
Writing Through



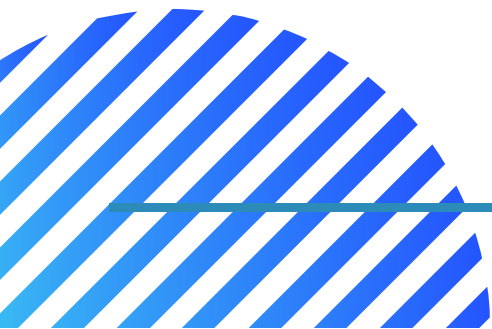
Annual Report

2022



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Letter from the Founder

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I always do, I read last year's letter to you as I began to think about this section of our Annual Report for 2022. I always say it is a good idea to take a look in the rearview mirror to see where you have been, and this exercise was especially important this time. Although 2022 was a year punctuated by loss and trouble, it was also a year of rebirth, with stalled partnerships coming back to life and new ones growing from unexpected places. As you read the sections on all that we accomplished in 2022, I think you will agree that the difficult inward-looking work that we did in 2021 stood us in good stead for the tumultuous year to come. 2022 was one of our busiest years yet - a year of solidifying our existing work while expanding out to reach even more communities. More people than ever have worked with us worldwide to develop their unique voices and discover the power of the written, creative word. Despite the continuing effects of the pandemic and economic downturns, together we continue to prove that creative thinking through creative language changes our lives and our world.

One of the essential truths of Writing Through is that we are an international organization with a local footprint. What does that mean? It means that we spread our programming and mission around the world as our community grows and moves.



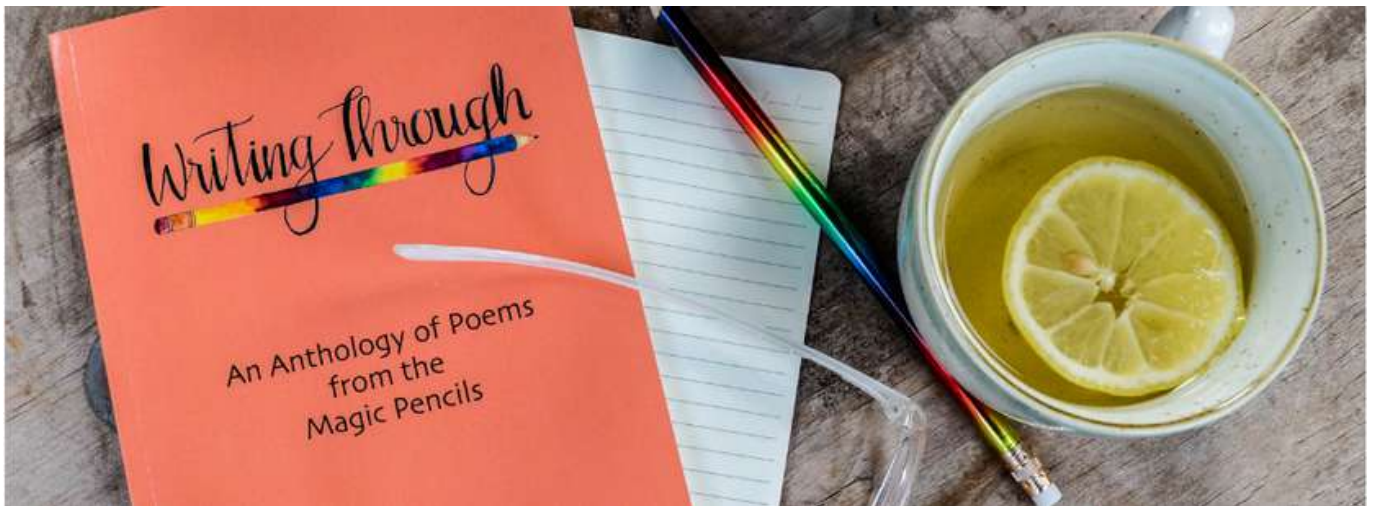
As our facilitators and volunteers move across the globe, they take Writing Through with them. They know best the needs of their local communities, and they are beginning to find places where the work that began in some of the neediest communities in Cambodia, can take root and have impact in other communities worldwide. Writing Through has already worked in five countries, with more on the horizon. Each time, we have accommodated the needs of the local populations to bring them our programming. This flexibility of our programming, plus the passion of our volunteers and staff, are indeed our greatest assets.

And so, with magic pencil in hand, we move forward, step by step, creative thought by creative thought, poem by poem and story by story. We reflect on our experiences in our new journal segments. We learn how to work together with other members of our community to face whatever new trials might arise. And we welcome all to join us in this crucial effort.

Ever onward,

Sue

Sue Guiney, Founder and Executive Director, Writing Through



Executive Summary

Writing Through is an international educational U.S.-registered nonprofit which uses creative writing as a tool to develop thinking skills, language fluency, and self-esteem. Writing Through is nonsectarian and operates in all communities that can benefit from our work, creating spaces which aim to amplify every voice. Although we are a small non-profit, over seven years we have created a program and proven that it works across the globe, positively affecting change in its recipients and the people who deliver it. Via workshops efficiently run over a series of ninety-minute sessions, we aim to unlock and amplify suppressed voices wherever they may be.

Writing Through was founded by the novelist, poet and educator, Sue Guiney, in response to her experiences visiting Cambodia. There she found a people full of determination, joy, and hunger – not only for food, but also for education. The more she learned about the inadequacies

of its educational system, the more she realized that writing workshops, which she had already begun to lead in the UK and Ireland, could well be adapted to the Cambodians. Although they themselves focused on the need for English language skills as a way out of poverty, Sue understood that they had also lacked the opportunity to develop their creative and critical thinking skills - skills which are needed just as much, if not more, in today's world. The Cambodian origin of the organization led to a unique model for finding its audience. Rather than trying to find individuals who could benefit the most from our workshops, Writing Through aims its outreach towards the organizations already helping those people. Throughout Cambodia, for example, private non-profits have provided the services the government does not provide since the fall of the Khmer Rouge in 1979. This includes a full education.

In this way, Writing Through was able to reach workshop participants, of all ages including adults, and partner with a variety of already existing organizations. Our Partner organizations provide the participants. We provide a specialized, unmet aspect of the education and training of those participants. To date, we have partnered with forty organizations worldwide. Writing Through is unique in that it has developed a series of workshops which promotes creative writing not only for its own sake but as a way to unlock the thinking skills and creativity too long lying fallow. By working with local teachers, when necessary, it can work its magic with non-native English speakers, as well as native speakers. We meet our participants wherever they are in their English ability. The point is not the language, although language development is one important byproduct.

The goal is to allow the creative use of language to unlock new ways of thinking, viewing the world, and navigating one's way through it. This unique blend of skills training provided within an efficient atmosphere of fun and openness caused other NGOs and nonprofits to request Sue's Cambodian workshop. This demand organically brought about the creation of Writing Through itself in 2015.

As we became better known, more organizations around the world began requesting our workshops. Our first efforts at expansion began in Singapore in 2017 and then, soon after, into Vietnam. As we grew in SE Asia, we also began to investigate how we might extend our reach even further. Surprisingly, the Covid-19 pandemic provided the answer. Writing Through adapted to an online service delivery model that has allowed it to begin delivering workshops remotely. We are now able to offer our workshops either in person or online, allowing us to expand without geographical constraints.



Since 2020, much of our efforts have been focused on how to bring our programming to those organizations actively seeking us out, while also trying to find new areas to work in. This expansion is now being accomplished by creating Chapters within local communities where our Facilitators live themselves. One of our first Chapters is in Sue's home community of Martha's Vineyard. Our second is now in Oaxaca, Mexico, home of one of our long-time volunteers. Once again, and as always, we find these organizations, schools, community centers by word of mouth, or via our growing network of active local volunteers. No organization can be everywhere at once. But by partnering with existing community-based support groups, Writing Through has become both global and local at the same time. We now say we are an international organization with a local footprint.

