



Siem Reap - Cambodia, June 2013

Dear Benefactors and Friends

Welcome to this, our June newsletter which is written as the dry season comes to a close giving way to the rainy season.

Fields of orange, dry, land have gradually given way to lush fields and green earth, full of hope for a people who depend on the monsoon waters for life. I invite you to enter the pages that give life to this newsletter, so that through the words and images you may feel closer to us here in Siem Reap.

Please accept our very big THANK YOU for making it possible to fulfil our budgets, for your words of support and encouragement, for your donations, visits, bringing suitcases full of hope, for loving us so much and for letting us into your lives. Thank You, kneeling with bowed head and the hands on my heart, THANK YOU for making it possible for us to do our work.



## APRIL 2013

**\*\* The day Bora, Soky, Sony and Rithy learned to swim. Barey Lake is one of our favorite places to go during the dry season.**



**\*\* One of our objectives is to promote the ability of our employees through regular meetings in which new challenges are discussed and resolved. For those who have a special predisposition towards learning, we have computer and English classes in the morning, in the same classrooms used in the afternoons by the children and young adults.**

**Moreover, in our earnest desire to provide better training to all employees with skills that benefit the organization, many are sent to participate in specialized courses taught by internationally recognized organizations such as World Vision.**

**Mrs. Sreyroth began at TFC working as a caregiver for the children. As we do with all employees who work directly with the emotions of children, she has received different courses to help her to address the kinds of issues that come up. Over the passage of time she**

has shown a natural ability to advise and help reduce trauma. For this reason she has been participating in a Systematic Counseling course taught by MAKE. The aim of the course is to help participants to establish a safe therapeutic relationship with the patient and get a thorough understanding of their history. The training is geared to provide the participants with the skills to assist in the healing of trauma and shame and reducing depression. The emphasis of this program is to build a strong therapeutic relationship with each patient, so that they can safely share their life story and find hope for the future.



\*\* "There was once a circus ..." yeah, yeah, the whole family went to the circus TFC thanks to the kindness of our good friend and benefactor Carla. It was spectacular to see the artists perform their work and to see the faces of the children and staff! The circus Phare of Battambang is for a few months in Siem Reap.





**\*\* The Final football league was coordinated by Globalteer. The past few months have been full of emotions and lots of activity. At TFC the 3 teams participating in this league have enjoyed learning important values in sport. I am proud to share with you that during a match, the opposing team was losing by 5-0, and TFC players created a mishap so that the participants from the other team had a chance to score a goal. Our team "under 18" were certified "The Fairest Team " .**







Dinner that evening was hosted by the Globalteer coaches. Thank you! On TFC's side as a coach we have Sophal, who is a very good driver and is wonderful at solving the day-to-day maintenance challenges of TFC. We are very fortunate to have people of this caliber in our team of employees at TFC. Another of the coaches is the other driver called Rangsay. He is also very good with scissors, making haircuts according to the fashion and the requests of the youngest in the house.

**\*\* Second Young Adult group Internal Training Workshop "Who am I?"** The first group of 12 young people took place last March. During this year we will develop a total of 4 different modules in our internal training workshop for teens, with lessons, activities and self - assessment for self-knowledge in thought, feeling and behavior.



**\*\* The Hotel La Résidence d'Angkor again commissioned us to make laundry bags for guest rooms. And they have a new idea for newspaper bags and handicrafts.**



**\*\* The Hotel Heritage repeated their request for custom bags for hair dryers for their guest rooms.**



**Thanks to our sewing teams who are working on the orders in the workshop and are learning to make new designs and increase their salaries. We are pleased with the benefit these two hotels provide to the community through their various orders throughout the year.**



**\*\* The sewing workshop required the acquisition of a new special sewing machine. Our benefactors, **Spotlight Australia**, which has been helping us since it founded the project **Stitch in Time**, provided the means for us to buy the machine in Cambodia. This way the maintenance is easier.**





**\*\* Many thanks to Ms. Susane C of WECH (West End Community House) in Australia, for sharing this photograph with us handing out the poles that we made for them earlier this year. And thank you very much to Andrezza K for making it possible to coordinate and promote our workshop in SKM, the company for which she works. The goal of the workshop was increasing prosperity for TFC women who found it very exciting every day going to the workshop.**



**\*\*One of the country's most important festivals is the Khmer New Year.**



We had a Party at our house for all the children, employees and the children of employees. We also invited very close friends. Four groups of children and young adults were responsible for the different aspects of the party:

1- Games (breaking the pot, hop bags, slow bicycle race, chair dancing, etc..).

