

Dining For Women Grant Report

August 31, 2012

Somaly Mam Foundation
SMF Scholarship Fund
Grant Total: \$32,307
Rigmor Schneider, Interim Executive Director

262 W. 38th Street
Suite 205
New York, NY 10018

Program Goals

The Somaly Mam Foundation focuses on empowering survivors of human trafficking, predominantly in Southeast Asia. This funding was designed to support the SMF Scholarship Fund used to pay for primary, secondary, and higher education for victims who wish to continue formal academic education, and to support the training of members of a survivor activist program called Voices For Change. In addition to supporting victims of trafficking, the Somaly Mam Foundation Scholarship Fund provided grants to staff members who are survivors of sex trafficking to participate in short courses to continue developing and improving vocational skills, and to a limited number of other staff members wishing to build capacity to better serve victims.

Access to education is one of the crucial components in the survivor empowerment process. Many survivors could not go to school for as long as they wished due to family pressure to pursue income-generating activities. In situations of extreme poverty, the urgent need for money can trump the importance of education. In many developing countries, there is also a cultural belief that girls do not need to go to school. Recent reports highlighted the gap between males and females regarding access to school and showed that the disparity is even greater within ethnic minority groups, of which a large proportion are affected by trafficking and sexual exploitation.

The Voices For Change program is an effort to continue Somaly's legacy and work into a new generation. By inspiring survivors to become advocates for the cause and developing their skills, we can help empower and rehabilitate them in addition to increasing the impact of their prevention, awareness, and advocacy efforts. These young women will continue Somaly's work, creating a model that can be implemented in other parts of the world in the future, essentially providing a source of unlimited potential and enormous impact.

In 2009, we created a pilot version of this program, selecting five survivors from the AFESIP shelters of Cambodia, providing them with basic education and literacy courses, intensive English, and anti-human trafficking and advocacy training. The first year of the program is designed to focus on classroom education, while the second year focuses on completing internships with AFESIP or SMF staff working in the field. The end result is to have survivors serving as full time advocacy and awareness employees working directly with Somaly Mam or other NGOs focused on trafficking.

Services for survivors who do not want to become activists is still a critical component to fighting trafficking, and there is a significant need for rehabilitation programs and provision of other services to prevent re-trafficking and other problems upon reintegration. Studies show that when victims from rural

areas are educated and reintegrated, they become leaders in their communities, allowing them to effectively teach their communities about human trafficking, how to identify it, and how to report it. Education also benefits the families of survivors and the greater communities at large.

Our initial goal was to provide ten survivors with general continued education scholarships and to support at least five activists in our advocacy program to graduate and begin internships with SMF or other NGOs.

Successes and Accomplishments

Dining For Women allowed the Somaly Mam Foundation to meet our initial goals and to support six additional students in our scholarship program. This grant also made it possible for us to include anti-trafficking staff — some of which are also survivors — for a total of 16 beneficiaries in higher education. We were able to provide funding for five survivors to become advocates in the fight against human trafficking. The scholarship provided a unique opportunity for survivors to complete secondary school or gain access to higher education. But these programs did not only affect the individuals who received scholarships — this type of opportunity benefits family members as well creating role models and hope for other survivors.

Other women outside the Voices For Change program received higher education and scholarships for additional skills training. The Somaly Mam Foundation also considers these women “voices of change,” as they wish to dedicate their lives to supporting other victims of human trafficking. The Somaly Mam Foundation supports a girl who recently graduated from high school and wishes to become a lawyer. She will begin her second year in the Faculty of Law at the Royal Phnom Penh University, Kingdom of Cambodia. When she is not in school, she shares her story with shelter residents and speaks of finding purpose in her life and new beginnings.

Challenges Faced and Lessons Learned

Challenges throughout project duration were to be expected since both the scholarships and survivor advocacy programs were in the pilot phase. Our partner AFESIP Laos managed the academic scholarships and issues involved the structure and management of the program, and how the Somaly Mam Foundation should be involved.