The Writing Through staff continues to use the creativity it teaches to solidify new ways of reaching our students. Our addition of journal writing as one of our methodologies, which we began during the pandemic, is now a key and much appreciated aspect of our teaching. A second new approach is creating a non-English format where Facilitators can offer our workshops in a language other than English, and one which is of more value to its participants. Our first additional language is Spanish. This additional approach grew directly out of requests from our partnering organizations in Mexico.

We are also excited to have been able, after several years of discussions, to produce the first season of our podcast: *From the Magic Pencil - Voices From Writing Through*. Via this podcast we are now beginning to meet our mission of not only helping to develop new voices, but also giving them a platform and a new audience worldwide. The success of this first season has encouraged us to create season two, which will be aired in the summer of 2023.



What We Accomplished in 2022

During 2022 Writing Through conducted 25 separate workshops across Cambodia, Singapore, Mexico and the United States. These workshops were run by seven different Facilitators (some facilitating multiple workshops), and twelve shadows assisted; they were held for 21 different partner organizations. We also held a free online workshop on World Mental Health Day and one facilitator training in Martha's Vineyard. In 2022, we added eight new partner organizations. In Cambodia, we held workshops with two partners that we haven't worked with in years. We hope this will mark the beginning of working with more lapsed partners returning. We also began work in a new region and are re-imagining how Writing Through can help even more communities globally.



25 in 4

25 WORKSHOPS IN 4 COUNTRIES

475

STUDENTS

643

POEMS STORIES AND JOURNAL
ENTRIES WRITTEN

65

FULLY TRAINED FACILITATORS

8

NEW PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Research project

One of the most challenging and important aspects of the continued growth and success of Writing Through is to measure impact. We work with incredible partners who often work for years with the participants thus we cannot claim that their results in exams, or in work performance are a direct result of our workshops. We know that our workshops successfully teach thinking skills, language fluency and self-esteem but we have always struggled to show how.

This year, we received a research grant through the University of Southampton in the UK to develop and implement a research study to assess the impact of Writing Through.

We worked with two new partners and randomly assigned their students into one of three groups, a group with two workshops (Group A), a group with one workshop (Group B) and a group that received their workshop after the assessment, so at the time of the study had not experienced a workshop (Group C). Each student was tasked with writing a poem about Freedom and given a short explanation of what a poem is and exposed to some picture prompts. We had them write in Khmer so that their English level didn't affect their writing. We then had their poems rated by two professional Khmer poets following a rubric and had the poems translated.

Our sample sizes were relatively small and because the timing was close to the national exam period, we lost some of the original students who had two workshops before the time of assessment.

We are still awaiting more complex analyses, but at this time we can say that in each category of the rubric, the students who had workshops outperformed those who did not. We found there was a trend that students in group B scored higher than those in group C, and Group A scored higher than group B (see figure 1), demonstrating that each subsequent workshop improved scores.

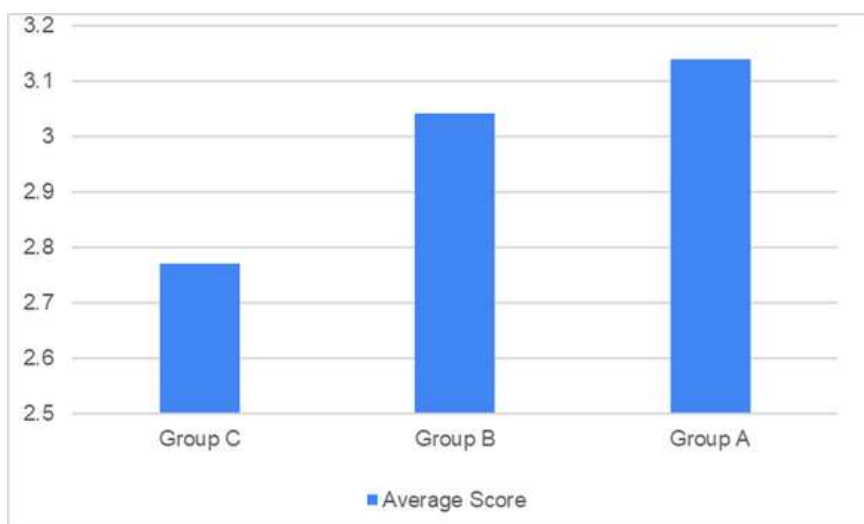


Figure 1: Average score on poems per group

When we compared students who had any workshops against those who hadn't experienced one, we found a statistically significant difference between the average scores (see figure 2).

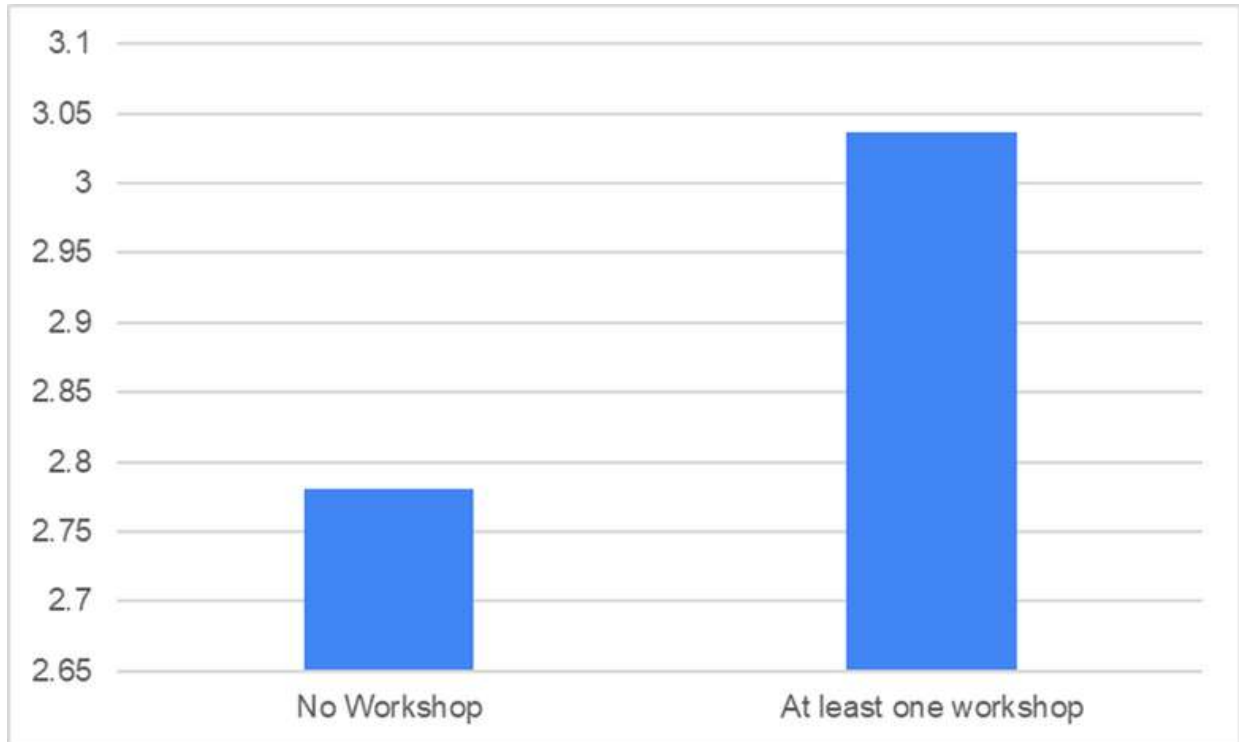


Figure 2 - Group means based on experience of workshop or no experience of workshop.

We will continue to explore the results and will be writing up a formal article with hopes of future publication. This is an important step for future research and more studies to continue assessing and improving the work that we do.