2- Food (buy, prepare, serve, pick up homemade hot dogs with salad and fries).

3- Drinks (buy, prepare and serve orange juice, grapes and water)

4- Decoration (turning our home into a fair with wonderful colors through crafts).







During the Khmer New Year celebration on days 14, 15 and 16 some children went to visit their communities of origin.

For those who stayed at home we developed various activities. The first day we went to the pagoda of our community to share the ritual of celebration, and to bring food to the monks to share with the needy. One night we went to enjoy the local amusement park. One evening we partook of the festivities that took place in the temples of Angkor. These were days that were very moving, especially in the aspects corresponding to the rituals of family celebration, which took place under the Khmer tradition.



It is tradition that the children feed their parents in gratitude before going to donate at the pagoda.



On the last day people have a bath of purification, forgiveness and renewal.

**\*\* On April 17<sup>th</sup> I traveled to Spain, visiting family, friends and benefactors. After one year, the excitement is throbbing. The agenda for Benefactors and TFC friends was as follows:**

**From the 18<sup>th</sup> till 29<sup>th</sup> April in Madrid. From April the 29<sup>th</sup> till May the 7<sup>th</sup> in Gran Canaria, and from May the 7<sup>th</sup> till the 12<sup>th</sup> in Barcelona.**

**April 19<sup>th</sup> I had a meeting in Madrid with the family Soler, who had moved from another community. I informed them of all the notable events that took place over the past 2 years, and handed them their plans and budget for the construction of the School of Extracurricular Activities which will be built on The Children's Land.**

**At a special dinner on April 20<sup>th</sup> organized by one of our Benefactors, Mrs. Concha C , I did a presentation on Together for Cambodia. The evening was under the MCship of Esteban Capdevila (Limit Image CEO). Rafael Rope (CEO and winemaker of Bodegas Comenge) gave us some delicious wines for the occasion.**



Over the following days I had several meetings in Madrid, sharing and responding to all the questions of our supporters and new people who have moved closer to our work.



Sponsors and Friends, from left to right: Laura, Concha, Pilar, Rafa, Isabel and María Jesús.

I had a meeting with the International Coordination Area Real Madrid Foundation, which donated equipment and great gifts for the children. We also explored the possibility of forming a partnership in school sports coaching.



Signing sports equipment delivered to the headquarters of the Foundation with overflowing suitcases.

I had a Reunion with the representatives of **Siguiendo Tus Pasos** ("Following Your Steps"), in their headquarters at San Lorenzo de El Escorial. This is a group of over 300 people with wonderful skills in the field of the music and dance, whose common goal is to make this world a better place to live, doing a musical for the Christmas Season. The profits are used entirely for social work. They spend many hours testing and developing a professional job, and increasing the audience participation every year. During the Christmas of 2011 they dedicated their work to us. During the month of February 2012 a delegation came to Cambodia for the purchase of purchasing various materials required such as a van, computer equipment, school supplies and hygiene materials, and .... They will come back soon to visit and we are already talking of futures plans together.



There was a reunion with **Carmen & Felix**, promoters of the golf balls printed with **Together for Cambodia** on them. Over the past year they created their own project for fundraising for TFC, through the sale of these golf balls at different golf courses in Spain.





**MAY 2013**

**\*\*The School of Prosthetics and Dental Hygiene in Almatriche, from where Marta and Xavier organized to volunteer with some of their students and they came a couple of years ago. They are not ruling out the possibility of repeating the experience.**



In Gran Canaria there were meetings and visits with various Benefactors, including La Cantina de Valsequillo, where Sandro Castrigno, owner and chef, organized a meeting to present our projects. My visit was largely organized by the family Saavedra – Lopez and thankful to Cardona - Pereiro family, and Ana B too.



