

# Writing Through



## Annual Report 2018

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## Executive Summary

Writing Through is an organization that teaches conceptual thinking, language fluency, and self-esteem through the creative writing of poetry and stories, in English, to some of South-East Asia's most at-risk populations.

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 NGO's 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. Although just three years old, Writing Through's work is already being recognized within the international community of organizations working to improve literacy throughout the world.

In 2018, Writing Through brought its workshops to schools and NGO's throughout Cambodia and Singapore, while also beginning its expansion into Vietnam. In Cambodia, most of our work 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 we also ran an even broader program called LILT (Literacy In Language and Thinking) where we were embedded within a university and provided the language and thinking skills coursework to all new entering students. We also added two new Partners. Liger Leadership Academy allows us to work within one of the most innovative schools in the country. The Chelly Foundation extended our reach into southern Cambodia, thereby introducing us to a new region of Cambodia.

This year in Singapore, we consolidated our base, building on our outreach and training of new volunteers, and further developing our work with our Partners. Through them we continue to be able to focus on the often underserved portions of the population, especially, youth and adults with disabilities, and older, often neglected women. With our partner, Very Special Arts (VSA) we also participated for a second year in the prestigious Singapore Writer's Festival.

In 2018 we also explored the possibilities of expanding into Vietnam, at first in the north. We ran workshops with two organisations in Hanoi, and are learning about the specific needs and unique challenges the Vietnamese face in their own education.

The 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 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 irrelevant. 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 South East Asian region 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. Classrooms are often 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.

Writing Through believes that the combination of thinking and writing in new ways, language fluency and the resultant increase in self-esteem is an antidote to poverty and corruption. We open minds, one poem, one story at a time.

## Letter from the Founder

*Dear Friends and Supporters,*

*Welcome to this, our third Annual Report. Here we will outline the ways in which 2018 was yet another busy year for Writing Through. This was the year in which we took on the challenge of adding a new host country to the list of nations where we work - Vietnam. Each country comes with its own opportunities, needs and challenges. Vietnam is no different. The challenge to us was to discover and begin to meet these challenges, while maintaining the quality of the work we do in our original host countries of Cambodia and Singapore.*

*The learning curve for our Writing Through family continues to be steep though also very rewarding. Although we have already come a very long way in a very short time, there is still much further to go. As we mature, though, we are realizing the need for taking baby steps within an organization whose structure, and therefore funding, becomes solidified. Much of 2018 focused on finding that balance.*

*Thank you for your interest and support, and for joining our growing Writing Through family 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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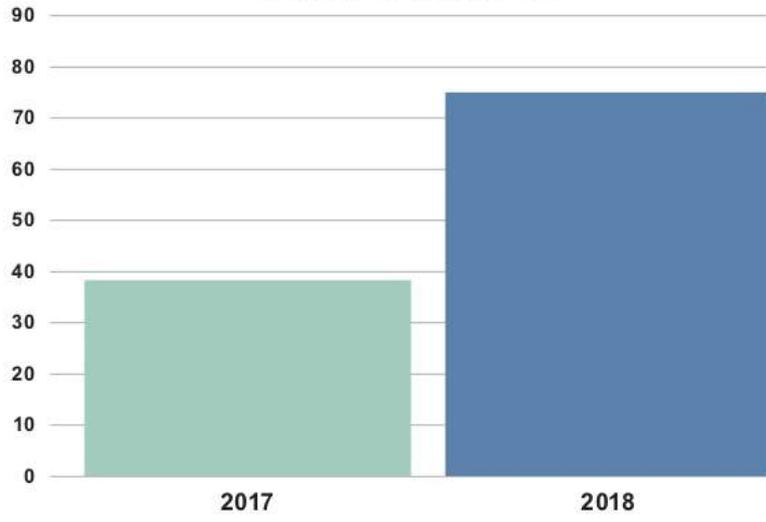
## What We Accomplished in 2018

During 2018, Writing Through conducted 75 separate workshops across Cambodia, Singapore and for the first time: Vietnam. These workshops were run by 13 different Facilitators (some facilitating multiple workshops), with 12 different partner organizations. In 2018, we added 4 new partner organizations. In Cambodia they are The Chelly Foundation and Liger Leadership Academy, and in Vietnam: Blue Dragon and Italkcoffee.

