

Writing Through



Annual Report 2019

info@writingthrough.org
501(c) (3) EIN: 47-2750347



Executive Summary

Writing Through is an organization that teaches thinking skills, language fluency, and self-esteem through the creative writing of poetry and stories, in English, to some of the world's most at-risk populations. It is a program which was started, tested and proven to work in SE Asia, notably Cambodia, Vietnam and Singapore.

Writing Through grew out of a series of workshops started in 2010 by the novelist and poet, Sue Guiney, in one educational shelter in Siem Reap, Cambodia, called Anjali House. From there, it grew into an organization now helping students and adults in schools and NGOs throughout Cambodia and Singapore, as well as in Vietnam. These workshops have allowed both children and adults to build their confidence, expand their imaginations and express themselves in ways far removed from what they already know. Early in its lifespan, **Writing Through** was already being recognized within the international community of organizations working to improve literacy throughout the world. Now as it enters its fifth year of existence, we look forward to expanding its reach to other areas of the globe.

In 2019, **Writing Through** continued to expand and solidify its base in Cambodia. Most of our work there is with students who attend established NGOs. Through this network, our Facilitators are able to reach students from a range of ages and backgrounds —children from low-income homes, former street children and youth fighting domestic issues of drug addiction, gambling and violence.

This year saw an important increase in activity in Singapore. Not only did we continue our work with our existing partners, but we also began an important relationship with the US Embassy which has allowed us to connect with our newest partner, PPIS, and its constituents within the Islamic community.

This past year, we also continued to explore the possibilities of working in Vietnam, running workshops and establishing new connections both in the North and the South. We have begun to create a network of volunteers and supporters throughout the country, and continue to learn about the challenges and possibilities of working within it.

Our bespoke workshops are broken down into themed sessions where a combination of both individual and group writing activities are performed. On the final day, participants take part in a class celebration. Their work is compiled into a magazine and they present a final piece to their peers, teachers, and community. Each workshop is run by a Facilitator and Shadow, with an assistant local teacher (usually the students' permanent teacher), who acts as a translator. By working alongside local teachers, we also fulfill our additional goal of teacher training. **Writing Through** insists that, while all workshops are conducted in English, the level of English fluency in the participants is of limited importance. Developing skills in English is a bonus

goal, but the Facilitators encourage participants to think in their own language if necessary, in order to focus on what they really want to say. The English vocabulary and grammar grows from there.

Many countries in the areas where we work have educational systems whose structures do not encourage conceptual thought or critical thinking; they are often academically rigid, relying on memorization rather than creativity or imaginative discussion. We have also come to realise that throughout the world, classrooms can often become places of fear. **Writing Through** believes that a frightened student cannot learn, and so we create safe and fun classrooms that allow the students to use their minds in new ways. We are helping these students quite literally find their own voices. The sense of pride at our Big Events which showcase these newly found voices is palpable.

Students grow up, though, and become part of the global workforce. We understand that the requirements of working in today's world have often not been met by the educational experiences of many workers. Therefore, this year we have created a new program called *Writing Through the Workplace*. In this program, we go into offices and organisational headquarters and spend a day with key personnel helping to give them the tools and the confidence to approach their work challenges in creative ways. We are already beginning to see an interest in this approach, and we look forward to building on this new strand of our programming in the future.

2019 was the year when we moved out of our infancy and into our mature life as an organisation. We now know who we are, what we do, and where we can go from here. **Writing Through** is a series of programs which believes that the combination of thinking and writing in new ways, language fluency and the resultant increase in self-esteem is an antidote to both personal and societal ills. Our workshops help to open minds, one poem, one story at a time. We know that our unique approach works, and we are now ready to bring it to even more people around the world who yearn for it.

Letter from the Founder

Dear Friends and Supporters,

2019 was a pivotal year in the life of Writing Through. This was the year where we not only fully realized who we were and what we do, but also found the voice with which to express it. In some ways, we have become our own student.

We now understand that Writing Through is actually a series of programs - workshops which have been tried and tested within our host countries of Cambodia, Vietnam and Singapore, and which have been proven to work. Writing Through is not about a geographic location, but rather, it is about a methodology and approach to education which is unique, successful, and fun.

In this, our fourth Annual Report, we will outline how we have continued to solidify our work in our original host countries, while also developing our Theory of Change and strategic goals. We have produced new videos which not only tell, but show how we do what we do. Our alumni have come forward to express, in their own words, the value of the Writing Through experience, and for me, that is perhaps the most moving and important accomplishment of all.

As we enter our fifth year, we can all look forward to growing as an organization, and as a positive force within the world's educational sphere. But we never could have come this far in such a short time without the interest and support of our friends. Thank you for joining Writing Through in the belief that developed thinking skills, increased self-esteem and improved literacy are among the most powerful weapons we have to combat the risks so many of us face in our world.

All the best,

Sue

Sue Guiney, Founder, Writing Through

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What We Accomplished in 2019

During 2019, Writing Through conducted 26 separate workshops across Cambodia, Singapore and Vietnam. These workshops were run by 14 different Facilitators (some facilitating multiple workshops), with 11 different partner organizations. In 2019, we added 3 new partner organizations. In

Singapore: PPIS, a non-profit social welfare organisation dedicated to working with women of all ages in carrying out their multiple roles in society. In

