

New Programs:

Rescuing Trafficked Girls

Teenage girls from poor, mostly illiterate families in rural Cambodia are promised jobs as maids and trafficked to Malaysia. Once overseas, the girls have no rights, are illegal, and cannot speak the local language. They are subjected to non-payment of salaries, physical abuse, torture, and rape. This year an employer killed one of the girls.

Cambodian recruitment agencies convince families through deception and cash advance enticements to let their daughters work abroad.



50,000 girls have been trafficked since 2008. Friendship with Cambodia is funding LICADHO, a Cambodian human rights organization that sends teams to Malaysia to rescue the girls and reunite them with their families.

First Women's Hospital in Cambodia

Hak has a lump in her breast that keeps growing bigger, and now her bones hurt. She is waiting to die. Hak is among the 74% of women across Cambodia who cannot afford medical treatment. Some husbands don't allow their wives to seek treatment - why waste money on a woman?

The first hospital for women, named Nokor Tep which means City of Compassion, is being built by Tabitha, an Australian NGO. Poor women will be asked to pay \$1 or less. It is important that they pay something, so they value the treatment.

Services will be provided throughout Cambodia including screening centers, mobile clinics, and preventable health care education.

"The health status of the Cambodian population is amongst the poorest in Asia," states the World Bank. Friendship with Cambodia donated \$4,000 toward building the new hospital.

Bringing Hope and Changing Lives in 2011-12



Women's Empowerment

- **2500 Women in Savings Programs** – Social workers help them set goals, and we pay 10% interest as an incentive to save money. We are helping families out of poverty.
- **Formed 9 new Women's Groups** addressing domestic violence and land rights. Domestic violence reduced from 50% to 10%.
- **Women's Networking and Training** in financial management and leadership. Five villages now have more women leaders than men.

Education for Rural Youth Living in Poverty

- 58 secondary school students sponsored
- 38 university students supported
- 17 high school graduates -- 16 will start university in fall 2012
- 4 university graduates

Stop Sex Trafficking

- Rescued girls who were trafficked to Malaysia.
- Raised awareness about gender violence through national TV and radio shows, a magazine, mobile cinema, and held a workshop on prosecution.

Employment through Fair-Trade Crafts

- Trafficked girls, landmine survivors, families with AIDS, parents of former street children, and destitute women received training and employment.
- Provided the equivalent of 33 full-time jobs.

Care for Street Children and Orphans

- 30 street children a night received safe shelter, food, schooling, and help from a social worker at Chamkar Morn Shelter in Phnom Penh
- 47 children at Happy Family Orphanage in Siem Reap received food, medical care, computer classes, and university or vocational education



And... Prostheses for landmine survivors, flood relief for 117 families, and support for building a school, constructing a community meeting hall, building latrines, Angkor Hospital for Children, constructing Nokor Tep Women's Hospital, and co-payments on water filters.

2012

University Graduates

We have been sponsoring them since high school. They all grew up in rural villages and worked hard to overcome the obstacles of extreme poverty, discrimination against girls, and pressure to drop out of school to help their families.



Am Sina started working for Community Development Organization, an NGO.



Chhem Sida started teaching primary school in remote Preah Vihear province.



Bin Srey-Deth finished her law degree and is looking for work.

Insights from our Students

As part of our effort to encourage critical thinking, we ask our high school students to write essays for their sponsors about social problems. We'd like to share two essays with you.

Describe the health services in your village

by Savong (11th grade)

There is no health service in my community. When people in the village get sick, there is no specialist doctor to treat the people on time. The reason is my village is in a remote area in this province.

When people have a serious illness, they will be sent to a hospital, but it is difficult to bring people to the hospital because of the long distance and difficult roads. Sometimes the sick person dies along the way because they cannot reach the hospital in time. Travelling from my village to the provincial town is very difficult; we have to take a boat across a river. If there were a bridge it would be better, but there is no bridge.

Other difficulties are that poor people don't have any means of transportation, no money for travelling, and no money for treating illness. Sometimes, if the illness is not so serious, they don't go to the hospital, instead they buy medicine from the shop in the village, or some people treat their illness with Khmer traditional medicine.

So as a student, I will do my best to study in order to acquire knowledge to help give advice to the younger generation to be aware of health issues. I can use my education to help develop my community.



Savong is starting her second year in university this fall. "After graduation, I want to become a teacher because there is a lack of teachers in my community and the majority of people are illiterate."

Is there corruption in your school?

by Sao-Run (11th grade)

In everyone's mind there are feelings of greediness and envy. People feel they always need more and never have enough, and some people do illegal things in their own interest to obtain happiness.

