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Writing Through



# Newsletter

*June 2022*



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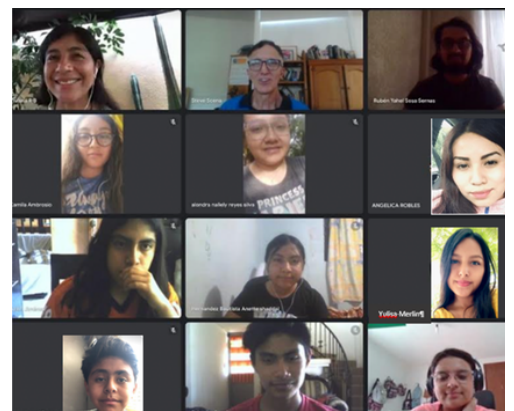
*For the last two years, most updates you have gotten from Writing Through have highlighted the internal work we have been doing to prepare the organization for growth. It has certainly paid off because the first half of 2022 has been incredible! We are excited to fill you in on all that we have been able to achieve because of your support.*

## What's New?

### New Chapter

Thanks to our amazing volunteer, Steve Scena, we have just started working in a new location. Steve lives most of the year in Oaxaca, Mexico and saw some organizations that he knew could use a bit of Writing Through magic. With some guidance from Sue herself, Steve approached them and has now completed the first two workshops with the Oaxaca Learning Centre and the Oaxaca Learning Library, online and in-person respectively. We are beyond thrilled to see our dreams come true because this is exactly the organic growth that will help Writing Through expand into new territory and reach as many people as possible.

If you are a trained facilitator who sees a need in your community, contact our team and we can guide you through the process of reaching out to them and making a workshop happen!





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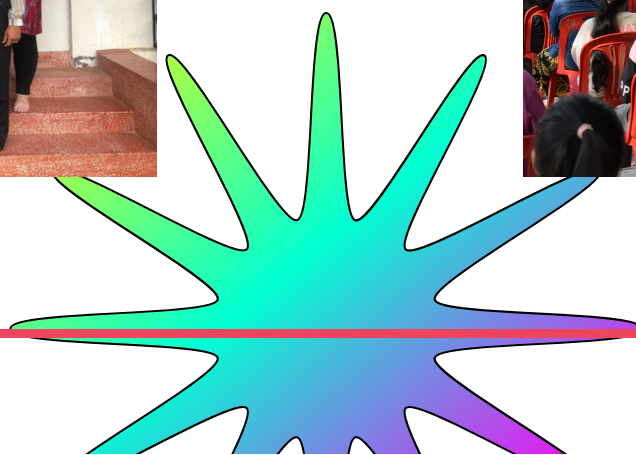
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## New Partners

Cambodian schools were closed for almost two years throughout Covid. During that time, many students fell behind their levels, many have delayed their start and some have lost much of their language skills. Now is the most important time to help them to develop their thinking skills, their language fluency and their self-esteem. We want them to go forward with tools to help them get ahead even after the setbacks they have faced. We can proudly say that since the schools re-opened, we have returned to many of our trusted partners and have begun working with new ones. Organizations recognize the need for these soft skills and are turning to us for instruction.

We have added **Kulen Outreach**, **Heartprint**, **Ponheary Ly Foundation** programs at Chey Primary School and **Chumkriel Language School** as new partners. All this since the beginning of March! We are also happy to say that we have once again worked with the original partner, Anjali House and the partners that initially encouraged the founding of Writing Through, Enfants du Mekong.

It is so special to be with our valued partners, old and new and to see those proud faces at the end!



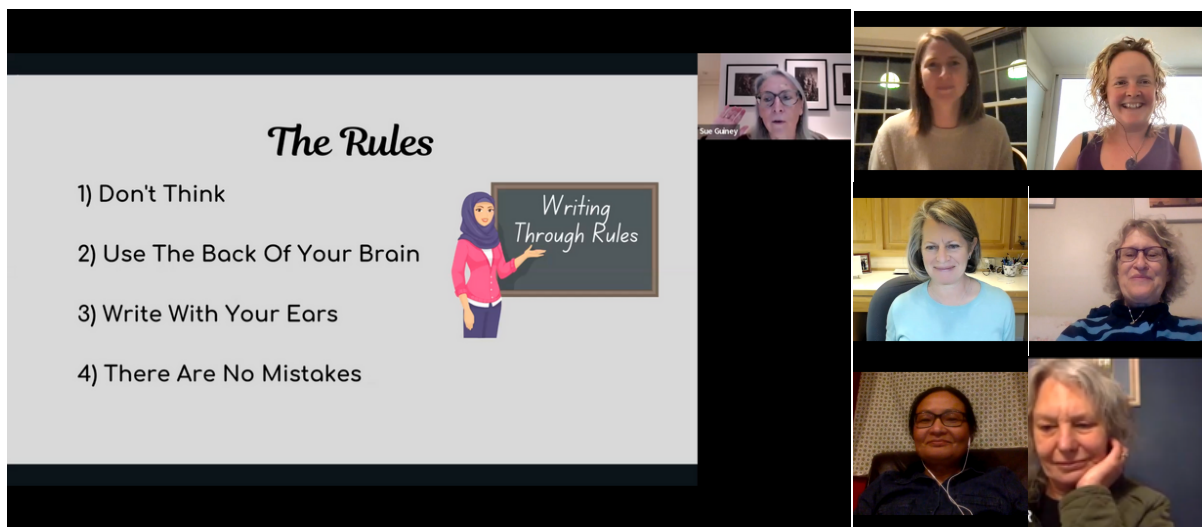
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## New Volunteers