Initially, the Project Director and Reintegration Coordinator managed the scholarship program in Laos. However, there were difficulties due to the lack of documents present for monitoring and evaluation, and the weak involvement of the first social worker responsible for grants management. To correct the situation, a new person was assigned to manage the grant. That individual was also a beneficiary. After SMF conducted a site visit, we advised that he no longer manage the program because as a beneficiary of scholarship money, he should focus on his studies. The position required demanding travel schedules that posed a conflict. Finally, a new staff person with management experience and sufficient time to give it the necessary attention was assigned to oversee this project.

In response to the Somaly Mam Foundation’s evaluation, new meetings were organized with beneficiaries to keep them informed about the program and to receive feedback of their needs. Contracts were produced and distributed to beneficiaries to explain how and when they would receive funding. Many of these details were not initially made clear to the women participating. It is also important to note that there is a gap between those wishing to learn and actually starting and attending a class. Therefore, the screening process for girls and women wishing to study must be more detailed.

Beneficiaries require close follow-up and professional orientation. This process proved to be challenging as well due to the physical location of recipients and the challenges of working in developing countries. For example, one case dropped out of primary school and was arrested by police on her way to Thailand. This recipient left the program and was replaced by a student wishing to pursue a career in law. Another case was under pressure from her family as they insisted upon receiving additional financial support in order to allow the child to attend school. Without the support of the family who seem to be attempting to profit from the situation, we must intervene with the help of a government social worker to remind the family of their duty according to the family law. Family situations affect the ability of some beneficiaries to study, so AFESIP must ensure that the families receive appropriate support while not taking advantage of the system.

The staff beneficiaries faced challenges in attempting to go to school while being employed, as the workload is quite heavy. Programs must be chosen based on staff capacity to avoid overwhelming them. Staff members taking programs such as computer skills and English language are building a general skill set and seem to be successful in their pursuits and achieving balance.

While the launch of this initiative took some time to ensure good management and provide for the grantees based on their individual needs, after one year the process is on track, regular monitoring is taking place. We now know that it takes more time than expected to introduce new activities and set up the appropriate systems and processes to manage it, and that there must be a specific person responsible for distributing money and helping beneficiaries create needs-based budgets. We saw several instances of students needing additional funds because they did not account for books, travel, or other miscellaneous expenses attached to their degrees.

Moving forward, AFESIP Laos plans to focus on scholarships that will support access to higher education. Their team will enforce stricter eligibility policies with a more stringent selection policy. An education plan will be submitted after local education resources have been vetted as opposed to looking for programs once the grant has been approved. AFESIP Laos will provide closer follow-up with the beneficiaries and have the appropriate staff on board to monitor. Some trained beneficiaries will become AFESIP staff, or AFESIP will help them find positions in anti-trafficking and women protection related activities.

As we expand this model to Cambodia, we will apply the lessons we learned in Laos. The Somaly Mam Foundation has learned that it more effective to have a scholarship program that we manage directly. We now know that the scholarship program should cover the total schooling that is required. If an individual wishes to apply for a university scholarship, SMF must have the funds available for the beneficiary to complete the academic program. A shorter scholarship program places stress on the students as they worry about how they will pay to complete the course they started. Grants for higher education are easier to manage than grants provided for additional skills training such as English or computer that do not lead to a university diploma. Grants for completing secondary school offer a great chance to attend higher education for a person who would never have this opportunity. Primary school grants are the most difficult to manage and should be distributed only in exceptional cases, as drop out rates are high.

We have started fundraising for a scholarship fund that will provide money for survivors wishing to attend school. We will ensure that the full resources are available for those students to complete their studies.

Voices For Change: Survivor Advocacy and the Strength of Experience

This grant supported the growth of a program that has turned into the defining message behind the Somaly Mam Foundation: Voices For Change. The program seeks to empower survivors of sex trafficking to become part of the solution to end modern-day slavery. VFC is co-directed by Sina Vann, a survivor of sex trafficking.

