

ACTIVITIES REPORT *for* 2009

Promoting Responsible Tourism in Cambodia

Socially Responsible Tourism, a growing trend in international travel, is designed to use travel dollars to help local people. **Friendship with Cambodia is leading a socially responsible trip to Cambodia January 26 to February 6, 2010** called *Inside Cambodia: Meeting the People – Making a Difference*. And you are invited to come with us!

In addition to visiting tourist sites such as the magnificent ancient stone temples of Angkor Wat and the floating villages of the Tonle Sap Lake, participants meet local people who are transforming their lives and communities, including Friendship with Cambodia's Women's Self-Help Groups.

Trip participants eat in restaurants that are training and empowerment programs for former street children. They visit fair-trade craft shops that employ landmine survivors trained as artisans. And they stay in locally-owned hotels that prohibit sex tourism.

Because the 11-day trip intricately weaves in Friendship with Cambodia's humanitarian work, such as taking slum children from families with AIDS on a field trip, the trip fee of \$2200 is tax-deductible and a portion is donated to our programs.

"When you return home you will feel good because you didn't just take pictures, you gave back and did something to help people in Cambodia," states trip leader Bhavia Wagner, Director of Friendship with Cambodia.

For a trip itinerary visit our website at www.friendshipwithcambodia.org or contact Carol Gleason, Trips Coordinator for Friendship with Cambodia at 541-752-3959 or cigleas@comcast.net.

Watch for our forthcoming book on responsible tourism in Cambodia.

Our Sponsored Students Start University

Six years ago Friendship with Cambodia started sponsoring students so they could attend secondary school. We wanted to help increase the education level in rural areas. Currently, only 12% of the children who start grade school finish high school because of poverty. Most of our students grew up in families that lack adequate food and shelter.

Some of our sponsored students have now completed high school and we are supporting them at the university level. We are so proud of them for persevering in their studies, against the odds. Last fall, 11 students attended university and this fall another 14 students will join them. Friendship with Cambodia needs your donations to help them through university.

Meet some of our students:



Chhan Samphos is in Nursing School

After completing nursing training, I want to continue my studies to become a midwife because this is a skill that is needed in our developing country. In our society, where there is a lack of doctors and especially midwives, this ability can help reduce the mortality rate of mothers and infants. This is my personal goal.

Ly Ritthy is Studying Architecture

When I have my own company, I will save part of the income to help poor students who are unable to go to school. At this university, there are very few poor students; this is why I want to help them and my community.



Bin Thyda is an Accounting Major

During my free time, I read documents that prepare me to work for an NGO [charitable organization]. I like to listen to ADHOC's [a human rights group] program, *Voice of the Victims*. When I was young, I always liked to play that I am the boss, the person who pays the salaries, or the bank owner. That is why I believe that I am suited for accounting.



Kheang Overcame Poverty Using Micro-credit

Kheang felt resigned to a life of poverty and couldn't see a way out. She and her husband (a fisherman) and their three children lived in a grass hut that leaked when it rained.

Kheang was invited to join one of Friendship with Cambodia's Women's Self-Help Groups. She started borrowing money through our micro-credit program and was able to increase her income by raising pigs and buying fishing equipment.

Over a period of four years, with our social worker's support and our micro-credit program, Kheang's life improved dramatically. First she saved enough money to buy a bicycle so her daughter could attend school. Eventually, with the help of seed grants from Friendship with Cambodia, she was able to build a better house, build a well, and she bought a motorbike so she could deliver fresh fish to the market.

Her self-confidence also improved. Kheang is now a leader in her community. She educates others in the village about birth spacing. She talks to students who want to drop out of school and encourages them to continue their education. Kheang collected money to help build a guard post to protect her community's fishery from illegal destruction. She has helped families end domestic violence.

Last year Friendship with Cambodia supported 1,253 women in self-help groups and micro-credit programs.