Sue hosted a volunteer training session in March and had a wonderful turnout. We are always looking for volunteers, to help with both online and in-person workshops, especially now that we are expanding geographically. We are lucky to have found two new volunteers in Cambodia, Sydney and Wesley, who have been running around the country with Kristin and Bee. We also have a new volunteer in Mexico, Sunni, who knew of us from her time living in Siem Reap. As our volunteers move around the globe, so does our outreach.-

If you are interested in volunteering with us, please reach out to [info@writingthrough.org](mailto:info@writingthrough.org) for more information.



## New Project

We know that our program works. We have seen the results and spoken to teachers who share with us the impact that they see in the students long after the workshop has ended. As we get bigger as an organization, demonstrating our impact is becoming more important. How do you measure creativity? Thanks to our incredible volunteer Selin Ahipasaoglu, a math professor at the University of Southampton, we are working on quantifying our outcomes. We have been working on a randomized control trial to compare the creativity of students who have done our workshops to those that have not. This is incredibly exciting and is being fully funded by the university. We can't wait to share the results with you!






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## New Podcast

We are very excited to bring you the new Writing Through Podcast, *From the Magic Pencil: Voices of Writing Through*. Here we have conversations with some of our participants, partners, volunteers and writers passionate about the same things we are! One of the pillars of our mission is to amplify voices and what better way than to have these wonderful conversations and share them with the world!

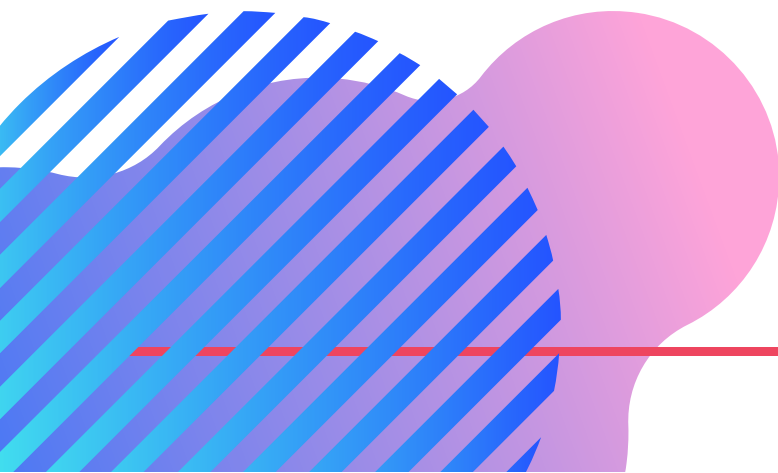
We are very excited to let you know that they will be available from June 29th. We appreciate you listening and please feel free to share with anyone you think would want to listen. Keep an eye on our social media to find out where to find it.     

If you are interested in being a guest or know someone who would be wonderful, please let us know at [operations@writingthrough.org](mailto:operations@writingthrough.org)



## New Curriculum

One of our valued partners in Singapore, ART:DIS (formerly Very Special Arts) had requested something new for their Emerging Artists. These are visual artists with special needs who are getting ready to take the art world by storm. We are working with them to develop their artists' voices and to be able to describe and present their work in ways that help them stand out. We had our first taster session and it was great! The students were all very open-minded and shared their praise of each other's work and how it made them feel, what they noticed and what makes it special. We have two cycles coming up this year with the same group and we cannot wait to see what they come up with next!