Corruption is everywhere, even in school there is corruption. The teachers teach the lessons briefly to the students in public school, but they keep the key points to teach in private [tuition] classes. Some teachers pressure the students because they need the students to go to their tuition classes. They give tests to the students but the test material was taught in their tuition class, so the test is easy for the students who attend the tuition class, whereas the students who do not go to tuition class find that it is very hard.

The reason that the teachers are corrupt is because of their very low salary, their salary is just enough for fuelling their motorbike to go to work and sometimes it is not even enough for this. Their families are very poor, and they don't have money to support them, and that is why they have to use school hours to hold their tuition classes.

I would suggest to the government to increase the salary for teachers so that corruption will stop. Everybody would do the same thing if they did not earn enough for their living; they have to look for ways to fulfill their need to survive in the economic market.



Sao-Run is in 12th grade this fall. In the future, she wants to be a math teacher or study accounting at university.

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(equivalent of 1.5 fulltime paid staff)

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Karen Molleson, Student Sponsorship
Linda Young, Fair-Trade Crafts

Friendship with Cambodia

Founded in 2003 as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization to provide humanitarian aid to Cambodia and education about Cambodia.
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John Dennis, Shoshana Kerewsky, Don Lyon, Sonya Margerum, Donna Napier, Andree Phelps, Cindy Smith, Leaksmeay Strueby, Kevin Wiles

Graduate Finds Job on Internet

We have been sponsoring an at-risk young woman named Proeung, Sochen for the past 6 years, through high school and college. In high school she worked as a servant to earn money to help her family. She did well in school and is graduating this month in accounting.

On her own, Sochen found a job opening listed on the internet while using a computer in our Phnom Penh office. She applied for the job, was interviewed and hired at a garment factory in the outskirts of Phnom Penh. We're impressed!



Now she is sending money home to help her mother, who is sick. Eventually, she hopes to work for a non-profit organization.

When Girls are Educated

- They marry later in life
- Have fewer children
- Immunize their children
- Make sure their children get an education
- Improve the economic well-being of the family

UNICEF calls it the "double dividend." It elevates not only women but their children and communities.

Slavery was the moral challenge of the 19th century. Violence against girls and women is the moral challenge of this century.

It is difficult to bring about change. It is hard to break out of the cycle of oppression unless you are given an opportunity.

Sheryl WuDunn, Author

Violence Against Women – A Worldwide Epidemic Is there a cure?

One can easily go into overload and numb-out when reading the sobering statistics revealing the magnitude of this "skeleton in the closet." Sheryl WuDunn, journalist and co-author of *Half the Sky*, calls violence against women the worst human rights abuse of our time and the most under-reported story. Most of the world is living in denial, indifference, or acceptance.

- One in five women worldwide will be the victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime. It could happen to your mother, aunt, wife, sister, or daughter.
- In the US, a woman is beaten every 15 seconds. In Cambodia, 50% or more of the wives are battered by husbands.
- Girls entering the sex trade are usually 13 years old. Between 300,000 and 1.2 million girls worldwide are being held as sex-slaves.

What can be done?

Change Social Attitudes - Friendship with Cambodia funds radio talk shows in Cambodia about gender roles, sex-trafficking and a new concept: women's rights. We also fund Women's Groups who discuss the problem of violence against women. The last time Friendship with Cambodia visited them, the women were wondering how they could raise their sons differently, so they won't abuse women. Women's Group members visit the husbands who abuse their wives. They tell them that it is against the law and advise them to stop. This social pressure is effective, and most of the husbands do stop. It was a big social hurdle for these women to decide to intervene. The prevailing attitude is to not say anything. All countries need to take a stand against sex tourism because it encourages sex trafficking and the human rights abuse of young women.

Enforce Laws – Cambodia has laws against rape and domestic violence. However, the laws are not enforced. Government workers, including police, have very low salaries, so they use their positions to extort money to make a living. Perpetrators of violence, including brothel owners, rapists, and husbands who beat their wives, can easily pay off the police and judges. International pressure, such as threats to withhold foreign aid until human rights improve, can be an effective motivator for law enforcement.

End Poverty – When there isn't enough food to eat, the children whine until the mother slaps them. Husbands feel frustrated, drink, and take out their anger on their wives. Friendship with Cambodia has found that when women increase the family income, as the result of vocational training or loans to start an income generating project, they are more respected by their husbands and treated better. Mothers use 80% of their earnings to improve the welfare of the children – better nutrition, medical care, and education. When the family isn't desperate, girls don't have to go to the city to work, where they are often deceived and sold to a brothel. Education for girls and economic empowerment for mothers are the best methods for ending poverty.

Recommended Reading:

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide
by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

The Road of Lost Innocence by Somaly Mam. A trafficking victim's story. She now helps trafficked girls in Cambodia.

