

WFWP USA: Planting Seeds of Creativity and Peace in Cambodia

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This summer, a beautiful collaboration between **WFWP Cambodia** and **WFWP New Jersey** brought moments of joy, discovery, and reflection to children in Kampong Speu and Kratie. Each activity was designed to nurture creativity, build confidence, and strengthen the children's sense of hope for the future.



Kampong Speu: Writing and Sharing from the Heart

In July, the program in Kampong Speu began with something simple yet powerful - helping children put their thoughts into words. Since many are still new to writing, they were guided through a gentle brainstorming workshop with the theme *"My Favorite Things."* This gave them the chance to explore their ideas, organize their thoughts, and practice expressing themselves in sentences. What started as hesitant words soon grew into stories that revealed their dreams and personalities.

The children also discovered the Japanese tradition of **summer greeting cards**. With Cambodia's two seasons - the rainy months and the dry summer - this new practice encouraged them to reflect on their own lives. As they designed their cards, they found joy in sharing something personal and meaningful with friends and family.

Kratie: Crafting Confidence

In August, the focus shifted to Kratie, where the children were invited to take on new challenges in mechanical crafting. They worked on two projects: one like a pulley system and another that could lift the lid of a container by pulling a string. These designs were more advanced than what they were used to, but with support and teamwork, they pushed through difficulties. The delight on their faces when their creations worked was unforgettable, showing just how empowering perseverance can be.

Hope in the Midst of Uncertainty

Earlier in May, border clashes with Thailand cast a shadow of unease, though daily life was not directly disrupted. In the midst of this, the chance to learn, create, and share time together became all the more precious.

Through these programs, the children's love for their country shines clearly. They speak with deep respect for the soldiers who protect them, and with hopeful hearts, they continue to wish for peace. Every day, they cherish opportunities to grow, to dream, and to imagine a brighter future.