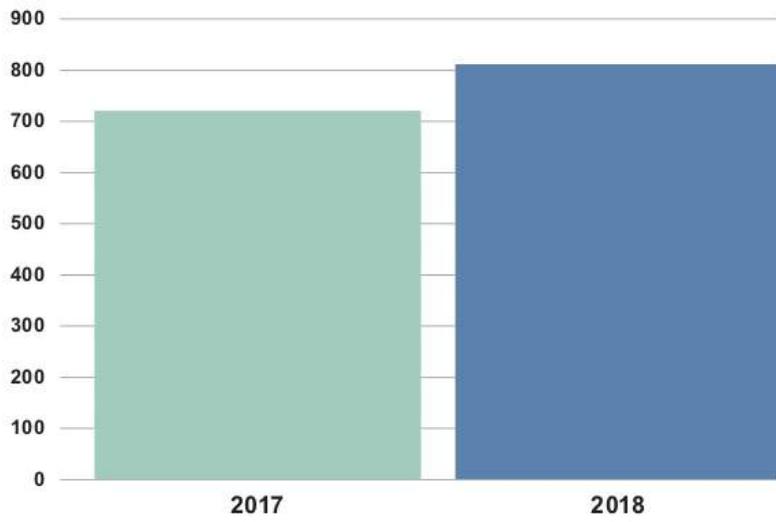
75 workshops in 3 countries  
806 students poems and stories written  
49 fully trained Facilitators  
4 new partner organizations added

Writing Through has also held several Facilitator training sessions in 2018, both in large groups and in individual meetings. We now have 49 fully trained Facilitators on our books, with an additional 33 individuals ready to complete their training, if they so choose.

**Number of Workshops**



**Number of Students Reached**



## Our Programs

### Cambodia

#### New Partners

**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.



**The Chelly Foundation** 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.



#### Continuing Partners

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.

**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.



**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. In 2017, these workshops were led by Writing Through's trained team of Facilitators.



We also led a specialized 1-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.



### **Caring for Cambodia**

[www.caringforcambodia.org](http://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.

### **Sala Bai** [www.salabai.com](http://www.salabai.com)

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



### **ODA**

[www.odaopportunitiescambodia.org](http://www.odaopportunitiescambodia.org)

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

**Helping Hands [www.volunteercambodia.org.uk](http://www.volunteercambodia.org.uk)**

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



**EGBOK [www.egbokmission.org](http://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.



**PEPY Empowering Youth [www.pepyempoweringyouth.org](http://www.pepyempoweringyouth.org)**

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



**Journeys Within Our Community (JWOC) [www.journeyswithinourcommunity.org](http://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.



**Empowering Youth Cambodia (EYC)**  
[www.eycambodia.org](http://www.eycambodia.org)

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



**LILT**

**LILT** stands for *Literacy in Language and Thinking* and it is our most innovative project to date. This program combines a bespoke, comprehensive English as a Second Language curriculum with an expanded series of Writing Through arts-oriented workshops. The coursework and workshops build on each other to create a unique methodology for teaching language and thinking skills. LILT is conceived to be implemented in an on-going fashion within a partnering institution.



Our first LILT Partner was the University of Puthisastra in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The University of Puthisastra is a university pursuing excellence in health science and technology. Although this pilot program at UP will not continue into 2019, it allowed us to develop the LILT approach to integrated language training, and is now a model for a new approach that can be developed within larger institutions.

**Local Teacher Network with Training Sessions**

In order to encourage the teacher training aspect of Writing Through's programming, we held our now annual collaborative networking conference so that the local teachers could come together as a team. This networking session, run by one of our most experienced Facilitators, was a way to further develop skills, interest and motivation in local teachers. In attendance were local teachers from existing Partners and teachers from potential new partner organizations. This allowed the local teacher network to meet each other, share ideas and delve a little deeper into the Writing Through methodology. There is potential for this to be a way to introduce

ourselves to new partners and to spark interest among Khmer teachers, while spreading the name and awareness of Writing Through among the educational community.