Modeled after Somaly's life example, VFC uses literacy and English training, computer skills, anti-trafficking policy and advocacy training, psychological support, self-confidence building, and internships to give a team of peer-selected survivor leaders the opportunity to become advocates of change. These women are training to become the next generation of activists, speaking to government officers, police, law enforcement, students, and the general public. Leaders accompany Somaly to events and on outreach visits, lending a personal and relatable point of access to the issue.

VFC efforts to support other victims have also been very successful. This unique group of women assists shelters with outreach, rescue, recovery, and reintegration. They are advocates against trafficking and for basic rights in their community. They provide hygiene materials and sex education to women working in the sex industry. Every victim rescued by our shelter partners in Cambodia will meet with a VFC leader to better understand the opportunities and services available. Upon entering the shelters, many girls do not wish to spend a long time recovering. But after speaking with VFC members, they become more comfortable. VFC leaders were once victims, and now that they have healed and recovered, they can offer testimony to the services being offered and speak as proof that it can only get better.

VFC members also support reintegration efforts when a survivor is ready to return to her home community and open her own business. Whenever they experience problems, VFC will support them to overcome these obstacles. This is a learning experience for VFC leaders — they bear witness to current living conditions of previous residents, as well as their business operations and family life. VFC leaders take this information back to share with current residents.

Our shelter partners have expressed their gratitude for this SMF program and the important contributions these women are making: both retention rates in the shelters and the number of women who initially decide to accept shelter services have increased since the creation of Voices For Change. Our partners have requested that VFC members are involved with all activities that include direct interactions with victims and survivors because it is more effective than only providing counseling by non-survivor staff.

Awareness and Advocacy Efforts

The Voices For Change leaders worked with the United Nations Inter-Agency Project to Combat Human Trafficking (UNIAP) to train 300 government authorities, military leaders, and provincial governors in five provinces to recognize and properly address cases of human trafficking. Each workshop lasted five days, with a dedicated half-day section for VFC members focusing on existing anti-trafficking laws and the need for compliance with rule of law. Workshops also focused on the underlying conditions that lead to trafficking cases and the particular needs of victims. First-hand accounts of the horrors of life as a sex slave serve as dramatic wake-up calls to those in the legal profession who have pledged themselves to the cause of justice. The partnership with UNIAP and training of government officials has surpassed our expectations. With UNIAP, VFC members have also been invited to join in quarterly stakeholder meetings with all relevant NGOs in Cambodia.

Voices For Change efforts to educate the masses have not stopped with UNIAP. Some highlights of engagements and campaigns include:

- Addressing over 3,000 students at VANDA University in Cambodia, marking the first time that any survivor of human trafficking had ever been invited to speak at a Cambodian university. The audience included 2,680 female students who are unaware of social circumstances that may lead to trafficking.
- VFC was invited to join the International Women's Day celebration at the Olympic Stadium on March 8, 2010. The Prime Minister of Cambodia presided over by the ceremony, and we were extremely honored to have VFC recognized as strong women who stand up from the darkness and give courage to thousands of people for a new life.
- Sreytov Chan, one of the VFC members, participated in the Vital Voices conference on behalf of Somaly Mam in India. Sreytov addressed thousands of international participants, sharing her story and her experiences with the VFC program.
- In 2011, VFC hosted U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on her visit to the AFESIP shelter in Siem Reap.

VFC also participate in the Somaly Mam Foundation Cambodia national radio show, which focuses on educating Cambodian listeners on how to recognize, address, and prevent trafficking with a representative from Voices For Change present to lend a survivor's perspective and field questions from listeners. The show targets an audience of students, teachers, parents, police, military police, karaoke bar owners, restaurant owners, job recruitment agencies, law enforcement officials, and other relevant authorities. Guests include lawyers and other legal experts, shelter service experts, and Voices For Change members. The show aired 59 times last year and participants fielded 150 calls from listeners. The show airs Monday through Friday in eleven provinces.

