

# Hong Yat



*Hong Yat*

## HONG YAT'S STORY

Granny Hong Yat is one of the most friendly and social grannies in our group. She loves sharing her experiences with the junior leaders who visit her with support. She shows them genuine affection and enjoys teaching them about traditional culture, morality and values. Hong Yat's greatest pleasure is joining Buddhist ceremonies. Her positive religious ideologies inspire the kids to be respectful and kind to others.

Hong Yat grew up in rural Kandal province and her husband came from the southern Vietnamese area known as Kompuchea Krom – which shares many Khmer cultures and traditions. The young couple was very much in love and brought seven children into the world. However, like so many families in Cambodia, the Pol Pot years (1975-1979) brought devastation to everything they knew. As an educated man - a former teacher - her husband was quickly killed by the genocidal regime. Following Cambodia's liberation, Hong Yat was able to reunite with her children and they relocated back to Phnom Penh. As a former factory worker, Hong Yat struggled to find work in the rebuilding country and the family was forced into the slums. She toiled as a garbage scavenger and tried her best to provide for her children. In later years her children all married and moved to live separately.

Today she lives with her son in the same slum village. There are 11 members in his family. He works as construction worker and the desperate poverty cycle continues. Granny Hong Yat cannot work because of her old age and a previous eye problem. Having been accepted into the granny program in 2012, CCF's support has offered Hong Yat the opportunity to provide for her family again. CCF's medical team was also able to cure her eyesight and 2 of her grandchildren attend school with CCF. Hopefully, their access to schooling will contribute to finally lifting this family out of poverty and on to a bright future.

At a recent CCF 10-year celebration, Granny Hong Yat was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for being the matriarch of a model family in the community. She excitedly expressed her feeling to the large crowd; "with the caring love of CCF, I now live with no worry. I live with hope and peace of mind to see my grandchildren grow physically and spiritually positive."



*Granny Hong Yat receiving her certificate of Appreciation at CCF 10-year celebration.*



*A team of CCF's Junior Leaders visiting and providing rice and cooking pots to Granny Hong Yat*

# Khut Yorn



*Khut Yorn*

## KHUT YORN'S STORY

Granny Khut Yorn has relished the opportunity of being part of CCF's Granny Program. She is very talkative and loves passing on lessons to the local children. She is also social with the other Grannies in the program and always attends Monk blessings and other CCF community events.

Granny Khut Yorn lost her husband over 20 years ago. They raised 8 children together, however, none of them support her in her old age. They all live in different provinces with their spouses. Her youngest daughter moved to find work in Thailand and left her three children to live with their elderly grandmother. Khut Yorn struggled desperately to raise her grandchildren – she was forced to move to the Phnom Penh slums and sold cakes to the community in order to raise an income. The business struggled and despite her best efforts she could not afford to send her grandchildren to school. Things got worse when a fall left her with a broken hand and no avenue to raise money.

Luckily, the family found CCF and gradually their lives have improved. The three grandchildren, aged 7, 10 and 11 all attend CCF school and the household is supported with rice and rent support. Khut Yorn has access to CCF's free medical center and as a member of the Granny Program receives extra care from CCF's community team and the junior leader



*Granny Khut Yorn socializing at CCF 10-year celebration*



*A team of CCF's Junior Leaders visiting and providing rice to Granny Khut Yorn*

# Koeut Srey



*Koeut Srey*

## KOEUT SREY'S STORY

At 91 years-old, granny Koeut Srey is a true asset to the community we serve. She is a soft-voiced granny who is generous to everyone and dedicated to the Buddhist faith. She loves to educate CCF's Junior Leaders about Khmer traditions, especially the value of generosity. She strongly advises the youngsters to be strong role models for Cambodia.

Granny Koeut Srey has endured a lifetime of chaos and tragedy. She lost four of her seven children during the brutality of the Pol Pot Regime. Then her husband passed away after the fall of the genocidal regime. She was left struggling in a rural province as the single parent of three surviving daughters. Nowadays, all three of her daughters have married, and two of them live and work in distant provinces.

