

មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលសហសង្គ្រោះកម្ពុជា
Salvation Centre Cambodia
(SCC)



Writing Up
As from Oct-Nov-Dec 2019

Submitted to
Firefly Mission

Project Title: Funeral Support

Location: Phnom Penh, Battambang, and Siemreap provinces, Cambodia

SCC in a Nutshell



IDENTITY

SCC is a dynamic, Cambodian faith-based organization that has played a major role in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Through the loving-kindness, compassion, sympathy joy, commitment and dedication of a team of Buddhist monks, nuns, staff, volunteers and generous supporters, SCC has been able to improve the lives of many people infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS, particularly the poorest and least fortunate families, especially children, either orphans or those adversely affected by HIV/AIDS.

VISION

A Cambodian society where all Cambodian people live with good health, freedom, dignity and prosperity.

MISSION

SCC commits to develop capacity and sustainable community mechanisms through faith-based networks and other stakeholders to reduce vulnerability, and to enhance livelihood, health and children's rights to education.

GOAL

SCC's goal is to significantly contribute to achieve the national strategic plan by increasing vulnerable families' and children's equitable access to health service and education.

VALUES

SCC is guided in all its actions by its core values which are solidarity, spirituality, compassion, human rights, good governance and democracy and rule of law.

Writing Up Hard Life Stories

The funeral project is one of many projects that has been implemented by Salvation Centre Cambodia (SCC) for the families of deceased people in the coverage areas of Phnom Penh municipality, Battambang and Siem Reap provinces. The program is funded by the Firefly Mission from Singapore.

The purpose of this program is to support families who recently lost a family member, are struggling financially, people living with HIV/AIDS, elderly people with disabilities, homeless people, orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) who have no money to arrange the funeral event for their dead family members. We have cooperated with NGO partners, local authorities, community leaders and village chiefs as part of our networks in order to implement this program for the people in need. The main objectives of our funeral support donation are: 1) Arranging the funeral for the poor families who lost a family member and don't have enough money to arrange the funeral event on their own. 2) Help meeting the most urgent of needs of the poorest of families and share condolences to relieve their suffering from money problems and their recent loss.

The process before providing the family of the deceased with financial support is the following: After we receive the information from the family, the neighbors, community leaders, NGO partners, or local authorities, SCC staff visits the family to get exact information about them and about their living conditions. Then we let them fill out the form of cash request for the funeral with their signature or thumbprint (if they are illiterate). After that we get a confirmation from their village leaders or SCC's NGO partners to make sure that they are truly in need.

We work very carefully before and while providing the funeral support to the poorest families and donating money to them. The reason is that we are afraid of being scammed by people who want to exploit our organization. Funeral support is very valuable for the poorest of people in Cambodia and we provide it to all types of families in need without discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, political beliefs, or religion.

Significantly, SCC would like to share three stories of the funeral support implemented in Phnom Penh, Battambang, and Siem Reap provinces as from October-November-December 2019 for your information as follows:

1. Funeral Support in Phnom Penh City

Mr. Rathanak Soben, is 54 years old and lives in Saen Sokh Ti Muoy village, Sangkat khmuonh (commune), Khan Saensokh (district), Phnom Penh Municipality, Cambodia. He had a small family consisting of his wife and his son. Even though they were living under poor conditions they were still happy. They all tried their best to work and do whatever they could to earn money. Mr. Rathanak Soben and his son worked as construction workers and his wife worked in a restaurant, cleaning dishes. They tried to work as much as they could by using their strengths to earn an income to support their lovely family but the income was not enough to support their daily life expenses. Because of the poor living conditions, his wife got sick with a chronic medical illness and passed away from her family after only six months. The son who used to work as a construction worker with his father, stopped going to work and just stayed at home. He got addicted to illegal drugs and did not tell his father about these problems. He used the drugs and was also as a provider of them until the police found out about it, caught him and put him into prison. Mr. Rathanak Soben was broken-hearted because first his wife had passed away and now his son had become addicted to drugs and was in prison. He did not have anyone left and it made his life meaningless. He stopped working all together and just stayed at home, drinking alcohol day by day until he got sick. He had a gastric ulcer disease for 2 months with no medical treatment or hospital care.

Mr. Rathanak Soben departed from this world on 19th December 2019. When he passed away, his son was still in prison and he could not come to celebrate the last day of his father's funeral ceremony. Mrs. Pha Sarath, who is the younger sister-in-law of Mr. Ratahnak Soben, also lived under poor conditions but she could not ignore her brother-in-law's funeral. By the pitifulness of her and the neighbors, they helped to arrange this funeral



ceremony for him. They said, **“We are so sad and seriously shocked by this funeral and his son who lost his mother and now his father while he was still in prison. He could not see the last face of father even come to join the cremation.”** Mrs. Im Khimsreng who is the sub-village-chief of Saensok, directly contacted SCC and asked for help. When we learned about this case, we came to visit their home and asked them more about the family of the deceased to get more specific information before we offered the 40 USD which were supported by the generous Firefly Mission from Singapore. Furthermore, SCC staff came and participated in this funeral. The relatives of the deceased, neighbors, village chief, local authorities, were very happy and excited that SCC and the Firefly Mission helped them with this funeral when they did not have enough money to manage the cremation. Additionally, they would like to express their thanks and gratitude to SCC and Firefly Mission. Their offer is very significant for the poorest families in the communities.