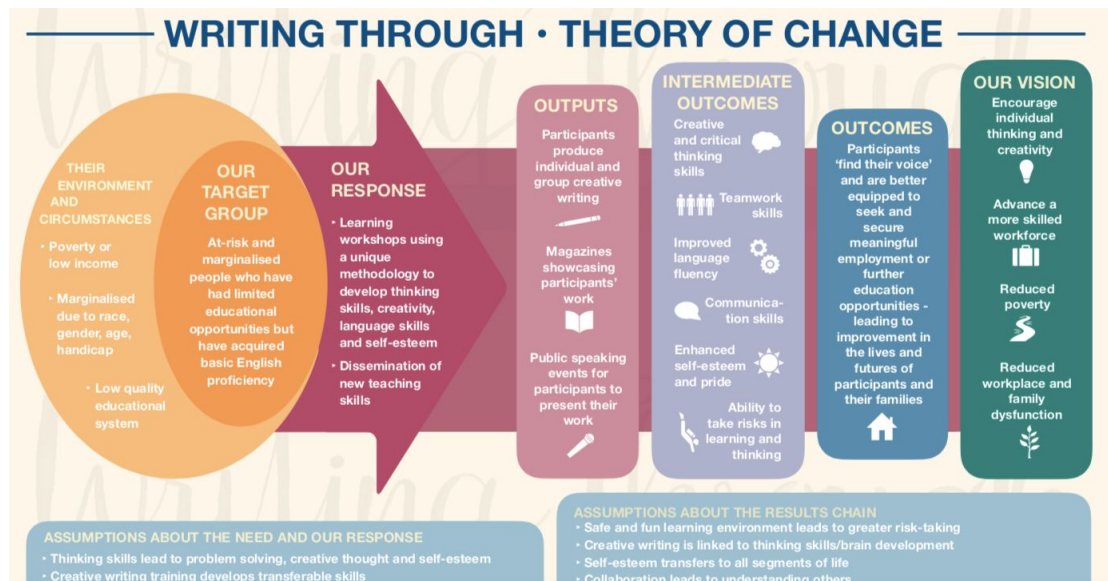
Vietnam: CEPORER, a small educational shelter for students on the outskirts of Ho Chi Minh City; and Exploring the World of Writers (EWW), a group of gifted teenagers from throughout Hanoi.

26 workshops in 3 countries
437 students
523 poems and stories written
59 fully trained Facilitators
3 new partner organizations added

Writing Through has also held several Facilitator training sessions in 2019, both in large groups and in individual meetings. We now have 59 fully trained Facilitators on our books, with an additional 30 individuals ready to complete their training, if they so choose.

Creation of Advisory Council

2019 was the year when we moved from the start-up stage to that of a more mature organisation. That move was greatly facilitated by a newly established Advisory Council whose members met twice in New York City or joined us via Skype. This group asked the hard questions which led to a greater understanding of what Writing Through is, its goals and its mission. An important outcome of these discussions was the development of Writing Through's Theory of Change. The graphic below outlines our determined response to the questions 'Who Are We?', 'What Do We Aim To Accomplish?', 'What Are Our Long-term Goals?' 'What Are The Assumptions That Lead Us To Believe We Can Accomplish These Goals?'



Program Assistant Role

In 2019 we were lucky enough to finally be in the position to hire another staff member to assist Jess in Cambodia. Sumi took on this role and worked alongside Jess for almost 6 months. Sadly for us (but very happily for her) Sumi landed an exciting role with the UN, so her time with Writing Through was short-lived. Thank you for all you did, Sumi, and we wish you all the best in your endeavours.



Taking over from Sumi as of October 2019 is Kristin Schuster, who is a long-term expat of Siem Reap and we are excited to have her on board. Welcome to the WT family, Kristin!

Internships

In 2019 we were excited to again have 2 student interns from Wesleyan University join us for the summer. This year Amy Schaap and Gila Glittstein worked on several projects for us during their time in Cambodia and Vietnam. They worked hard on a new Monitoring and Evaluation system, creating new and easier ways to manage the data we receive from feedback after workshops. They also worked on developing our website, social media and

various promotional videos and audio recordings of our students. They also assisted in two workshops in Cambodia and Vietnam, and were able to support Jess and Sumi in their day-to-day tasks. Thanks so much to Amy and Gila for all of their hard work, and we look forward to more Wesleyan students joining us in 2020!

We're Published!



One of our biggest pieces of news to come out of 2019 was our first book being published! *Writing Through: An Anthology of Poems from the Magic Pencils* is a collection of poetry from our students throughout SouthEast Asia.

In 2019 we had 3 book launches: one in Siem Reap, Cambodia, one in Singapore, and one on Martha's Vineyard, in the US. Thanks so much

to everyone who came along to support, to all the students and Facilitators who agreed to read excerpts from the book, and to everyone who purchased a copy! This book took two years of hard work to finally come to fruition, so we are very proud of everyone who played a part in its creation.

Stay tuned for another book launch coming soon in Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital.

If you don't have your copy yet, you can still purchase the book from our website: https://writingthrough.org/help/#_ouranthology



Writing Through the Workplace

In 2019 we debuted our first Writing Through the Workplace workshop at PPIS, in Singapore. This new strand of programming works with businesses and organizations to develop the skills of their staff. We adapt our original pedagogy to focus on team building, creative thinking, problem solving, leadership and decision making skills. We look forward to expanding this segment of our programming in the coming year.



US Government Funding

This past year, we became an approved non-profit organisation listed on the US Government grant database. We can now apply for and accept funding from various segments of the US government, including any US Embassy. Our first grant allowed us to provide a series of workshops for the students and staff of PPIS in Singapore (see below).

Peace Corps

This year we were excited to be a part of the Write On! national writing competition for students, coordinated by Peace Corps Cambodia. This year as part of the prize for this competition, all winners were lucky enough to take part in a taster Writing Through workshop session.



Thanks so much to everyone at Peace Corps for asking us to be a part of this, and congratulations to the Write On! winners.

Facilitator Orientation Sessions



In 2019 we conducted several Facilitator trainings, both in group settings and individual meetings. We ran these in all three countries, training up new Facilitators and Shadows, many of whom have already traveled in order to facilitate various workshops.