With her two elder daughters far away, Granny Srey lives with her youngest daughter, son-in-law, and five grandchildren. She has relocated to the Steung Meanchey slum after spending two decades of meditation and Buddhist service in a provincial pagoda. Her daughter works as a cleaner at CCF and her 8-year-old granddaughter, Kanika, is a CCF student.

Granny Srey met Scott a few years ago and he welcomed her into CCF's Granny Program to ensure she received the support and care she deserves. CCF's support to her and Kanika helps stretch the meager household income much further. Granny Srey no longer has to work, which is an important step as the rigors of old-age are setting in. She suffers from high blood pressure and very poor eyesight. CCF's medical team is committed to treating her illnesses in the hope that she can live out the rest of her life as comfortably as possible. Recently, Granny Srey and her friends in the Granny Program were accompanied by our Junior Leaders for an eye check-up and they have received new glasses to help their eyesight.

When we asked her about how she has felt after joining CCF's Granny Program, she answered with a happy smile and no reluctance; "I've relished the opportunity to be given the support and care by CCF. I have never ever seen other NGOs like CCF that has made tremendous effort to help both children and the elders. I like very much CCF's staff and Junior Leaders because they are friendly and helpful. They pay their regular visits to me with the support of rice, weekly stipend and I have access to community services, such as, fresh drinking water, medical care and other CCF's community services and events. Regularly, I attend CCF's Monk blessings and it is one of my favorite activities."



*Granny Koeut Srey socializing at CCF 10-year celebration*



*CCF's Grannies and Junior Leaders going for their eye check-up*

# Lak Chan



*Lak Chan*



*A team of CCF's Junior Leaders visiting and providing rice to Granny Lak Chan*

## LAK CHAN'S STORY

Granny Lak Chan is a true asset to the community we serve. Despite a long life of hardship she remains sweet and friendly to all and dedicated to the Buddhist faith. While she values the support she receives from CCF, she never asks for anything and loves to educate the Junior Leadership students about Khmer culture and motivate them to be strong role models in the future.

At 78 years old, she has lived through American bombings, the Khmer Rouge years and decades of civil unrest. Her husband of over 40 years passed away at age 72 and she has no surviving children. Currently she is living with her niece's daughter, who is the only family she has left to care for her. In 1990 they migrated to the city in desperate poverty. Lak Chan was losing her eyesight and her husband spent long hours scavenging garbage in order to eke out a living. Alone, blind, and with no skills to earn money, Lak Chan was taken in by relatives who toiled in the slum village around 'Trash Mountain'. The young family had low paying jobs at a local factory and suffered daily from the crippling interest of a previous debt.

Since joining CCF's granny program on 4 July 2013, Lak Chan has developed close bonds with the students who bring her rice and support each week. Her weekly highlight is attending CCF arranged monk blessings at the Community Centre. She said: "I am so happy to be a part of granny program as I can get support from CCF. However, I do not need any more things from CCF because I think that is enough for me. What is more, I have a wonderful chance to talk with children."

# Leng Rin



*Leng Rin*

## LENG RIN'S STORY

Granny Leng Rin is highly social and one of the most helpful Grannies in our Granny Program. She has a good sense of humor and is loved by other Grannies, Junior Leaders and the wider community. Despite a lifetime of hardship and difficult ordeals, she remains hopeful and dedicated to doing good deeds for her community. Granny Rin always educates and inspires our Junior Leaders who visit her, encouraging them to strive for their best in education so they can have a good future. She tearfully recalled that, "I really loved education when I was a child yet I was not allowed due to tradition and fallacies. The schooling was very limited for girls. I don't want children to miss opportunities for a life-changing education provided by CCF."

