The Chelly Foundation

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December 2020

HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER FOR 2020: THRIVING IN A CHALLENGING YEAR

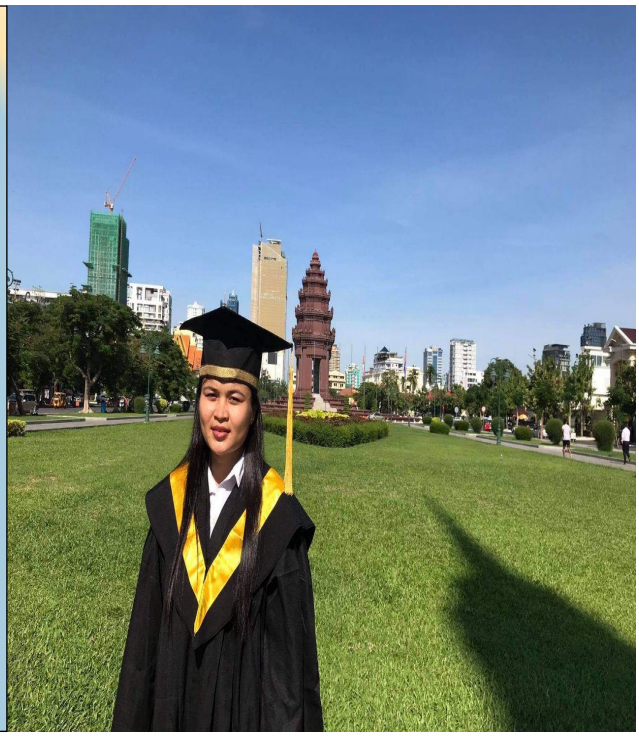
To all donors, supporters and friends of The Chelly Foundation:

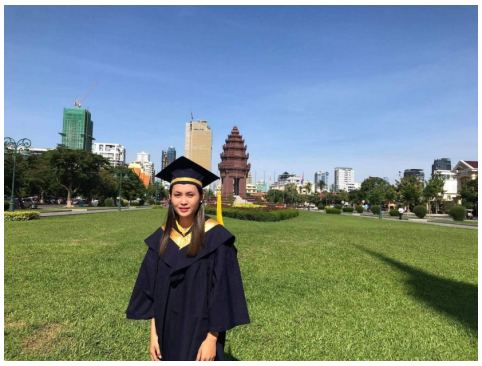
The COVID-19 pandemic has touched all of our lives this year, and it has been the same for students in Cambodia. Earlier this year, both the universities in Phnom Penh as well as elementary and high schools throughout Chum Kiri district closed indefinitely. Some schools have now opened, but sustained in-classroom learning continues to be hit or miss. The Chelly Library at the local Chum Kiri high school is, however, now open again, with new books and a new paid librarian care of our Foundation. And I am happy to report some joyous news: eight of our Chelly Scholars have now graduated from four-year universities. Their stories, in their own words, are told in the letters we are highlighting in this edition of our newsletter. I cannot describe how overwhelming it is to think that The Chelly Foundation, through its donors, has transformed the lives of some of the poorest children in Cambodia by giving them the opportunity to earn university degrees. Given the poverty in their local villages, without your help these kids would never have had a chance to graduate with a degree or obtain professional jobs. They are so happy and grateful to all of us. There are 19 other students we are now supporting on partial or full scholarships to universities in Phnom Penh. We could not accomplish what we are doing in supporting these young people, as well as our other continuing activities back in Chum Kiri, without the extremely generous help and support of all of our donors. Thank you.



On this and the following pages you can read a few selected letters from our graduating scholars:

My name is Phoeun Srey Leap, I am 22 years old. I have three siblings, I am the eldest in the family. After graduating from high school, I dreamed of going to university, but my family was poor and could not afford to send me to continue my education. I was one of the lucky ones to receive a scholarship from The Chelly foundation. My family and I are very happy that the organization has helped me achieve my goals. I am very thankful because after completing my four-year bachelor's degree at Asia-Europe University, I had changed: I had a new life, new experiences, a good job, I know good people, and it made me creative. Now I have some income and can help provide for my family. Finally, I would like to thank you, and I wish the organization continues to move forward for the children, who are incapable of continuing their education to achieve their goals without help. Without the organization's funds, my life would not be where it is today. Thank you so much The Chelly foundation. I love The Chelly foundation.