Local Initiative

As Writing Through continues to explore the best way to expand into new geographic areas, we began to think of ourselves as an international organization with a local footprint. As our volunteer Facilitators move around the world, they take Writing Through with them, and this has led to our new chapters in Oaxaca, Mexico, and Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts, USA. One of our long term volunteers who has repatriated back to Australia has also begun the process of setting up a new chapter in Canberra, which we hope to have up and running in 2023. These local initiatives will also be enabled by the creation of a new Training Program, which will reach out to potential Facilitators wherever they may be, who can then bring our programming back to their local communities. This effort was begun in 2022, with an aim to be operational in mid 2023.



Universities and Institutions

Writing Through is proud of its growing relationships with institutions of higher education around the world. In 2022, we worked especially closely with four universities:

Harvard University (Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA)

a group of alumni called Harvard ClassAct has continued to provide organizational training, support and networking. One of their members, Ken Williams, has also joined our Board of Directors and continues to provide Sue with important mentoring. At the end of the year, Sue and Ken held a 'fireside chat', further spreading the word of our goals to a growing group of alumni which led to further connections to be investigated in 2023.

Wesleyan University (Middletown, Connecticut, USA)

We worked especially closely with Wesleyan this year. Sue visited the campus and gave a talk to a group of writing and journalism students on the connection between creative writing and social impact programming. We also had two more summer interns from Wesleyan, Eden Ho and Malaika Hernandez, and that connection continues to be fruitful both for the interns and our organization. For all her efforts on behalf of Wesleyan and its students, Sue was given a special Outstanding Alumni Award at her reunion.



University of Southampton (Southampton, UK)

The crucial effort of determining the impact of our programming, and creating ongoing systems for analysis has continued, with the help of financial support from the University. This support was secured, and our activities have been overseen by a long-term volunteer, Selin Ahipasaoglu, who is an Associate Professor of Operational Research in the Mathematics Department there.

City College of New York (New York City, USA)

CCNY has a decades-old venture called Poetry Outreach with which we have begun to connect. Their Deputy Director helped shadow the 2023 Anjali House workshop, and together we will continue discussions of how we can support each other and further our goals.

New and returned partners

In 2022, we were keen to get back into the classroom after so many postponed and canceled workshops during the pandemic. We started reaching out to NGOs we had worked with in the past, trying to reignite those partnerships. Every Monday for five weeks in May and June, we ran a workshop with the teachers from Caring for Cambodia, a fantastic organization we had not worked with since 2017. We also went out to Helping Hands in November to work with their wonderful students for the first time since 2019.

Aside from reconnecting with old partners, we also gained a phenomenal seven new partners in three different continents! In Cambodia, we worked with teachers in Chumkriel Language School in Kampot and teenagers and young adults in Heartprint, Kulen Outreach and CEDO in Siem Reap. On Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts we partnered with Camp Jabberwocky, the oldest sleepaway camp for people with disabilities in America.

With the hard work and dedication of Steve Scena, we were able to hold the first Writing Through workshops in Oaxaca, Mexico. He ran two in-person workshops at the Oaxaca Library, a local community center, and an online workshop at the Oaxaca Learning Center, which is an outreach program for youth from impoverished backgrounds that provides educational support. We are thrilled to have a presence in Mexico and are extremely grateful to Steve for making it possible.



World Mental Health Day

For the second year, we held our World Mental Health Day free online workshop. We believe connection, collaboration and expression can be so helpful for people globally and are thrilled to offer these events. We were lucky enough to have one of our long-standing volunteers and mental health advocate, Andrea McKenna, facilitate this important online workshop.

Very Big Event 2022

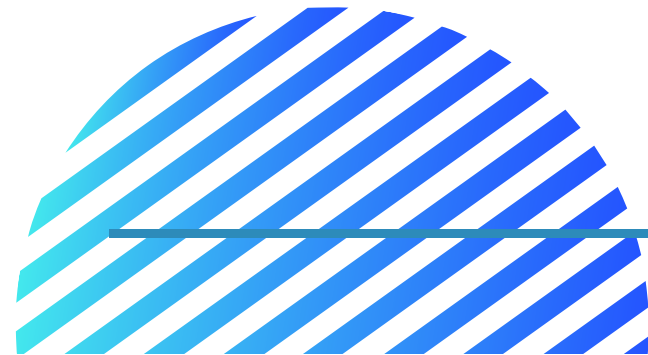
The Very Big Event is our annual celebration of all that we have been able to accomplish that year; it is our chance to catch up face-to-face with our volunteers and friends. We went over the achievements of 2022 and discussed what we have in store for 2023. We also announced our Volunteer of the Year, Steve Scena, and heard about his experience starting a local chapter in Oaxaca. We had volunteers, board members and supporters joining from Mexico, the United States, Canada, England and Cambodia. We always have so much to share with our Writing Through community worldwide. Our “Very Big Event” is always one of the highlights of our year.



Community Connections

We pride ourselves in joining the community and supporting the arts wherever we can. In Siem Reap, Kristin worked with Howl, the Cambodian-based literary collective, in attending and reading at their poetry events. We also helped to distribute the memoir of Khmer author Kyle Kao, spreading his important life story to young Cambodians and helping inspire them to write themselves. We participated in a book launch of poetry by Khmer women curated and published by Sophina So. It was an incredible event and we are thrilled to have been invited. Helping to share voices is one of our defining principles and we love being able to do it within our communities!

Meanwhile in the US, Sue connected with the Martha's Vineyard Non-Profit Alliance which allowed her to further connect with her local community, while spreading the offer of volunteer and partnership opportunities. She also once again attended the annual awards ceremony for Judith's Reading Room, where Sue won a Freedom Through Literacy Award in 2016. By staying connected with this international organization, Sue is able to make new connections with local groups while keeping the work of Writing Through known in the field of global education.



Podcast

In 2022, Writing Through launched Season One of our podcast *From the Magic Pencil: Voices of Writing Through*. Our mission with the podcast was to amplify the voices of people whose stories need to be heard. The podcast began as a project for our 2021 interns, and although it was quite a challenge to get it ready to be released, we were so thrilled to be able to share our first season in the summer of 2022. Sue and Kristin were the hosts and interviewed all sorts of different people; we had many former and current participants, facilitators, partners and Jess Blackledge, our former Deputy Director. We discussed their experiences living creative lives, living and working in different cultures, and their memories of running or attending our workshops, among many other things. We launched the podcast on June 29th, 2022, and the first season of 14 episodes is now available on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Stitcher](#), [Amazon Music](#) and [YouTube](#).



Record Breaking Weekend - April 2nd and 3rd

Writing Through had an incredible record-breaking weekend at the beginning of April 2022. There were six workshops running simultaneously in three different countries – Cambodia, Singapore and Mexico, and out of those six workshops, five of them were with brand-new partners! The participants were wildly varied too; Cambodian students from two different organizations, the staff of a small NGO in Kampot, a specialist workshop for the extraordinary artists at ART:DIS in Singapore, and young people from indigenous communities in Oaxaca, Mexico. We had seven different volunteers helping us make this a possibility. As we always say, our volunteers are the backbone of our organization; we couldn't have done what we did without their dedication and hard work.



Exploring True Singapore

Fly until we don't even know where we are
 I feel like I am scared, I scream on the inside
 But I would still love to try
 I feel scared, like I am in a scary movie
 Take your time to be more brave

I take more animal photos
 I want to show how the animals look
 I want to be best friends with all the different animals
 I like to see the birds eye view
 The different types of plants
 At Gardens By The Bay in Singapore
 Truly amazing to see my country, Singapore, as a little red dot
 Discover a beautiful world unlike we have ever seen before.

Our Programs

It should be noted that not all of our Partners hold workshops every year due to their individual funding or scheduling challenges. Below is a list of our most recently active partnerships.

Cambodia

Anjali House

is the place where the Writing Through workshops started and developed. Our workshops now hold a prominent place in the center's annual schedule. We also provide teacher development programs and oversight as needed. Sue was able to run these workshops for the first time since 2020 and everyone was very excited to have her back!