## Singapore

Our work in Singapore continues to grow with our valued partners. Through them we continue to be able 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. Through our unique pedagogy centered on creative writing, Writing Through aims to develop self-esteem and a safe space for expression.



We have continued and expanded our work with Very Special Arts (VSA) and WINGS.

### **Very Special Arts (VSA)** [www.vsa.sg](http://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 August/Sept and October/November, the latter of which culminated in the students presenting their work at a Very Big Event at the annual Singapore Writer's Festival on November 9<sup>th</sup>. 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. We look forward to working closely with VSA in 2019.

### **Society for WINGs** [www.wings.sg](http://www.wings.sg)

is a Singapore non-profit organization established in 2007. WINGs' focus is to promote active ageing for women of lower income brackets by providing knowledge, teaching skills and providing support in planning their financial future and living a healthier and more active lifestyle. Writing Through conducted 4 workshops this year in March, May, August and November with a total of 60 participants. We have workshops scheduled throughout 2019 and look forward to our continuing partnership.



### **Humanitarian Organization for Migrant Economics (HOME)**

[www.home.org.sg](http://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.



### **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. WT conducted a 5-session workshop with six residents in August to positive reviews. We hope to run another workshop in 2018.

### **Facilitator Orientation Sessions**

In Singapore, Writing Through conducted two Facilitator Orientation Training sessions this year – one in April and another in October. In all, we trained 16 new candidates helping to increase the “bench depth” of our facilitator team.

## Vietnam

2018 was the year of our Vietnam expansion. With the guidance of one of our volunteers, a Vietnamese expat living in Singapore, we dipped our toes into the vibrant life of Hanoi. We also held introductory discussions with the development workers in the northern mountain region of Sapa, home to many of Vietnam's Hmong minority. Our work in Vietnam began in two of Hanoi's educational organizations.

**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.



## 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.

## Program Evaluation

In 2018 we continued our process of Exit Interviews with each partner to gain insight into how we can improve our workshops, and what works best for each organization as we continue to work with varying demographics. We question our partners on logistics as well as program outcomes.

These Exit Interviews allow an open and frank, and therefore very useful exchange between Writing Through and its Partners. Numerical data concerning numbers of students, their ages, grades and gender is now captured during the workshops by the Facilitators using annotated class lists. We are finding the combination of these approaches to be particularly useful.

## Endorsements from Our Partners

“The magazine was great. And what blew my mind the most is the Big Event. This was what I believe, whatever kinds of art it is when people get involved with them. They will change those people attitudes and thoughts. Five days make a difference in people’s life which is magical and a miracle. Totally, everything was one way better than what I expected.”

**KimAnn, Scholarship Project Assistant, PEPY Empowering Youth**

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“I was amazed. They ALL went at it as if they were my full-time students in a native type of class in the U.S. I was so shocked how can they be so good and so fast getting started writing...I had not seen this anywhere in my five weeks of visiting classes in Cambodia. THEN the staff said, “Well, they did do Writing Through last month!” Then I understood why they could be that way. I am still amazed. Then half of them got up and read their stories...Bravo... what you are doing is changing lives, for sure!”

**Myrtis Mixon, Shadow**

“I have very poor and broken English so my brain has switched off ... I remembered when Kim Ann shared me we are going to have a Writing Through workshop conducted at PEPY for a week and everything is in English. A thought popped in my head “What PEPY is going to do?” “Is this going to kill us?” But after the workshop done I felt like I got a hero in me.”

**Student, PEPY Empowering Youth**



“The quality blew us away, it was even better than we thought. What WT can get out of them is amazing, because we take the time with them to let things really come up. The quality of the writing and the thought gave me a lot of ideas for my own classes.”

**Hannah Trivett, Learning Facilitator, Liger Leadership Academy**

“The biggest outcome of this workshop was the use of imagination in the students. They do not have approval to do this often in their culture or their education, and the workshop had a fantastic way of allowing them to feel free and powerful in making their own choices and using their own creativity. The Writing Through team were very encouraging and supportive of the students and that helped them to boost their confidence.”