Granny Rin is a survivor of the brutal Pol Pot regime, which ravished Cambodia in the late 1970's. Tragically, like millions of other Cambodians, her husband was killed during the genocidal regime. She was left as a single parent, struggling to support her four surviving children. During these horrific times, Granny Rin suffered immense loss through the brutal killing of her parents, siblings and two of her children. The loss of her beloved relatives led to severe depression and a long, difficult recovery. After a few years following Cambodia's liberation, Granny Rin decided to leave her home province of Takeo, located in the southwest of Cambodia, with her children and go to Phnom Penh city in search of a new beginning.

In the city, however, she found few opportunities. Granny Rin spent her days scavenging in a local rubbish dump to earn a living. The income was hand-to-mouth and barely allowed her family to survive. Years later, two of her children married and moved with their own families to live separately. They are low-income workers which means that it is hard for them to support their mother as well as their own families.

Nowadays, Granny Rin lives with her youngest son in a small rented room in Phnom Penh. Her son is a waiter and only earns enough money to support himself. Granny Rin's other son is currently studying in Thailand. She now receives support from CCF since Scott found her hunting for scraps in 2013. CCF's outreach team and a team of Junior Leadership students regularly visit Granny Rin with support including rice and a weekly living stipend. She also has access to a wide range of CCF's community services and events including access to fresh drinking water, medical care and eye check-ups. Her favorite event is the weekly Monk blessing at CCF's community center which she always attends.

Granny Rin greatly appreciates the opportunity to be a member of the Granny Program and she is very grateful to CCF. She excitedly said, "I'd like to give my deep gratitude to Scott who has saved my life out of poverty. He is my hero and I cannot thank him enough. I love Scott, staff and CCF's Junior Leaders."



*Granny Leng Rin socializing at CCF's 10-year celebration*



*A team of CCF's Junior Leaders visiting and providing rice and food to Granny Leng Rin*

# Mut Yon



*Mut Yon*



*A team of CCF's Junior Leaders paying visits to community grannies and grandpas*



*Granny Mut Yon's new CCF community house*

## MUT YON'S STORY

Granny Mut Yon is an elderly widow, continuing her life's struggle of survival. She has lived through a lifetime of turmoil, from the French and Japanese occupations, to the horrors of the Pol Pot regime and the decades of civil war that followed. During the authoritarian regime, her family was left fragmented. These years were unbearable for her; missing her husband and single daughter. There was nothing she could do but live with fear and tears. When Cambodia was liberated from the genocidal regime in 1979, she was able to reunite with her family in Phnom Penh. These happy times were short lived. The rigors of the past 4 years has left her husband with serious tuberculosis and he eventually died, leaving her as a single parent with no possessions. All she had owned had been sold to help cover her husband's medical expenses.

Many years passed with toil and struggle. Granny Yon's daughter and grandchildren moved away in the search of work in distant provinces, leaving some great-grandchildren under her care. However, her meager income, earned from selling fruit, put her in perilous situation of hand-to-mouth, daily survival. She worked valiantly to support her great-grandchildren but was left with no choice but to come and ask for CCF's support when she learned of the organization.

Granny Yon was welcomed into CCF's Granny Program in 2014, following on-site visits by CCF's outreach staff. Since then, she has been gifted a new CCF house and she has been living with her three great-granddaughters, two of whom attend school at CCF. The 80-year-old Yon no longer has to work and the household is supported with rice and a monthly living stipend. She has access to CCF's free medical center as well as other community services, and, as a member of the Granny Program, she receives extra care from CCF's community staff and a team of CCF's Junior Leaders. She is one of the regulars at CCF's Monk blessings in the Community Center and it's her favorite event.

Since the family found CCF, their lives have gradually improved. Granny Yon has responded wonderfully and has developed close bonds with CCF's Junior Leadership students. She enjoys sharing her life experiences, Khmer history and traditional family values with them. Through excited tears, she recently expressed her feelings at a CCF community event; "Nowadays, I live with no worry about shortages of basic essentials. I can live with peace of mind to see my great granddaughters going to school and having meals to eat. I am very grateful to CCF for everything it has done for us. I could not imagine how miserable our lives would be without CCF's help."

