

Friendship with Cambodia Activities Report - 2006

HELP FOR CHILDREN



Abandoned by her mother, Puth lives with her uncle. They can only afford to eat one meal a day. She grows and sells vegetables to earn money for her school supplies. She wants to become a teacher. Puth is now in our Child Sponsorship Program.

Child Sponsorship Program

Half the girls and a quarter of the boys in Cambodia never have the opportunity to go to school because of poverty. Only 12% of those who start school will finish high school.

School is theoretically free in Cambodia, but a child needs to buy a school uniform, notebooks, pencils and often needs a bicycle to get to school. The government pays teachers only \$20 per month, so many charge for the afternoon session and call it "private class." *Friendship with Cambodia* offers support for children who want to stay in school but are struggling financially.

In order for a child to have enough food to eat, clean water to drink, a house that keeps her dry, and medical care, the family and community also need support. That is why the Child Sponsorship Program provides assistance to increase the family's income and also funds community projects like wells for clean drinking water.

For \$30 per month (\$360) you can sponsor a child for a year. Shared sponsorships at \$180 are also available. You will receive a photo and letter from your child. Many of our children have a parent who is sick or deceased and some are orphans. Your support will delight an ambitious student and will assist the child's family and community.

There are children who need our support.

Shelters for Street Children

There are 10,000 to 20,000 children living on the streets in Cambodia (UNICEF). More than half sniff glue to curb their hunger. *Friendship with Cambodia* is supporting a shelter and program for street children. Social workers get to know the children living on the street and invite them to the shelter where they receive food and a safe place to sleep. If the children cannot be reunited with their birth families, then they are invited to live in a "family house" with parents who raise ten orphans. This healing and nurturing environment offers street children a new life.



Most children in Cambodia need to work to help their families survive. These children are selling fruit on the street. Their bare feet reveal how poor they are. They can't even afford a pair of sandals.

Friendship is Growing

Friendship with Cambodia is a non-profit organization founded in 2003. Thanks to generous donors and hardworking volunteers, *Friendship with Cambodia's* income was \$34,000 in 2005. Ninety percent was spent on programs to help people in Cambodia; only 10% was spent on administration and fundraising.

We would like to expand our organization so we can relieve more suffering and create more hope. Please support our work.

Whatever you can afford to give, it will make a significant difference in the lives of people who need our help in Cambodia. Donations are tax-deductible.

HELP FOR WOMEN & FAMILIES

Micro-credit and Self Help Groups

When women work together they can solve many of their problems and become empowered in the process. *Friendship with Cambodia's* social workers help the poorest women in a village form self help groups. The women in the group discuss their problems and start a savings and credit program. They educate each other about health care and family planning. They help each other stop domestic violence.

Our women's small loan funds, also called micro-credit, are one of the most effective ways of helping improve the lives of women and their families. A small loan of \$30 to \$50 enables a destitute woman to start a small business, such as cooking and selling food. The money earned is used to help improve her family's nutrition, allow her children to go to school, and buy medicine when necessary. Sometimes the women build houses or wells.



She used her loan to start raising pigs for income.

In 2005 Friendship with Cambodia funded:

- 60 Children in school
- 2 Rural social workers
- 15 Small loan and savings programs
- 11 Community rice banks
- 2 Schools (construction)
- 4 Wells, 2 Fishing boats
- Bicycles, cows, motorbikes
- Community Fishery and Forestry Protection Associations
- 61 Families with AIDS
- Job training for landmine survivors
- Shelters for women and street children



This woman's husband died from AIDS. Now she has AIDS and her two youngest children are HIV positive. She sold all her assets to buy medicine for her husband and now she lives in a slum in Phnom Penh. She is trying to make a living doing laundry, but is often too sick to work. She doesn't always have enough money to pay for transportation to get her free medication. Sometimes she sells her medication so she can feed her children. Her oldest daughter is 14 years old. At night she walks the streets looking through garbage for something to sell for recycling. Her mother fears she will be mugged or raped. Friendship with Cambodia is now helping this family and others with AIDS.