In December 2011, we celebrated the three-year program's first graduating class in Cambodia: six of its current thirteen members were honored at a formal ceremony in Phnom Penh. All participants are currently engaged in the anti-trafficking movement:

- Two women are working with a shelter organization in administrative and outreach positions
- One graduate operates a hair salon in Phnom Penh where she trains other victims of human trafficking in salon services and business management
- Three women are currently working for the Somaly Mam Foundation within the VFC program, as co-director of the program, financial cashier, and assistant to the co-director
- Six VFC women continue to study and participate in internships while taking English classes at a private school
- One woman will work at a center supporting the weaving program.

About the Somaly Mam Foundation

The Somaly Mam Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit in the United States that is dedicated to creating a world without slavery. With the vision and life's work of survivor and activist Somaly Mam, our multilateral approach supports the rescue and recovery of victims of the sex trade, empowers survivors to build new lives and become a part of the solution, and engages governments, corporations, and individuals in the fight.

SMF has a Board of Directors that is 75 percent female, and every member of our full-time staff based in New York is female. Our president and co-founder, Somaly Mam, is herself a survivor of human trafficking. Our goal is that in 10 years, 90 percent of the staff will be comprised of survivors of human

trafficking. We hope that the people we employ serve as positive role models for the women and children we seek to empower.

Impact Summary

The Somaly Mam Foundation works tirelessly to eradicate human trafficking and empower survivors of this heinous crime. With the help of Dining For Women, we were able to launch program initiatives that benefit victims of sex trafficking. We were able to provide training to survivors who have dedicated their lives to activism and advocacy, and we were able to provide scholarships to survivors and staff members.

But these programs have an even greater impact. A survivor-led activist program serves as a shining example that there is a world of possibility for victims. They can use their unique experiences to serve as agents of change and beacons of hope. Through the provision of opportunity, victims of slavery have the chance to recover and move on from their traumatic pasts to become survivors: independent, happy, healthy individuals who can in turn make a positive impact on their communities.

Thanks to the generous Dining for Women commitment we were able to help victims of sex slavery grow and heal to become community leaders and role models. Our organization relies heavily on grassroots support from groups like Dining for Women. We hope that everyone who heard about our cause will follow us on social media and join the email list at www.somaly.org, as well as consider donating to support our team's vital work on the ground.

Next Steps

The Somaly Mam Foundation continues to work toward our mission of eradicating slavery and empowering its survivors. We plan to continue to support victim services providers on the ground, offering financial and in-kind support to help ensure that shelter services are best in class. We will continue to empower survivors as we offer them academic and vocational training opportunities. We are currently exploring opportunities for survivors to attend college in the United States, a rare opportunity to access higher education.

The continued successful reintegration of survivors into their communities with tangible and marketable skills will offer them the opportunity to become active participants in the local economy working to alleviate the stress of extreme poverty. These women will be strong, happy, healthy, and safe from the threat of slavery.

We will expand the Voices For Change program, as we plan on adding new members and consider expanding this model into other countries in the future. This astounding group of young women is in the forefront of the fight against trafficking. Their pasts no longer haunt them, but instead inspire them to assist other women and girls in similar situations, to show that the future is one of opportunity and hope, not darkness and despair.

And finally, SMF will continue our multilateral efforts to eradicate slavery so that no woman or child will know what it is to be exploited. By building capacity and training members of the government, legal community, police, and military, we work to improve anti-trafficking laws and measures to increase punishment for traffickers and deter individuals from entering the slave trade. By educating the public about the situation at hand, we aim to raise awareness of trafficking as an issue, to allow people to recognize the signs and report possible situations of trafficking, and to reduce stigmas associated with

victimization. These efforts will also reduce the demand and educate the population that purchases sex, so that they realize they might be purchasing a victim and stop fueling the illegal economy.

We work to attack human trafficking and modern slavery from every angle, we are taking every measure possible to say “no more.” We want to create a world where women and children are safe from slavery, and we will continue to work tirelessly until our vision becomes a reality.