Singapore Writers Festival



Singapore Writers Festival (SWF) is regarded as one of Asia's premier literary events.

Over two consecutive years of working with Very Special Arts (VSA) and the Jazz Association of Singapore, we produced a one-of-a-kind experience at

SWF: integrating different art forms, spoken word and jazz.

Community Taster Workshop



In conjunction with [HOWL](#), a literary group in Cambodia, Writing Through offered a Community Taster Workshop generously held in the conference room at Footprints Cafe in Siem Reap. We opened the workshop to anyone who was interested in Siem Reap and we received a wonderful mix of participants. It was great to showcase the power of the Writing Through method to some of the expat community and inspiring to see the outcome for the Cambodian teens that came to join. That evening we joined HOWL at the beautiful OneEleven Gallery for the HOWL Word Jam and three of the participants from our

workshop read their poems and two came away with top poetry prizes. We were also joined by some past participants to read their poems from the anthology.

Sugar Talks



Sugar Talks is a monthly event in Siem Reap which brings together speakers from different walks of life to share their inspirations. On November 2nd, Jess represented Writing Through and introduced the project and the goals to a wider audience in Siem Reap. Through

her brilliant talk we have already been contacted by interested parties and it will hopefully lead to new partnerships.

Our Programs

It should be noted that not all of our Partners hold workshops every year. Some need to skip a cycle due to funding or scheduling challenges.

Cambodia

Anjali House is the place where the Writing Through workshops started and developed. Our workshops now hold a prominent place in the shelter's annual schedule. We also provide teacher development programs and oversight as needed.



Caring for Cambodia

www.caringforcambodia.org

Caring for Cambodia works in several schools around Cambodia, committed to ensuring quality education to over 64,000 students. It aims to build a brighter future, one child at a time.

Children of the Mekong/Enfants du Mekong is a French-run organization, based all over South East Asia. They have six centers across Cambodia, and after several workshops with Writing Through, proposed that they receive one workshop at each of their centers across the country, each year.

We also led a specialized one-day Teacher Training session at their Samrong center.

Children of the Mekong/Enfants du Mekong continues to officially include Writing Through as a permanent strand of their programming.



EGBOK www.egbokmission.org

EGBOK provides education and training, life skills and leadership as well as internships and employment for young adult Cambodians in the hospitality industry.



Empowering Youth Cambodia (EYC)

www.eycambodia.org

EYC runs 4 learning centers, operating as combined schools and community centers, in Phnom Penh's poorest communities.



Helping Hands

www.volunteercambodia.org.uk

Helping Hands is a grass roots aid organization, associated with Globalteer, empowering Cambodians living in poverty to help themselves.

Journeys Within Our Community

(JWOC) www.journeyswithinourcommunity.org

JWOC develops projects in Southeast Asia that reduce poverty levels, increase educational and economic opportunities, and empower recipients and supporters, inspiring ongoing social change.



Liger Leadership Academy (LLA) educates promising youth of



today to develop socially conscious, entrepreneurial leaders of tomorrow. They provide a residential scholarship program for economically disadvantaged students that combines a comprehensive, internationally competitive education with an innovative STEM and entrepreneurship curriculum. Liger believes a meaningful investment in the right few will change the lives of many.

ODA

www.odaopportunitiescambodia.org

ODA is a grassroots NGO providing a traditional family residence plus supplementary education to some of the most impoverished children in the Siem Reap region.



PEPY Empowering Youth www.pepyempoweringyouth.org



PEPY works with young adults and students to develop youth leadership, learning opportunities and access to education for underprivileged Cambodians.

Sala Bai www.salabai.com

Sala Bai is a free hotel school, training young disadvantaged Cambodians to the main professions of the hospitality industry.



The Chelly Foundation

<https://www.thechellyfoundation.org/>

brings about positive changes to the lives of children and their parents in the Chumkiri area of the southern province of Kampot. This very rural area has been heretofore all but ignored by development workers.



Singapore

Our work in Singapore continues to grow with our valued partners. Through them we continue to focus on the often underserved portions of the population, such as youth and adults with disabilities, and mature women coping with the challenges of aging.

New Partner

PPIS

<https://ppis.sg/> is a non-profit social welfare organisation dedicated to working with women of all ages in carrying out their multiple roles in society. PPIS runs three core community services namely Family Services, Student Care and Early Childhood Education. With sixteen centres island wide, the services work together to provide a quality and holistic support as well as developmental programmes for women and their families.



Continuing Partners

HCSA DaySpring <https://www.hcsa.org.sg>

is a residential treatment center for young girls aged 12-16 years who have experienced physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect.

Humanitarian Organization for Migrant Economics (HOME)

www.home.org.sg

HOME is a migrant worker organization that provides counseling, shelter, legal aid and skills training to domestic, construction, shipyard and service sector workers.



Society for WINGs www.wings.sg

is a non-profit organization established in 2007. WINGs' focus is on promoting active ageing for women of lower income brackets by providing knowledge, teaching skills and support in planning their financial future and living a healthier and more active lifestyle.



Writing Through conducted 3 workshops this year in January, April and August with a total of 38 participants.

Very Special Arts (VSA) www.vsa.sg

offers fine arts programs to children and adults 6-72 years of age who have physical or intellectual disabilities. These may include: Down syndrome, autism spectrum disorder, and cerebral palsy. WT conducted a bespoke workshop for VSA in March and September/October/November, the latter of which culminated in the students presenting their work at a

Very Big Event at the annual Singapore Writers Festival on November 5th. The students wrote poems using jazz music to brainstorm ideas. The students' work was presented at the Writers Festival to an audience of over 100 people accompanied by jazz pieces written by musicians based on the students' work. Feedback from



VSA, students, parents, and the arts community in Singapore was extremely positive.