My name is Channary. I am from Chumkiri district, Kampot province. I am a student at Hun Sen Anhchork high school. I graduated my high school diploma in 2016. I came from a poor family. My father and my mother are farmers.

I am very lucky that I got a full scholarship from The Chelly Foundation for my bachelor's degree in accounting from Vanda Institute of Cambodia. My parents are so happy. If I did not get a scholarship from The Chelly Foundation my parents would not have been able to send me to a university.

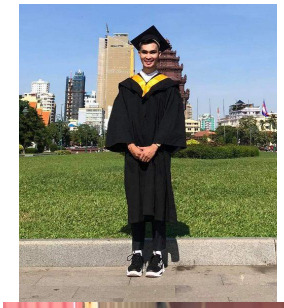
Now that I have a job, I can help my younger sister to continue her study. She is a good student. Currently, she studies in grade 12 at Hun Sen Anhchork high school in Chumkiri. I will help her to continue her studies at the university the same as me.

Spotlight on Jakkyra: Our Chelly Scholar at The Harpswell School Continues to Shine

Jakkrya is our Chelly Scholar who two years ago was one of only 20 young women selected annually from all of Cambodia to take part in the very prestigious Harpswell Foundation program. We are proud of the fact that The Chelly Foundation facilitated the first-ever interviews by Harpswell staff of students from a Chum Kiri high school. As part of the leadership activities that Harpswell promotes, Jakkrya has joined various human rights activities where she has created videos in support of disadvantaged people in Cambodia. She also has continued to excel in debate tournaments. Jakkrya has said to us that she wishes to be a professional researcher or an activist in human rights after graduation.



My name is Siam Vecheka. I'm 22 years old. First of all I would like to express my deepest appreciation to The Chelly Foundation. I was very happy when I received a scholarship because I was born in a very poor family. My family and I never thought that I could study at a university. After I graduated from Asia Europe University of Cambodia, I realized how much The Chelly Foundation means in helping to change the whole life of poor students like me. I am very thankful: The Chelly Foundation made our dreams come true. You know what? You not only helped me, you helped my whole family. Now I can get a better job and I can support my family. I want to say thank you very much for giving me this scholarship.





A Chelly Scholar Wedding

One of our graduating Chelly Scholars, Srey Nich (Nov MoNich), got married this year to Hun Somea Thea, a young man she met while pursuing her degree in finance and accounting at Asia University of Cambodia. A beautiful ceremony was conducted in the Spring of 2020. Srey Nich said earlier this year that she would like to pay her deepest thanks to The Chelly Foundation and to all of our donors who created a bright future for her. We wish her all the best in both her marriage and her future career.






Spotlight on A New Chelly Scholar: Rina, class of '24

Pictured below is Rina, currently a 12th grade student at the Hun Sen Chumkiri High School where The Chelly Library is located. She is one of the latest class of Chelly Scholars who will be looking forward to moving shortly to Phnom Penh to study at area universities. Rina is pictured here having attended the creative writing program run by *Writing Through*, a weeklong immersion program encouraging students to write poems and short stories, and to give presentations in front of an audience.



A New Librarian for The Chelly Library

The Chelly Library, opened in 2016, remains the only freestanding public school library in Kampot Province. After an expansion in 2018 of outdoor seating, the facility is now routinely used by hundreds of students each month under the supervision Viseth In, our new librarian responsible for upkeep and all library activities.

