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## **Journeys Within Our Community Celebrates a Month of Milestones**

**Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia, March 17, 2009** – In March 2009, 19 new students, supported by private donations through Journeys Within Our Community (JWOC), started or were able to continue university in Siem Reap Cambodia. These students were chosen based on need and aptitude and join a program already boasting 45 students attending university in Cambodia and five in Laos. In the same month, JWOC scholarship student Narla Phay graduated from Build Bright University in Cambodia after attending under a JWOC scholarship. This is a month when the organization sees both its biggest starting class ever and its first graduation, highlighting the strength and potential of this amazing program.

Started in 2005, the JWOC Scholarship Program is a unique undertaking that uses private donations, mainly from travelers, to support university students through their education. JWOC provides the university tuition and book expenses and in return the students volunteer five to ten hours a week working on other JWOC projects. The students volunteer as teachers in the language schools, loan collectors for the microfinance program, well scouts for the clean water project and admin and support in village outreach programs. These students are the life-blood of the JWOC programs and allow the motto, See a Problem, Solve a Problem, to be a true reality.

“I have an education and a college degree now,” said Phay, the first JWOC scholarship student to graduate. “Working for JWOC has helped me see that I can change things in my own country. I now have an education, but also I know that I can use this to help Cambodia.”

The majority of JWOC scholarship students are sponsored by donors that have traveled to Cambodia through Journeys Within Tour Company and every donor exchanges monthly updates with their students so they can know how they’re doing both in school and in their volunteer time. The students welcome this supportive relationship, while the donors benefit from a more personal connection.

“Our Scholarship Program exemplifies what we are trying to achieve here,” said Andrea Ross, JWOC and Journeys Within Tour Company founder. “To be able to have a program that really empowers the next generation of leaders here in Cambodia, while at the same time teaching them a social consciousness is very rewarding. They are seeing that they really have the power to better their community and they are able to share this with the donor that is making their education possible. In my mind everyone benefits: our students are getting a level of education they couldn’t afford on their own, our projects are getting an amazing core of volunteers and our guests are able to make a tangible difference in someone’s life, making their trip to this region really take on a much deeper meaning.”

JWOC continually fundraises for the Scholarship Program and will be accepting its next class and celebrating the next graduation this summer.

### **About Journeys Within Our Community**

Journeys Within Our Community (JWOC) seeks to create and support projects that reduce poverty levels and increase educational and economic opportunities throughout Southeast Asia. Projects provide training and assistance in the areas of health, education, and economic development. By working at the local level and focusing on basic needs such as clean water, education, health, emergency relief and other community-based issues, JWOC helps to develop projects that start small, but with outside support, gain momentum and change lives. JWOC was founded by Brandon and Andrea Ross, owners of Journeys Within Tour Company in response to guests and travelers desire to make a difference and give back. More information can be found and donations can be made at [www.journeyswithinourcommunity.org](http://www.journeyswithinourcommunity.org) or you can contact Andrea at [andrea@journeyswithinourcommunity.org](mailto:andrea@journeyswithinourcommunity.org).