Vietnam

2019 brought more workshops to Vietnam. We conducted a Facilitator training in Ho Chi Minh City for a group of expats, several of them have gone on to Facilitate workshops in both Cambodia and Singapore. We also conducted workshops with 2 new partner organizations: CEPORER, based just outside of Ho Chi Minh City and EWW, in Hanoi.

New Partners

CEPORER

CEPORER is a small educational shelter for at-risk children and teens from disadvantaged backgrounds.



Exploring the World of Writing (EWW)

EWW is a group of students from around Hanoi, between the ages of 12-17. They have joined together through their love of creativity and writing specifically

for Writing Through workshops.

Continuing Partners

Blue Dragon Children's Foundation

<https://www.bluedragon.org>

provides exceptional care to Vietnamese children and families in crisis while creating long-term change for a better world.

Italkcoffee is a coffee shop and sociable space designed as a place where English learners can converse and socialize, meeting like-minded people and practicing their language skills. Italkcoffee also holds creative workshops and events. They were our first partner in Vietnam and held our debut workshop in February 2018.



Program Evaluation

In 2019 we worked towards streamlining our monitoring and evaluation processes. We have incorporated new online forms that will allow us to extract data from each individual workshop or the cumulative input. With these quantitative statistics, we will be able to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of our workshops for each location based on their feedback. As Writing Through grows this will be invaluable for the expansion to new partners and new countries.

Endorsements and Feedback

In 2019 we interviewed two of our Writing Through alumni students, Kosal and Sreyroat, who are both now studying at University in Phnom Penh. They were eager to discuss the impact Writing Through has had on their lives and their education. You can watch their moving words here:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdvyNwzLPmc>

“I participated in the Writing Through workshop two times in 2019. It was such a new experience for me to learn about it. What I like about this workshop is that it really is easier than I thought. I really enjoy writing poems by using English language. The purpose of writing these poems is to express my feelings, ideas, thoughts, and I want to keep it as a documentary that reflects my life experiences and Cambodian culture. More importantly, I feel so much release, calm and fresh to put my thoughts into the poem.”

Soury, English Teacher, *PEPY Empowering Youth*

“I have volunteered with Writing Through in both Hanoi and Siem Reap. Whatever I am able to give to the participants, I get one hundred times back. There is something humbling about looking into the eyes of a young man or woman who hangs on every word you speak, thirsty to learn. At the end of each course, when the participants read their poems aloud in front of an audience, there is not a dry eye. They are warm, funny, happy, sometimes shy – but all wonderful young people, just wanting to grow.”

Elaine McGough, Facilitator

“I learned how to speak in front of many people with emotions, like this is my first time expressing my emotions while reading a poem. Three days before I couldn't even write a story or a poem, so thanks to Writing Through now I can write everything I want. I have changed completely my way of thinking about writing so I hope my IELTS score will get better.”

Phí Anh Vũ (Bob), Student, *Exploring the World of Writing*

“It is gratifying to see students grow in confidence throughout the workshop. Nervous and uncertain at the beginning, they begin to write with eagerness and diligence to get their ideas down in English, and then are able to present their work to a large audience.”

Steve Scena, Facilitator

“Before I wasn't into poetry because I always write fictional stories, so after hearing about Writing Through that teaches the creativity of poetry so I thought why not give it a shot. After joining it, I could see a new imagination instead of just fiction stories . I was so inspired by everyone else's poems that makes me want to write more. I met wonderful people and I am happy. Poetry has changed my perspective after writing lots more , I feel really enthusiastic and just wanted to write more . Thank you for showing the ways of poetry.”

**Chang Kakada Nisha, workshop participant, Siem
Taster**



Reap Community

“By participating in the workshop, it gives me more confidence to speak and to open up my own ideas to people, not only in my own language but English too.”

Melody, workshop participant, HOME

“A short testimony of one of the shyest students of her promotion: When I asked her what was her best moment of the year, she answered me “ Writing Through during the summer camp because I learned to write poems and stories in English and to read it in front of a crowd. I never had such an experience before. It helps me to improve my self-confidence.”

Volunteer, Enfants du Mekong, Phnom Penh

“... (An) organisation reinforces that there are no mistakes in writing and expressing one’s thoughts! This contrasts with what Singapore’s structured education system teaches you.

At school we learned that if you want to ace in an essay, you need to write a certain way. Answers are either right or wrong, with nothing in between. Yet, here was this organisation that let people experiment with their thoughts. It was education beyond the books, and I loved it.”

Ming Xia Ho, Singapore Administrator



Who We Are

In 2019, we solidified our organization by adding an Advisory Council, which acts as an outside catalyst towards rethinking and formalising our activities and mission. This Council then sends its ideas, via our Executive Director, to our Board of Directors for approval. The staff which carries out these objectives now consists of four: Our Founder and CEO, our Assistant Director, our Program Assistant, and our Singapore Administrator. Working alongside this team is our ever-expanding network of volunteers, most notably our Singapore Coordinator, Director of Strategic Initiatives, and Comptroller . And of course, the backbone of our organization remains our network of Facilitators, Shadows and Trainees.

Some of our key personnel are:

Sue Guiney, Founder and Member, Board of Directors

Writing Through began in 2010 when the writer and teacher, Sue Guiney, presented the first creative writing workshop at Anjali House in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The program grew out of her experiences, positive and negative, from a volunteer trip she took to Cambodia with her family in 2006. That trip led to her writing the first in her collection of novels set in modern day Cambodia, *A Clash of Innocents*. After several years, other NGOs in the area began to hear about the program and request it for their own students, leading her to found the non-profit, Writing Through, in 2015.



