My name is Phouen Sophat.

Age: 10

Lives in: Cha Village, Mesang District, Cambodia

When I wake up in the morning, I fold up my sleeping mat and my mosquito net. I bathe, comb my hair and go off to school. When I get home, I cook rice and prepare soup. Sometimes I just cut the vegetables or slice the meat for my mom.

My mother is sick, so she can’t do much work, and my dad doesn’t live with us. My two older sisters and I help her plant things in the garden. ODOV (MCC’s partner) helped my mom get a watering can, seeds, fences and tools so our garden could produce more food, even in the dry season. I also help clean the house and wash clothes. I like to sing songs and memorize poems. I also like to read books and draw pictures.

My favorite food: morning glory
sour soup with rice

My favorite subject: Khmer
language and math

What I want to be: doctor

Did you know? In Cambodia, names are in a different order than here in the U.S. So for Phouen Sophat, Phouen is her family name – like last names in the U.S. – while Sophat is the name her friends and teachers call her.

Design a garden

In Cambodia, families often grow:

- lemon grass
- morning glory
- pumpkins
- green beans
- cucumbers