Ponheary Ly Foundation

promotes access to quality education for children and youth across Northern Cambodia. They support students in rural communities and living in dorms in Siem Reap. We had worked with their dormitory students in Siem Reap in 2020 but this time we ventured out to Chhey Primary School for their after-school English program. It was wonderful to work with the students and staff and we were fortunate enough to run three workshops as part of our impact study. We even had Ponheary Ly herself attend the Big Events and inspire us even further.



Cambodian Education Development Organization (CEDO)

has the vision of restoring hope and dignity to Cambodians by breaking the poverty cycle in rural communities. Their mission is to equip and empower these rural communities through training and resource development.



Chumkriel Language School

is a NGO based in Siem Reap, Cambodia and works in collaboration with Opportunity Cambodia. The organization provides university scholarships along with housing and meals to students with disadvantaged backgrounds. The students study a wide-range of subjects at various universities in Siem Reap. Bee ran a workshop with some of the students around the theme of 'Connection' in November 2022.



Children of the Mekong / Enfants du Mekong

is a French organization, based all over SE 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 currently run workshops at six of their centers across the country.



Empowering Youth in Cambodia (EYC)

runs four learning centers, operating as combined schools and community centers in Phnom Penh's poorest communities. We had not been able to hold a workshop at EYC due to the pandemic and were very happy to once again be able to work with their wonderful students during our last workshop of 2022.



Helping Hands

provides free education, nutritious breakfasts, and health and social care to 300 students in rural Cambodia. We have worked with this organization since 2016, but the pandemic unfortunately put our partnership on hold. In late 2022, for the first time since 2019, we were able to once again travel out to the school and work with their lovely students again.



PEPY Empowering Youth

works with young adults and students to develop youth leadership, learning opportunities and access to education for underprivileged Cambodians. This year saw our return with workshops for sixty of their students. It was inspiring as always.



Heartprint

Heartprint is an Australian Charity as well as a locally registered Cambodian NGO working in Cambodia, funding community projects to support families living in need. We worked with their Youth Group, comprised of motivated teenagers learning new skills and being given a chance to explore new experiences. It was a small group but the impact was anything but!



Kulen Outreach

is a non-profit program dedicated to providing access to quality education across the rural regions of Northern Cambodia. We had multiple workshops with them as a part of the impact study and it was a pleasure to work with them and be on their incredible campus.



Caring For Cambodia

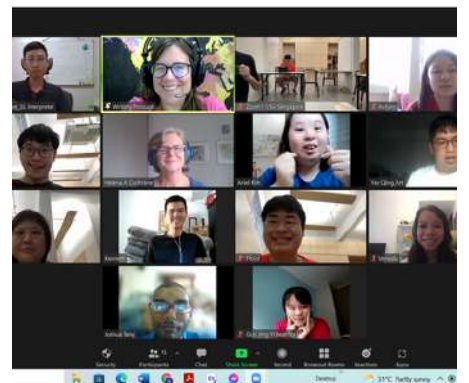
strives to make it possible for every Cambodian child to attend school from preschool to 12th grade and to graduate with the skills required for higher education or for obtaining meaningful employment. They train teachers, provide tools, and remove barriers to learning. We were thrilled to restart this partnership and had the privilege to work with the English teachers and staff of CFC in the Summer of 2022.



Singapore

ART:DIS (formerly VSA)

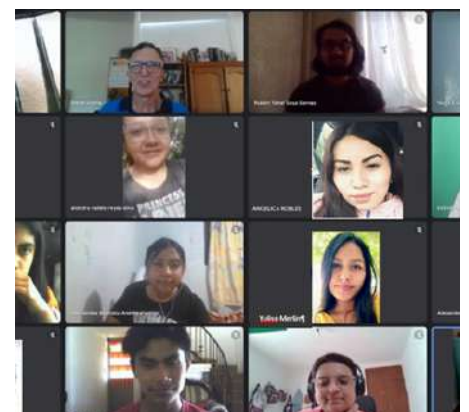
offers fine arts programs to children and adults 6-72 years of age who have physical or intellectual disabilities. These may include: Down syndrome, autism spectrum disorder, and cerebral palsy. This year they have rebranded to acknowledge their autonomy and are now called ART:DIS. This year, we used famous paintings as well as their own artwork and we challenged the beneficiaries to write poems, journal entries and stories and they excelled.



Mexico

Oaxaca Learning Center

Established in 2005, The Oaxaca Learning Center (TOLC) is Mexican non-profit which addresses the great deficiency in education of students from low income households in Oaxaca. It helps them to succeed academically and, crucially, to gain confidence in developing and meeting their own goals. Since 2005 it's helped over 3,000 young people from Oaxaca transform their lives.



Oaxaca Lending Library

The Oaxaca Lending Library (also known as the OLL) at its heart is a Library with a collection of books, periodicals, reference materials, and audio-visual offerings in both English and Spanish. The OLL has evolved over time from a collection of materials into a community center, educational events hub, and an integral part of the greater Oaxacan community. They partner with local Mexican organizations—such as schools—providing some free or discounted memberships to make our resources more accessible to everyone in the Oaxacan community. They also promote local NGOs and other organizations to spread the word about worthwhile causes and resources serving our community.



United States

Camp Jabberwocky

Camp Jabberwocky exists to provide a residential vacation camp for people with disabilities while providing respite for camper's caregivers. They provide recreation and enrich the lives of their campers by creating a supportive environment that promotes the fulfillment of human potential and fosters independence and self-determination; they strive to be a community that is an example of inclusivity, love and mutuality.



Endorsements and Feedback

We didn't expect such great improvements in regards to their confidence and self esteem. They were beaming with pride at the Big Event and are now eager to show off the English skills. They've found a new air of confidence and are now writing using "the back of their brains". We would like to thank Writing Through and facilitator Kristin for this workshop. We are all very grateful.

- *Natasha O'Neil, Program Coordinator, Heartprint*



I have facilitated or assisted about ten workshops in Cambodia since 2017 and in 2022 I decided to see if I could start a Writing Through chapter in Mexico, where I live much of the year. The organizations I talked to were universally enthusiastic about the program and two signed on to hold workshops. The culture here is very different but students have reacted the same way -- shy and unsure at first, but ever more enthusiastic and engaged as they wrote and then presented.

- *Steve Scena, Volunteer of the Year 2022*



They got very nervous and very concerned because their English is not that good. But after meeting with Teacher Bee, they gained their confidence and started to like the Writing Through workshop."

- *Soem Sonoern, Education Program Coordinator, Empowering Youth Cambodia*



Thank you for your workshop. There were many experiences for me and with this workshop I can measure my ability. Thank you so much teacher. And I will learn from this experience to be more and more better."

- *Ploang Chakreya, translator at Enfants du Mékong Samrong*



I was pleasantly surprised by the pedagogical approach of the workshops, the students were captivated and participated a lot. I found them transformed! Kristin and Tia were great, the students really enjoyed the week with them.”

- *Enfants du Mékong - Centre Docteur Christophe Mérieux, Phnom Penh*



I liked the whole methodology because its simplicity really pushed us further in order to listen to our inner self, get an idea and be creative. I have managed to improve my English writing skills as well.”

- Claudia Mateos, a participant from Mexico



Writing Through is an excellent workshop, in my opinion, thanks to those in charge of the workshop, it can succeed in any institution they want. I am very happy with the result and I am open to future collaborations.

- *Nget Sothy, Director of Chumkriel Language School*



Throughout 2022, I had the privilege of shadowing several exciting workshops at schools around Cambodia, and then I actually got to facilitate two of them. I love working with Writing Through and I can't wait to revisit the locations I've gone to as a shadow and as a facilitator to see these remarkable people again and to see how they've grown creatively and the progress they've made in their educational and professional endeavors.

Here's to another great year of brainstorming, poetry, journals, and stories!”

- Sydney VanVleet, Volunteer in Cambodia



Who We Are

2022 was another year of growth. We continued working together as our small team and expanded our responsibilities to match job titles and talents. We have welcomed two new members to the board and have already benefited from their expertise.