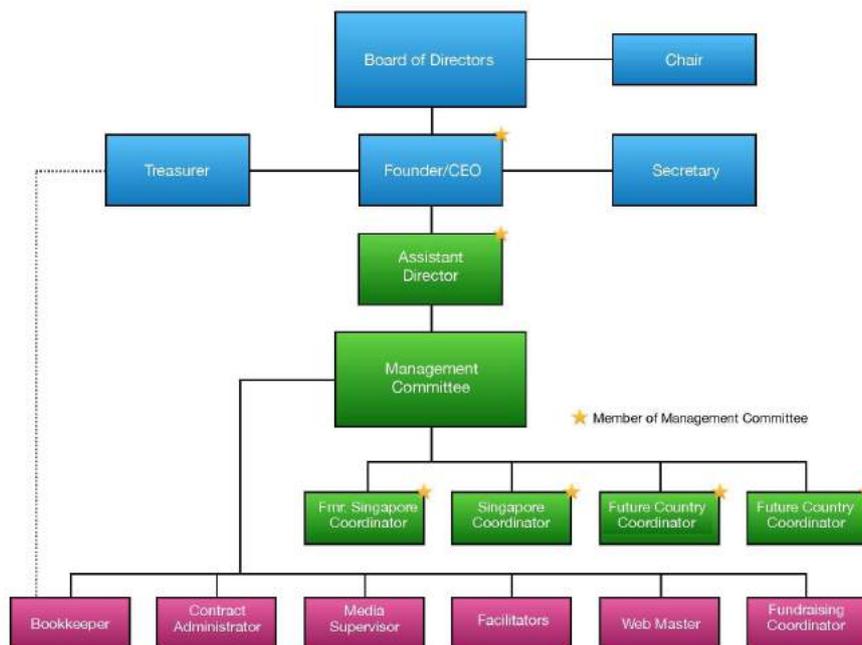
**Lia Pigeot, Volunteer, Enfants du Mekong**

“The impact of the program is great because our students don’t often know how to express themselves. It gave them a nice opportunity to do so in a safe space. They also had time to bond together, which they don’t always do. ”

**Nguyen Phuong, Project Coordinator, Blue Dragon**

## Who We Are

In 2018 we continued to expand our team in two key ways. Firstly, we began to expand our Board of Directors, adding an important new advisor, Don Spencer. Secondly, we had our first set of summer interns. As the graph below shows, Writing Through continues to have a vibrant and energetic team of people working to pursue its goals.



Besides its one full-time, paid employee, our Assistant Director, we now have a structure of volunteer support which includes a Management Team, comprised of the Founder, Assistant Director, Present Singapore Coordinator and Former Singapore Coordinator. Together, this team oversees the daily operations of the organization.

In addition, we have added the following crucial volunteer positions: Accounts Manager/Bookkeeper, Contract Administrator, Social Media Supervisor, Web Master, and Fundraising Coordinator. 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 NGO's 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 2019.

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 9 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 2 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. As well as being the Assistant Director for Writing Through, Jess also Facilitates some of the workshops around Cambodia.

### Patty Bierley, Singapore Coordinator

As Writing Through's Singapore volunteer coordinator, Patty arranges and provides training for volunteers and organizes volunteer support for events, fundraising, and PR. She develops and works with our local venues and facilitates workshops in Singapore and Cambodia. Most importantly, she supports our group of Singapore volunteers in providing the highest possible standard of workshop facilitation.



### 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 20 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. In her free time and when she is not glued to the writing pen, Stephanie enjoys reading, photography, travelling and trying very hard to keep her advanced Yoga poses in situ.

### Martha Scarborough, Management Committee Member

Martha Scarborough has lived and worked as an expat for the last 17 years in Moscow, Bucharest, Singapore and now Japan. She is an accredited Solution Focused Coach and has her Master's degree in Counselling BA in Semiotics from Brown University. Martha headed Allegro Coaching in Singapore, specializing in Solution Focused coaching and counselling for expat women. During her time in Bucharest, Romania, Martha helped to initiate a diversity awareness program at the American International School of Bucharest and created and ran "Bridges", a diversity discussion group for international expat women. In Singapore, Martha volunteered with AWARE, a women's resource centre, providing face to face and hotline counselling to local women.



