

Commemorating Our Ten Year Anniversary

Bringing Hope to Cambodia

Together we gave over \$1 million in aid

Educating Rural Youth - \$431,573

- 127 children would have quit school without our help
- 28 graduated from university and 27 now have jobs
- 38 are currently in university and 16 are in secondary school

Empowering Women - \$196,260



- Enrolled over 12,000 women in Savings and Self-Help Groups
- Helped mothers and their families out of poverty, permanently
- Trained 327 women in community leadership

Caring for Street Children and Orphans - \$133,490

- 30 children living on the streets received safe shelter each night along with food, schooling, and help from a social worker
- 47 children at Happy Family Orphanage in Siem Reap received food, medical care, and education

Stopping Sex Trafficking - \$110,502

- Warned thousands of people living in remote areas about trafficking through our youth cultural troupe
- Raised awareness about women's rights and trafficking through national radio and TV programs
- Rescued girls who were trafficked to Malaysia

Employing Fair-Trade Craft Producers - \$74,065

- Trained and employed hundreds of landmine survivors, families with AIDS, parents of street children, trafficked girls, and destitute women

Community Development Projects - \$46,738

- Provided hundreds of seed grants for schools, houses, rice banks, bridges, wells, fishing boats, cows, and bicycles
- Supported local Forestry and Fishery Associations to defend their community resources from corrupt land grabbing

Helping Landmine Survivors - \$18,650

- Provided vocational training and prostheses

Medical Care for Children and Women- \$9,800

- Supported hospitals that serve poor women and children

Emergency Relief - \$5300

- Assisted flood victims and displaced slum residents

Honoring Two of Our Heroes

Victoria Gomez-Trenor

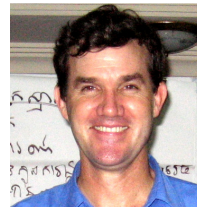


Victoria Gomez-Trenor is Spanish and lives in Valencia. She is very concerned about the welfare of women worldwide and started the Fund for Women.

The Fund for Women focuses on ending violence against women and empowering them. Her generous support over the past eight years to FWC has allowed us to expand our programs in Cambodia including trafficking prevention, protecting girls found living on the streets, sponsoring girls in university, and women's economic empowerment.

We give Victoria our heart-felt gratitude. She helped FWC thrive and increased our impact. This is one of her favorite quotes, a proverb from India: *Where women are respected, the gods dwell. Where there is not respect for women, there is only shame and sorrow.*

Peter Swift



Peter was living in Amherst, Massachusetts when Cambodian genocide survivors started attending his high school in the early 1980's. Peter befriended the traumatized refugees and asked them to teach him to speak Cambodian.

Peter received a scholarship to study physics at Stanford. While in college, he took a year off from school to live in a village in Thailand. He stayed in the Buddhist temple with the monks, and the local people taught him about village life, including how to plow a rice field with water buffalo.

After graduation, Peter worked in Silicon Valley and saved his money. In 1994, he went to Cambodia and started Southeast Asia Development Program, an NGO to help the rural poor. Since then he has helped Cambodians start ten local NGOs. Those ten NGO's became FWC's partner organizations. Peter works tirelessly to help Cambodia and takes almost nothing for himself.

For 10 years Peter honed his aid work, so his programs truly empower poor people to help themselves. With Peter's expertise and help, we started our Student Sponsorship Program, Women's Self-Help Groups, and Community Development Projects. We thank Peter for the brilliance and success of these programs.

From Surviving to Thriving Creating a better future in Cambodia

When I first visited Cambodia in 1991, the streets of Phnom Penh were completely empty. There were a few cargo trucks parked near the Central Market. It was 12 years after the genocide and recovery was very slow. The US had initiated a world trade embargo against Cambodia that blocked aid from the West because Cambodia was controlled by Vietnam.

I met a young man named Saroan who told me his story of surviving the genocide at age twelve. All of his family members were killed. My heart went out to him and all the people there. If any country desperately needed our help...it was Cambodia.

I returned the next year and started volunteering for NGO's helping women. Cambodia was already changing. Vietnam withdrew and the UN arrived to help the country prepare for democratic elections.

In 1994, I led an educational tour to Cambodia and afterward I stayed to interview people for my book *Soul Survivors: Stories of Women and Children in Cambodia*. Their stories are sad, yet courageous, and a testimony to the strength and goodness of the human spirit.

The new democracy started slowly, as the civil war continued. Pol Pot, the leader of the Khmer Rouge, was fighting the Cambodian government. It wasn't until his death in 1998 that Cambodia finally had peace after 30 years of war and a genocide that killed 1.7 million people.

