

Wanna and Vannak



Family of Wanna and Vannak

This is the life story of an amazing family, a family that is full of love, laughter, talent and kindness, a family that you do not come across very often. A family of six, all born and raised in the humble village of Taken.

Hong Thouern, the mother, was born in Taken. Her father was one of the village leaders, however, everything changed when the Khmer Rouge arrived which affected this family much like others. Thouern never had the chance to meet her father due to the never ending war which led to his death and was raised by her mother. The mother of Thouern found it hard to find any form of a stable job, she mainly bred chicken and sold vegetables whenever possible.

Thouern is now the mother of four beautiful children, Vannak, Wanna, Limelea and Aina. She works in front of the school by renting a store and during the holiday's moves to a location nearer to the Wat. At first it was hard to find any form of income as the father had been ill ever since the first child was born. However, last year he started working as a mechanic to help with the family's income.

The oldest of the four is Vannak. A 17 year old young man full of talent. Vannak has been in the Taken Centre since the young age of 4 and is known for his football talent, tennis abilities, dancing, cooking and by his ability to play the "plein khmai" during church and dance ceremonies. The talented young man is currently in grade 10 and is one of the hardest working students in the class. He has ambitions to carry on with his studies in the University of Battambang to become a teacher.

The second child of the four is called Wanna who joined the Taken Centre in 2008. The 15 year old studies in grade 8 and much like his older brother is full of joy, laughter and talent. He is also a key player in the football team and performs in all of the dance ceremonies. During the holidays Wanna helps his mother in the local Wat by selling bread. However, unlike Vannak, Wanna wants to go down a different path to his brother and go straight to PM, the Police Military Academy.



Blessing of Wanna and Vannak house

The two younger siblings, Limelea and Aina, stay at home with their mother and father. The youngest of the 4, Aina, currently attends the Taken Centre pre-school and when she is old enough she will be joining her two older brothers as a resident of the centre.

This bright and vibrant family's never ending talent doesn't stop there. The third of the three, Limelea, is an academic phenomenon, studying grade 6, is the top of her class in every subject. Originally Limelea was in the Taken Centre. However, Thouern asked if she could stay home to help her with household chores after school.



Blessing of Wanna and Vannak house

The family of six currently live in an 18 year old house behind the “yeiy’s” house (the grandmother) which is falling apart by the day and when they were offered a new house, in the same location, they could not have of been more happy. When asking Thouern how she felt about the construction of her new house she could not find the words to describe how grateful and happy she and her family is. She even went on to say that herself and the kids are too excited to sleep!

Thank you.

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