

Happy New Year!



Doris Dillon School in Cambodia wishes you a happy new year! This year, much has happened at Doris Dillon. We watched our community grow as the kids learned each day. We have taken many strides to improve the life of students and their families. **None of this would have been possible without your help, and we truly appreciate you. Wishing you the best this new year has to offer!**

Meet The Board: Ken Colson



Mr. Colson is a Native Son, born in San Francisco, a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley and San Francisco State University. He is now an Emeritus Professor of Anthropology and Sociology from West Valley Community College, Saratoga, California.

At West Valley College Ken taught introductory courses in cultural, physical, and linguistic anthropology and sociology. He was the department chair of the combined departments of Sociology, Anthropology, Geography, and Economics. Upon retirement he served as the chair at West Valley College of the Department of the Administration of Justice and the Director of the law enforcement training program for the Santa Clara County Office of the Sheriff, Probation Department, and the Department of Corrections.

His honors include a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, and at Jadavpur University, Calcutta, India. A National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship at the University of Southern Illinois, Carbondale, an NEH sponsored field program in Archeology and Education, Santa Barbara, California, and an NEH Grant to conduct a survey of California Native Americans settlement sites in the Santa Clara Valley, California.

Mr. Colson authored a published paper in the Society of California Anthropology on Tattoos and Death in America as well as authoring and editing chapters on the culture and social structure of Taiwan and the Peoples Republic of China for the Office of Human Relations, San Jose, California.

He is currently involved in community service and public projects in his neighborhood; serving as a Director on the board of the Burbank Sanitary, San Jose, California.

Ken's varied first hand experiences as a volunteer includes 23 years as a firefighter/lieutenant in the Saratoga California Fire Department, post-war home reconstruction in Pakrac, Croatia, building a new facility for rehabilitation of the disabled for PROESA Santa Ana Chapitiro, Mexico, a summer ESL program in Siennica, Poland, and the rehabilitation of an historic chestnut mill in Corsica

This Year's Gala!



Our 'Gala for Giving' fundraising event, held Saturday, October 26 th at the Almaden Golf and Country Club succeeded beyond our wildest dreams! Thanks to the generosity of so many donors, we achieved our goal of funding ongoing 2019-2020 scholarships (\$200/year) for all 39 7 th -12 th grade girls who were forced to drop out because of their families' poverty.

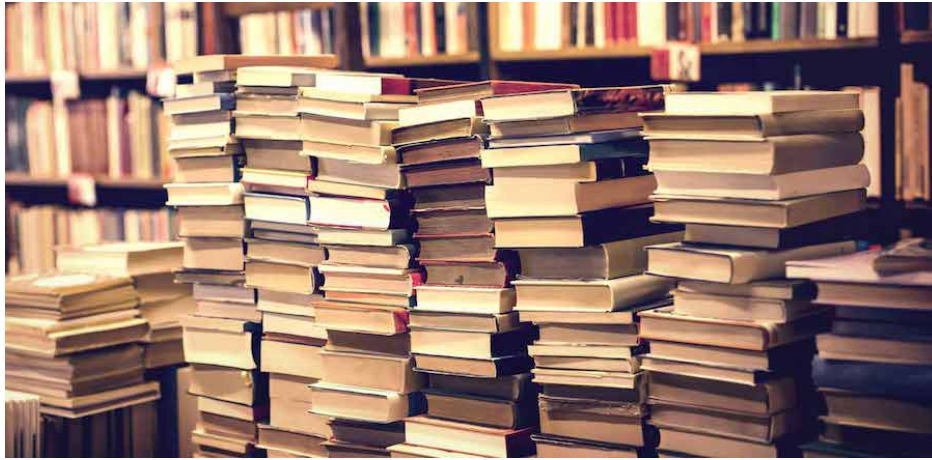
We had hoped to also fund ongoing scholarships (\$2,100/year) for Dalen and Sreylim, two of our 12 alumni attending the leadership Academy, a prestigious college prep boarding school in Phnom Penh. Dalen and Sreylim finished first in their 11 th and 20 th grade classes of 52 and 49, out-competing students from the best schools in the country.

We received so much support from donors that we have funding for four other alumni as well! The gala was well attended; tickets were free as were the wonderful hors d'oeuvres and eight different wines that were poured.

The Uber-Premium (only 10 corks at \$200/ea. for wine packages worth over \$250) and Premium Cork Pulls (30 corks at \$100/ea. for wine packages worth over \$150) sold out in minutes. The silent auction of over 50 items was a also big hit, featuring items such as a cooking class for two in Paris, SF Opera and Berkeley Rep tickets, as well as Waterford crystal and Denise's famous 'Soup of the Month.'

So many friends have already started asking "Will you be doing this again?" The answer, thanks to so much support is YES!!! **Next year's gala will be on Saturday, September 19, 2020, Almaden Country Club.** Save the date!!

Thank You Corey & Kim Moore



We would like to say a very special thank you to Corey and Kim Moore for organizing the book sale, the profits of which are donated to Doris Dillon School Girls' scholarships! Corey is a Senior at Valley Christian High School in San Jose. From their efforts, not only were our Cambodian girls supported, but 523 leftover children's books were donated to St. Joseph's Family Center in Gilroy for Christmas! Thank you so much for your efforts and contribution!

Grant Watch

Exciting news! Our grant application for 2 year English intensive after-school program for 30 high school students has been approved by the U.S Embassy in Phnom Penh. It awaits final approval in Washington, D.C. We hope with final approval to begin classes in the May, 2020. This grant is so important to our students as proficiency in English is key to gaining entrance into university in Cambodia.



Volunteer Trip

This Feb 15, volunteers from Leland high school and their parents will join the DeLongs and Ken Colson traveling to Cambodia to work at Doris Dillon School. They will prepare the teach lessons that week to all three grade levels, boys and girls. These families travel at their own expense, giving up their school vacation time to learn about our students and their families and to help further the educational experiences at the school with innovative, hands on teaching. But most importantly, our students in Cambodia spend a week listening to and hopefully speaking English with our students. These opportunities are rare, since Doris Dillon School has little contact with the "English speaking world".

The Board of Directors has such gratitude and admiration for their generosity and dedication. Thank you!