Appendix: Individual Reports from Scholarship Program Beneficiaries

Spotlight: Phouvanh

Date of school admission: 2 January 2010

School address: Naseng Village, Kaisone Phomviharn District, Savannakhet Province

I am Phouvanh, 18. I now live in Naseng Village, Kaisone Phomviharn district, Savannakhet Province. I was enrolled at non-formal education school in Savannakhet province on 2 January 2010 since I was given the grant in amount 580 US dollar include study fee. I normally attend to the class everyday on weekday from 16:00 to 18:00. Beside that I get to work for my family so I sometimes go to school a bit late and I was absent.

Progress and Status

I have improved my knowledge and my ability. I have raised my education background from lower secondary school to upper secondary school.

I have ability to further study in higher level or vocation education. Moreover, I plan to improve my skills and would like to learn more about:

1. Financial management
2. English language
3. Computer skills

Comments and Requests

There are some inconveniences in studying because I both study and have works to respond. I sometimes got a work outside which I could not be on time to attend the class.

Spotlight: Ms. Mam

Date of school admission: 1 September 2009

School address: Khok Heng Village, Sangthong District, Vientiane Capital

Progress and Status

After receiving this study grant, I regularly go to school. Last year, I was one of the top students in my class and in district level, I participated in examination for outstanding students in the district. I feel very happy that AFESIP has given me this great opportunity. I would like to make a promise that I will study harder and try my best to become the top student.

My academic results are at a good level because of the supports and follow-ups from AFESIP, and my family, my parents are also very supportive of my education and understand me. Whenever I have problems, my parents are always there for me and help me solve all my problems.

Comments and Requests

The only problem for me now is that I am very worried about my mother's health problem because she is always ill and her health is very weak now.

I would like AFESIP to follow up with my education and my family very closely, and give me encouragement and support me until I finish my study. Lastly, I wish Mother Somaly all the best of happiness in life forever.

Spotlight: Ms. Chinda, a member of the Outreach Team

Date of school admission: 4 August 2009

School address: Rattana Business Administration College, Business Administration Dept.

Progress and Status

I have been enrolling at this college, academic year 2009-2010. I am in my first year, evening class session (from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.) my study progress is improving and there are some subjects that I cannot get good grade because I cannot understand very well as I do not have much time to review the lessons and I will have to retake the course but the second time I should be successful. However, everything is getting better now as I can learn a lot of skills and knowledge which it has made me become more mature and I can learn more than before.

Some subject I do not understand so I study part time more

Comments and Requests

I would like to SMF continue support cost studying for next year

Spotlight: Phonthip Sihalath, a social worker with AFESIP Laos

Progress and Status

There are some inconveniences in studying because I both go to the field and have works to respond as I am a single mother with two children to take care. I sometimes got a work outside which I could not be on time to attend the class.

Moreover, I plan to improve my skills and would like to refresh this computer training so I am very thankful for Somaly Mam to give me a chance to study more, have new knowledge and new skills so I can improve my life in the future.

Spotlight: Tinkkham

Date of school admission: 4 August 2009

School address: Sounnantha, Kaisone Phomviharn district, Savannakhet Province

I am Tinkkham, 15. I now study in Sounnantha primary school, Kaisone Phomviharn district, Savannakhet Province.

I studied at year four on 2009-2010 since I was given the grant in amount \$500 USD include tuition fee \$100 USD, attire \$50 USD, stationeries \$150 USD, and allowance \$200 USD. Now I study at year five and I will study in special course for mathematics and English. I will improve myself to attend regularly to school and pay more attention.

Note from person in charge of grants management

On June 27, the social workers team went to Tinkkham's school and met Mrs. Phetsamone Director Sounnantha Primary school that was reported Tinkkham did not attend to the class very often; many times the teacher went to Tinkkham's house for fetching her to attend the examination, finally she could pass to year five. She promised to be more serious this year as she realizes that this grant is a unique chance for her life to escape from poverty and sexual exploitation again.

