



Siem Reap – CAMBOYA, 23rd October 2013.

Dear Benefactors and Friends, with the rainy season here, we have a lot of news to share with you. We hope you will be able to “feel” what we are experiencing, hoping to get close and you can feel it almost almost a little.





Taking advantage of the rains, and their benefit, we planted two beautiful trees, to begin to provide shade at the Children's Land. One tree in front of each of the homes to be built for the children.



EDUCATION

At the end of June, the academic year for 2012-13 was completed at the New York International School - NYIS and our students had vacation for a month. That is except Savong and Ratha , who were preparing for their final exams for graduation from Secondary School.

During the month of July, and after two months of enquiries, meetings and discussions, we concluded that our best option, after deciding to dispense with the services of the NYIS School, was the Future Bright International School – FBIS. In addition to an excellent general curriculum, they have great facilities, including the Cambridge English Curriculum. FBIS has a library with all accessories and audio visual reading of English as a practical tool. Their computer classes are considered among the best in the city. In fact, we feel the whole campus itself is very superior as it is right next to its university.



Moments of presentations. Lidia and Piseth were touring all facilities. FBIS director Mr Seng came to visit their students.

The Director of the FBIS came to pay us a visit and he met with our students for almost an hour, encouraging them, telling stories about his own life and, most importantly, stressing in a very clear and enjoyable way, the importance of education as the key to a future full of prosperity. He also told the children that each of them had something and exceptional to contribute to their community and this was very well received. Everyone was delighted with his visit, which was exemplary.

After his visit, academic tests were given to each child in order to find out areas of weakness so that during the summer school we could focus on these during the months of August and September.



Lidia and Piseth were invited to the official opening of the envelopes containing the 2012-13 academic year examinations.



In mid- July we went again to the center to take measurements for the new uniforms. All the children were excited, and this time they were joined, for the first time, the smallest children, Gigi and Viriak , who will begin Nursery this year.





During the month of August and for two weeks in September Summer School was taught at the Future Bright International School - FBIS. All students, no exceptions, noted how much they were learning, especially in those subjects which had been more complicated during the 2012-13 academic year. Children in secondary math, physics and chemistry said these subjects ceased to be a mystery and were becoming interesting. The last two weeks of September, upon completion of summer school, everyone had two weeks' vacation with 90 minutes a day to review their lessons and extend the hours of The World and ME.

The 2013-14 academic years began on October 1. Mon – Sat, 5 hours for Primary and 6 hours for Secondary.



From L to R all girls primary school and all boys primary school.



From L to R all High school girls and all High school boys.



Kindergarten



For Savong and Ratha a new chapter is beginning in the area of education in their lives. During the month of July they completed the entrance exams to study Social Communication-Journalism and Hospitality at Don Bosco Technical School of Kep and Sihanoukville respectively. They have decided they want to continue studying and Ratha completed her High School with extra evening classes. The Technical schools at Don Bosco have excellent facilities providing for both the theoretical and practical. After passing the entrance exams which were completed by hundreds of students, Savong and Ratha began their studies in early October.



Mrs and Mr Lonntjens, from Holland, send a scoot bike to Savong, so he can travel more easily. Since his arrival, he was appointed to coordinate the new library in the center, give the experience during three years in The Children's House.



The images above show Savong during different times in his integration into the Don Bosco Technical School in Kep .

The images below show Ratha during different times in her integration into the Don Bosco Technical School in Shv .



Computer classes at our center have continued all these months continuously from Monday to Friday. These classes are taught at different levels according to the knowledge of the students. Typing, Word, Excel, Power Point and Photoshop Classes are taught by a specialist teacher, Mr. Sopeak, responsible for this section. Control testing is performed periodically to set new standards for the students or to determine the need to revise the lessons already covered.



English classes have continued uninterrupted at our center for students who need support. 3 times a week one of the employees in the sewing shop handbags, Sraya, also attends English classes. Classes are taught by a licensed teacher in this area, Mr. Chamroen. Tests are given periodically to set new standards or to assess the need to revise the lessons already covered.

The World and Me – TWAM. We took advantage of the school holidays to make further progress in areas such as Geography and History. Studies were conducted with the different working groups making presentations. It was wonderful to see them simultaneously combine their computer skills with English and history. The first subject studied was CHINA ancient and modern, covering topics as interesting as The Great Wall, the Terracotta Soldiers in Xian, The Himalayas, Dalai Lama, The Forbidden City, and The Panda Bear. The next are studied was South Africa , its history as a meeting point of great navigators in the great passage between Europe and Asia , the Boer War , Apartheid and we could not miss one of the most relevant and important topics, Nelson Mandela.



