually stimulating and moved participants' hearts and minds. WFWP asserts that women stand in the position to restore the problems of the world and comfort the heart of God. When our spiritual selves can acknowledge that we are truly one family under God, we live by the logic of love through serving those less fortunate. Moreover, we heal the pain and suffering of the children who are the future leaders of their countries. At the same time we are teaching them how to have hope, and to also live for the sake of God and others through the example of service and love. WFWP New Jersey feels very grateful for this opportunity to foster the children of Cambodia and hope that a blessing can come to the children of New Jersey because of this venture.

Are you interested in The Cambodia Foster Parent Project? WFWP New Jersey Chapter will continue to collaborate with WFWP Japan to support the Foster Parent Project in Cambodia.



Promoting the Cambodian Foster Parent Project





The New Jersey Leadership Team



Display Poster for the Cambodia Project

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