



CARITAS AUSTRALIA **PROJECT COMPASSION**

Unite Against Poverty this Lent

REAKSMEY'S STORY CAMBODIA

PRIMARY (F TO 2)

PHOTO STORYBOOK

Reaksmei standing outside the café he works at.
Photos: Caritas Australia



Everyone deserves the chance to learn, make friends and feel included.



Reaksmei is 23 years old and lives in Cambodia.



Reaksmey was born deaf. He found it hard to communicate with other people.



Without a way to communicate, Reaksmei spent most of his time alone at home.



Some people at school were unkind to Reaksmei and eventually he stopped going to school.



With help from Epic Arts, Reaksmei got a bicycle so he could travel to the Epic Arts Centre.



At the centre, Reaksmey learnt sign language for the first time. This gave him a new way to communicate with others.



Reaksmey also joined dance and art classes. He discovered new ways to express himself.



‘The drawing and painting allow me to express my feelings and emotions.’

- Reaksmeiy



At Epic Arts, Reaksmey made new friends and grew in confidence.



He learnt new skills and trained in hospitality and now works as a kitchen hand at the Epic Arts Café.

A male staff member with a mustache, wearing a blue headband and a white t-shirt with the 'epicarts CAFE' logo, is smiling and holding a black tray with six round, golden-brown breads. He is standing in a kitchen with shelves of ingredients and other staff members in the background. A maroon text box is overlaid on the right side of the image.

‘What I enjoy the most is cooking and making food at Epic Arts Café.’
- Reaksmeiy



His job helps him earn an income and support his family.



Reaksmey hopes to keep learning new skills and continue working into the future.



When you support Project Compassion, you are helping people like Reaksmey learn new skills and share their gifts with others.

QUESTIONS

1. Why was it difficult for Reaksmey to communicate with other people?
2. What did Reaksmey learn at Epic Arts?
3. How did learning sign language help Reaksmey?
4. What job does Reaksmey have now?
5. Why is it important for everyone to have the chance to learn and feel included?
6. How will you share Reaksmey's story with others?