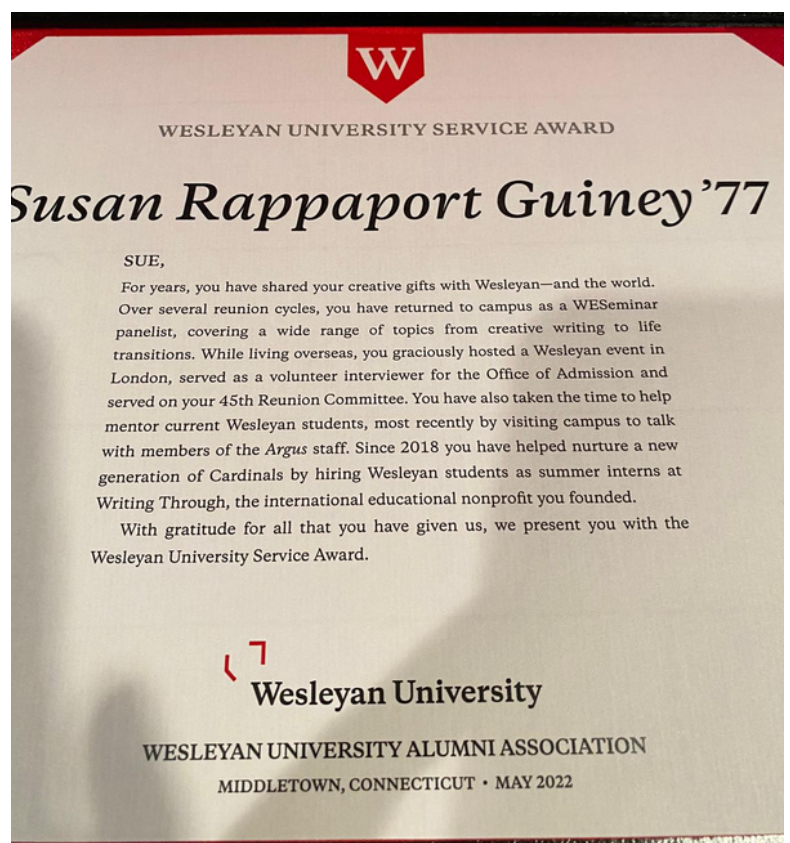
## New Award

We are very proud to announce that Sue has been awarded a Wesleyan University Service Award. This is a distinguished award recognizing all the work she does for Wesleyan for current students and alumni.

Sue was presented with the award at the alumni weekend and celebrated in front of all in attendance.

Writing Through continues to grow and evolve and Wesleyan has a lot to do with that. From the incredible student interns that have worked with us through the years, to the important connections made with the faculty and alumni, it is warming to know that the appreciation is mutual.

Congratulations Sue, it is well deserved!



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## New Spotlight On Donors

Writing Through would not be able to do all of the work we do without the generous support of our donors. We want to take this opportunity to spotlight one of our most important supporters, Sarah Kendall. She sponsors our Wesleyan Internship program each year, which is a hugely important program for us and for the students we work with. Without Sarah, we could not sustain the program. We asked her why she chooses to support Writing Through, and we wanted to share her answer with you.



Why do you support Writing Through?

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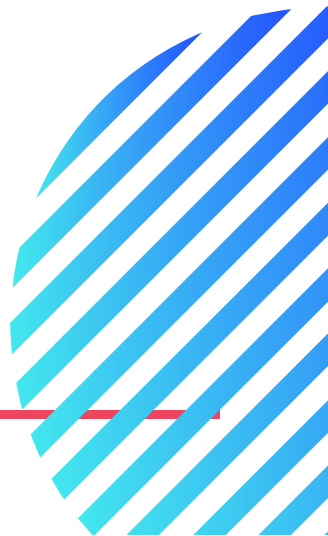
*Writing Through is close to my heart for three reasons:*

- 1. Learning to write is an essential life skill and is hugely influential across disciplines and experiences. It facilitates all kinds of social, emotional, and intellectual learning and builds imagination. It is a window that works both ways—in and out.*
- 2. It reminds me of how much I learned by writing and how central it has been to me through the years. Teaching and learning combine in wonderful ways and yield surprises.*
- 3. Supporting this program is direct and consequential in ways that feel very important right now all around the world.*

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A big THANK YOU to Sarah and to all of our supporters.

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## New Ways to Support Writing Through

We truly have the best partners. We would not be the organization we are today without being able to work with those on the ground, who understand the needs of the groups with whom they work. Most of them sprung into action as times got tough, they shifted from education to food distribution, from English lessons to skill training and many more programs to support the most urgent of needs.

Most have depleted their budgets with these necessary programs and have nothing left for external workshops. We decided that this year we would offer these partners their workshops for free. They deserve to be rewarded for the difficult decisions and sleepless nights.

### **How can you help us to continue?**

A one-time donation can contribute to the costs of workshops and supplies for the workshops.

You can Adopt A Workshop and pay the fee for a partner that is special to you

You can become a Writing Through Champion and set up monthly giving

### **Or something new:**

You can organize a fundraiser for us.

This is a way to connect with your community, have fun and help us raise money to reach even more people.

For more information, help or guidance, please reach out to [info@writingthrough.org](mailto:info@writingthrough.org)

*Thank!  
You!*