Ever since the first workshop was run in the Siem Reap, Sue has devoted her writing and much of her teaching to Cambodia. From 2011-2013, she was Writer-in-Residence in the SE Asia

Department of The University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), the world's leading institution for the study of Asia, Africa and the Middle East. She has traveled around the globe discussing her experiences in Cambodia and drawing attention to that country's needs. Her Cambodian novels are among the only literary fiction written for an English-speaking audience about modern day, post Khmer Rouge Cambodia. The second in the collection, *Out of the Ruins*, was published in 2014. The final novel in the trilogy is due for publication in 2020.

Sue is also an internationally recognized poet. Besides her own poetry collections, her work has been widely published in literary journals and anthologized in collections devoted to global human rights issues.

Jess Blackledge, Assistant Director

Originally from the UK, Jess has been living and working in North and South East Asia for the past ten years. Her experience lies in ESL teaching as well as NGO work. Jess has experience working for children's rights and domestic violence organizations. Jess first came to Cambodia five years ago and spent some time working as the Communications Manager for Writing Through's first partner: Anjali House. Through this, she met Sue and began working for Writing Through. She is based full time in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Jess' educational background is in theatre and performing arts. Her primary interests lie in arts education and literacy.



Kristin Schuster, Program Assistant

Kristin is from Montreal, Canada but has spent the last twelve years living, working and traveling across three continents. After completing her university studies in Psychology with a special focus in both developmental psychology and behavioural neurobiology she decided to take a break to see a bit more of the world. This led to a new career as a tour guide and tour leader,



making history come alive for thousands of guests. During a European winter she volunteered as an English Teaching Assistant in a college in Hanoi and fell in love with South East Asia, relocating here permanently in 2013. She has lived in Siem Reap, Cambodia since 2016 working in fundraising and communications and as a science teacher. She is thrilled to pass on her love of public speaking and to help students explore their creativity.

Ming Xia Ho, Singapore Administrator



Apart from building Writing Through's social media presence and facilitating workshops, Ming strives to create impactful relationships with her interpersonal skills, experience, and knowledge. When away from the keyboard, Ming is active in overseeing projects and community engagement activities at Draper Startup House, a global start-up hostel chain that aims to connect, inspire and empower entrepreneurs, while building a strong network of support.

Since joining Writing Through in May 2018, Ming has made several guest appearances on stage as a panelist and speaker (The Travel Intern, Bukit Batok YEC EAGLES Award Ceremony, etc.), advocating for education, creativity, thinking skills, and self-esteem, in alignment with Writing Through's beliefs.

Stephanie Nguyen, Vietnam Coordinator

Stephanie holds a Bachelor Degree in Literature from Hanoi University in Vietnam and a Diploma in Interior Architecture from ALFA International College in Malaysia. When she was in Vietnam, Stephanie worked with a number of major local newspapers such as Vietnam Economic Times and Vietnam Investment Reviews. Apart from being a



freelance interior designer and cooking instructor in the last twenty years living outside Vietnam, Stephanie has been a passionate writer with a number of articles issued in the magazines of America Association of Malaysia and American Woman Association in Singapore. She has been an enthusiastic coordinator of Writing Through in Singapore and Vietnam.

Stephanie currently resides in Singapore with her husband and two daughters.

Barbara Rittner, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Barbara Rittner has more than twenty-five years professional experience encompassing recruiting, corporate management, outplacement/change management consulting and training. Barbara was the principal of an entrepreneurial firm engaged in retained and contingency search. Previously, Ms. Rittner was a Senior Vice President with Flexible Resources, a boutique staffing and consulting firm. Her practice included companies in a variety of industries such as technology, entertainment, beverage, consumer packaged goods, finance, healthcare and pharmaceutical and non-profit.



Barbara recently moved back to the States after living in Singapore for six years. While in Southeast Asia Ms. Rittner had additionally designed and delivered Job Search Strategy Workshops for organizations based in Singapore

Ms. Rittner holds a BA in Psychology from Ithaca College and graduate coursework at New York University. She is a frequent panelist/speaker and company representative at industry associations and trade shows.

Wendee Wolfson, Chair, Board of Directors

Wendee Wolfson is a Leadership Coach and Consultant to corporate executives, entrepreneurs, non-profit directors, and family



business leaders through her individual practice at Brickworks Advisors and through affiliations with Mobius Executive Leadership, the Georgetown University Executive Masters in Leadership program and the Halcyon Incubator Program for social entrepreneurs. In previous activities, she has consulted to families in business together, creating and facilitating programs on leadership development, and has worked with non-profit boards to develop strategic initiatives and implement leadership transitions as a consultant and as a board member.

Wendee began her career and spent several years in the financial services industry. She was a founding partner of a venture fund focused on women entrepreneurs, and an angel investing group of women, funding entrepreneurial startups. She is currently a lead advisor to the Next Wave Impact Fund, formed for the purpose of educating and engaging more women in early stage investing into social enterprises.

She has a BA from Brandeis University in French Literature, an MBA from the Yale School of Management and a Certificate in Leadership Coaching from Georgetown University.

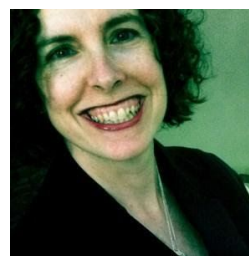
Trisha Craig, Member, Board of Directors

Trisha Craig is Dean of International and Professional Experience at Yale NUS, Yale's new liberal arts college in Singapore. Previously she was director of Wheelock College Singapore. Prior to moving to Southeast Asia, Trisha spent a decade as director of the Center for European Studies at Harvard University. Trisha is a political sociologist with a focus on institution building and has worked as a policy advisor and taught in many countries including El Salvador, Spain, the United Kingdom, Qatar, China, India, Thailand and South Africa. She is co-author of the book, *The Quality of Life in Rural Asia*, published by Oxford University Press, the author of many articles and a frequent contributor to the *Straits Times*, *TODAY* and *Times Higher Education* on issues of education and makes regular media appearances discussing global politics and elections. Trisha holds a PhD from Yale University and has served on the boards of a number of non-profit organizations and government commissions.