Viseth In





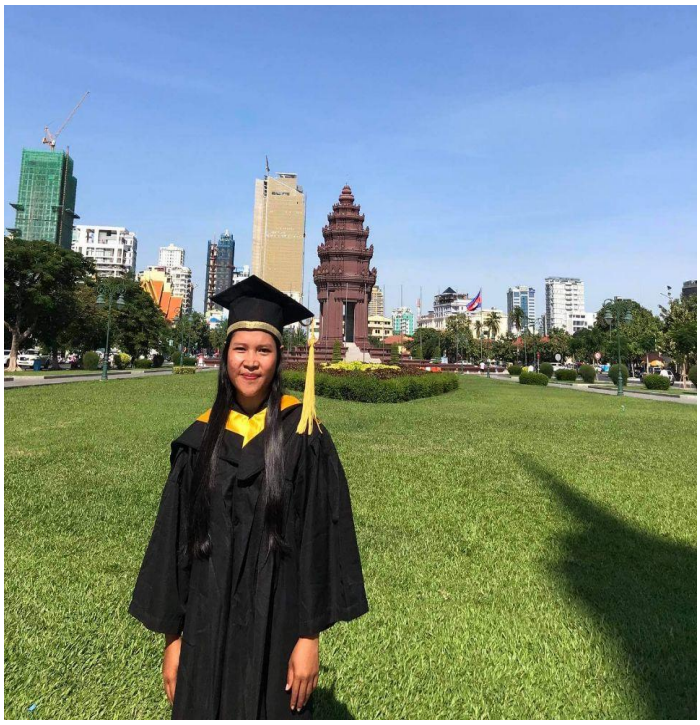












I am Lyda. I am 22 years old and was born in Chumkiri District, Kampot province. I have six siblings and am the last child in the family. My Dad passed away when I was in Grade 8. My single poor Mum has a prolonging illness and no other financial support. She decided I had to stop my studies in high school, but fortunately I have been provided a scholarship by the Chelly Foundation. I studied at the Vanda Institute and graduated in accounting in August 2020. I really so appreciate to accomplish my dream and am so grateful to the Chelly Foundation. I would like to say thank you and I wish you success in your life.

The Chelly Foundation Graduated students



Name: **Mol Saomonouv**
Graduation year: 2019



Name: **Phorn Channary**
Graduation year: 2019



Name: **Nov Sreynich**
Graduation year: 2020



Name: **Sat Srevpich**
Graduation year: 2020



Name: Hom Chansak
Graduation year: 2020



Name: **Ngov Lyda**
Graduation year: 2020



Name: **Pheoun Srevleap**
Graduation year: 2020



Name: **Seam Vechka**
Graduation year: 2020

Going into the 2020-2021 academic year, The Chelly Foundation will be supporting 19 students pursuing either college degrees, and in one case, a second, master's degree. The cost of tuition for attending one year at a university now averages around $600 plus incidentals.



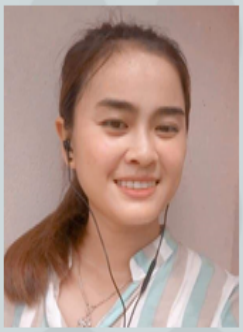


Dreaming of a better future

The Chelly Foundation
College students



Name: Suy Srevleak
Year: III



Name: **Tan Sokthai**
Year: III



Name: **Net Srotun**
Academic year: III



Name: **Phan Srevleak**
Academic year: III



Name: Sev Jakkrya
Academic year: II



Name: **Heang Sarith**
Academic year: II



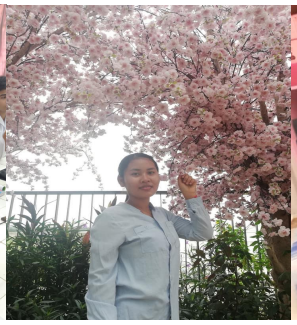
Name: **Phon Horn**
Academic year: II



Name: **Phorn Channary**
Master Degree: I









Distributing Rice to the Elderly

Due to the presence of COVID-19, as well as climate change in Cambodia, families in Chum Kiri villages have been experiencing food insecurity. With the support of The Chelly Foundation, in July this year Nan Nop arranged for shipments of bags of rice, tuna cans, and fish sauce, to be made available to elderly members of her village (some of whom are in their 90s and in two remarkable cases, 100 years old). Nan made sure that they were each also given a Sarong and a small amount of money. We will continue to support the neediest individuals in the village of Snay Anh Chet, where Nan and Ess grew up and where their Mother and other family members still live. The pictures were taken outside of Chelly House.