Some of our key personnel are:

Sue Guiney, Founder and Executive Director

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 nonprofit, Writing Through, in December of 2014.

Ever since the first workshop was run in 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 2023.

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.

Sue holds a B.A. from Wesleyan University, and a Master's Degree in Classics from The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.



Kristin Schuster, Deputy Director

Kristin is from Montreal, Canada but has spent the last thirteen years living, working and travelling across three continents. After completing her university studies in Psychology with a special focus on 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. After volunteering as an English Teaching Assistant in a college in Hanoi, she fell in love with South East Asia, relocating there 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. She has also been made Honorary Consul for Canada in Siem Reap and worked with the Canadian government to assist with the Canadian Prime Minister's historic visit to Cambodia. She is completing her Masters in Psychology and Neuroscience of Mental Health and using the skills acquired in her courses to further quantify the impact of Writing Through.



Bryony Kong-Rice (Bee) – Operations Coordinator

Bee is from a small village in Devon, England. She has been living and working in Cambodia since 2008. She has held many different positions over the years from the personal assistant to a Thai businessman, to a sales manager in a small shop, volunteer coordinator and up until recently a full-time English teacher. Her love affair with Cambodia began before she'd even set foot there and continues to this day. She comes from a family of writers and loves to write in her free time. She now lives in Siem Reap with her wife. She has greatly admired the work of Writing Through for years and is thrilled to be part of the team.



Kim Dibb - Accounts Manager

Kim Dibb is from Vancouver Island, Canada. She is the Chief Financial Officer for Mustimuhw Information Solutions, Inc., a company providing health record software and virtual outreach solutions to First Nations across Canada. Prior to this role, she worked for over a decade with the Cowichan Tribes First Nation as the Comptroller and, in her early career, she served as a Logistics Officer in the Canadian Forces and in total spent twelve years with the Department of National Defense.

In 2015, she went on her first pro bono assignment to Siem Reap, Cambodia through the organization Accounting for International Development. She would return there in 2016 and 2017 to assist NGOs in developing financial management competency. She has been the Accounts Manager for Writing Through since 2019.

Kim is a Chartered Professional Accountant with a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Guelph.



Wendee Wolfson, Chair, Board of Directors

Wendee Wolfson is a Leadership Coach and Consultant to corporate executives, entrepreneurs, nonprofit 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 nonprofit 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 nonprofit 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 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. He currently serves as Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Impact Shares, a non-profit social impact investment fund platform. Prior to returning to the US, Don served 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 a board member of ClassACT HR78, a social impact accelerator focused on the Harvard alumni community. Don is a member of the Board of Directors of Anjali House, an educational shelter based in Cambodia. Don received his AB degree from Harvard College and his JD degree from Columbia Law School.



Kenneth Williams, Member, Board of Directors

Since March 2012, Williams has been the Executive Director and CEO of the Entertainment Technology Center at USC, a technology think tank which brings together the top entertainment, technology and consumer electronics companies to better understand and collaborate on the impact of new technology on all aspects of the entertainment industry.

A media-industry veteran, Williams spent 18 years with Sony Pictures Entertainment including Treasurer of Columbia Pictures Entertainment and Executive Vice President of Sony Pictures Entertainment, culminating as President of Sony's Digital Studios Division.

He was president and CEO of Ascent Media Group which, at that time, was the world's largest independent provider of media content services to film studios, broadcast and cable networks, advertising agencies and other media creators and distributors, and has also previously held positions as President of Technicolor Digital Cinema and Vice President of Chase Manhattan Corporate Banking Division for filmed entertainment lending.

Most recently Williams has been an investor and President/CEO of Health Club Media Network, the largest operator of media in over 4,000 health club facilities nationwide. Williams currently serves on the Boards of several companies, including World Health Networks, Inc. and Digital Fusion.

Williams is a graduate of Harvard College and holds an MS in Business Policy from Columbia University. He is a voting member of both the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and The Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. He has served on the Boards of the Music Center Foundation, the LA Master Chorale, UC Riverside, the Buckley School, the Los Angeles Conservancy, the Harvard Alumni Association and currently serves on the Board of the Music Center Foundation, LA Channel 36 Public Access Channel and the Harvard Club of Southern California.



Votey Cheav, Member, Board of Directors

Votey Cheav is a US-licensed corporate and commercial lawyer, specializing in international dispute resolution. She is a Cambodian-American daughter of refugees who survived the Khmer Rouge and was born in the Khao I Dang refugee camp, immigrating to the United States as a child. She has practiced law in the US and Cambodia.

Votey is based in Paris and is currently pursuing her Executive MBA at HEC Paris with a specialization in startups and entrepreneurship. She received her Juris Doctor degree from DePaul University and both her Master of Education in Secondary English Education and Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from the Ohio State University.

Votey is passionate about creative writing and how language reflects our collective consciousness. She is an avid writer and reader of poetry and has been published in various international journals and anthologies of poetry and prose.



Amy Stillman - Special Adviser

Amy Stillman is Director, Communications, of GIIN (Global Impact Investing Network) where she has led the development and execution of the communications strategy to advance the GIIN's mission and brand.

Prior to joining the GIIN, she was Director of Communications at Impetus – The Private Equity Foundation, the pioneer of venture philanthropy in the UK, where she was responsible for both external and internal communications, and policy. Previously she was Head of Communications and Public Engagement at Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), the world's leading independent international development organization that uses volunteers to fight poverty and reduce inequality. Her background includes senior marketing and communications roles at commercial organizations, including Merrill Lynch and WATG, as well as marketing consulting at the Commonwealth Group. She moved to the social sector in 1999 as Marketing Director of global leadership development organization Common Purpose. Amy was based in the United Kingdom for 25 years before returning to New York in 2014. She holds a BA from Sarah Lawrence College.



Linda Rappaport - Special Adviser

Linda Rappaport is an internationally respected U.S. attorney. She is presently Of Counsel at Shearman and Sterling LLP, where she was a partner for over thirty years, and a former member of the Executive Committee. Her legal and business background is global, with substantial transactional and advisory experience in the U.S., Europe and Asia.

Linda also has extensive experience with corporate and Not-For-Profit Boards of Directors, serving as a member or advisor to numerous Boards of Directors.

She is presently Chair of the Board of Trustees of The New School, and a member of the Board of Governors of Mannes College of Music. She has also served as a Board member or Advisor of the Legal Aid Society of New York City, the New York Women's Foundation, and served as Trustee of Wesleyan University from 2011-2016.

Linda has a J.D. from New York University and a B.A., magna cum laude from Wesleyan University. She is also an accomplished flutist and performs with orchestras throughout the New York City area.



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 Volunteers

Harvard ClassAct members from the Harvard College class of 1978

Selin Ahipasaoglu	Lisa Edmondson	Tida Ou
Shahnaz Ali	Malaika Fernandes	Dhooleka Raj
Jess Blackledge	Nicole Friets	Linda Rappaport
Patty Bierley	Sue Guiney	Bee Kong-Rice
Camille Britton	Jeffrey Harris	Barbara Rittner
Wesley Broomsgrove	Eden Ho	Martha Scarborough
Raelee Chapman	Kitty Johnson	Steve Scena
Karen Christiansen	Amy Kean	Kristin Schuster
Angelene Chong	Freeda Kinkelin	Bronwyn Sharman
Helena Cochrane	Venezia Lim	Amy Stillman
Tarra Corcoran	Anna Marti	Katarzyna Sumislawska
Bob Craig	Wayne McCallum	Julia Tran
Robin Craig	Charlotte McEleny	Tamsin Tran
Kimbra Cutlip	Sally McHale	Tesheia
Lucia Damacela	Jeanne McKay	Vanderhorst
Sunni Dawson	Andrea McKenna	Sydney VanVleek
Ann DeForest	Myrtis Mixon	Ming Xia Ho
Kim Dibb	Clara Mok	David Xiang
Ally Dishong	Anna Nguyen	Alisha Yi
Kerry Driver	Katy Oglethorpe	Sybille Young
		Anupama Zain

Volunteer of the Year Award

A big congratulations to the winner of our Volunteer of the Year Award 2022,

Steve Scena!