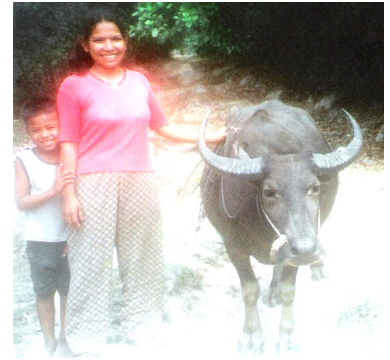


After 4 years in our Women's Self-Help Group, Kheang built a new house, a new well, bought a motorcycle, and put her children in school. Her old house is on the left-hand side of this photo.

What Your Donations Accomplished Last Year

Women's Micro-credit and Empowerment

- 756 women in credit and savings programs
- 497 rural women in self-help groups
- 29 women trained in community leadership
- 19 HIV/AIDS women received loans to start businesses or vocational training
- 47 women received seed grants for houses, cows, motos, boats, gardens



Education for Rural Youth Living in Poverty

- 99 secondary school students sponsored
- 11 university students funded
- Built two schools and a student dormitory
- Funded student clubs and a librarian

Care for Orphans and Street Children



- 47 orphaned children were given loving care and higher education
- 10 street children received safe shelter every night

Employment for Landmine Survivors & Disadvantaged

- Provided fulltime employment to the equivalent of 21 people -- landmine survivors, AIDS families, and destitute women -- through craft sales

Campaign Against Trafficking Women and Children

- Promoted respect and safety for women through 6 national radio shows, 13,190 brochures and 11,860 posters
- Skit warned 7,000 remote villagers about sex-traffickers
- Trained 19 trafficked or at-risk girls in jewelry production



Community Development Projects – Seed Grants

- 13 wells, 3 rice banks, 3 bridges, 5 culverts
- Community meeting hall and a pond

Fair-Trade Crafts Help in Four Ways

Friendship with Cambodia buys approximately \$10,000 in crafts each year from over 20 non-profit groups that help landmine survivors, battered women, sex-trafficked girls, families with AIDS, and those who are destitute. The program helps in many ways:

1. The disadvantaged person who made the craft has employment and receives a fair wage.
2. We buy from skill-training programs to support their work.
3. Craft sales in the US raise awareness about poverty in Cambodia.
4. Re-selling the products for a profit generates funds to support our humanitarian work in Cambodia.

Crafts Program Brings Hope to Shattered Lives

Kern's husband abused her, but she stayed with him out of fear that he would not bring home money to feed her and their three children.

In the year 2000, she received training and started sewing for our crafts producer group Khmer Life. Now she earns \$60 per month, which is double the average household income in Cambodia. She likes working from home because she can prepare food and watch her children.

She is very happy to be financially independent. And her handiwork is beautiful.



Kern supports her children by making crafts

The Magic of *Three Cups of Tea*

Greg Mortenson, author of the best-selling book *Three Cups of Tea*, caught the attention of thousands of people. His message is inspiring --education of girls can change the world. The point he emphasizes is, "If you educate a boy, you educate an individual. If you educate a girl, you educate a community." Statistics show that when girls are educated: 1) infant mortality decreases, 2) population growth diminishes, and 3) basic health and quality of life improves for everyone.

Friendship with Cambodia is a small-scale version of Mortenson's work, only instead of educating girls in Pakistan and Afghanistan, we are educating girls in Cambodia. We agree with Mortenson that, unless girls are educated, society won't improve. In Cambodia, half the girls and a quarter of the boys never have the opportunity to go to school. Poverty is the main reason, but not valuing girls and women doubles their disadvantage.

Cambodia is still recovering from 30 years of violence. Nearly 2 million people were killed during the genocide (1975-1979) that targeted educated people. Seventy-five percent of the teachers died. Today, most people in Cambodia live in poverty and 45% of the children are malnourished.