Special Guest Visitors from the United States



In the first couple of months of 2020, our students were privileged to host Janie Franklin (at left, in middle), daughter-in-law of Kathy Franklin, a member of our board of directors. Below (3rd from right), is Linda Nara, a student now at Suffolk University in Massachusetts and a recipient of a book scholarship from The Chelly Foundation. Both Janie and Linda were visiting family in Phnom Penh. Our students loved hearing about what life is like in the U.S.



A Special Thank You To Sochann and Samorn

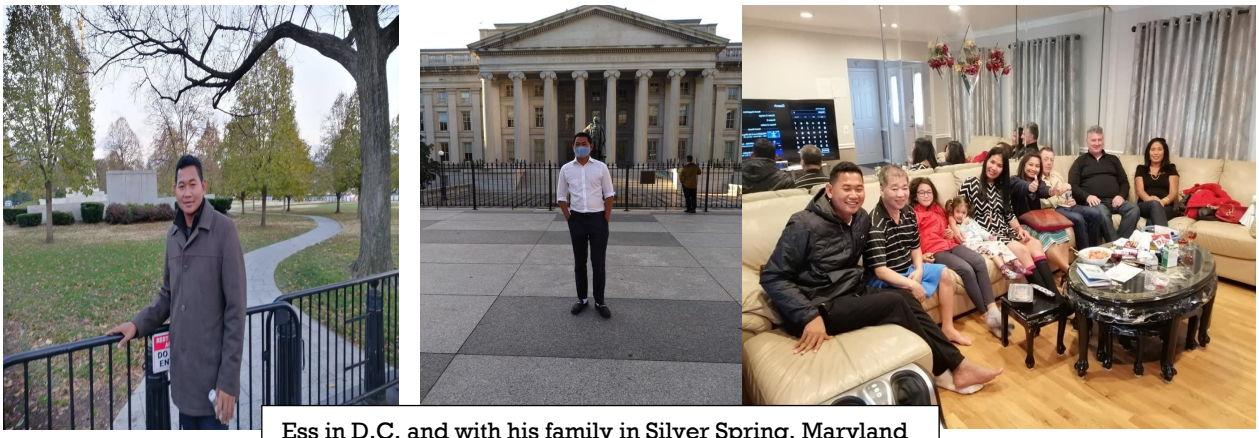
Nan's sister Sochann, in Phnom Penh, has been assisting The Chelly Foundation this year in managing local scholarship funds, and in assisting with library purchases. Samorn Khem, an English teacher in Chum Kiri, continues to be our main contact in the village responsible for on-the-ground oversight of our activities there. He also regularly takes time to meet with Chelly Scholars in Phnom Penh (see picture at left).







Nop Ess in D.C.



Ess in D.C. and with his family in Silver Spring, Maryland

Earlier this year, Nan's brother Ess received his green card after moving to the US late last year. Nan and Ess have dedicated themselves on a continuing basis to oversee The Chelly Foundation's activities in Cambodia. Without Nan and Ess, none of the good work we have been carrying out to transform the lives of children in Chum Kiri would have been possible. They are perfect role models and continue to be heroes to all the young people back in their home village. Thank you Nan and Ess!



I wish to thank all of the donors who have helped the children in my village over the past five years. I have joy in my heart knowing that there are many children from a poor village like mine who are now able to get college degrees. And younger children in my village now have the opportunity to learn English through books at their high school library, to have clean water, sanitation, bicycles, books and everything else provided. It is amazing what The Chelly Foundation has done in a short time, and I really hope we can continue changing the lives of the children in my home village and surrounding areas.

--Nan Nop

On behalf all who work to support The Chelly Foundation, I would like to again say how very much we have appreciated your kindness and support through donations made directly on our website, and through Benevity, Global Giving, and Facebook fundraisers. This year has been the most challenging one we have faced, but we are continuing to provide better health and educational opportunities for the children of Chum Kiri. Please do remember to "like us" on Facebook, and please know that 100% of your donations go directly to helping children in Cambodia and are fully tax deductible.



With every best wish for you and your family at the holidays,
and hoping for a brighter New Year for all.

Jason



Jason R. Baron
Founder & President, The Chelly Foundation (EIN 81-0785392)
Donations can be made to www.thechellyfoundation.org
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