Assistance for Families with AIDS

HIV/AIDS is close to an epidemic level in Cambodia with nearly 3% of the population infected, the highest in Asia. One of *Friendship with Cambodia's* partner organizations offers home care for poor families with AIDS. They provide transportation to medical care, help the families with basic needs including food, and they organize activities for the children. If the parent dies, they arrange the funeral and find a new home for the children. In February 2006, *Friendship with Cambodia's* volunteers took 30 slum children whose families have AIDS on a field trip to a national park with a waterfall. The children went swimming and had a picnic. They were singing and dancing on the bus ride home.

The greatest joy comes from contributing to the happiness of others.

HELP FOR COMMUNITIES

Forest and Fishery Protection

Cambodia's rural population depends on the natural resources for their livelihood. They sustainably harvest food, housing materials, and products to sell from the forests. For hundreds of years they have fished in the lakes, rivers and the ocean's tidal zones. Cambodia has the fifth largest fishery in the world yet it is only the size of Kansas.

Some corrupt officials accept bribes and grant concessions to individuals and foreign companies to clear-cut forests and exploit fishing areas. This destroys the resources and the livelihood for thousands of people. *Friendship with Cambodia* supports local communities in forming associations to protect the natural resources.



Friendship with Cambodia is helping villagers in a coastal area in Kampot Province to protect their tidal-zone fishing area from illegal trollers. The trollers destroy the ecosystem and villagers' ability to earn a living. With proper management, the fishery will recover in three years.

Employment for Landmine Survivors

Cambodia has four to six million landmines left over from 30 years of war. Each month there are 75 new victims. *Friendship with Cambodia* funds a project in Kompong Cham Province that helps landmine survivors and their families with vocational training and starting businesses in sewing, electronics repair, or small engine repair.

Let's create a kinder world.



Contributing rice to the community rice bank.

Building Rice Banks

Floods or droughts sometimes destroy the annual rice harvest forcing families to borrow rice in order to have enough food to eat. The following year they have to pay back double what they borrowed (100% interest rate). This sends families into hopeless debt. Many are forced to sell their farm land to pay back their loan. Rice banks are community-owned buildings used to store and loan rice at reasonable interest rates. This helps the poor survive a bad year and recover afterward. The interest earned by the rice bank is used for projects that benefit the entire community, such as repairing a road or building a bridge. *Friendship with Cambodia* is funding the development of rice banks including 1) the social workers who organize the community, 2) cost of constructing the storage building, and 3) purchasing rice to start the bank.



This is a new school that Friendship with Cambodia helped build. We paid for the roof and the community supplied the rest of the materials and labor.

Friendship with Cambodia

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You have the power to change the lives
of people living in poverty. Please donate.

Addressing the Trafficking Problem

One out of ten girls in Cambodia is deceived and sold into prostitution (called trafficking). Often someone offers a poor rural mother employment for her daughter as a housekeeper in the city. The girl is taken away and sold to a brothel where she is held as a slave. Sex tourism is promoted on the internet so people travel to Cambodia to abuse girls and boys. A few of the abusers are now in prison in Cambodia and the US.

It is extreme poverty that creates the situation where families allow their children to leave home to work in the cities. *Friendship with Cambodia* is supporting two organizations that are working on the trafficking issue.



These are the faces of people who were executed by the Khmer Rouge for having an education. Nearly 2 million people died during Pol Pot's genocide (1975 – 1979) which followed four years of US bombing during the Vietnam War. Cambodia's civil war lasted from 1979 to 1998. Cambodia is still recovering and needs our help.



Ta Prohm, a temple from the Angkor Wat Empire (802 AD to 1431 AD), is covered by jungle.

Tips for Traveling in Cambodia

Cambodia is a very popular tourist destination. Over 10,000 people a day visit the ancient temples of Angkor Wat. This fascinating complex of carved stone temples date back 1000 years is fun to explore. Tourists also enjoy the French colonial charm of Phnom Penh, the capital city located on the banks of the Mekong River.

Visit the excellent restaurants in Phnom Penh that are training programs for street children and poor women including Friends, Le Ritz and Lotus Blanc. Details and more travel tips will soon be on our website.

www.friendshipwithcambodia.org

Board of Directors - Terry Kirby, Linda Young, Donna Napier, Bopha Ping, Vern Arne

Executive Director - Bhavia Carol Wagner (author of *Soul Survivors: Stories of Women and Children in Cambodia*)

A warm thanks to our generous volunteers and donors.