Spotlight: Chansy Khanhuksa, Outreach staff

Date of school admission: 25 May 2010 as new case after amendment

School Address: Phonmythai Primary School, 5th Grade (Primary School Year 5)

Progress and Status

During the first three month of academic year 2009-2010, I have been studying at Phonmythai Primary School. My overall result is quite good and now completed Primary School already. In academic year 2010-2011, I have been studying in secondary school year one at Phonmythai High School. The new school term just opened on 9/1/2010. In academic year 2010-2011, I have spent total 1,500,000 kip for my study. School fee for three month of academic year 2010-2011 has already been paid.

Comments and Requests

As I have responsibility to work for outreach team, sometimes when I have to travel to work outside, I often miss classes.

Next year my school fee will increase accordingly. Therefore, I would like to request for your kind support as appropriate. I wish to continue my study until I finish secondary school after I finish year one, I would like to study 2 more academic years to get secondary school diploma. Therefore, I would like to send this request for your consideration.

As I have received financial assistance from you, I am very thankful to you that you have given me great opportunity in my life to study; you are just like the candle light that brightens my life to receive education and self-improvement. I would like to take an oath that I will follow your wisdom and vision; I will use my knowledge and experience to help the victims of trafficking with all my might. Lastly, I would like to express my great attitude and thankfulness to you and your organization. I will always remember your kind supports for my education. I wish you and your organization a great happiness and health life, always is there to support people who are disadvantaged. May all your aspirations come true. Have a great success in your work and mission. I hope you will consider my requests and support my education further.

Spotlight: Noy Viengsavanh Kilachanh, Social worker

Date of school admission: 1 September 2009

School Address: Rattana Business Administration College, General Administration

Progress and Status

I have been enrolling at this college, academic year 2009-2010, I am in my third year and I feel that I can study quite well but there are some subjects that I could not pass and will have to retake the course as I do not have much time to study due to my work required me to travel to work in the community.

Now I am waiting for new term to start in September 1, 2010. In the meantime, I have already registered for the next term at the college. I am also preparing documents for my study and checking the course that I will have to retake. I have learned many things and understand lesson more.

Comments and Requests

I would like to SMF continue support studying next year

Spotlight: Soulinphone Saenkomaen, Outreach Coordinator

Date of school admission: 19 January 2010

School Address: Vientiane College

Progress and Status

I started to study at Vientiane college in 19 January, 2010, and I just finish for one term ago, the result of my learning was good because after one term I can speak English with the foreigners staff in the office and other people it's good more than before, and can write about my learning report to madam Somaly Mam in English language by myself, I know it's not perfect yet but I will try to improve for next time.

Now I am continue on the second term, my second term is not so good because I always go to working in the others province and sometime I also sick so I cannot be full time with my learning. I will try to develop my English until I will be good to speaking, listening, writing, and reading English after I finish from this school.

Comments and Requests

For the tuition fee in the Vientiane College that is not same price in every year, it's up to exchange rate.

I have plan to continue master after second term but my scholarship is not enough so if possible please help me to continue master.

Thank you Somaly Mam Foundation team and AFESIP Lao very much for everything and I wish everyone healthy, luck, and happiness forever.

Spotlight: Souksavanh Keovilaythong

School address: Phonsinuan village, Saysetha district, Vientiane Capital

Progress and Status

I have attended English class for 5 months and I regularly go to school. I started learning fundamental level ABC and I feel very happy to learn a foreign language. I will try to study hard and be a good student. I am very proud to have received this study endowment which enables me to have a chance to gain knowledge and to be where I am today.

My English knowledge is improving gradually. I can understand and know basic English communication and will try to learn more as much as possible.

In 2010-2011 academic year, I plan to study Law and have willingness to complete my study, I would like to request Mother Somaly Mam to support me until I graduate.

Comments and Requests

I have not had any troubles so far, because of the supports from AFESIP and help me in many ways. I am sometimes concerned about my accommodation because I have stay at the dormitory because the school is far away.

Lastly, I wish Mother Somaly Mam a great success in life and career and a good health, happiness forever.