Jen Flynn, Member, Board of Directors

Jen Flynn is the Senior Director for Global Outreach at Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Prior to Harvard, she was the Director of Educational Programs and Partnerships at EF Education, developing digital content and new media initiatives, designing academic programs, and building strategic relationships between EF and other educational organizations, including Apple, PBS, and Advanced Placement of the College Board. For more than six years, she worked at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University in a number of positions, most recently as Director of Advancement Outreach and Alumnae Affairs. She has advised universities in Brazil, Poland, China, England, Scotland, the Middle East, Australia, and around the US in alumni engagement strategy and organizational capacity-building, and has served as a presenter at many professional conferences. She received her Master's degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, with a dual concentration in Administration, Planning, and Social Policy, and in Technology, Innovation, and Education; and received her Bachelor's degree with a double major in English Literature and Performing Arts from Colby College.



Don Guiney, Member, Board of Directors

Don Guiney is a retired US capital markets lawyer, who practiced in London for twenty-six years, representing issuers and underwriting banks in a wide range of complex cross-border capital raising transactions. His last position was serving as Senior Counsel at Baker & McKenzie, the global law firm. Prior to joining Baker & McKenzie, Don was a partner for sixteen years at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, a major international law firm based in London. Don has been involved in volunteer and pro bono work throughout his career. He has been the leader of the largest youth baseball and softball organization in the UK for over twenty years. For his service to the cause of youth sports in the UK, Don was named a torchbearer in the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London. He has served as the President of the Harvard Club of the United Kingdom, the largest Harvard alumni organization outside the US. He is also a member of the Harvard Alumni Association Board of Directors. Don has volunteered at Anjali House each year



since 2010, and joined the Anjali House Board of Directors in 2013. Don received his AB degree from Harvard College and his JD degree from Columbia Law School.

Jenny Pearson, Member, Board of Directors

Jenny Pearson has lived and worked in Cambodia since 1995. She has qualifications in social work and public sector management and previously worked in the public sector in England. She arrived in Cambodia as a volunteer and went on to found and direct VBNK, Cambodia's leading capacity development institution. She has played a leading role in developing the capacity of the not-for-profit sector in Cambodia, introducing creative methodologies into capacity development approaches. She has served on the boards of several prominent development organizations. In 2007 she was a visiting fellow at the Institute of Development Studies in the UK.



Jenny is now part-time at VBNK and spends the rest of her time consulting and writing, drawing on her years of experience to contribute the voice of practice to the international discourse on capacity development. She is the author of 'Creative Capacity Development: learning to adapt in development practice', and a range of other works including the OECD Working Paper 'Training and Beyond: Seeking better practices for capacity development'. She also works as a coach and facilitator, helping individuals and groups integrate learning into their working practices for enhanced performance. She holds dual British and Cambodian citizenship and lives in a village outside Phnom Penh with her adopted Cambodian family.

Don Spencer, Member, Board of Directors

Don Spencer is a Managing Director and Founding Partner of Siguler Guff & Company, a global private equity investment firm headquartered in New York City. Siguler Guff focuses on finding or creating investment opportunities arising from market inefficiencies, such as market disruptions, capital starvation or government policies.



Don previously was a Senior Vice President and portfolio manager in the Private Equity Group of PaineWebber, Senior Vice President and general counsel of Atalanta/Sosnoff Capital Corporation, an institutional money manager and, prior to that position, was an associate attorney for three years with Atalanta/Sosnoff's counsel, Shereff, Friedman, Hoffman & Goodman, where he specialized in representing financial services companies. He started his career in 1980 at Sullivan & Cromwell, where he represented financial services as well as investment banking clients.

Don is President of the Board of Managers of Oakwood Friends School, a Quaker boarding school in Poughkeepsie, NY. He served for many years in different capacities on the Board of the Adelpic Literary Society, the alumni association of the Alpha Delta Phi Society of Wesleyan University, a co-ed "fraternity".

Mr. Spencer holds a B.A. from Wesleyan University and a J.D. degree from the New York University School of Law.

Our Thanks

Writing Through would like to publicly thank all of our Facilitators for their hard work and expertise in running our workshops; our Volunteers for their efforts to support the administration of our organization; and our Donors for their generosity and belief in our mission. We at Writing Through will always regard all these individuals as part of the Writing Through family.

Our Facilitators

Selin Ahipasaoglu	Dani McArthur	David Spencer
Jordan Ashmore	Charlotte McEleny	Katarzyna Sumislawska
Christopher Assendorp	Sally McHale	Sita ter Horst
Jessica Austin	Jeanne McKay	Marijke Van den Hurck
Maxime Berclaz	Andrea McKenna	Sybille Young
Patty Bierley	Suzanne Moreau	Anupama Zain
Raelee Chapman	Stephanie Nguyen	
Sophia Cliff	Katy Oglethorpe	
Lucia Damacela	Jake Pederson	