We also studied the countries that make up Central America, their peculiarities, their most important cities, and areas of similarity with Cambodia such as issues of poverty.

We did a study on the natural resources of Colombia, Switzerland and Japan and levels of wealth and poverty , making a comparison. Tsunamis, nuclear disasters, guerrillas, cocaine, technology and a sum of components that make them stronger or vulnerable depending on the people's attitude. Through all this we considered the importance of cooperation over individualism, accuracy and ultimately good training

Outer space, other solar systems, man and the moon, the studies being conducted at NASA, open the children's' minds to unknown dimensions.



Continue practicing our newly learned skill in the great game of chess.

Spanish classes as a second foreign language are still offered twice a week, and now a new group of students want to learn this language, so we have two levels.

The Children's Club has continued every Saturday under the hands of the Supervisor and Counselor, Mrs. Sreyroth. In the club they play sports, do local cooking classes, drawing, we discuss relevant issues that occurred during the week, we do role playing to improve attitudes and learn to be better community members, traditional songs and proverbs. Coexistence is enhanced through child protection techniques. Classes are taught on good manners and morality. The children learn to accept all members of the community and to respect each others' rights.



RESPONSIBILITIES AND HOBBIES

The kitchen is an important part of the skills we instill in our children, and truly it is fantastic to see them go shopping with the cook, wash, cut and prepare different foods. Some of them have natural gifts for cooking.

Sewing is another skill we teach, including putting on a patch, putting on a button or sewing a seam. These skills are essential for our young adults and they all know how to take a needle and thread and mend their clothes.



The hygiene and cleanliness of common areas is the responsibility of the residents, who are the children. We help them to work with the employees and how to avoid the tasks that may be hazardous, but it is they who are in charge. They clean the house divided into groups within a game created to learn about responsibilities, fellowship and flexibility. Ahhhh and they love gardening!.



Each child is responsible for washing the dishes , glasses and cutlery used during the 3 meals a day that are made at The Children's House . Moreover, there are weekly groups to review all counter tops and trays to remove bacteria.

Trainers and socks are washed by each user.

Every day they are responsible for ensuring that their clothes are clean, and stored in an orderly way.

GAMES & SPORTS

The children love to play, no matter the age, and we encourage this as when we grow up we often forget to play.



When our Benefactors visit they get a chance to participate too in the best therapy for all. Our volunteers also put aside their responsibilities from time to time to play.



L Arjan Moro and Nick Jonker, from Holland, R Alessandro Vannucci, from Italy.

We all love hiking. On Sunday afternoons a group will go in the van to visit somewhere in the mountains, or maybe lakes or temples. Sometimes the children will go out exploring on their bikes. We have acquired more bikes, which the children handle very well and most want to go to school by themselves on a bike.



And sport! Of course, is always part of our lives. Through sport problems and tensions can be discharged, muscles exercised and the appetite sparked. Football, basketball and volleyball are the favorite sports.

Every Saturday the children receive training from a basketball coach.

Every Tuesday a few coaches from the organization Globalteer come to provide technical volleyball and soccer lessons in addition to healthy lifestyle behaviors. It is through Globalteer coordinating that all sporting events are conducted on Sundays between organizations. During the current season the focused is on volleyball and TFC have two teams, one for each gender. Our kids have fun and learn which is more than necessary for good physical and emotional development. The females' team has won in the two leagues that have played in recent months, but the biggest thing has been the camaraderie with the other teams, advising, supporting and even helping their players when they have a mishap. The Football League begins in late November, again involving both genders.



Real Madrid and Ajax donated their uniforms.

SOCIAL OUTREACH

-GRANDMOTHER SUPPORT- An important new goal for us is to extend help to some of the grandmothers of our children. These women are fine examples of tenderness, of history, and tireless hours of work. Most of these women work well into their eighties. Some get help from their children but many of them continue supporting their children on drugs or alcohol until they die. We started this program last year, with three grandmothers who live in a miserable situation and who are still working, earning very little for their labors. We would like to help more of these fine women and I am taking the opportunity now to make an appeal and request assistance in this area. We need more sponsors for Grandmas. Each Month we deliver emergency food such as rice , pasta , dried pork , canned fish , oil, salt , sugar , soy sauce and medicines. On our visits we give them comfort and in some cases find them a means of income. The monthly cost of grandmother support is US\$50.