He has really stepped up for Writing Through and is helping us to not only reach new corners of the world but he is also always ready to jump in with feedback and training.



Don Spencer - Special Adviser

We are greatly saddened to note here the passing of our former Board member and Special Advisor, Don Spencer. In his working life, he was a Managing Director and Founding Partner of Siguler Guff & Company, a global private equity investment firm. But his generosity of spirit led him to provide invaluable support to organizations such as Writing Through, where he believed education and opportunity would change lives. He will always be remembered as an important member of our community and a dear friend.



Our Supporters

Our Partners are able to pay only a fraction of the real cost of our workshops. This year we received more than the previous two years but it remains less than pre-pandemic amounts because we subsidized many. 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.

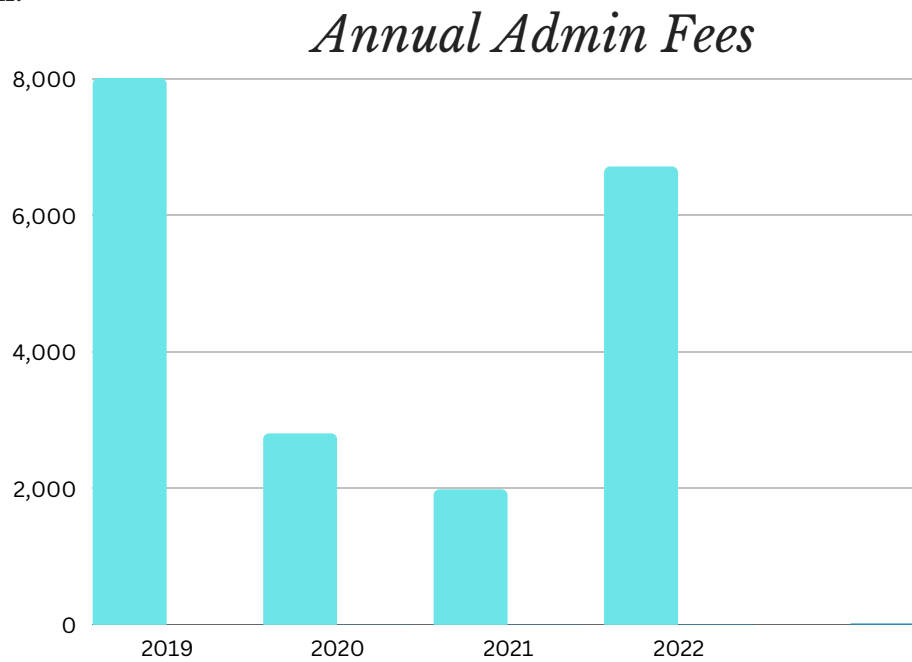


Chart 1 - 2022 administrative fees compared to 2021, 2020 and 2019 fees received

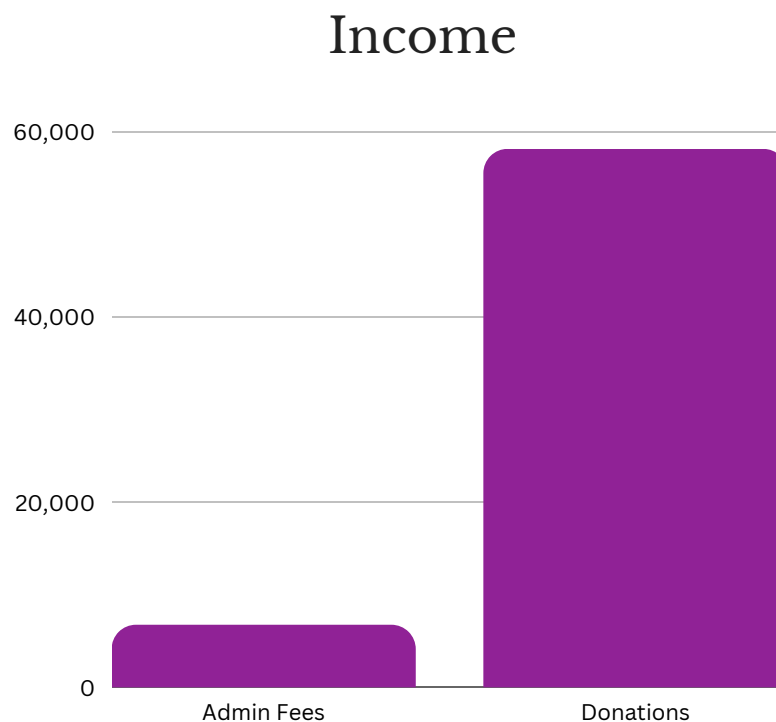
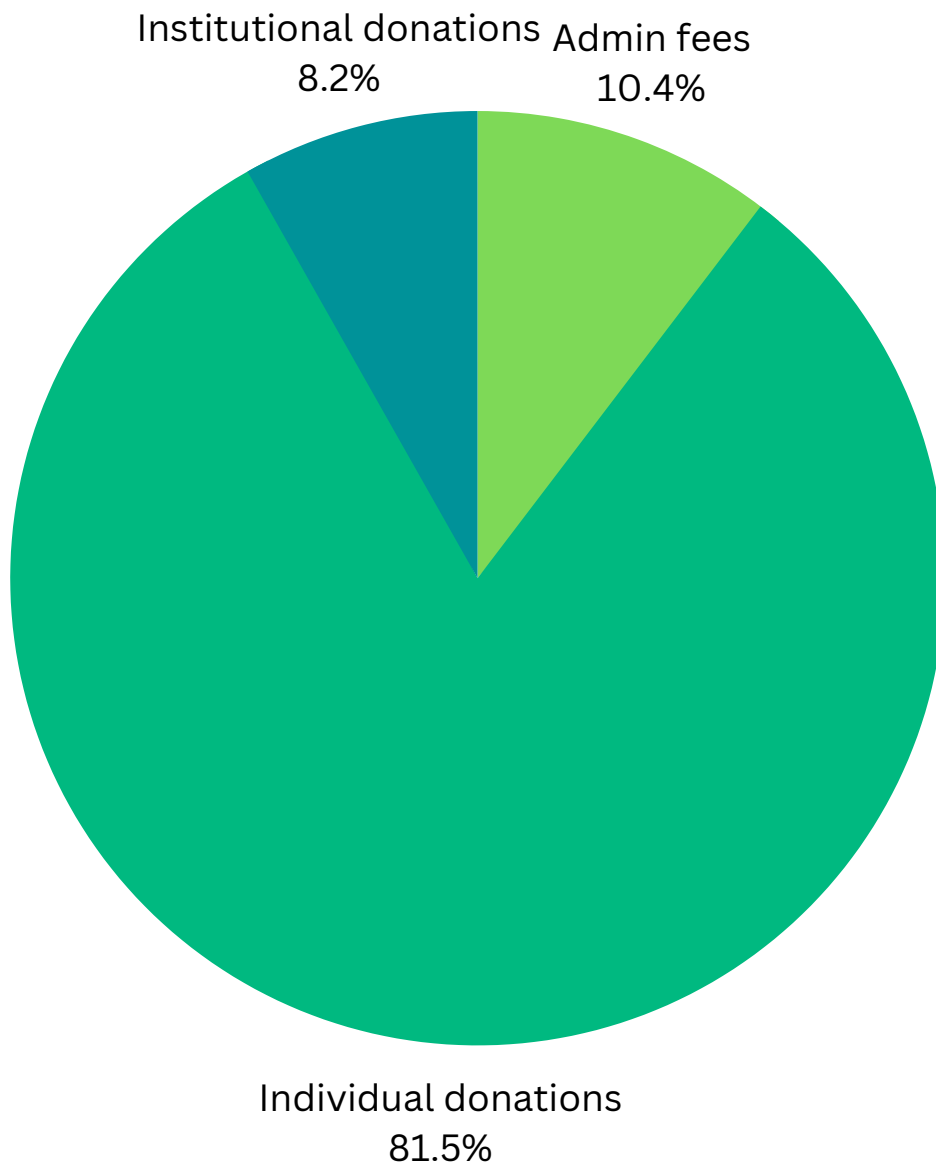


Chart 2 - admin fees compared to donations in 2022

The majority of our donations come from individual donors but we are beginning to see more institutional donations and are looking forward to more corporate sponsors and grants.



