

Hands Across The World



Hannah's Experience:

I am currently in Siem Reap, Cambodia with Cindy and Josh Barwise, their daughter and some of the Hands Across The World (HATW) team learning about the work they do and where our support and donations are going.

HATW began by building schools but soon realised this was a common NGO (non-government organisation) program that was being done and was not sustainable. So they have created and began implementing a program that teaches the local primary school teachers skills and techniques they require to teach English. It is called Interactive Teacher Training Siem Reap (ITTSR).

The first course ran in 2017, with the curriculum being reviewed in 2018. In January this year until this month the second course took. The program runs for 30 weeks, every Saturday from 1.30-5.30 and is provided free of charge to 20 teachers. Two English teachers run the course alternating weeks to teach.

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I was lucky enough to attend the last lesson of this course last Saturday and it was very well run with great energy and enthusiastic local Cambodian teachers who are happy to be there, some travel up to 3hrs to get there on the Saturdays which is also their weekend.

I have also seen some of the teachers in action at their schools and it's fantastic to see some of them implementing what they've learnt as they have changed from the old ways of rote learning to now interacting their students with hands on lessons.

This Saturday will be their graduation which I will attend. HATW team will spend the next 9 months reviewing the course & editing the curriculum to make it even better. As you can see this is a fairly new program, so it's exciting to be a part of this project and see it grow and develop to support the local teachers in building their teaching skills who then pass what they have learnt onto other teachers. So far this program has reached over 2800 children.

"No one has ever become poor by giving."
-Anne Frank









