



Siem Reap, Cambodia, **AUG** 2016

Dear **Benefactors and Friends**

The **SEWING WORKSHOP** is a place of hope, of illusion, a place where dreams become reality, it is a magical place for many reasons and I would like to share these reasons with you.



The **SEWING WORKSHOP** is the **SOCIAL ENTERPRISE** for **TOGETHER FOR CAMBODIA**.

Generating Skills.

Generating Jobs.

Generating Incomes.

Generating Hope.

We teach sewing skills to women that are mothers and that are living in a high-risk situation, teaching them to sew bags. We empower the mother to become strong to support her family, focused on her children, rather than being on the streets of Siem Reap receiving money from the people that come to visit the temples and give them money just because their child is like another tourist attraction! Children have to grow up in a safe environment with their parents, siblings, grandparents and other extended relatives.



Some of the sewing team arrived under very difficult circumstances, in some cases with terrible domestic violence, in other cases not being able to read and/or write, some were scared and not confident with our intention, they couldn't believe that we were offering to help them to change their lives without expecting anything in return from them!



They work 5 days a week for 9 hours per day. They take a rest of 90 minutes for lunch and for a break every day that they come to work. We also provide for annual leave, annual public holidays, maternity leave as well as provide accident insurance for them all. When their children are sick they can assist them as long as they need. When they have any family problem we try to help them to find the best solution. Some of them asked and received small loans for the improvements of their homes, installing water pumps, electricity, toilettes, metal roof instead of palm roof, floor tiles instead of sand, some of them bought sewing machines and they do some clothing repairing during the weekend and their homes for the neighborhood.

This project began with the initiative and support coming from **SPOTLIGHT**, Australian company with a charity/social department named **STITCH IN TIME**. They have been monthly ordering 1,000 bags for the last 6 years, they have the own bag model that we call the **Spotlight Bag of Hope** and they conduct all trade in a fair system.

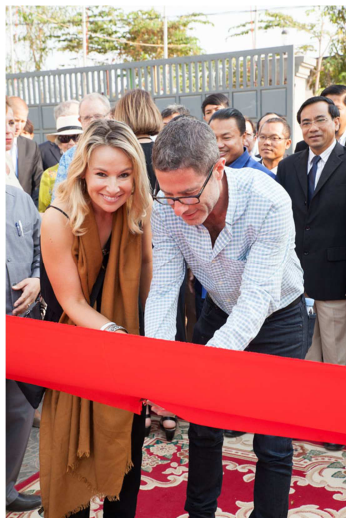


Once the bags arrive in Australia, they have a network of shops to distribute them, and we have established a network of suppliers for clothes fabrics, strings, sewing machines, maintenance, transport, etc. The monthly incomes generated by selling the bags to Spotlight in Australia makes sustainable this project for us, and cover areas in our annual budget that are more difficult to fundraise as Staff Salaries, Gasoline, and more.





Dahlia Sable, SPOTLIGHT Executive Director during Dei Koma Opening in March 2016.



We produce an extra amount of Spotlight Bags to sell directly from our Sewing Workshop to the client interested on them here in Siem Reap.



A while ago one of the women working with us, named *Thiery*, a Cambodian women with sewing skills, she was teaching the sewing team and supervising the work quality, helping them to improve. *She got the initiative to create Bags using the cut fabric after cutting the Spotlight Bags, because it left so much fabric, she was designing the bags that we named “Terry Bags”, and they are patched in many little pieces of colors and designs. Once Thiery stopped working with us, the sewing team continued sewing Patch Bags and today they are able to create the most original styles, colors and sizes.*



The **Hotel Belmond La Residence d’ Angkor** and the **Hotel Heritage** in Siem Reap city, both hotels ask for our services, and we produce for them *Laundry Bags, Newspaper Bags, Hair Dryer Bags* for annual supplier, offering to their guest a good product in a fair trade system.

They are other events in town asking for sewing some specific style of bags for them, as for example the annual **Angkor Photo Festival & Workshops**, they order from us and some other punctual customers.

Another NGO named CRST, running their own social business program named **PROJECT Y**, they sell our bags too in their shop in town.



Anytime **Lidia Linde** participates in events, presentations and fundraising activities, she is distributing and selling bags, explaining the importance they have and the positive impact caused by them.



Actually our goal is to develop this project even more, offering more jobs to other women living in a risk situation, improving their lives and their family lives, but we need to increase the bags sales, because if we bring now more sewing workers, they will have to share the work that we produce and they will have little benefit, for keeping the same good advantages for the sewing ladies, it is necessary to increase the bags sales. Please, *if any of you run a kind of business where our bags could be offered or if you have some relatives, friends or you know some companies that could be interested, please just let me know*, it will be a pleasure to contact them and offer this amazing chance to improve the quality of vulnerable family lives in Cambodia, and for them will feel very honored knowing the wonderful work they are producing.



We sell in detail in our sewing workshop in between \$5 to \$15 (it depends on the style of bag, size, difficulty, etc.), to the clients that arrive directly to our place, and we sell in big amounts of bags making a considerable discount proportional to the quantity of bags ordered.

Help us making real differences in the people's lives producing Cloth Bags!

BUY A BAG, BUY HOPE. MAKING DREAMS BECOME REALITY.

Thank you very much to all the People who make it possible

Bank Name: ANZ ROYAL BANK

Account Name: TOGETHER FOR CAMBODIA

Swift: ANZBKHPP

Account Number: 2087220 Only US\$.

www.togetherforcambodia.org

lidiaginesta@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/JuntosPorCamboya>



Lidia LindeGinesta

President and Founder

THANK YOU VERY MUCH - AUKUN CHARAN – MUCHAS GRACIAS