Our thanks go out once again to:

Takeda Pharmaceutical Company

Donations of \$1,000 and over

Ed Annunziato
Michael John and Katherine
Berman
Sarah Boothby Kendall
Darcy Bradbury and Eric Seiler
Karen and David Brush
Votey Cheav
Trisha Craig and Tom Brenner
Robin and Robert Craig
Ann and Bill Dobbs
Jennifer Flynn and Richard Yieh
Susie Goldman
Sue and Don Guiney
Jamie and Jeffrey Harris
Linda and David Lakhdir
Bob Manson and Suzanne
Huddleston
Alan R. Miller Foundation
Paul and Adrienne Mulligan
Cassie Murray and Bill Plapinger
Carol Ostrow and Mike Graff
Linda Rappaport and Len Chazen
J.D Smith
Mary and Jerome Vascellero
Ken Williams
Wendee Wolfson and Peter Slone

Donations of \$500 and over

Ellen Muglia
Steven Okuhn
Amy Rugel
Martha and William Scarborough
Sally Williams-Allen

Other Donations

Nancy Bard
Peter and Diane K. Braun
Karen and John Burgess
Raelee Chapman
Helena Cochrane
Kim Dibb
Deb Durkin and Arend Dikkers
Deborah Flaschen
Amy Faxon
Carol and Richard Gross
Betsy Hecker
Danielle Klimashousky
John and Abby Moore
Thomas Plapinger
Leo Richardson
Susan Wilen
Lisa Wong
Phyllis Yale

Financials

Writing Through Statement of Financial Position (Unaudited) As at and for the Year Ended December 31, 2022

		Writing Through	
		<i>Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets -- Unaudited</i>	
		<i>December 31, 2022 and 2021</i>	
Assets		2022	2021
Cash and Cash Equivalents - unrestricted	\$	33,758	64,495
Total Assets	\$	33,758	64,495
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable		-	5,000
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt		532	517
Total Current Liabilities		532	5,517
Long-Term Loan*		19,656	20,188
Net Assets	\$	13,570	38,790
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$	33,758	64,495

*On June 5, 2020, Writing Through received a long term Covid-19 Disaster Relief Loan from the US Small Business Administration in the principal amount of \$21,000, which will be amortized over 30 years and bears interest at an annual rate of 2.75%.

Writing Through
Statements of Support, Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets -- Unaudited
Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2021

Changes in Net Assets**Support and Revenue**

	<i>2022</i>	<i>2021</i>
Administrative fees	\$ 6,710	1,978
Donations from individuals, unrestricted	52,783	58,879
Donations from Foundations & Institutions, unrestricted	5,308	
Merchandise		98
Other income		182
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 64,801	61,137

Expenses**Program Services**

Executive Director Compensation	\$ 17,500	10,000
Staff Salaries	33,300	24,346
Travel and per diem expenses	5,214	122
Workshop supplies and printing	377	88
Other expenses	625	
Total Program Services	\$ 57,016	34,556

Writing Through
Statements of Support, Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets -- Unaudited
(continued)
Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2021

Support Services	2022	2021
Bank fees	\$ 2,044	1,910
Business licenses and fees	100	298
Consulting	7,567	5,000
Employee benefits	1,943	2,221
Executive Director Compensation	7,500	5,000
Loan interest	563	335
Online services	2,091	1,807
Staff Salaries	10,050	10,414
Travel and per diem expenses	44	
Other expenses	1,103	327
Total Support Services	\$ 33,005	27,312
Total Expenses	\$ 90,021	61,868
Change in Net Assets	(25,220)	(731)
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 38,790	39,521
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 13,570	38,790

Work from our participants

Cambodia

Love Yourself

By Lai Sievlong, age 19, PEPY Cambodia

I am enough!!
I am worth living this life
I control my thoughts in the direction
That I choose
I am the architect of my world
I love my body profoundly, deeply and joyously
My body has its own wisdom
And I fully trust it
My looks are just a projection of what I think
About myself
I become more beautiful and more shiny
Each and every day
I love the person I see in the mirror
I love me more, I allow others to love me
I am love, I am compassion.



Be Strong

a group journal entry by the writers of Chumkriel Language School, Kampot, Cambodia

I felt excited to be back and to see the students, but I was a bit worried about a COVID break out again. I was worried about how I could control and protect them from Covid. The children could come to school together like before. I felt normal again when I collected all the children from the salt fields. I felt happy when they came to school and played with their friends. They could meet regularly with the teacher. I felt very happy to see they were active; it was busy and loud again. When they attend school every day, they can learn directly from the teacher. Before, some students could not study online because they did not have smartphones. Even though some couldn't study online, teachers would give them home packs and colouring to stop them being bored and give them something to do at home. Once a week, the teacher would go to the salt fields to help the students if they didn't understand the lessons. The teacher would also take food parcels to the poor families. We tried our best to support them even though it was difficult. I was worried about the financial situation of the school. How can I keep the school open for the students to come back? Because it wasn't just Cambodia; it was all over the world. When the students returned, their level was lower than before, even though I gave them so many lessons. The students forgot the lessons that they had learned before. It was very difficult to organise lessons again because some students had forgotten but some had studied –they were all different levels. The teachers were very busy preparing lessons for different levels.

Three months later, I feel better. I feel our students are getting better and better. Most of the students passed their exams. I feel like they have started to forget about COVID-19 and don't think about it anymore. We have learned a lot of lessons from this experience that make us better as a team and as teachers. We learned from our experience, so now the students and teachers can study in person and they can do their homework online. COVID taught teachers and students digital learning and teaching–now we are all accustomed to using technology. We have now reached the digital century.

In the future, we are strong enough to control everything at school. We feel we can keep continuing to improve the quality of education. I think there will be no more lockdowns; I feel everyone is starting to live in a new way. Now we don't worry about COVID; we worry about world war and inflation. We hope the world will work together for peace and happiness for all of humanity.

Both Best Friends

*a story by Ros Chansay, Pun Kanha, and
Run Somros, a story by the writers from PEPY*



In the winter, all of the animals in the jungle were building houses to live in so they could keep warm from the cold weather. Among all of the animals, two animals are best friends. They are a monkey and a rabbit. Look! They are building a house to live in together.

Every morning, the rabbit always cooks food and the monkey goes out to find food for breakfast. They are very in love and take care of each other.

One day when the rabbit went out near the house to pick carrots to cook, one tiger saw the rabbit and wanted to eat it. The tiger thought, Oh, it will be very delicious. But the tiger didn't know how to eat the rabbit because the monkey always helps it. And the monkey always knows the tiger wants to eat the rabbit, so it had some ideas to get rid of the tiger.

The monkey told the rabbit, "We must dig a well to kill the tiger."

One morning when the rabbit went out of the home alone, the rabbit stayed near the well. So when the tiger jumped to catch the rabbit, it fell into the well and could not get out of the well.

Since that day, both best friends have lived together happily.

Singapore

What is Home like?

By Serene Sng Wan Yan, ART:DIS, Singapore

Home is like a sheltered nest,

Where a bird stays in and flies in to rest.

