



Newsletter

In Siem Reap and around the Tonle Sap Lake areas the water stays for a long time, the lake fed by the Mekong River, becomes five times its size. For the people who are not used to the sight it can seem like an apocalyptic flood. The lack of sewage systems in the cities and the large amount of people living there causes health problems. We are looking forward to the waters subsiding!

Cambodia under water...

The monsoon... wind carrying water, both beneficial because the rain irrigates the land but at the same time harmful because the villages flood and the crops are washed away. The heavy rain helps to develop an economy based on farming but its irregular and unpredictable nature causes a permanent surprise at its intensity and duration.

When the monsoons are weak they delight but when they are too strong they destroy. It is a very important season in Cambodia, the rice fields flourish, the rivers and lakes fill with huge amounts of fish. During October arrives the end of the rainy season but with more flooding everywhere. The Cambodian families wake up with their houses under water, the children play on streets like water parks, they have fun waiting for motorbikes and other vehicles to pass offering waves to skip and enjoy. The small children are transported in big bowls; they go like this to the market, to the school, to beg...





Statement of commitment to child protection

We affirm our belief in the right of all children to be protected from all forms of abuse, injury, neglect, exploitation, physical or mental violence. Our standards are based on other recognized organizations and our own experience of working in the field.

children safe.

Children are provided with advice and support on keeping themselves safe.



Over recent years, there has been increasing recognition of children in emergency are especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, not only from individuals in the communities where they live, but also from agency staff, volunteers or other representatives.

We try to be effective developing properly standards policies and procedures which will strengthen child protection. All staff or other representatives are required to comply with the policy. Following these standards minimizes the risk to children of abuse and exploitation.

We offer to the staff opportunities to develop and maintain the necessary skills and understanding to keep

General Principles for TFC

- 1- All children have equal rights to protection from abuse and exploitation.
- 2- All children should be encouraged to fulfill their potential and inequalities should be challenged.
- 3- All behavior that discriminates, offends or is violent is unacceptable.
- 4- We have the duty of care to children with whom we work, having a responsibility to protect the children and respect them as individuals.
- 5- We promote a culture that ensures children's voices are listened.



The Children's House

Our commitment to the education programme is proving very worthwhile. At the end of July, the **New York International School-NYIS**, the centre where all our children go every day both Primary and Secondary, had special final tests between the best students of the school year in each class and grade. They competed with all the school branches in Cambodia (18 centers). Three of our children (Heiseab, Narith & Holy), were selected in their classes, they had different tests in Cambodian language, Math's, Sciences, all three passed with excellent results!!!



During August we got invited to go to Phonm Penh, together with all students in Cambodia that passed those tests, where they all got a certificate to recognize their efforts and knowledge and had a fun day for



being excellent students.



To make good use of the time in the capital (where none of our children had been before), we visited the National Museum and the Royal Palace; we walked along the river side of the Mekong and the down town too.

We had a lovely day.





Education & Activities

During September in the Australian Centre for Education-ACE, they had a term test. Twenty of our children go there, the most important centre in Siem Reap, to learn English. Three of our children got a certificate recognizing their efforts (Chhorda, Heiseab & Sony), and two of them got a special certificate for being top of their class (Ratha & Holy).

By popular request of our students, we increased the computer classes, arranging a new starters group. Now we have 3 different levels in 4 classes every afternoon.



Every Sunday morning, in our home **Apsara dance** teachers come to teach the children about Cambodian cultural dancing.

We have opened a new programme called THE CHILDRENS CLUB. Every Saturday, for 3 hours, different activities are running, managed by one House Mother, Mrs. Sreyroth: Civil Education, games, drawing, singing, etc. They learn good manners, cultural customs and have fun at the same time. They have time to do the house chores, cleaning their trainers to



We continue with our weekly routines in sports and arts for the good childhood development of the children.

Twice a week we practice sports outside and we cycle every weekend and holiday.



go to the school, learning to keep order in their wardrobes and cooking.



VOLUNTEERS in Action

Nieves Ramos, a children's English teacher, with 8 years experience in Primary education, came along for several weeks as a volunteer, teaching English to the children in our centre. Her dedication, high standards and quality of technique as well as good care of the children were fantastic. Thank you very much Nieves for an excellent job.



The School of Proteases and Dental Hygiene of Las Palmas-Spain, with Marta, Xavi, Rony and Joni, were working as volunteers in our house for a few days, checking the teeth and gums of all our children and staff too. Teaching about dental hygiene with funny



techniques, videos, games and practice exercises. They gave all kind of instruments to everyone for the good maintenance of dental hygiene. They taught about good nutrition for strong, good teeth. The children learnt a lot and enjoyed it very much. Finally everybody got a certificate, a surprise and to close the event a Fruit Party with a variety of healthy food.





Staff

Our staffs continue in their jobs learning in different areas about the Care of Minors. During July and August they went to many Workshops and Training Sessions.



*Child Exploitation Psychosocial Assessment Tool-CEPAT facilitated by World Vision during one week in Phonm Penh. The House Mothers Mrs. Lay & Mrs. Ratanak went to join it. During August they went back to Phonm Penh for two days refresher training.

**Topic of Human Trafficking facilitated by CHABDAI organization the 26th, 27th and 28th of July. The House Mother Mrs. Lay and the computer Teacher Mr. Din went to join the training.