# Nuon Yen



*Nuon Yen*

## NUON YEN'S STORY

Nuon Yen is a soft-voiced and gentle granny whom we serve in our program. She embraced the opportunity to be part of the program and makes a great effort to give back to the community. She enjoys sharing her life experiences and Khmer traditions with CCF's Junior Leadership students. They visit her on a regular basis to provide rice, stipend and they benefit from her advice about life and the importance of education.

Through a lifetime of genocide and devastation brought on by the Pol Pot regime, she was left alone struggling to survive. Her parents, siblings, her husband and four children were killed during that horrific time. Following Cambodia's liberation, she was able to reunite with her only surviving daughter in her home province. Granny Yen worked as a farmer but struggled to survive on the meager income she earned. In search of better employment Granny Yen moved to Phnom Penh with her daughter.

Granny Yen rented a very small room and spent her days scavenging in the streets of Phnom Penh. She used to drag a rented cart looking for recyclables materials to sell. A few years later, her daughter married and moved in with her husband. Unfortunately, due to her financial situation and having four children, she cannot support her mother.

With her old age and arthritis taking its toll, each day is a struggle. CCF has welcomed her into the Granny Program since 2014 following a successful interview and on-site visits by CCF's team. CCF found her while she was collecting plastics and cans on the dump site. Granny Yen has recalled, "I could have died of scarcity if CCF didn't save me. CCF is my great savior and it means so much to me. Now, my big wish is to live longer so that I can contribute back to the community and see my grandchildren as well as CCF students grow in the future."

Granny Yen is very happy to be a member of the Granny Program because she receives care and support. Every week she has rice, stipend and access to a wide range of CCF's community services and events, such as fresh drinking water, eye check-up and medical care. One of her favorite events is the Monk blessing at CCF's Community Center where she attends regularly. CCF's outreach team and the Junior Leaders pay frequent visits to her while our medical team provides the healthcare. She has said, "My illness has relieved a lot and my health is getting better. Also, my weight is gaining."



*A team of CCF's Junior Leaders visiting and providing rice to Granny Nuon Yen*



*A team of CCF's Junior Leaders paying visits to community grannies and grandpas*

# Phat Morn



*Phat Morn*



*A team of CCF's Junior Leaders paying visits to community grannies and grandpas*

## PHAT MORN'S STORY

A survivor of the horrific Pol Pot regime and decades of civil unrest that followed, 91 year-old Granny Phat Morn has had a tough life. Despite a lifetime of hardship, she remains nice to all and dedicated to the Buddhist faith. Granny Morn always attends Monk blessings at CCF's Community Centre and enjoys sharing life lessons with CCF's Junior Leaders who regularly visit her with support of rice and a weekly stipend. She always advises our Junior Leaders to make the most of life-changing education that she could never access.

Granny Morn lost her husband and six of her ten children in the devastation and genocide wrought by the Khmer Rouge. When Cambodia was liberated, she raised her surviving children with hand-to-mouth income earned through laborious garbage scavenging. She now receives very little support from her children, as they cannot support their own families with their meager earnings, let alone provide their mother with support.

Granny Morn presently lives with her youngest daughter who works as a scavenger. As a member of the Granny Program, Granny Morn receives extra support and care from CCF's outreach team and Junior Leadership students. Her grandson and granddaughter also attend CCF's school and nightly food program.

Granny Morn joined the program a couple of years ago. Scott found Granny Morn while she was hunting for recycled scraps on "Trash Mountain" – Phnom Penh city's infamous garbage dump. Although in her late 80s, Granny Morn was spending every day sorting through trash under very hot conditions in order to earn a small income to support her family. Nowadays, she is too old to work and suffers from high blood pressure and other pains. CCF is committed to doing its best to ease Granny Morn's burdens and allow her to live the rest of her life as comfortably as possible.