It is like sharing food for dinner on

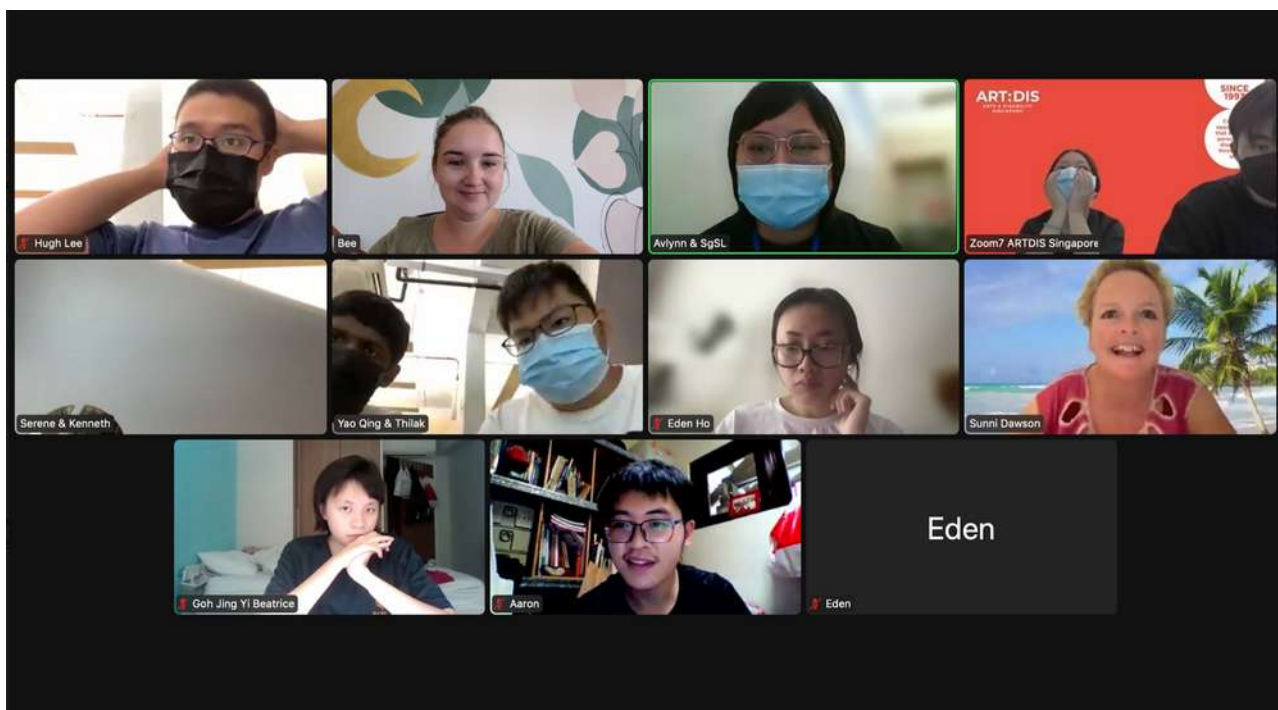
A celebration of Thanksgiving or Christmas, filled with fellowship, joy and good things to eat, and you will feel content after the dinner celebration.

Home is a sanctuary or open secluded space where dancers can dance gloriously and gracefully at a peaceful dwelling place where home is.

Home is like an open spacious living room where a whole family can chill out and watch TV, and rest and relax and feel refreshed and happy.

Home is where our heart dwells, where we feel a sense of belonging.

Home is where we celebrate, it is where we live everyday.



Purple Autumn Forest Trees in Wisdom in the Wind

a group journal by the writers of ART:DIS

It looks like Valentine's Day. It looks like a forest, a futuristic forest. Different colours of purple. Colours between autumn and spring. It depicts the peak of dawnbreak in glorious shades of purple and red in early morning. Violet, light tropical forest.

The blossom trees I feel very happy and wonderful trees in a love poem around the world like this in peace in a tropical forest in the future.

Makes me feel intrigued, some people's emotions can be very touched by the colours. I felt loveable and friendly.

I feel joyful and excited, this is the right colour for autumn, in the forest with the leaves changing. I feel serene and calm. The warm colours are red, orange and yellow. Mind-blowing. Orange & Yellow Forest Trees to know that sunset is shining brightly. I can see the sunrise in the morning. I like an autumn, bright and fresh! Oil painting, like a tattoo. The technique is blending colours.

They use acrylic painting or oil based paint for the painting. The details are leaves and branches in the forest. Cool colours mixed with hot colours. Multiple colours in one painting. Does it look real? No, more simplified and more abstract. The colours come in primary and tertiary tones.

It looks different up close than it does from far away. Four seasons of various colours. I feel joyful and graceful, it is hard to paint. Sunlight is very more lights in very summer in different tones and wave in wonderful , colourful trees even seen before in light colours is peaceful. Painting of realism and abstract in combination. I feel thrilled and astonished by what I see.



United States

This Is What Was In My Mind

A Group Journal Entry by the writers from Camp Jabberwocky, USA

My mom took me to Camp Jabberwocky. I came on the ferry. I was so young. I met my counselor and I loved her right away. It came from my heart. I wasn't scared. I was a little worried and a little excited. Right away, I learned how to be so smart. It was a long time ago, but I remember we ate lunch and unpacked. It was hot, and I was sweaty. We drank frozen chocolate, or a coconut refresher, or frozen vanilla cooladas with whipped cream and a cherry on top.

The first night I was a little nervous but the counselor helped me. Then my first night was awesome. I slept like an angel.

The first time I played disk golf, I was so-so, but then I got better and better. The first time I played bow and arrow, I was a little scared and nervous, but I got better. I was calm and not emotional. I was also so impressed that my counselor has such good handwriting and picked up fast how to write in my journal.

I love writing because it helps me to remember what is in my own mind.
Camp Jabberwocky is a magical place.



Elvis Dreams

By Michael Harrison, from Camp Jabberwocky, USA

Elvis dreams about writing his next song.

He closes his eyes to picture it.

He has his guitar.

He thinks about his favorite sandwich with bacon, banana and peanut butter.

He is inspired and just plays the guitar.

He feels happy.

I feel happy when I hear his music.

It makes me want to sing.



Mexico

Should I?

*by Michelle Woolrich Osante, age 16, Oaxaca Mexico
High School Student*

I'm walking in the dark,
not knowing where my path
might lead.

But is it really that bad?
Perhaps being afraid is the
real issue.
Should I fly away?

Should I be like a leaf?
Should I see where the wind goes?

I'm sailing through life like
a boat does on the sea.
Not knowing what's below me,
Not understanding how deep
the water really is.

Should I be afraid to know?
Would it be better if I knew?

There are no clear answers,
Perhaps everything happens
for a reason.

The Adventures of Kyya and Risky

By Camila Morales Velázquez, Claudia Mateos Espinosa, and Deniss Morales Morales Velázquez, a story by the writers from the Oaxaca Lending Library, Mexico

[At the car] “I can’t believe that we’re doing this. I didn’t even have time to say goodbye to everyone.”

“Anyway... they say new paths always bring new and good things. I wonder what the new house looks like?”

[At the house] “We finally arrived – at least I like my room.” Kyya liked her room, but for some reason she felt scared too. Mainly of her closet. Suddenly, she started to hear strange noises coming from within the closet. She decided to open it. When she looked in, there was a whole new colorful world, but as soon as she saw it, it disappeared. So at midnight, she couldn’t sleep for curiosity about what had happened. So she walked quietly to the closet, opened it, and walked in. There it was – a little weird creature who introduced himself as Risky.

He was very friendly and kind and a bit hyperactive, moving around and dropping something everywhere he walked. She told him that she didn’t like the idea of moving to a new city and Risky said, “Don’t worry, girl, there are plenty of adventures waiting for us.”

[Next day at school] The first day of school Kyya didn’t have great expectations. When she was about to introduce herself to the class, Risky said “Hello” through the window shaking his fluffy hand, making her smile.

So that afternoon, when she came back home, Risky was ready, waiting to show her the city through his eyes. The adventure got even better because he was able to teleport with her from place to place. At the end of the day they became true friends and Kyya found the courage to start her new life... with Risky of course.