**\*\* In Barcelona I had meetings and visits with various Benefactors. I met with Aleix Creus, representative of Estrellas de Camboya (“Cambodia Stars”). He shared his enthusiasm and projects. This NGO works with organizations established in Cambodia and they visited us last Christmas and made donations in school supplies, rice and hygiene products.**



**There was also a first meeting with an orthopedic center interested in making a special collaboration with us to share their magnificent abilities.**

**\*\* The Australian Centre for Education - ACE held its graduation and three of our brightest students, Phalla, Holy and Narith, attended to collect their certificates. Our young always receive special mentions for their dedication, enthusiasm and excellent results. There are a total of 26 students attending ACE and a high percentage are always among the highlights, all of them hardworking and responsible.**



**\*\* Our Social Worker Sreythea and Caregiver Vanna, participated in a course of one week taught by World Vision in Phnom Penh, to study how to evaluate the stress, anxiety and overall emotional state of the female victims of abuse.**

**\*\* The President and Director of the NGO LOTUS came to visit us to share and learn more.**



**\*\* Reforms in the "Children's House". The roof of the metal kitchen, after more than two years enduring heavy rainfall during the monsoons and high temperatures, has needed to be replaced by a new one. We also need to do some renovations on the roofs of our cabins and parking for bikes. Many thanks to Ms. Sarah L. from Spain, for your contribution in this area.**



**\*\* Sreythea our Social Worker, with the collaboration of the Carer and Counsellor Sreyroth, taught a course on Communication for our Young Adults.**



**\*\* One of the most emotional moments was when our 10 years little Soky did his speech on behalf of all the children in Siem Reap, for the International Children's Day. For several days before the big event recited his lines, vocalization and intonation sublimes. Smiling and sharing on the stage of the authorities together with distinguished members of the Ministries of Education and Social Affairs.**



## **JUNE 2013**

**\*\* Due to the lack of empathy by the New York International School - NYIS, and the apparent lack of genuine interest in the education and academic assessment of our students, and also because they physically and emotionally abused some of our children, we decided to change school. We had several meetings with the management of the Western International School and Future Bright International School, after they answered our questions and showed great interest in our concerns.**



**\*\* We are thrilled to announce that the TFC female volleyball team won the tournament held in mid-June, hosted by Globalteer one of the most prestigious organizations in Siem Reap. After many months of effort, perseverance, teamwork and respect for the opponent, our girls and young adults won the Championship of a friendly tournament. Sport is a valuable tool to develop good skills in collaboration, leadership, honesty, loyalty and humility. At TFC we consider it a vital base in the education of our children and young adults.**





**\*\* Chess is an activity included in The World and ME program. The children of all ages love playing it. We had to increase the number of boards so that several games can be played simultaneously as there are so many keen players. The significant influence that this game is exerting is wonderful, stimulating the development of different cognitive skills.**



**\*\* Young adults in the program The World and ME, participated in a workshop "The Miracle of Life", about the male and female reproductive systems. They learnt information about their bodies that is vital at this age. Questions were answered and misunderstandings resolved.**



**\*\* We are close to final exams and noses are in books with more earnestness. There have been very good academic results from our students throughout this school year. We have some really bright students and the rewards for their efforts are very gratifying. Then, there are those who try hard and don't get such good results but still deserve much merit as they continue to better themselves and know that education is the key to their future. Then we also have a group that needs special attention, because their cognitive limits do not allow them to keep pace with others. In TFC we always seek the best opportunity for each child.**





**\*\* At the end of of this month we were invited to a presentation by the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation – AECID- in Phnom Penh. The meeting covered a study conducted by a group of Spanish aid workers for 3 years on Gender Differences. The meeting was attended by Sreythea, our Social Worker and our Caregiver, Vanna. Both were conducting refresher training with World Vision in the capital city and we were able to combine agendas. We plan to conduct a module on this topic with our teenagers.**





## MISCELLANEOUS

**\*\* We enjoyed and appreciated visits from many Benefactors including:**

- **The Deschutter family** (grandparents, parents and children). Thank you for participating in the purchase of rice and hygiene products for a month.
- **Alice G.** involved for some time with her contributions in education, general budget and community outreach.
- **Victoria S.** also in charge of correcting many English documents, contributing with her support in areas like education, general budget and promoting the organization among her friends.
- **Michael K.** who is the Coordinator and foremost the Genius who devised the **Cook Book “FOOD FOR THE SOUL”**, that provides significant income through sales in the Australian market, directly from his hands and through Spotlight stores.
- **Carl and his son Jasper** came to meet us and made a wonderful gift from **THE Wish List**, with a variety of flavor fruit.



Victoria S. and Michael K. during the financial meeting and visiting a community in which we collaborate.



The complete family Deschutter visiting the Children's Land and making a personal contribution.