### 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 Director of Clubs and Shared Interest Groups at the Harvard Alumni Association, where she helps Harvard's 248 alumni organizations around the world build leadership strength and organizational capacity, define strategy, and tackle tough challenges. 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 26 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 16 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 20 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.

## Summer Interns

In 2018, Writing Through entered into a relationship with Wesleyan University in Connecticut, USA to provide summer internships to their students interested in global education. Our first pair of interns, Camille Britton and Teisha van der Horst, spent eight weeks with us, working in both Cambodia and Vietnam. We mentored them as they learned about the NGO world and its specific needs, introducing them to many of our Partners, and allowing them to shadow one or two of our workshops. They each also completed their own projects: finding media outlets and writing articles to increase our visibility, and researching the differing structures and challenges of the various school systems in which we work.

## Public Awareness

The need for branding and public awareness is especially keen as we often work in environments without stringent regulations regarding intellectual property. In 2018 we continued to find new ways to increase our visibility.

## Wapatoa

*Wapatoa* is an innovative Khmer-English ezine which showcases articles, artwork, podcasts etc as a way to help foster a creative community within Cambodia. Writing Through published two educational articles about writing there this year.

## Cambodia Reawakening Exhibit

In 2017, the American journalist and writer, John Burgess, created an exhibition of photographs he took in 1980 as the first American journalist to receive a visa to enter Cambodia after the fall of the Khmer Rouge. Writing Through used that exhibit as a prompt for a workshop with some of the students from Anjali House, and together the photos and student writing have become a traveling exhibition entitled *Cambodia Reawakening*. We brought this exhibit to Wesleyan University in the autumn of 2018 where it hung in the university's Center for Global Studies for 8 weeks. Sue Guiney also conducted a Writing Through 'taster' workshop during the time of the launch of the exhibit, and gave a talk alongside John Burgess at the opening event. This exhibit is being offered to other universities within the US.

## **Financials**

**Writing Through**  
**Statement of Financial Position (unaudited)**  
**as at and for the year ended**  
**December 31, 2018**

**Note: Audited financial statement to follow.**

**Writing Through**  
*Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets – Cash Basis -- Unaudited*  
*December 31, 2018 and 2017*

Assets	2018	2017
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 11,794	8,757
Total Assets	\$ 11,794	8,757
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Commitments	-	-
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 11,794	8,757
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 11,794	8,757

## Writing Through

### *Statements of Support, Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets - Cash Basis*

*-- Unaudited*

*Years Ended December 31, 2018 and 2017*

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#### Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets

Support and Revenue		2018	2017
Administrative fees	\$	12,124	10,528
Consulting fee revenue, LILT program		31,200	31,200
Donations from individuals, unrestricted		22,388	17,291
Merchandise		148	-
<hr/>			
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>65,860</b>	<b>59,019</b>

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## Expenses

### Program Services

Advertising	\$	-	100
Bank fees		15	35
Consulting fees, LILT program		31,200	31,200
Equipment rental		-	155
Meals and entertainment		246	599
Printing		1,016	205
Reimbursable employee and facilitator expenses		2,342	473
Salaries		9,100	8,625
Teacher supplies		456	12
Travel expenses		5,025	3,210
Other expenses		143	-
Realised currency loss		100	-
<hr/>			
<b>Total Program Services</b>		<b>49,643</b>	<b>44,614</b>
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## Writing Through

*Statements of Support, Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets - Cash Basis --  
Unaudited (continued)  
Years Ended December 31, 2018 and 2017*

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### Support Services

	<i>2018</i>	<i>2017</i>
Advertising	\$ -	150
Bank fees	1,081	576
Business licenses and fees	653	310
Employee benefits	653	1,849
Office supplies	95	582
Online services	825	108
Postage and shipping	-	176
Printing	-	48
Salaries	9,100	8,775
Travel expenses	18	40
Website development and hosting fees	-	41
Other expenses	385	-

<b>Total Support Services</b>	\$	13,182	12,655
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<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$	62,823	57,269
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<b>Change in Unrestricted Net Assets</b>		3,075	1,750
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Unrestricted net assets, beginning of year		8,757	7,007
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<b>Unrestricted Net Assets, End of Year</b>	\$	<b>11,794</b>	<b>8,757</b>
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# 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