Spotlight: Khuoanpeng Keovilaythong, AFESIP handicraft staff

Date of school admission: 1 January 2012

School address: Phonsinuan Village, Saysetha District, Vientiane Capital

Progress and Status

After having studied for 5 months, I regularly go to school. Regarding my progress, I started learning ABC...as a fundamental, and I am very happy to have this great opportunity to learn a foreign language (English). I will try to study hard and enable myself to be a good student. I am very proud to have received this study endowment, allowing me to receive education and to learn new skills, and most importantly I have a chance to be here moving forward.

My knowledge of English is now improving a lot. So far, I have learned many things and I can teach English for children. I can understand everything when the teacher explains lesson in class because I have a strong passion to learn English and to become fluent in English so that I can use my knowledge to teach other people.

My difficulty now is that I receive small amount of monthly salary, just enough to buy food, not enough to study at University, therefore next year I plan to study English at Rattana College and I am worried about my expenses, not enough money to buy learning materials and documents or textbooks. Another problem is transportation expense to school, my family cannot support me anything because they are poor, and my father also gets ill very often.

Comments and Requests

I am having troubles with my study expenses, living expense is also high, and tuition fee is incrementing each year. If you may consider, I would like to ask for additional study funding as appropriate and I will try to study hard to become one of top students. At last, I wish Mother Somaly Mam great happiness in life, all you aspirations will happen with you forever.

Spotlight: Payon Keomanyvanh, Caretaker at Vientiane shelter

Date of school admission: 1 May 2010

School address: Nongnieng Secondary School

Progress and Status

Now I study at Nongnieng Secondary school, the new term opened in May 2010. Normally, the teachers give assignments to do at home. I have spent 2,700,000 kip during the first term. For upper secondary school courses, I have not taken any, and still waiting to finish secondary school courses first before I can continue. There are some subjects that I cannot understand well with the assignments therefore I have to speak with teachers very often to clarify my understanding.

Comments and Requests

After I finish study at secondary school level, I wish to continue to study at upper secondary school level. Therefore, I hope to receive education grant from you till support my study until I finish my study in upper secondary school as appropriate. As I have received financial assistance from you, I am very thankful to you that you have given me great opportunity in my life to study and improve myself. And last, I would like to thank you very much for all your supports.

Spotlight: Phetlamphone

Date of school admission: 4 January 2010

School address: Sibounheuang Village, Kaisone Phomviharn district, Savannakhet

Progress and Status

I am Phetlamphone , 25. I now live in Sibounheuang Village, Kaisone Phomviharn district, Savannakhet Province. I was enrolled at non-formal education school in Savannakhet province on 4 January 2010 since I was given the grant in amount \$398 USD, which include study fee. I normally attend to the class everyday on weekday from 16:00 to 18:00. Beside that I get to work for my family so I sometimes go to school a bit late and I was absent.

I have improved my knowledge and my ability. I have raised my education background from lower secondary school to upper secondary school. I have ability to further study in higher level or vocation education. Moreover, I plan to improve my skills and would like to learn more about, Financial management, English language, and computer skills

Comments and Requests

There are some inconveniences in studying because if Phouvanh went to the field I did not go to the school because I couldn't drive motor bike; now after practicing I can drive correctly now and so that will solve the problem.

Spotlight: Andy Luansivilay, Outreach staff

Date of school admission: 1 September 2010

School address: Lao Youth Development Center

Progress and Status

2010: Three month computer course that I have taken at the Lao Youth Development Center, which is the first time that I have a chance to study computer, I feel that I can learn quite well but occasionally I have to attend other training and therefore I miss the class sometimes. At present, I have already enrolled in English course, which already began on 01 July 2010. It has been 2 months now and now I have to study a lot because there are a lot of homework for me to study. I have spent 1,022,000 kip for my study within the past five months. The tuition fee for September has not been paid yet and I hope to settle it by the end of September.

Comments and Requests

As I have responsibility to accompany the beneficiaries to the shelter, therefore I miss my classes sometimes.

