Project Briefing: Light of Mercy Home

Overview: Restoring Dignity and Opportunity for Vulnerable Youth

In Cambodia, children and young people living with disabilities often confront severe social exclusion, isolation, and systemic barriers to basic education and healthcare. In many communities' families lack both the specialised resources and the financial means to support children with complex physical, sensory, or developmental needs, leaving young people vulnerable and dependent.

Operated by Jesuit Service Cambodia (JSC) and guided on the ground by Sr Anne Marie and a dedicated caregiving team, Light of Mercy Home (LMH) in Phnom Penh provides a loving residential haven and an empowering pathway to independence. The centre is far more than a shelter; it is an intentional community designed to foster dignity, practical self-reliance, and personal growth.

Through tailored access to specialised schooling, healthcare, nutritious food, and vocational training, LMH enables children and young adults with disabilities to discover their innate gifts and build fulfilling, self-determined futures.

Support and Recent Achievements

In 2026, Light of Mercy Home provided comprehensive, around-the-clock residential care and specialised educational accompaniment to 20 children and young people (15 female and 5 male), including 16 living with physical or sensory disabilities and 4 highly vulnerable youth:

- **Safe Shelter and Wholesome Nutrition:** All 20 residents lived in clean, secure and comfortable accommodation, with access to daily hygiene supplies, three balanced meals and healthy snacks. Residents actively contributed to their daily living environment through cleaning and shared responsibilities, as well as growing vegetables and raising fish to support their nutrition. These activities encouraged practical skills, teamwork, responsibility and greater self-reliance.
- **Healthcare and Physical Well being**: Residents benefited from regular health check-ups and medical monitoring, ensuring early intervention for chronic conditions and overall physical flourishing
- **Academic Progress:** 18 school-aged residents successfully completed their first semester of the academic year
- **Vocational Pathways and Home Skills:** Two young people ineligible for formal classroom schooling were engaged in practical home-based craftwork, sewing, and life skills tailored to their unique capacities.

- **Enrichment and Recreation:** Alongside daily routine and study, all residents participated in extracurricular skills workshops, creative arts, and a community coastal excursion to the beach, promoting emotional healing, friendship, and shared joy.

Story of Transformation: Pros Neang Srey Noi
The true impact of Light of Mercy Home is reflected in the journeys of the young people it accompanies. Pros Neang Srey Noi is an 18-year-old young woman from a farming family in Kandal Province. Born deaf, Srey Noi spent her early childhood unable to communicate with those around her:

"When I was a child, I couldn't go to school. I couldn't communicate with the people around me. I spent most of my time at home helping with cooking and chores. At that time, my life was very lonely, and I had little opportunity to learn or discover new things."

In 2015, her life changed completely when a visiting doctor connected her mother with Light of Mercy Home. Upon arriving at LMH, Srey Noi learned sign language, completed deaf school, and discovered a passion for traditional Khmer dance. She taught her mother sign language, bridging years of silence within her family.

Today, Srey Noi has spent three years training in specialised handicrafts and sewing at Il Nodo Cambodia. Specialising in handcrafted bags, she now mentors younger peers at the home:

"This year, I will complete my training, and I hope to start working soon. I want to continue improving my skills, become independent, and share what I know with other young deaf people. The sisters and staff helped me learn, grow, and build a future full of hope."

The Potential Impact of Your Support
For a child living with a disability in Cambodia, the opportunity to enter Light of Mercy Home represents the difference between a life of isolation and a future rich in dignity, education, and belonging.
Pilgrims 100 support of Light of Mercy Home, will deliver life-changing outcomes:

1. **Securing Essential Care**
2. **Unlocking Inclusive Education**
3. **Fostering Lifelong Independence**

Pilgrims 100 are invited to join Jesuit Mission in accompanying these remarkable young people as they move from vulnerability to independence and hope.