Lucia Damacela  
Martha Scarborough  
Jeanne McKay  
Katy Oglethorpe  
Barbara Rittner  
Lisa Edmondson  
Sophia Cliff  
Suzanne Moreau  
Raelee Chapman  
Patty Bierley  
Kerry Driver  
Amy Kean  
Andrea Mckenna  
Anupama Zain  
Steve Scena  
Maxime Berclaz  
Selin Ahipasaoglu  
Kitty Johnson  
Jake Pederson  
Jenny Pisani  
Christopher Assendorp  
Ryan Erickson  
David Spencer  
Jeffrey Siggins  
Mike Fitzgerald

Jessica Austin  
Michael Vanacker  
Ally Dishong  
Sita Ter Horst.

## Our Volunteers

Bronwyn Sharman  
Stephanie Nguyen  
Clara Mok  
Sally Mchale  
Hana Scheltat  
Magali Finet  
Myrtis Mixon  
Bob Craig  
Robin Craig  
Dana Shani  
Sara Faxon  
Scott McCallum  
Camille Britton  
Teshiea Van der Horst  
Jordan Ashmore  
Shahnaz Ali  
Nidhi Arora  
Hurrairah Bin Sahail  
Kate Lilienthal  
Charlotte McEleny  
Ming Xia Ho.

## Volunteer of the Year Award

This year the Writing Through Volunteer of the Year Award was awarded to Ally Dishong, for reinventing our Social Media strategies and helping us develop new platforms for promotion and communication via social media. Congratulations Ally!



## Our Supporters

Wendee Wolfson  
Don Spencer  
Nancy and Paul Cotton  
Betsy Hecker  
Carol Ostrow  
John and Karen Burgess  
Maria Fahmi  
Kim Dibb  
Mary and Jerome Vascellaro  
William Munroe  
Nancy Demb  
Kerry Binder  
Joseph Blackledge  
John Smith  
Robin Heller  
Peg Albert  
Elissa Annunziato  
Karen and David Brush  
Amy and Roger Faxon  
John Moore  
Christine Russell  
Linda and David Lakhdhir  
Phillip Lovejoy  
Ellen Kay/Ellen Winer Fund  
Susan Wilen  
Dina and Maurice Wallerson  
Martha and Carl Tack  
Nancy Bard

Phyllis Yale and Tucker Taft  
Nancy Golden  
George Angell/Ann Evans  
Patricia Bierley  
Shahnaz Ali  
Carol and Dick Gross  
Barbara Okun  
Derek Seiler  
Britton Family  
Bill Plapinger and Cassie  
Murray  
Lisa Wong  
DeLaCour Family (Sally  
Williams)  
Bruce Kogut and Monica  
Knuttsen  
Anne DeForest and Joe Farrell  
Jonathan Kagan  
Jocelyn and Alissa Spencer  
Fund  
Richard Yieh and Jenn Flynn  
Jess and Jamie Harris  
Terry and Sylvia Edwards  
Don Spencer and Vicky  
Riccardo  
Elaine Chiew  
Steve Okun

## Work from our Students

### The Sleep Walk Accident

by Chornson, aged 13

Liger Leadership Academy

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I woke up to me  
Sitting on a big string  
I don't know how  
I got on that thing  
I have a bag  
Full of money  
And this is when  
Things got funny  
My legs stay still  
And my arms stay strong  
This is when I knew  
Something was wrong  
I knew I sleep walk again  
And this isn't what I plan!  
People cheering and shouting from below  
as if they thought  
I was putting on a show  
I shouted from the sky  
saying no it's not  
Then I try to search for help  
this is when I saw my friend Josh Phelp  
I signal him to help me  
he got the signal and came fast  
as fast as a cheetah  
and as smart as Mr. Stephen Hawking  
and there he goes  
into my house crashing all my pots  
as if he was a rhinoceros  
He gave me his hand  
and I caught it  
Finally he saves me  
and I am free  
Stay safe everybody  
don't sleep walk like me.



