



## January – February 2015 Newsletter

*Girls in Laos face many challenges to attending school and completing their education. Support us to educate girls.*

Hello from the Lotus Committee.

Lotus Educational Fund is a grassroots program that supports girl's education in district schools beyond km35 in Savannakhet, southern Laos P.D.R

The program has been running since 2008 and concentrates on supporting Lao girls to enter school at Grade 1 and continue their primary and secondary education. This is a key factor in bringing people and their country out of poverty.

The work of Lotus Educational Fund is able to continue with the support of so many amazing people around the world. The first thing we would like to say is a huge THANK YOU to all our supporters and sponsors.

Every little bit of support we receive is used to help transform the lives of girls, improve education and support villagers. It doesn't cost a lot to make a big difference.

Please visit our website: <http://lotuseducationalfund.com/> to find out more about our programs and how you can help support our work.

To make a secure online donation: <http://www.gofundme.com/Laoslotusgirls>

Lotus Educational Fund also has a facebook page! Please 'like' us, post comments, photos, suggestions and questions.

### UNIFORMS

**January** arrived and off to the seamstress to place our uniform order. Last May we had measured the girls in readiness for their new school uniform. By the end of January all the uniforms were prepared thanks to the efficiency of Ms Da and the seamstress in Vientiane. Each year the Lotus girls receive one new uniform.



### ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report covering 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014 has been completed. This important documents will be available on the website soon.

### FEBRUARY



The main objective of the February Savannakhet trip was to collect video footage that will be magically transformed into a 3-5 min video highlighting the Lotus program. We express sincere thanks and gratitude to everyone involved in this production.

This is Saiphone and her mother during the interview stage.

Whilst visiting Savannakhet in February Helen and Dianne greatly enjoyed the hospitality extended to us by Dr Phoudaly at Thasano.

A lovely Research Farm  
15km out of  
Savannakhet.  
Thasano incorporates  
growing organic  
vegetables, growing  
organic rice, a training  
facility and comfortable  
bungalows for sleeping.



We had the opportunity to be in the classroom with the Secondary girls during our visit on Monday in the Champhone district. During this time we requested that Dr Phoudaly translate. The Secondary girls eagerly shared information about their daily routine, life on the farm, chores and what they would like to study once they finish Secondary school.



At the lunch break Ajan (teacher) sells food to the students who are unable to return to their village home for lunch due to the distance they would have to walk.

These are the Lotus girls that started in 2008 in Grade 1. They are now in Gr 7, the second year of Secondary school. **Lotus supports 42 Secondary girls.**



\* Using the lined exercise books and pens provided by Lotus.

\* Wearing uniforms provided by Lotus.

These Primary girls joined the program in 2013. The Primary girls are now in Grade 2 – **Lotus supports 40 Primary girls.**



**A total of 82 girls are receiving support through the Lotus Educational Fund thanks to your kindness, generosity and support.**

**THANK YOU for your ongoing support.**