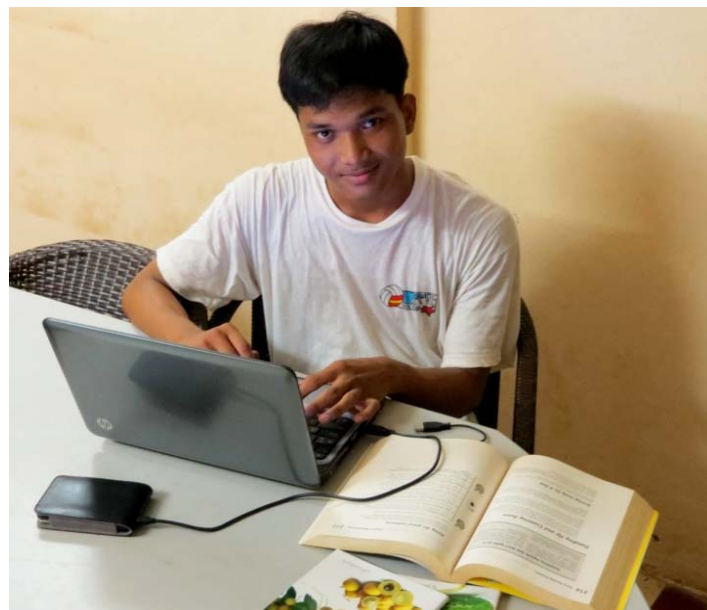


Jasper gave us his company and flavorsome fruit

**\*\* Our Kids Club continues every Saturday morning with their activities, always starting with sports and then cooking, remembering folk songs, greetings and traditional bows, crafts like origami and drawing and work in wool.**



**\*\* This year our first young adult will graduate, Savong. Now he has final exams for the end of grade 12 and in August the final big test that will permit him to graduate. In August he will also have to pass the admission tests for his new academic destination in another province. Yes, our Savong will "leave the nest" very soon, to continue his studies in Communication and Journalism from the Don Bosco School in Kep City for 2 years. Then we will see what the future has in store for him. Our very special thanks to the Griffiths family from Canada who is sponsoring his education and are always responsive to any needs in his training.**



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

**\*\* During the Khmer New Year celebration on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> some children went to visit their communities of origin. We take this opportunity to help, on site, several elderly grandmothers of some of our children. They are very old, sick and abandoned to their fate. We brought hope in emergency food packages with rice, dried fish, sugar, salt, oil, soy and noodles. We now incorporate help to these fine people permanently in our program of Community Assistance.**





**\*\* Every month we visit and help with food and medicine to Mrs. Lai, who at age 80 continues to soldier on, fishing and working crafts with algae from the lagoon. Thank you very much to Alice G for supporting our work in this area.**



**\*\* Our beloved San, the little 9 year old that was burned as a baby, is one of the children in the community that we support and help covering some treatment costs. She underwent an operation in the centre of Phnom Penh paediatric surgery and is having monthly postoperative rehabilitation at the Angkor Hospital for Children in Siem Reap. Now she has better joint mobility of the left arm and elasticity in the skin of various areas of the body. The dermatologist team briefs her and her mother, and it is very important that she receives this rehabilitation which will permit her to go forwards with more surgeries in the future. Soon a dermatology medical team from Singapore will come to the hospital in Siem Reap, and San has a date with them for more checks and to receive further advice and treatment. Thank you very much to the Curves Gym in Christchurch New Zealand for supporting in this area.**



**\*\* Our beloved Ly is waiting for one more surgery, after years of surgery on her head and face to help her recover from meningocele sickness. A group of doctors from France came to the Children's Surgical Centre in Phnom Penh. They asked to see her. The TFC Social Work team tried many times. However we found out that the whole family group, including Ly, went to work the rice fields far away from the main community, and it was impossible to contact them. We are waiting for a new date from the hospital in Phonm Penh.**



Thank you to EVERYONE that through the Child Sponsorship Program, Scholarship Program and 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.

**Bank Details:**

Bank Name: ANZ ROYAL BANK

Account Name: TOGETHER FOR CAMBODIA

Swift: ANZBKHPP

Account Number: **2087220** Only US\$.

**Contact Details:**

[www.togetherforcambodia.org](http://www.togetherforcambodia.org) // [www.juntosporcamboya.org](http://www.juntosporcamboya.org)

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THANK YOU VERY MUCH // AUKUN CHARAN

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