2. Funeral Support in Siemreap Province

Mr. Kruoch Reun is 56 years old. He lived in Ta Ros village, Sangkat Krabei Riel (commune) in Siemreap province. He had six members in his family, three sons and two daughters. Mr. Kruoch Reun is a widower and his wife had passed away from his lovely family for a long time. He lived with his adorable sons and daughters in the smallest house of the village which was constructed of old zinc and low-quality wood. He didn't have any permanent job to do besides doing farmwork which was only needed in the rainy season. Sometimes he worked as a construction worker in the private sector in order to earn money to support his family in their daily life. By doing these jobs, he was able to earn at least 150 USD per month. All his children were still studying at junior high school and high school. Besides learning at school, they also helped their father's work too. The money which they got from doing these jobs was divided into two main parts. The first part was to support their family with food and other necessary goods. The second part was used to support their studies. Although Mr. Kruoch Reun had a poor living status and faced many problems on a daily basis, he took good care of his children and never let them give up studying. All his sons and daughters are good children, they always followed their father's advice and did as their father said. He always assisted with motivation and encouragements for his children and taught them how to love their studies and be satisfied with what they have.

Unfortunately for Mr. Kruoch Reun, he had a syncope disease when he came back from work one day. He departed from his lovely sons and daughters on 11th December 2019. It came as a great shock to his children and they were very distraught by the loss of their father. It devastated them, their hearts and the last hope for their lives. When his father died, Mr. Reun Rom who is the oldest child in the family, asked relatives and neighbors for help with their father's funeral ceremony. It was a hard time for them as orphaned children who were still young and didn't have enough money to manage his ceremony. When they saw this tragedy and had pity with the children, the village chief directly contacted SCC Siemreap and asked for help for the children because he knew that SCC has a budget to support the poorest of families of deceased. Then SCC staff came to their home as you can see in the picture above and offered them 40 USD that were donated by the Firefly Mission from Singapore. Furthermore, SCC staff, relatives, neighbors, and village chief helped them to manage the funeral in Khmer tradition and Buddhism for their father and also shared their condolences at the cremation. Additionally, the family of the deceased, their neighbors, village chief and local authority, are very grateful for this donation and would like to express their special thanks to SCC and the Firefly Mission who always had the generosity of helping the poorest of families with their loving and kindness.



3. Funeral Support in Battambang Province

Mr. Roeurn Rem is 51 years old and lived in Rohal Suong village, Preaek Norint commune, Aek Phnum district in Battambang province. He had five members in his family: two lovely daughters and one son. Together, they lived in a small house in a rural area of Battambang province. Mr. Roeurn Rem and his wife were farmers and besides doing farmwork in the rainy season, he also worked as a fisherman to earn some additional income for supporting his family's daily needs. He and his wife worked hard every day: in the early morning they went to the river to catch fish and later sold it on the market. However, doing these jobs was not enough to pay for their family's expenses and so his son decided to go to Thailand as a migration worker in order to help with reducing his family's burdens. One of his lovely daughters stopped studying because she had to help her parents with work, while the other one continued studying at primary school. Because of their poor living status, everyone in the whole family needed to help and especially Mr. Roeurn Rem, who is the father, took on a lot of responsibilities and sacrificed a lot for his lovely family. Unfortunately, he got lung tuberculosis for two months because he didn't take care of his health. As a result, all the families' responsibilities fell to his wife, Mrs. Khorn Thoeurt who took on more responsibilities for her family, especially for her sick husband and two little girls.

He departed from his lovely family on 15th December 2019. When he died, his wife Mrs. Khorn Thoeurt didn't have any money for managing the funeral ceremony. Because of her poverty and her position as a widowed woman, she didn't have any choices besides asking for help from relatives and neighbors. She borrowed 500 USD from her relatives and neighbors to arrange her husband's funeral. Those she had asked for help also participated in the funeral ceremony and they shared their condolences. The members of Rohal Suong village contacted SCC staff and asked for help because they knew SCC has available budgets to support the poorest of families when they lose a beloved family member.

Then our SCC staff arrived at the family's home. They welcomed our staff and invited us into their house as you can see in the picture. We talked to them to get more exact information and we realized that they were really facing a difficult situation. SCC staff offered 40 USD to the family of the deceased which was donated by the Firefly Mission from Singapore. Mrs. Khorn Thoeurt said, “**This donation is**



an enormous help for supporting my husband's funeral ceremony and it can help with my shortage of money”. Furthermore, the family of deceased, village chief, communities' leaders and local authorities expressed their hopes that SCC and the Firefly Mission will keep helping the poorest families in their villages and all Cambodian people.

Finally, all Cambodian people in the coverage areas (Phnom Penh Municipality, Siem Reap province and Battambang Province), village chiefs, community leaders, local authorities, the poorest families, still hope and insist that SCC and the Firefly Mission from Singapore keep assisting the Cambodian people in need. The last but not least, we would like to express our profound thanks to **Firefly Mission and all members from Singapore** and wish you will always have the four divine abodes of the four Buddhist virtues to all of Cambodian people with your generous sponsorship our funeral support. We can't tell you how much all of us at SCC and all the Cambodian people appreciate your contribution to our cause. Fortunately, thanks to your donation, we'll be able to have funding support to run our funeral support program continuously. May you be filled with loving kindness; May you be safe from inner and outer dangers; May you be well in body and mind; May you be at ease and happy, May the triple gem bless you all; and May you live peacefully in life.

Thank you very much for your enormous help!