The distinction between us and them is not that we are smarter or harder working or more virtuous. It is that we are lucky. When we have won the lottery in life there is a moral obligation that comes with it.

George Clooney, Actor

What is hard about being on the other side of the world is that sometimes the problems seem so big. That changing one life isn't enough. But it is. If you are that one girl who got rescued, it matters.

America Ferrara, Actress

Quotes from *Half the Sky* DVD. A 40 -minute summary DVD can be checked-out from Friendship with Cambodia or order the 4 hour DVD from www.pbs.org for \$30. Outstanding!

Warm Appreciation to Our July 2011 to June 2013 Donors!

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Fundraising for Novices

by Shoshana D. Kerewsky, Board
President of Friendship with Cambodia

Friendship with Cambodia has a donor base that is overwhelmingly made up of individuals and families. Whether you make financial donations, sponsor a student, or volunteer for FWC, we thank you for your generous contributions.

If you're a one-time donor or contribute more regularly, that money has to come from somewhere. Below are some ideas to help you think bigger than just your own pocket. A little creativity can go a long way to increase your support for FWC.

Creative fundraising: Have fun while raising awareness of the issues facing Cambodians today. Here are some of the ways I've collected money to donate to Friendship:

- *Collect returnable cans.* Those deposits add up. To get there faster, ask your neighbors if you can have their cans for a worthy cause.
- *Sell old paperbacks to a used bookstore.* \$15 isn't a lot for us, but it can make a big difference in a country where the average income is about \$1 a day.
- *Have a yard sale.* Or donate what you make from selling your hand-made jewelry, notepaper, cookies, or scarves.
- *Ask family and friends to contribute.* Most of us are uncomfortable asking people we know to donate to our favorite causes. A few years ago, I started adding "donation to FWC" when people asked what I'd like for my birthday or holidays. After doing this a few times in a row, I no longer have to ask. Many of my family and friends now automatically make donations. When I recently turned 50, I asked people to make a donation up to \$50 in lieu of a gift. Over \$300 was donated. That's a pretty good birthday present.

Are you ready to get out there and share your enthusiasm with others? If you'd like to do something but aren't sure what, contact us. We have a pretty good sense of what has worked in the past and can help you refine your plans. Thanks in advance for your commitment and energy!

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Dec 30, 2013 – Jan 11, 2014

Details at www.friendshipwithcambodia.org



One Percent Saves One Girl

How much is 1% of your income for the year? That amount is enough to save one girl in Cambodia by funding her education. What do you want for her future?

Option 1 – Un-sponsored She will be illiterate and taken advantage of her whole life. She might be sold to a brothel at age 13, raped, beaten and eventually die from AIDS. Or she might have an arranged marriage at age 16, have 8 kids, and live in dire poverty in a thatch hut that leaks when it rains with a husband who beats her, not having enough to eat six months out of the year, and no money to go to the doctor or buy medicine when she is sick.

Option 2 – Sponsored in School Most likely, she will be among the 6% of Cambodian youth who finish high school. She will earn a college degree, find a good job and support her family. She will have fewer children, healthier children, and a husband who values her. She will give back to her rural community as a teacher, nurse, or social worker.

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

What Your Donation Can Do

\$10 Shelter for 25 children living on the street for one night

\$20 Trafficking prevention posters

\$50 Women's Workshop on health care, family planning, women's rights, and leadership

\$100 Employment for a landmine survivor through fair trade crafts

\$160 Seed grant to help a family build a house

\$240 Interest for Women's Savings Program

\$360 Sponsor a rural student for a year

\$1500 Support a student in university for a year

Ending Perpetual Poverty



Many families cannot afford to buy a bicycle that enables their child to attend school.

Our Women's Savings Program educates families to save money and make improvements in their lives.

Women are encouraged to set a goal and save money for their "dream item." Each week the social worker visits her, gives her encouragement, and collects her savings, which is often around 25 cents. At the end of ten weeks her money is returned along with 10% interest. Then she buys her "dream item."

These life-transforming items for women starting in the program may be a sleeping mat or a cooking pot. Over time her goals get bigger. Next she may buy school uniforms so her children can attend school, a piglet to raise and sell, a bicycle to take produce to market, a

fishing net, or pay fees for school. Mothers can achieve 4-6 dream items each year.

The beauty of this program is that it is helping the poorest families and is highly cost effective. With \$25,000 we were able to help 2500 families this year. That's half a village.

Poor people are in survival mode. They spend all their daily earnings on food, and they don't plan for the future. This program teaches people to think ahead and the interest payment motivates them to save money. It helps them create new habits. Their self-esteem improves, and they believe in their ability to succeed in life.

It takes 4-7 years for people to overcome poverty. In the end, they feel very happy.