In 2002, I self-published my book *Soul Survivors* and, using my personal address book, I set up a national speaking tour to 30 cities. I came home with the names of people who wanted to help Cambodia. On September 27, 2003, I formed Friendship with Cambodia, inspired by Mata Amritanandamayi, who is known for her humanitarian work around the world.

I knew there were bright young people in rural Cambodia who could not afford to go to school. Only 6% of the children in Cambodia finish high school. FWC's first aid program was to sponsor poor students in school. We chose to help the older students, because they were determined to get an education. Seventy-five percent of their peers had dropped out by sixth grade.

I watched new tragedies unfold in Cambodia. The AIDS epidemic left 300,000

children orphaned annually. Dy Ratha, the teacher I interviewed in *Soul Survivors*, started an NGO to educate people about AIDS and help widows and children living in the slums. FWC supported her work.

Everyday, someone in Cambodia steps on a landmine. Farmers have lost their legs; children lost hands. It will take 100 years to remove the 4-6 million mines. The early aid programs provided prostheses and skill training for landmine victims. FWC still supports these programs and buys crafts from NGOs helping landmine survivors.

Cambodia continued to change rapidly. Angkor Wat became a popular tourist destination, receiving 10,000 visitors a day. While at the same time, corruption, land grabbing, and deforestation increased rural poverty. Economic empowerment for rural women through Self-Help Groups and Savings Programs is a very effective way of ending poverty and became a primary focus of FWC.

After the civil war ended, the garment industry moved into Cambodia. Human-traffickers deceived rural parents, telling them they could get their daughter a job at a garment factory, but instead they sold the girls to brothels. One out of ten girls in Cambodia was sold into prostitution. Hence, the newest NGO's in Cambodia are working to end this soul-shattering abuse and FWC is supporting them.

Amidst the tragedy, I've seen positive changes in Cambodia. The traditional holidays have been revived, including the Water Festival with exciting boat races in front of the royal palace. On the Cambodian New Year, families bring food to Buddhist monks in newly built temples. The spirit of Cambodia is recovering.

One of the biggest surprises and delights for us at FWC was when we heard that our sponsored students who graduated from high school wanted to go to university. We now have 28 university graduates who have jobs and are rebuilding Cambodia.

Starting a non-profit to help Cambodia has been the most difficult and the most rewarding part of my life. What could be better than helping people who have lost all hope and give them a chance to turn their lives around?

Our success has been possible through teamwork. As educators, volunteers, donors, managers, and program partners in Cambodia, everyone has an important role.

I give my deepest thanks to each of you. I am sending you the Cambodian blessing: *May you and your family have good health, happiness, and success in all of your work and everything you wish for. May Thevada, the New Year Angel, look after you and your family all the time and everywhere.*

Bhavia Wagner, Founder & Director

Education and Women's Empowerment



1. Our Sponsorship Program started supporting Thyda (left) in 2004 when she was in 10th grade. Her mother is a widow and their house did not keep them dry.



2. Thyda's mother joined our Women's Self-Help Group and through her own efforts she was able to earn and save money and build a better house in 2006.



3. We sponsored Thyda for six years, through high school and university, and today she is working for an NGO called Community Peace Network that is helping rural communities.

Gratitude to Our Cambodian Partners

Southeast Asia Development Program (SADP), run by Peter Swift, was an umbrella organization for 10 Cambodian NGOs working in rural areas. For 9 years we partnered with them on our Sponsorship Program, Women's Programs, and Community Development.

In 2012, Peter started graduate school in the United States. He closed the SADP office, but is still our advisor.

At that point, **Holt International Children's Services** became the new umbrella organization for our three Sponsorship Program staff in Cambodia. Our new local NGO partner is **Cambodia Organization for Children and Development**.

Krousar Thmey (New Family) is a French NGO with Cambodian staff that helps orphans and disabled children. We fund a shelter for street children in Phnom Penh and a trafficking prevention program in remote rural villages.

Tabitha is run by an Australian woman and has all Cambodian staff. We funded their Savings Programs to empower poor women and we have contributed to building Nokor Tep, a hospital for women.

FWC buys crafts from over **25 NGOs** providing skill training and employment to disadvantaged people. We also buy from social enterprises run by graduates of the NGO programs.

Cambodian Women's Crisis Center was started by a Cambodian-American. We fund their shelter for battered and trafficked women and girls. We have funded their trafficking prevention work.

League for the Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO) was started by a Cambodian-French family and is our partner for rescuing girls who were trafficked to Malaysia.

Happy Family Orphanage is in Siem Reap and is home for 47 orphans. Funding through FWC provides college education for the older children.

The key to good partner organizations is having knowledgeable Cambodian staff, foreign fiscal oversight, and long-term relationships with people whom you trust. Cheam Kosal and Bhavia have been working together since 1994. Kosal is the Director of our Student Sponsorship and Women's Programs.