YAYA widow. Children deceased. Fished and gathered leaves of the trees to survive. TFC's caregiver.



Llai widow. Children killed or in Thailand. Not getting help. They make hammocks and carpets with plants from the lagoon. TFC's caregiver.

In recent months we have visited several grandmothers who we would like to support. The most recent case highlights the kind of conditions these women live in. She is an invalid, aged 88. An 11 year old orphaned grandson lives with her in a tiny hut on a top of the sewers of the city. They beg to survive. In another case, we visited a 76 year old widow who lost all her relatives over different periods of violence that the country has gone through in the last 30 years. She lives in a house made of tin and collects plants for cooking.



Meeting of the Sub-Chief and the representatives of the Community with TFC. Vanntha translating.

-SICK CHILDREN IN THE COMMUNITY- Our dear S. traveled with her mother to the Angkor Hospital for Children, to be treated for severe burns by a team of surgeons who traveled from Singapore. We provided support in getting them both to the hospital as well as accommodation after the surgery for a few days and provided support to the mother as well. Surgery was performed on the nasal passages to ease her breathing and her mother was instructed in techniques to improve her skin elasticity. After a month we went out to the community to visit the family, who are very happy with the progress of S. We are waiting for new interventions. We also visited other sick children in the community to encourage them to stick with established treatments and follow up care.



Mrs. Victoria Sinclair, New Zealand, visits us frequently and sponsors the sick children in the Community.

EMPLOYEES

We continue our training programs to enhance our employee's skills in English and computer classes at the center. Where appropriate we also send staff to courses and training in all matters relating to child protection, counseling, trauma recovery, etc.



Sreyroth, the Caretaker Supervisor attended weeklong training courses during the months of June, July and August, to complete his studies as a Counselor with the HAGA organization. This training was sponsored by World Vision in techniques and mechanisms to work with and overcome traumas. On the day of his graduation he was praised by all his teachers, who recognized his special commitment and dedication.



The Caregiver Vanna and the Social Worker Sreythea attended a one-week course taught by World Vision, to learn how to assess trauma through an evaluation protocol.

The caregiver Somath attended his annual retraining course taught by World Vision, to refresh his knowledge and cover any areas of concern.

The Caregiver Vanna and Rangsey the Coach/ Driver, participated for a week, in a course on Relations between Men, Women and Sexuality, taught by the Karol and Sitha organization.



From L to R: Vanntha, Vanna, Rangsey and Somath.

Vanntha, our Assistant Manager and Translator, attended a refresher course on Minimum Standards that should be practiced in juvenile care facilities conducted by World Vision.

Sraya is 21 and grew up surrounded by misery. We met her begging in the streets of Siem Reap one afternoon four years ago. The oldest of six siblings, with a mother unable to care adequately for their children, she was physically and emotionally abused by her stepfather and her mother on numerous occasions. Since she has been with us working in the sewing project she has gone to school to read and write Khmer and learn the basics of arithmetic. When we opened the workshop to make handbags, was one of the first to sign up. She saw herself as too old to be in school and she wanted to learn a trade. So we gave her the means to fight for herself to get out of absolute poverty. Over time has shown a knack for selecting fabrics and colors, she sews very fast and her work is of high quality. Since she started at the sewing shop she has been attending the English classes we teach at our center three days a week. She hopes that when she is ready she can also participate in the computer classes.

Sraya rents a room, buys her food, has a neat appearance and sends money to her mother and siblings. She has a bank account in her name, which is something really big for a woman from her background. She dresses and acts like a woman her age and when she gets sick makes use of our health services. Sometimes she calls upon us to give her the advice that she never got from her parents. Sraya is a clear example, that for young people without high academic qualifications or expectations, it is possible to have a good quality of life with a job, if they make the commitment to themselves.



SEWING WORKSHOP / BOOK KITCHEN / GOLF BALLS / Etc.

Every month we meet the SPOTLIGHT order for 1000 bags to be distributed through their stores in Australia. Spotlight have promoted this initiative with the workshop , and the tremendous benefit that is generated through Spotlight's orders enable us to cover all the costs of the workshop as well as achieve a level of sustainability that earns us funds to cover other costs of the Children's Home. SPOTLIGHT has never hesitated to immediately resolve any problems experienced with the machinery or in improving the quality of the facilities. We are tremendously grateful to Spotlight for making all this possible.