Friendship with Cambodia sponsors 110 poor rural students in secondary school and university. Three out of four are girls. Poverty forces 75% of the students to drop out between 3rd and 6th grade. Their parents, who earn \$1 a day, can't afford school fees, books, and clothes.

Friendship with Cambodia's students are motivated and work very hard. Many get up at 4 or 5 am to do their chores before going to school.

Poverty in developing countries seems overwhelming. Mortenson's solution of educating girls is simple and effective. Mortenson himself has put enormous effort into education in this country, speaking at 220 schools last year with the message that you can make the world a better place. American school children responded and raised funds for Mortenson to build schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

In Eugene, Oregon, Karen Dukes' literature class at Spencer Butte Middle School read *The Clay Marble*, a story about a Cambodian child, and then raised funds to sponsor one of our students to go to school in Cambodia. It costs \$30 a month to sponsor a secondary school student for a year through Friendship with Cambodia.

Mortenson is a remarkable humanitarian who is changing the world, one girl at a time. He's a great inspiration to all of us.



Fall Holiday of Pchum Ben

Pchum Ben is one of the most important holidays in Cambodia. It is a religious ceremony that takes place in late September when Cambodians remember the spirits of their deceased relatives. Families dress in their finest clothing and visit the Buddhist temple in their native village. They offer food and presents to the Buddhist monks who chant prayers for their ancestors and everyone's well-being.





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Please let us know if you wish to be taken off our mailing list.

Our work in Cambodia is funded by individuals who make tax-deductible donations. Thank you!

News from Cambodia

The trial of the top five leaders of the Khmer Rouge, perpetrators of the genocide that killed 1.7 million people from 1975-1979, continues. So far only "Duch," who ran the S-21 prison and torture center that killed approximately 17,000 people, has accepted responsibility. The others deny knowledge of any atrocities and are using their right to remain silent.

Friendship with Cambodia

Founded in 2003 as a 501(c)3 non-profit organizations to provide humanitarian aid to Cambodia and education about Cambodia. Donations are tax-deductible.

Board of Directors

John Dennis, Lowell Hill, Shoshana Kerewsky, Karen Molleson, Donna Napier, Andree Phelps, Leaksmeay Strueby, Ravy Young

Staff & Program Volunteers

(we have 1.5 paid staff)

Bhavia Wagner, Executive Director
Jessica Shogren-Carlson, Office Coordinator
Carol Gleason, Cambodia Trips Coordinator
Karen Molleson, Student Sponsorship Coordinator
Linda Young, Fair-Trade Crafts Coordinator

Financials for 2008

87% of our income was spent on programs to help Cambodia. We try to keep our operational costs as low as possible, so more funds reach people in Cambodia.

A heartfelt thanks to our donors & volunteers!

What are the odds for this girl looking out a window in Cambodia?

- 7 out of 10 girls **don't have clean drinking water.**
- 5 out of 10 girls **don't have enough food to eat or proper nutrition.**
- 5 out of 10 girls **can't go to school** because their parents cannot afford school clothes and fees.
- 3 out of 10 girls **are not immunized** against polio, tetanus, or measles.
- 1 out of 10 girls **will be tricked and sold as a sex slave.**
- 1 out of 40 girls' **parents will die from AIDS.**
- 1 out of 600 girls **will end up living on the street** and sniffing glue.
- 1 out of 14,000 **will step on a landmine.**



You can do something to improve her odds for a better future.

It takes very little money to help someone in Cambodia and it will bring you infinite happiness.

- \$10 Provides shelter for one night for 10 children living on the street
- \$25 Pays for educational posters to prevent sex-trafficking
- \$50 Covers materials for a workshop for rural women on health care, family planning, women's rights, and leadership
- \$100 Buys tools for a landmine survivor to start a motorcycle repair business
- \$160 Helps a family build a house or a well
- \$240 Starts a micro-credit program that serves 100 women
- \$360 Sponsors a youth in secondary school
- \$1500 Funds a university student

Your donation is tax-deductible.