Ally Dishong

Jenny Pisani

Kerry Driver

Barbara Rittner

Ryan Ericksen

Martha
Scarborough

Mike Fitzgerald

Steve Scena

Kitty Johnson

Kristin Schuster

Amy Kean

Bronwyn Sharman

Venezia Lim

Jeffrey Siggins

Our Volunteers

Shahnaz Ali

Florence Helliard

Dana Shani

Nidhi Arora

Gila Glattstein

Amy Stillman

Camille Britton

Kin Yunn Ho

Jessie Suong

Samantha
Burgess-Allen

Kate Lilienthal

Sam Walker

Hurrairah bin Sohail

Elaine McGough

Tamsin Tran

Elaine Chiew

Clara Mok

Julia Tran

Bob Craig

Chen Onn Peng

Tesheia Van der
Horst

Robin Craig

Linda Rappaport

Ming Xia Ho

Sara Faxon

Amy Schaap

Nicole Friets

Hana
Scheltat-Wany

Volunteer of the Year Award

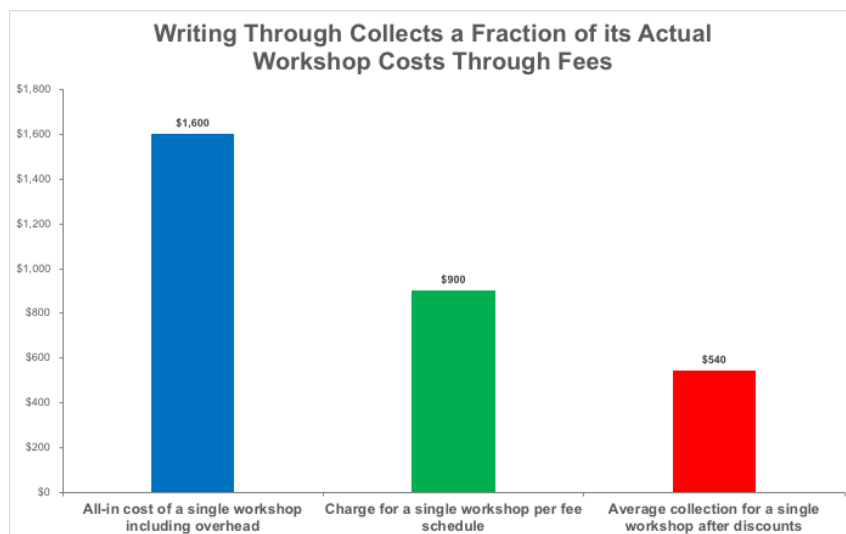


A big congratulations to the winner of our Volunteer of the Year Award 2019 [Ming Xia Ho!](#)

Ming has stepped up this year and done so much for Writing Through in Singapore, we are so happy she joined the team and is now a valuable member of the WT family. Congrats Ming!

Our Supporters

As the graph below so clearly shows. our Partners are able to pay only a fraction of the real cost of our workshops. The rest of our budget must then, of course, fall onto the shoulders of our individual and institutional donors. We are endlessly grateful to them all.



Our thanks go out once again to:

Peg Albert	Deb Durkin and Arend Dikkers	Linda Rappaport and Len Chazen
John Anderson	Amy and Roger Faxon	Leo Richardson
Ed Annunziato	Michael Graff and Carol Ostrow	Karen and Larry Rubinstein
Elissa Annunziato	Richard Gross	Amy Rugel
Nancy Bard	Ellen and Tim Guiney	Cris Russell
Patty Bierley	Sue and Don Guiney	Eric Seiler and Darcy Bradbury
Sarah Boothby-Kendall	Jeff and Jamie Harris	Alyssa Spencer
Bob Bowie	Betsy Hecker	Don Spencer and Vickie Riccardo
Peter and Diane K. Braun	Lynne Kenney	Jocelyn Spencer
Karen and David Brush	Linda and David Lakhdhir	Carl and Martha Tack
Karen and John Burgess	Suellen Lazarus	Sally Williams-Allen
Erik Butler	Bob and Suzanne Manson	Thomas Wilson
Larry Cohan and Pat Kreger	Alessandra Mayer	Wendee Wolfson
Neal Cohen	Charlotte McEleny	Lisa Wong
Susan Cole	Sally McHale	Mary and Jerome Vascellaro
Jack and Katheen Corrigan	John and Abby Moore	Phyllis Yale and Tucker Taft
Trisha Craig	Ellen and Richard Muglia	Richard Yieh and Jen Flynn

Joseph Cullen	Cassie Murray and Bill Plapinger
Nancy Demb	Steven Okuhn
John Dunn Smith	Pauline and Pascal Rambaud

Financials

Writing Through
Statement of Financial Position (Unaudited)
As at and for the Year Ended
December 31, 2019

Writing Through
Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets – Cash Basis -- Unaudited
December 31, 2019 and 2018

Assets

2019

2018

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 27,636	11,794
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Total Assets	\$ 27,636	11,794
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Liabilities and Net Assets

Commitments	-	-
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Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 27,636	11,794
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Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 27,636	11,794
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Writing Through
Statements of Support, Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets - Cash Basis -- Unaudited
Years Ended December 31, 2019 and 2018

Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets

Support and Revenue	2019	2018
Administrative fees	\$ 7,928	12,124
Consulting fee revenue, LILT program	-	31,200
Donations from individuals, unrestricted	48,470	22,388
Donations from individuals, restricted	2,000	-
<hr/>		
Donations form Foundations & Institutions, restricted	6,400	-
Merchandise	934	148
<hr/>		
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 65,732	65,860

Expenses

Program Services

Consulting fees, LILT program	\$ 670	31,200
Salaries	11,877	9,100
Travel and per diem expenses	11,023	7,613
Workshop supplies and printing	2,071	1,472
Other expenses	142	143
Realised currency loss	92	100
<hr/>		
Total Program Services	\$ 25,875	49,628

Writing Through

*Statements of Support, Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets - Cash Basis --
Unaudited (continued)
Years Ended December 31, 2019 and 2018*

Support Services		2019	2018
Advertising	\$	500	-
Bank fees		1,411	1,096
Business licenses and fees		355	653
Employee benefits		1,016	1,025
Office expenses		2,044	95
Online services		799	825
Salaries		14,902	9,100
Travel and per diem expenses		2,756	18
Website development and hosting fees		50	-
Other expenses		182	383
Total Support Services	\$	24,015	13,195
Total Expenses	\$	49,890	62,823
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets		15,842	3,037
Unrestricted net assets, beginning of year		11,794	8,757
Unrestricted Net Assets, End of Year	\$	27,636	11,794

Work from our Students

Cambodia

Unforgettable Memory

By Ting Hou, Age 20

Enfants du Mekong, Phnom Penh

Time goes by, like the birds fly
Like the tears dry
Clouds are also disappearing
From the sky
But the memory stays.