Mrs. Lay was the best in her workshop and her Trainers congratulated to her.

A few weeks after they finished the workshop, Mrs. Lay & Mr. Din became facilitators and instructed our staff and children, supervised and evaluated by their CHABDAI trainers. They taught about important topics such as child abuse and exploitation, it was especially good for the children to learn how they can protect themselves.

***Policy and Minimum Standards for Protection of the Rights of Victims of Human Trafficking and Policy on Alternative Care for Children, facilitated by World Vision International in Sihanoukville during one week. The House Mothers Mrs. Somath & Mrs. Sreyrot and the Assistant Manager and English Teacher Vanntha went there to join this training.





Other Projects

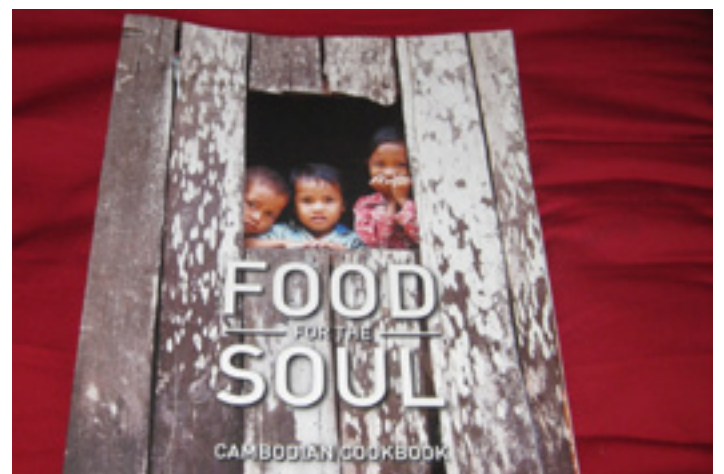
Our sewing workshop with the cooperation of **STITCH IN TIME-SPOTLIGHT**, use their sewing machines to sew a monthly order of bags that they (Spotlight) order and we send to Australia. We are trying to open our



own small market stall in Siem Reap. We have started to sew laundry bags for some hotels like La Residence d'Angkor and Heritage. We did a dozen table cloths for Hotel Heritage too.

On another note we have some orders for mats in different sizes, handmade with flooding sea weed that a group of very poor farmers make. Among them is the grandmother of one of our children, LLAi, she is 78 years old, she wakes up every day and has to find rice. We like to support Llai and she makes good mats and hammocks.

FOOD FOR THE SOUL, this is a cook book, Micha-



el Kramer, an Australian entrepreneur has arranged and published. He came to meet us early last year, he decided that the best way to help us would be to compile and sell this book. Its pages not only delight us with delicious recipes and wonderful photographs of the food and people of Cambodia but also the text is informative and a great source of information on the past and present. Buy this book and it is a donation directly to TOGETHER FOR CAMBODIA, 100% of the sale price goes directly to our project. THANK YOU Michael for this amazing initiative.





Miscellaneous

The **Columbian University** of New York comes every year in collaboration with the Angkor Children Hospital (where we take our children to check their health). This year we were invited to help to establish a new list of contacts called Collaboration Cambodia. We are planning to work with them, next time when they come back to Cambodia in the area of the cognitive learning, for the children and staff too. All their specialism are connected to learning difficulties.

PCHUM BEN. During the month of September there is a very important festival in Cambodia. All pagodas are a centre to the neighborhood and all families travel to be and stay together for this time and meet in the pagodas. They offer food to the monks and to the spirits that come to visit them. Every night the pagodas are full of people offering food to their dead relatives.

During morning time the families celebrate with the monks, blessing, praying and sharing with all the community members.

Some of our permanent monthly expenditure:

- Rent: 750\$US
- Electricity: 190\$US
- Water: 30\$US
- Waste Collection: 15\$US
- Internet: 30\$US
- Cable TV: 5\$US
- Gasoline: 400\$US





Thank you

Thank you to the **Hotel LA RESIDENCE D'ANGKOR** because they open their doors twice a week, inviting us in, giving our children the opportunity to enjoy and practice English and at the same time we meet benefactors that want contact with us. Also thank you very much for the 200 kilograms of rice that they give us every month and for ordering different handmade products so helping the community.

Thank you to the **Hotel HERITAGE**, for opening their doors and helping us through our sewing workshop, by requesting different orders.

Thank you to **SPOTLIGHT** for helping us pass on the teaching of skills through their programme **STITCH IN TIME**. The donation of the sewing machines, a standard kind of bag and the monthly order of bags, are now a sustainable project, giving protection and a new life style to a group of 5 families. Those women get the skill and a fair salary to re-organize their lives improving in the quality of hygiene, health and education for their children.

Thank you to the **Escuela de Protesis e Higiene Dental (School of Protesis and Dental Hygiene)** from Las Palmas for travelling to our home.

Thank you to **EVERYONE** that through the Child sponsorship programme, the Scholarship programme, donations for different projects, altogether make it possible that we stay on budget.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH to ALL the Staff members for their work and to ALL the Benefactors who give us hope.

Contacts and Details

Bank Name:
ANZ ROYAL BANK
Account Name:
TOGETHER FOR CAMBODIA
Account Number:
2087220
Swift:
ANZBKHPP

www.togetherforcambodia.org
www.juntosporcamboya.org
lidia@togetherforcambodia.org

Thank you /Aukun
Lidia Linde
President&Founder

