



Cambodia's Children Education Fund

Exceptional Scholarships for Cambodia's Future Leaders

Somalin

GRADE 1
SIEM REAP
5 YEARS OLD

CCEdFund Student
since **2007**



A curious and creative girl, Somalin is an eager learner and lives with her family in Siem Reap.

Somalin lives in Siem Reap with her mother, Pearen, and her father, Vutha. She is five years old and loves going to school even though she was very shy at first. Her father was a school teacher, but he switched to driving tourists in his tuk-tuk (a wagon pulled behind a "moto," or motorcycle). He earns more money as a driver than as a teacher. He taught himself to speak English so that he could converse with his foreign clients. That is how he met Carrie and Jennifer!

They first met Vutha in July of 2006. He drove them to their classrooms and Angkor Wat during their trip with Teachers Across Borders. He mentioned that he had a young daughter who was eager to go to school. One day, he left Siem Reap abruptly after dropping Carrie and Jennifer off. They did not know what happened to him

until the next summer when they reunited. Sadly, Vutha's father was sick and dying in his home village far away. Vutha had returned home to say



goodbye. That summer, in 2007, Carrie and Jennifer met Somalin and knew that she would be an excellent candidate for a scholarship to a local exceptional school.

Pearen, Somalin's mom, works at home with Somalin. Though Pearen does not speak English,

she works with the teachers at the Siem Reap International School to ensure that Somalin learns both Khmer and English. Pearen moved to Siem Reap from her home village after she married Vutha. She wants her children to be able to improve Cambodia and live out of poverty.

Somalin is CCEdFund's only student who was selected for a scholarship who lives at home with her parents. Though her family lives in poverty and would not otherwise be able to send Somalin to school, they have emphasized the value of education. In fact, they moved to a room next door to the school to ensure that Somalin could go to and from school.

Somalin's family has trouble obtaining adequate health care. In her second year of school, Somalin became very sick because of a tooth infection. She received medical care after the school's principal contacted CCEdFund about the situation. Since then, CCEdFund ensures that our students have adequate health care by partnering with NGOs that provide dental and general health care.

Progress in School

Somalin was CCEdFund's first student! Even though she was only 3 when she started as a Reception 1 (kindergarten) student at the International School of Siem Reap, she eagerly came to school each day. While her classmates had backgrounds in both English and Khmer, Somalin did not but she learned English quickly and she can now converse in English. At first, she was very shy in class where she was surrounded by students from all over the world. Since her class had only 10 students, she came out of her shell by the end of her first year. She expressed an interest in stories and eagerly completed her assignments at school and at home. In her second year, Somalin, who is younger than her classmates, battled a health problem but still graduated to first grade and loves counting. www.ccedfund.org