Granny Morn has said that she is very glad to be part of the Granny Program. She greatly values the support and care CCF provides to her, which has greatly improved her life as well as the lives of her grandchildren. She recently commented, "CCF means a lot to me; more than words can describe. I have nothing to say but "Thank You" and I wish CCF more success and prosperity so that it is able to reach out its help to more impoverished people."

# Phoak Peou



*Phoak Peou*



*A team of CCF's Junior Leaders visiting and providing rice to Granny Phoak Peou*

## PHOAK PEOU'S STORY

Granny Phoak Peou was born in 1931 in the rural province of Kampong Thom. She comes from a farming family with ten members. As she got older, she found work as a noodle maker and in 1949 she married her husband, who was a bus ticket seller. The married couple had one son before the country's civil war and its devastating consequences changed Cambodia forever. Her husband died in the fighting leading up to the Khmer Rouge taking control in 1975. Granny Phoak Peou survived the Pol Pot regime (1975-1979) that followed and was re-united with her son when the county was liberated. In 1982, the family migrated to Phnom Penh city as they struggled to find paying work in the province. The re-emerging capital offered opportunity and they sold their land for 100\$ in the search for the new start.

Nowadays, Granny Phoak Peou is living with one of her granddaughters. When CCF found her she was still working as a garbage scavenger to help support her granddaughter, despite entering her late 70's. With CCF's support through the Granny Program, she no longer has to toil on the streets collecting cans and plastics for recycling.

In return, Granny Phoak Peou has taken on a strong matriarchal role with CCF's Junior Leaders. She is extremely friendly and sweet to them and loves to share Cambodian traditions and cultures – many of which died, along with the millions of humans, during the Pol Pot regime. Granny Phoak Peou always tells the kids to finish their homework before they go out and play! She is also a regular at CCF community events and the weekly Monk blessings.

# Yuth Sokhom



*Yuth Sokhom*

## YUTH SOKHOM'S STORY

Granny Sokhom is a kind and social granny in the community we serve. She is very talkative and loves sharing life lessons and advice to local children, including, of course, CCF's team of Junior Leaders who bring her rice and support each week. She is also sociable with the other grannies in the program and regularly attends the Monk blessings at CCF's Community Centre, which is one of her favorite activities. Her positive religious ideologies guide her to be compassionate and helpful, and she always encourages the children to be respectful and kind to others.

Now in her late 60's, she has survived a lifetime of hardship and great tragedy. During the chaotic Pol Pot regime, her family lived with desperate hunger and all freedom and possessions were lost. Her parents and two brothers were killed during the genocidal regime. Eventually, her family escaped into the Southern Vietnamese area known as Kompuchea Krom - which shares many Khmer cultures and traditions. They spent those years living along the river bank, surviving hand to mouth each day.

Following Cambodia's liberation, they relocated back to Phnom Penh in search of a new start. Granny Sokhom struggled to find work in the rebuilding country and the family was forced into the slums. There, she worked as a grocer, making meager earnings and trying her best to provide for her children. In later years, her children all married and moved to live separately. Sadly, her daughter broke up with her husband, leaving their two children in Granny Sokhom's care.

Granny Sokhom was welcomed into the Granny Program in 2014 and she has greatly enjoyed being part of it. She values CCF's support, such as, rice, stipend, fresh drinking water, medical care and other community services and social events. In addition, she has received new housing from CCF, where she currently lives with her husband and her two granddaughters. Finally, after decades of nomadic lifestyle and desperate struggle, she is stable, secure and has a home of her own.

Granny Sokhom no longer has to work as the household is supported with rice and living allowance. Her husband works as a security guard and her granddaughters are receiving an education at CCF's nearby school. The effects of diabetes and high blood pressure are taking their toll and make CCF extra committed to keeping attentive eyes on her and ensuring she is able to live out the rest of her life as comfortably as possible.



*Granny Sokhom's new CCF community house*



*A team of CCF Junior Leaders visiting and providing rice to Granny Yuth Sokhom*