I remember the day you held me
Sang me to sleep when I was a baby
Taught me the words "mummy" and "daddy"
You'd always be there for me.

Now I am getting older
I cry like I am a youngster
Whenever I miss you
You've taught me how to be a daddy
I promise I will give my kids all you have given me.



The Magic Caterpillar

By Phanna, Age 14, Srey Leak age 14, Suki Age 16, Sovannarith Age 16

Anjali House, Siem Reap

In 2015, in the morning there was a gardener named Virak. He was 45 years old. He lived in a poor family. Virak was good looking. One day, Virak went to the garden to look at the eggplant garden. He walked through to the eggplants and



saw a caterpillar on a leaf. Virak took the caterpillar to a big tree. Virak said, "I don't want to kill you." And Virak continued his work.

The next day Virak went back to work in the garden and he saw the caterpillar again. He asked the caterpillar, "Why did you come here again?" Suddenly, the caterpillar

said to Virak, “I come here not to harm you. I just want to see your beautiful garden. I see you work hard.” The gardener was surprised the caterpillar could speak. The caterpillar disappeared.

The gardener came back the next day and saw that many leaves had turned to gold. The gardener felt excited. He cut the gold leaves to show his mother. His mother took the gold leaves and sold them. With the money, they were able to build a beautiful home. Virak came back to the garden to thank the caterpillar but the caterpillar had turned into a beautiful woman. The gardener married the woman and they lived in a beautiful house.

Singapore

Life Can Be a Dream

a group poem by the writers of PPIS

When she looked at the stars
she felt like somewhere in space
there she saw the moon
feeling sad and alone
feeling there is life in the planets
being lost in the Galaxy
like how she lost her parents.

When she saw the shooting star
she was thinking about her future
wondering where we would live
if Earth was no more
She saw Saturn
13 butterflies
She sang a lullaby.
Her dreams came true
starting to think if
reaching the stars is possible...
Could she even reach Saturn?



Wings

by Josephine

Very Special Arts

The kite wants wings,

But is this a thing?

The kite wanting wings to fly free, Not stay in a place,

Where it can't be free.

The kite was sewn onto a pair of wings, Now it is free!

Can it get stuck in the tree?

It is a mystery.

Lightning strikes the tree,

The kite gets blown away.

It lies high in the sky,

The kite sees the people and buildings.

But the kite fell once, The wind blew it up! It flew down back, Where it belongs.



A Time for Anything

By Mary Chong

Society for WINGS

Elena's long, flowing hair was blown around as the wind howled. Standing on top of the mountain, she held a ring on her hand, wondering where she was. The time of youth is when you feel the world is your oyster. And all youths want to follow their dreams, to chase the rainbow. But sometimes, the rainbow evaporates right before your eyes, and darkness descends...

"Do not be late again lag! You always like that!" Jill's friend chided her over the phone. "Ok, ok, I am coming. Wait for me." Jill blended as she hurriedly strapped on her watch, stole a last glance in the mirror and flitted down the stairs as quickly as her seventh old legs in forty-red heels could take her.

Reaching the main road, her hand phone rang. She retrieved it from her bag and started talking apologetically expecting an earful. In her rush and anxiety, she didn't realize she was crossing the road on autopilot. Just then... Bang! Everything went dark.

Jill woke up in the hospital. She didn't know it but she was no longer the same person. Her injuries had permanently changed her life. From that day, she was transported into the world

of the disabled.

In a split second, her destiny changed. her time of adulthood was spent in a wheelchair. But it is said that “Time Heals”. Given time, Nature always heals itself. Jill now has permanent physical damage, but she spiritually recovered. She trained to be a teacher and became one to special needs students. She even got married, lived a useful and productive life as a citizen and wife.

Vietnam

Naib Subedar

By Littie, Aged 12

Exploring the World of Writing, Hanoi

The mercenary
short but strong
Brave and warm
Bring with him
A bloody knife
And gloves.

He can dash
Through the walls so fast
No one can chase him
Except his enemies.

An unfriendly person
But sometimes adorable
A thirty-light-years-old man
But looks like a youth.

That's Naib Subedar
The ray of sunshine in my heart.



A Peaceful Ghost Story

a group story by the writers of *CEPORER, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam*

There was a ghost, her name was Cinderella. She had long fingers, long black hair, and she wore white clothes. She walked without touching the ground. She lived in a big, old house with a lot of cobwebs and the furniture had tumbled over in a mess. Cinderella kept saying, "Give me my life back!" She floated around haunting the house.

One day a boy came to the house. He was nine years old and had run away from home in the rain. His name was Bob. He opened the door, saw the house was messy and decided to clean the house. Cinderella found him and thought he was very kind for cleaning. She got close with him and started talking to him. He told her that he ran



away from home because his parents didn't understand him. His parents thought he had stolen money from them. In fact, his mother had dropped the money on the way back from the market.

Suddenly, they heard a noise in the kitchen. "Bang! Crash! Boom!" Then a lot of ghosts came out from the kitchen banging pots, pans and the doorbell kept ringing! Bob runs to the door and opens it but there was nobody there. He felt very nervous and scared.

When he turned around, the door suddenly slammed and he saw all the ghosts in a circle around him,

ready to attack – even Cinderella! They wanted to take his life and give it to Cinderella.

With a start, Bob woke up screaming and sweating and he could hear the doorbell ringing.