

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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Cambodia  
Rural  
Students  
Foundation

# CHAIRPERSON'S SPEECH

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On behalf of the Cambodia Rural Student Foundation Board of Directors, I would like to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to you all at our 2024 Annual General Meeting.

Our mission is to provide education to rural students in Cambodia, with the commitment to supporting the education of bright students from economically challenged rural Cambodian families. We believe that education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty and creating a brighter future for these students and their communities. By giving our students a hand up rather than a handout, we mentor and guide our students to improve their lives and those in their community. Through ongoing mentoring, CRST is managed entirely on the ground in Cambodia by our students, enabling them to impact thousands of rural students and wider rural communities via our rural community projects. Through these projects, to date our students have supported the education of over 60,000 rural students, providing lasting and sustainable outcomes.

We are committed to instilling in our students strong values, empowerment, and inspiration to become engaged and contributing members of society and ultimately lead the way to a better future for Cambodia.

I have had the privilege of meeting many of our students and it is an understatement to say that their professionalism, passion and commitment are beyond inspiring.

I am pleased to acknowledge the Foundation has delivered a successful year in 2024 with total donations of \$358,840 received. Donations to CRST for the year were \$322,641 and the total Comprehensive Profit for the year was \$6,262.

It was 13 years ago in 2011 when the Palti family set out on their mission of breaking the poverty cycle through education. Their unwavering support, dedication and commitment to our mission are truly appreciated and continue to be fully embraced by the entire Palti family. I would like to make a special acknowledgement to Aviv and Jess for their steadfast and unwavering presence. They consistently work behind the scenes to drive the Foundation forward, work with local governments and communities and provide the mentorship that is highly valued by our students.

It is a privilege to be able to reflect on our journey, celebrate our achievements for what has been an exciting year.

**Jan Evans**

CHAIRPERSON

# MAIN ACTIVITIES OF CRST FOR THE YEAR WERE:

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- Currently sponsoring 72 students – 11 at high school students, 55 bachelor degree and 6 master degree students.
- In 2024, 2 students graduated from high school, 21 students graduated with their bachelor's degrees and 7 students graduated with their master's degrees.
- There are 54 CRST graduates, 14 of them have gone on to earn a master degree or 2nd degree; others are studying master degrees without our support.
- 20 new students joined CRST in 2024
- Since 2011, CRST has directly supported the education of 183 students
- 100% of CRST Graduates enter the workforce within 3 months of graduating.
- Supporting 22 rural families with monthly food & essential living supplies.
- The CRST Health Team ran 10 Health classes for our students
- CRST alumni led 10 Business Class programs for our students
- We built 2 new houses, repaired 3 houses, and built 1 classroom for a rural school.
- Project G saw 6500 Days for Girls kits distributed and over 7000 students educated and 4943 kits sold for on-distribution to other Days for Girls educators. Since the project started in 2018, Project G has sewn and distributed 20,000 kits to girls all over Cambodia with over 25,000 students educated.
- Project B donated 175 bicycles and repaired 415 bicycles to rural students.
- Project W installed 18 BioSand clean water filtration systems, 5 toilet blocks , 22 incinerators and 1 well at 21 rural schools.
- Project L provided 5707 SolarBuddy lights, 3191 study material packs to students in remote rural communities.
- Project T planted 5365 trees in rural communities and in the city of Siem Reap.
- Project V hosted 82 guests from Australia, Cambodia, Canada, France, Hong Kong, Israel, New Zealand and the United States.
- Through CRST's Projects, we have supported the education of over 60,000 students.

# WE ALSO ACHIEVED THE FOLLOWING:

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- Aviv's book 'Empowered – a new generation of leaders' was published and is being translated to Khmer, to be published in Cambodia in early 2025.
- 15 new donors came on board.
- 4 new corporate partnerships were achieved.
- We had 4 Ambassadors travel to the United States.
- 9 Rotary Clubs have sponsored students with 3 partially sponsoring students.
- The Board has worked on documentation to join ACFID.
- A business school class was held for alumni in Phnom Penh in August 2024 with over 100 alumni and their guests joining, including students from the National University of Management.
- The Ambassador of Israel to Cambodia and Thailand spent three days with CRST and activities include distributing bicycles with Project B, Planting trees with Project T, an activity with Project G and several NGO and local government meetings.
- CRST has 11,800 followers on Facebook, with a further 21,000 followers through the Project G, Project T and Project W Facebook pages.

# GRANTS + SUPPORT

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- The Philips Foundation is supporting Project G in 2024-25 with \$50,000 AUD to provide further resources and menstrual Kits.
- A successful grant from The Intrepid Foundation was awarded for \$33,000 AUD to install solar panels at the CRST Campus.
- The Intrepid Foundation extended an invitation which we have accepted listing CRST on their Foundation website, raising funds for CRST generally as well as a specific fundraiser for a new tuk tuk. Intrepid Travel dollar-matches all monthly donations. CRST is the only organisation in Cambodia listed with them.
- A Rotary Foundation Global Grant has been implemented for WASH projects at 11 rural schools and will impact 4,000 Students and 6,000 Villagers. We have pledged to the value of US\$60,000 for a potential second Global Grant for WASH projects in 2025.
- Two Rotary International District Grants will be completed by the end of 2024, implementing 8 Biosand water filtration systems and 8 incinerators at 8 rural schools, impacting over 3000 students and surrounding community members.
- Cambodia's Minister for Education, Youth and Sport visited the CRST campus in August.
- Project W implemented funds from The Funding Network (TFN) and Stockland to installed Biosand filtration systems, toilets and incinerators in 5 rural schools.
- Aviv and Jess visited over 10 Rotary clubs in Australia, Hong Kong, Thailand and the United States.

# CONCLUSION

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On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of our supporters, donors and partners. Your presence and unwavering support mean the world to us. Together, as a dedicated and united community, we have achieved so much, and your continued involvement is what keeps our Foundation thriving.

Our success is also directly linked to the hard work of our team of students in Cambodia. We have made extraordinary progress this year, and I'd like to personally thank every team member for their energy, commitment and consistency in driving our mission forward.

I would like to express my appreciation and extend my thanks to Daniel Allison and Associates for their audit of the accounts. Thank you ask well to Abdul Buksh, Summer Tran, Melissa Dalman and Narelle Devereux from Lifestyle Brands for their assistance during the year. Our audit for the 2024 year has been completed and the Audit Report is scheduled to be signed on Tuesday 3rd December 2024.

Thank you to the Cambodia Rural Student Foundation Board Members for donating your time, valuable insights, dedication, and shared commitment to our mission. Your commitment is truly appreciated, and I look forward to your continued support as we continue to build upon our successes and navigate the exciting path ahead.

A special thank you to the Palti family and Lifestyle Brands for your ongoing support, I am excited about the opportunities and growth that lie ahead as we work together to make a positive impact in the lives of our students and rural communities.

In closing, thank you for another excellent year and I look forward to continuing to break the cycle of poverty through education in 2025 with you all.