Next year I would like to continue my study at Vientiane Technical School after I finish my English course. Hence, I would like you to consider supporting my education further. As I have received financial assistance from you and I have a chance to study, you are just like the candle light to brighten my future, my education and self-development. I would like to take an oath that I will follow your wisdom, will use my knowledge and experience to help the victims of trafficking with all my might.

Lastly, I would like to express my great gratitude and thankfulness to you , Somaly Mam as well as to everyone in your organization. I will always remember your kind supports for my study. I wish you and your organization a happy and healthy life, always be there to help people who are disadvantaged, may all your aspirations come true, and have a success in your work and mission.

I hope that you will consider my request and support my education further.

Spotlight: Somchit Mitthaphone, Social Worker

Date of school admission: 1 September 2010

School address: Settha Business Administration College, Finance and Banking

Progress and Status

I have enrolled in Settha Business Administration College since the academic year 2009 to 2010. During my first year at this college, I feel that I can study quite well, however there are some subjects that I have to retake the exams because I did not take the exams in my first year as I had to travel to other province during the field work trip in the community of the beneficiaries. Therefore I have to register for examinations for some subjects. For the academic year 2010 to 2011, I am currently in my second year because new term already started since 5 July 2010. I have been studying in my second year for two months and trying to study hard to get good result for monthly test and the teachers often give of homework and reports to students to do at home, and prepare for retaking examinations.

Comments and Requests

Thank you for Somaly Mam foundation to give this unique chance to access higher education

Spotlight: Vonemaly Mangnomek, Technical coordinator

Date of school admission: 2009

School address: National University of Laos

Progress and Status

My name is Vonemaly Mangnomek and my position is technical coordinator. I had received SMF grand since 2009 I request Education grand for Master degree at National University of Laos, I had finished first semester course and continue second semester course study then I will approve to write thesis ever if my thesis topic interesting I will write if not I will continue study also score of study also.

I did not have a lot of time to study and research any document also my study is hard to understand but I try to study sometime I absented because I went to province for monitoring activity also I study every Friday and hold day on weekend. I thought write about Villager attitude of prostitution in rural area it is quite sensitive issue for Lao Country that I dream to write because it is big social problem in Lao Country, after I had been studying about 10 months I learned a lot of theory different subject, it is very useful for my work and general issue such as agriculture and marketing.

Comments and Requests

It is good chance to study but some expenditure I will spend private fund from myself before approve by Education Grand and something it is not including on proposal request from SMF grand

I would like to say big thank you for SMF Grand support education for me and all of Victim, AFESIP staff and farmer victims we were very happy to study but we will try to our best study and I and all hope will successful in the future.

Spotlight: Phim Phommachanh, Caretaker staff

Date of school admission: 1 May 2010

School address: Nongnieng Secondary School

Progress and Status

At present I study at Nongnieng Secondary School, the new term started in May, 2010. My overall study progress is good, teachers normally give assignments for me to do. If there is anything I do not understand, I usually speak the teachers for clarification.

Since the school year 2010-2011 started, I have spent money into my study total 2,700,000 kip. For upper secondary school classes, I have not attended yet, and I am still waiting until I finish all lower secondary school classes.

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There are some subjects that I cannot follow up and understand well therefore I have to ask my teachers to very often as I live very near to school so it is convenient to speak with teachers. That is the only difficulty for me.

After I finish secondary school, I would like to continue studying upper secondary school therefore I would like to be supported by you till I finish study. As I have received financial assistance from you, I am very thankful to you that you have given me great opportunity in my life to study, you are just like the candle light that brightens my life to receive education and self-improvement. I would like to take an oath that I will follow your wisdom and vision, I will use my knowledge and experience to help the victims of trafficking with all my might.

Lastly, I would like to express my great attitude and thankfulness to you and your organization. I will always remember your kind supports for my education. I wish you and your organization a great happiness and health life, always is there to support people who are disadvantaged. May all your aspiration come true. Have a great success in your work and mission. I hope you will consider my requests and support my education further.