

Siem Reap – Cambodia, January 2014

## Dear Benefactors and Friends,

Siem Reap is a city that lives under the effects of a voracious tourism development, which continues to expand enormously. Only two decades ago the whole country suffered the incredible atrocity of the civil war. The legacy of the genocide resulted in a whole generation of adults disappearing.

For many, the city is a perfect "money-making machine". Most visitors never get to know what hides between the cracks. Many of the residents live within a terrifying reality.

In Cambodia, the social programs to help the most disadvantaged members of the community are run by private and non-governmental organizations. In Cambodia there is no maximum working age limit. The fact is that thousands of older people work until the end of their days if there is no family member to take responsibility for them. TOGETHER FOR CAMBODIA established an entitlement program for the elderly 18 months ago. This program provides packages of food, medicine and hygiene for a number of grandmothers. Perhaps most importantly, this program provides a caring relationship with the grandmothers, listening to their problems and desires and letting them know we are there for them.





Grandmothers LLAI, YAYA, KUN & THOEURT in our DIAMOND Age program.

Below some DIAMOND's Age benefactors coming visiting the grannies with us.







We have been considering expanding our project to help more elderly people. It is essential that any such program be properly structured and funded.



Elderly, those are sick and are beggars.







Lidia and Sreyroth collecting data during work field. Children gambling instead to go to the school.







Around the biggest market of Siem Reap city, a whole community has been formed by beggars of all ages and disabilities, beggars who came from other provinces looking for an opportunity to settle in a city that is growing up, but what happens when they are elderly and children.













We invited the department of Social Affairs to visit this area with us and we obtained their support in our planning to provide help here. In this whole process we have had the invaluable cooperation of local pharmaceutical Ms. Sarin, who provides us with her knowledge and medicines.



Mr Piseth (Executive Director TFC), Mr Han (Manager Social Affairs Siem Reap), Ms Vanna (Deputy Director Social Affairs Siem Reap), Ms Lidia (President TFC) and Mr Vanntha (Translator and Assistance Manager TFC).



Ms VANNA, Deputy Director Social Affairs Siem Reap and Ms SARIN Pharmaceutical.

After much brainstorming and exploration of what might be possible as a program to help the elderly disadvantaged of the inner city ...



TOGETHER FOR CAMBODIA has decided to expand and set up the DIAMOND Age project as follows:

- 1- Rent land in an area close to a social Khmer area (market, pagoda, etc).
- 2- Build strong houses out of bamboo and wood.
- 3- Host elderly, accommodate them in these houses and provide a maintenance program.
- 4- Seek funding. Initially \$ 10,000 is needed to cover the costs of one year rental, construction of accommodations and the salary of employees caregivers.
- 5- As benefactors are subscribing to this support program we foresee a monthly cost of \$US50 per person would cover food and medical supplies as well as maintenance of the site.
- 6-Currently we have a List of 12 pending grandparents waiting to be evaluated for acceptance into this program, upon application of an assessment tool and data collection for selection.



We would like this story to spread like a virus and expand, so that we can attract many benefactors to support this program. Please let the ball roll on!.

Thank you to EVERYONE that is already supporting the DIAMOND Age Program from some time ago.

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

lidiaginesta@gmail.com



**Lidia Linde Ginesta** 

**President and Founder** 

THANK YOU VERY MUCH - AUKUN CHARAN