During the month of August representatives of the SPOTLIGHT Executive team came to visit, Ms. Eva and Mrs. Pina. They came to learn about every detail of the operation and to see for themselves the positive impact the project is having on the community. With them camera TV crew from Channel 7 to film every detail of the workshop and the improvements generated in the lives of the employees as well as our facilities in The Children's House.





Thanks to the Hotel La Résidence d'Angkor, which is always mindful to give us an order when they feel our sewing project can help.

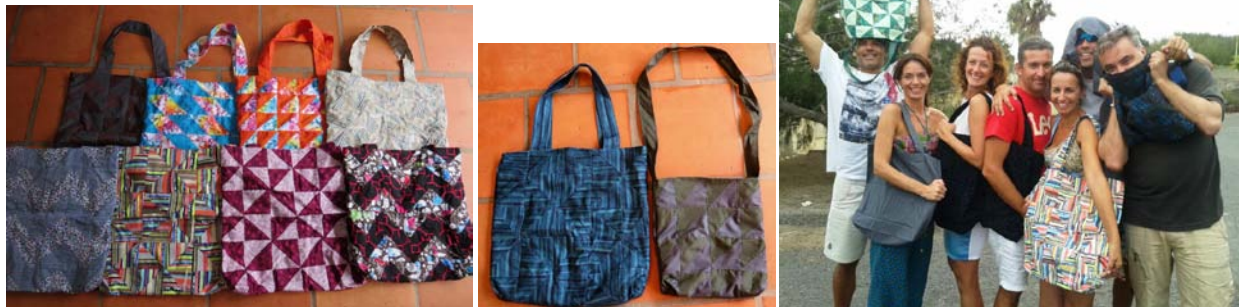


LLai & Carla, GM Hotel La Résidence d'Angkor. They worked together coordinating some work in the Community.

Thanks to the Heritage Hotel which again has asked the sewing project to make laundry bags for the rooms of their guests.



We made more "Patch bags" for local sales and also for overseas orders, particularly in Spain, through the visitors we receive.

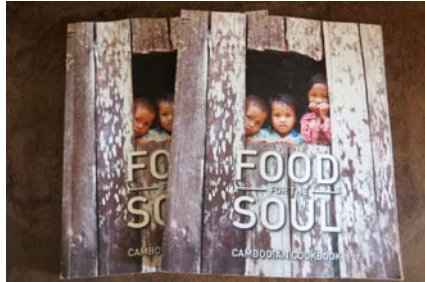


Cristina Cifre /Barcelona and Fátima Paz with Raúl Yáñez /Gran Canaria brought their luggage full of bags to Spain.

New handbag designs have come to us from a resident in Siem Reap for YOGATANJA.COM in Switzerland.



The cookbook, which was so brilliantly devised by our benefactor Michael Kramer, is generating revenue for the Children's Land from the Australian market, especially after the merger with Spotlight. In the local market we also make sales, although smaller. We are seriously considering the possibility of translating this book and printing it in Spain. I am taking the opportunity now to make an appeal and request assistance in this area. We have had a call for a possible press interested in this project for the Spanish speaking market.



Golf Balls with the TFC logo on them are generating income for us in Spain thanks to the initiative and hard work of our benefactor Carmen Carmona from Spain. We hope to find more Golf Clubs that might be interested in selling these balls to generate more income.



CELEBRATIONS / HOLIDAYS

We have Fruit parties to celebrate birthdays when Benefactors come to visit us, like Judith Menting and Cristina Cifre, in July and August.

To celebrate the wonderful work of the Flying Carpenters, our volunteers that come from Holland, we had a homemade burgers barbecue with karaoke in early August.

We had a Dinner celebration for Savong and Ratha for having been accepted at Don Bosco Technical Schools.



As a family, Lidia and Piseth came out to celebrate the future of Savong and Ratha in their new academic stages.

Thanks to our benefactor Mrs Carla P-B, she invited TFC children in September we returned to the circus PHARE. This is a circus from Battambang, Cambodia, which operates for six months in Siem Reap. This time they had a new show full of amusement, and we also invited all the children of our employees to the event. The Circus mixes modern and traditional theater, music, dance, acrobatics, contortion and more.