Sopheha would have quit school without our help

Your Donations Helped Them

Champey

**A Street Child -
Now nurtured and employed**



Champey's mother and step-father were often drunk and beat her. They forced her to beg and pick through garbage. When she came home empty-handed, her step-father beat her severely and would not let her sleep in their house. She was afraid to go home. The staff of our partner organization, Krousar Thmey, found her living on the streets when she was 15-years-old. She agreed to come to our shelter. There she received vocational training and loving support. We helped her get a job working for a Korean-run orphanage. She is learning to use a computer and is studying English and Korean. In the future, she wants to be a tour guide.



Vechara

**Widowed and Destitute -
Now a craft producer**

Vechara was widowed when her husband, who was a truck driver, died in a car accident. She and her daughter depended on his income for support. She had trouble finding a job and could not afford to send her daughter to school. Now Vechara works for Rajana, one of our craft producer groups. Her daughter is able to attend school.

Maesaros

**Isolated in Poverty -
Now she is doing well
and helps her
community**



Maesaros is Cham (a Muslim minority). She was extremely poor, and lived in a very small house without walls. She felt bad about herself and didn't talk to other people in her village, and they avoided her. We invited her to join our Women's Savings Group. Maesaros bought crab traps and increased her income. She learned to save money, and with help from our seed grants, she built a house and bought a boat, cow, and motorbike. Now she feels better about herself. She volunteers in her village and educates young people about the dangers of using drugs. She asks her husband to help others in the village. When someone is sick, he takes them to the hospital. He also helps the community guard against illegal fishing.



friendship
with CAMBODIA
PO Box 5231
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Please consider sponsoring a student

The Kindness of our Donors

This is a letter written by an 18-year-old in California to his sponsored student in Cambodia who is also just starting college:

Saroeun, you are one of the strongest people I have ever heard of. You have decided to pull yourself out of poverty by the sweat of your brow and the will in your heart. Wherever you end up in life, I can already see you will accomplish great things. Life is tough, but you have a fighting spirit that drives you onward towards your goal. I respect you like I respect no one else I know. Even though we have not met, and have not spoken, know this: I believe in you. I know you can make it Saroeun. Just have faith. I will keep you and your family in my prayers.

Sincerely,
Gabriel Smith

Friendship with Cambodia

Founded in 2003 as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization to provide humanitarian aid to Cambodia and education about Cambodia.

info@friendshipwithcambodia.org

www.friendshipwithcambodia.org 541-952-2009



A few of our Volunteer Staff & Supporters: Karen Molleson (left), Lowell Hill, Linda Young, Carol Gleason, Bhavia Wagner

Our Deepest Appreciation to All Who Contributed to Our Success

Our Donors including: 1) Major Donors who gave \$5000 or more: Anonymous, Vern Arne*, Brooks Family Foundation, Jean Carley, Victoria Gomez-Trenor, Lowell Hill*, Liz Lorber, Women for Women Ohio. 2) Student Sponsors. 3) All our other donors - you rock.

Volunteer Staff: Marie Delahaye*, -Management Advisor for 10 years, Carol Gleason-Travel Coordinator for 6 years, Bob Lee-Fundraiser for Happy Family Orphanage for 7 years with FWC, Pujita Mayeda-Author of *Responsible Travel Guide Cambodia*, Karen Molleson*-Coordinator of the Student Sponsorship Program for 8 years, Donna Napier*-Financial Manager for 8 years, Linda Young*-Fair-Trade Crafts Coordinator and Volunteer for 10 years.

Those Who Served on our Board of Directors and Advisory Board: Vern Arne, David Atkin, Channary Bill, Jessica Carlson, John Dennis, Shoshana Kerewsky, Terry Kirby, Ping Lao, Karen Lundblad, Don Lyon, Sonya Margerum, Robin Mauney, Diane Meisenhelter, Courtenay Padgett, Andree Phelps, Bopha Ping, Cindy Smith, Leaksmeay Strubey, Kevin Wiles, Ravy Young, and *means also served on the Board.

More Awesome Volunteers including current weekly volunteers – JoAnne Lafleur & Deborah Wells in crafts; Barb Dewey & Rosanne Wolf in the office; and Glenn Gillis as webmaster. And those who volunteer as needed, too numerous to list, but we truly appreciate them.

Paid Staff: Elaine Hayes-Bookkeeper for 6 years, Cheam Kosal-Director in Cambodia overseeing children's protection & education programs in Cambodia for 7 years, Erin McSpadden-Office Manager for 3 years, Peter Swift-Director in Cambodia overseeing community development, education & women's programs in Cambodia for 10 years, Bhavia Wagner-Founder and Director for 10 years.