## The 500K Bills

*By Loan, Hoa, Hang and Ngoc*

*Italkcoffee*

In 2010, there was some shocking news about a mystery lady with a white dress that always took a taxi at 3am in Hanoi downtown. She always gave 500K bills, without getting the change back.

But after a few hours, they realized that the 500k note was death money. At first, they all got angry and posted this story online in a forum to avoid her.

On 31st December 2010, after a new year party, Hung- a young driver- had met a woman with a white dress. She asked him to drive her to Dong Anh. It was such a long drive and Hung was very happy. Suddenly, he saw her tattoo that people had described in the forums and he thought "I will beat her if she gives me the fake money again!"

Finally, they reached a big, electronic shop on the big street. The lady gave the 500k bill like everyone said, and she said "keep the change." He kept the money but he didn't believe her. He got out of the car and followed her. She kept walking slowly and turned into a cemetery, and stopped at a grave. On that grave, he saw a picture of a lady with her face and on her arm there was a tattoo. On the grave, there were plenty of 500k death notes.

## Freedom

*By Tung, Aged 21*

*Italkcoffee*

I wanna change my life  
to take over the destiny  
The limited, the mind, the life.  
Fly over everything like an eagle  
Fall out softly like the wind.  
Let's go to the stranger place.  
Even drought, storm, tsunami  
even wide island, desert, deep sea.  
Just feel I'm freedom  
and don't forget: always sing your favourite song.  
Let's follow me  
Meet and have fun with other people  
Have party through the night  
through sadness, worry, so far our life  
Live with freedom in your mind!



# An Expedition Across the Amazons

*By Vanny, Age 20 and Tristal, Age 19*

*Enfants du Mekong, Phnom Penh*

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A long time ago, there were two men who decided to lead an expedition across the Amazon forest started in Quito, Ecuador. They took with them a tent, 2 horses and the supplies for 2 months and a half.

The first month of their journey, there was no problem. The early part of the second month, they lost all the supplies because of the heavy rain and storms. They started having opposite ideas and they didn't get along with each other.

Bill said to Jack, "We need to stop our journey and go back home because we don't have the supplies anymore."

Suddenly, Jack said, "We are halfway and we need to find the solution and deal with the problem."

Jack heroically said, "We can catch the animals in the forest for our food."

Bill didn't agree and came back alone. Unfortunately, Bill didn't reach home because he lost his way and no one knows about what happened to him.

Jack continued his journey and reached the sea. He didn't know exactly where he was, but he met a group of people who lived there with a different culture from his home country. He lived there for a half month. He tried to learn more about their culture. After that, he went back home.

Jack was interviewed by many journalists. From that time, there are many people who know about that place which was named Belem near the Atlantic Ocean. Jack was known as a hero of expedition



## **Flying In To Space**

*By Serene Sng*

*Very Special Arts*

She glances across the sky  
as she saw the birds fly by,  
the sky plane flew past in Galaxy Space  
where the stars lay.

Astronomers soar across with their rockets  
and fly as far as they can get  
a girl exploring into space.

In a fast and steady pace  
go to japan in a craze  
Our world is big as a  
gaze into outer space.

## **Loving Hands**

*By Ong Siew Geok*

*Society for WINGs*

The year was 1945, chaos reigned in Singapore. Gang fights were frequent. It was a turbulent time. Curfews were imposed.

Lily, a little girl of seven years old, was cheerful and sweet. On that day, 9th August, Lily was supposed to return home before 8pm, but so engrossed was she in a game at her friend Elsa's house that she left at almost 7:30pm. On her way home she was caught in a cross fire between two groups. The "Lion" group captured her assuming she belonged to "Tiger" group and wanted to torture her. "Don't hurt me," Lily said. "I am only on my way home."

The Lion boss, an old man of 70 years, looked fierce and dangerous. Looking at Lily, he saw a resemblance to his departed great grand-daughter and stopped his members from torturing her, but refused to release her.

Despite his appearance, Lily was unafraid and treated him like a family member. The love she showered on him somehow turned him from his attitude towards the world. He disbanded the gang, and turned into a gentle old man, returned Lily to her family and became good friends with them.