One of the most traditional celebrations took place on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of October, Pchum Ben. This is the second most important cultural festival on the Khmer calendar, after the Khmer New Year. This time marks the return of the spirits, so the people should go to the pagodas to feed them, as well as the monks and the community. We comply religiously with these dates. Some of the children went to visit their home communities over these days. Others stayed at home, and for these we performed the following activities:

- Visit to the community pagoda. Receiving blessings and delivering food to the monks and members of the pagoda. Burning incense, prayers, blessings and donations.

- Strict compliance with all traditions to be done at home.

- Cooking various dishes and especially a cake to surprise and celebrate the birthday of our friend and benefactor Carla.

- Different games and fun activities in the Children's House.



A visit to the Communities and sharing with the families with whom we work.



Observing the rituals that take place in the pagoda at this time.



Joining Mr. Jacques, director of La Résidence d' Angkor, as he helped us prepare a surprise for our friend and benefactor, Mrs. Carla .



Cooking different types of bread and banana cake to celebrate the birthday of a friend. The Spanish tortilla is delicious!



PROFESSIONAL VISITS

LOTUS WORLD The organization invited us to attend a meeting in their facilities.

The organization **LOTUS HOME** visited us to understand more about our program in the community and vulnerable women through our sewing workshop.

VILLAGE HONOR organization visited us to learn more about our project focused on education and social work in the community.

Lidia and Vanna were invited by the **AECID** (Spanish Cooperation Agency in Cambodia) to enjoy the highlights of the Gender Differences studies made during several years and supported by the Spanish government.

We were visited by Miss Covadonga, a gender differences specialist from Spain, to ask her advice on the agenda that we are developing in this area for our young adults. It helped because her several years' experience in different social contexts is of great value.



Invited by the organization Friends International to celebrate World Youth Day in its facilities, along with other organizations. The future through education and juvenile human trafficking were among the issues relevant to the presentations.

Piseth visited the Social Communication section of Don Bosco Kep, traveling with Savong for his interview and exams access for this section. Savong did his tests in the Department of Communication and Journalism of Don Bosco Kep , passing the exams in first place . Courses began on October 8.

Lidia visited the Social Communication section of Don Bosco Sihanoukville to update the website, and travelled with Ratha for her interview and exams access for the Hotel School. Ratha did her tests in the Hospitality department of Don Bosco Hotel School in Sihanoukville , and got very high rating for her English . The Course started September 28.

In late August Lidia visited Don Bosco in Kep and met with the management team, led by Father Albeiro. They had invited TFC management to be advisers in the new program that they wish to develop establishing a home for vulnerable children from the provinces of Takeo, Kampot and Kep. This activity strengthens ties of cooperation between the two organizations. There was a Document Signing commitment and the donation of two computers for TFC by Don Bosco Kep.



In early October there was a visit by Father Albeiro and members of his faculty team to TFC, to strengthen ties of cooperation. The meeting covered information on legal requirements, the selection and training of staff, relationships with local authorities etc. A group of journalists from Colombia TV, invited by Father Albeiro made a film about our facilities and the relationship that unites us.



DONATIONS

We give thanks for the various grants received from different continents, such as :

- Mr Stephen Pahl from Australia donated a box of books for our library.
- Ms Carmen Carmona from Spain on several occasions donated shirts and polos from the Artxanda Golf Club.
- Ellie and Grace of USA for the beautiful cloth dolls made by them as well as school supplies .
- The Organization Don Bosco Kep Cambodia for two computers.
- Shopping at local markets kilos and buying kilos of fruit with Carl and Jasper from Australia, Cristina Cifre from Spain and Judith menting from the Netherlands.
- Shopping at local markets buying kilos and kilos of rice and sanitary items with the family of Ron Thorpe of Australia and Esther Queraltó family from Spain .
- Guests of Hotel La Résidence, gave us clothes, shoes, hygiene products, school supplies, etc. We are sorry we do not have their names to thank them for their kindness.



Whenever we receive new bank donations, we send an acknowledgement to the people who have done this. Sometimes it is impossible to send our thank you, because either they do it anonymously, or use names that are not listed in our database, so it is not possible to send a thank you note. That's why I take this section to thank ALL THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED SO GENEROUSLY AND TO WHOM IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO SEND a NOTE OF THANKS, in the hope that they get this information. Thank you.

Listed with unrecognized names in the database.

- CAF Bank Limited.
- Kok Lai Kuan.
- Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken

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 Colleagues and 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 // www.juntosporcamboya.org

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Lidia Linde Ginesta

President and Founder

THANK YOU VERY MUCH - AUKUN CHARAN