



CAHCC Happyland, PO Box 9766, Takeo Post Office, Phum 2, Roka Knong Commune, Daunkeo City, Takeo Province, Cambodia

February 1, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

I write this letter to acknowledge the sustainability efforts at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls (UWRF) and to provide support for an innovation credit for their STARS report. My name is Kris Eakins and I am the Project manager at CAHCC Happyland located in Cambodia.

Happyland is a community center offering a safe place for children to play and learn. Our area of Cambodia is full of poverty and not all children have the opportunity to go to school. Happyland is run entirely by volunteers from around the world. Most of the volunteers come to us for two weeks to a month. However, we do have a core team who take turns spending six months to a year at Happyland to help run the organization. We do not receive any funding from the Cambodian government and depend solely on donations from volunteers.

Over 64% of the Cambodian population is under 26 years old. Happyland helps educate the children, but we are only as good as our donations from volunteers. Only 1% of children in Cambodia have access to computers. While most children are not able to go to school in our area, the schools that do exist do not even have computers. Libraries also do not exist here. Mobile technology is becoming more common in Cambodia, but computers are still rare and children are generally not learning what they need to in order to be successful in the future.



Through one of our core volunteers, we were able to make a connection with staff at UWRF. Members of their surplus department heard our stories and offered to donate outdated computers that could no longer be used on campus and were not having much success being sold. They donated five laptops and three Thinkpads to Happyland. This has enabled us to go from teaching computer classes to 25 children to over 70 students each day. Because most children in our area are not able to go to school, we fill the gap and help teach them the needed skills to advance. Along with English classes, the computer classes provide children with a chance for a better future.

For most Cambodians, the only interaction outside our province is through social media if they are fortunate enough to have computers or mobile devices. We use the computers to teach the children basic skills for computer use. We also teach them how to use computers to look up information as well as how to use social media responsibly and safely. Most of the children in our province have never even traveled to the capital of Phnom Penh which is only two hours away. The laptops and tablets are opening their eyes to the rest of the world. They are learning what they cannot learn in school and most are hoping they can learn enough at Happyland to help them get into schools in the future.

We cannot thank UWRF enough for their kindness and generosity. Their donations allowed us to focus our limited financial resources on other areas. We are helping address social inequities and opportunities and are helping open doors for the children to better opportunities. We hope you enjoy the images of a few of our students using the computers as well as the below image with them thanking UWRF.



The innovation credit criteria was shared with me and I truly feel that UWRF's donation to Happyland meets the criteria. Their global minded attitudes and willingness to help us out speak volumes about their university. I can only hope that the children we serve at Happyland have a fraction of the opportunities that the students at UWRF have.

If you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please let me know.

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