

We Empower Rural Women and Youth to Respond to Forest Destruction, the Pandemic, and Climate Change

The greatest threat to rural communities is the destruction of community forests by agro-industry projects. Foreign corporations pay bribes to Cambodia's high-ranking officials to allow them to illegally clear-cut community forests. In the past, rural families used community forests to sustainably harvest food and forest products (like resin) to sell for their income.

Now that local people cannot make a living from the forests, they are migrating to neighboring countries to find work. In the 10 years before COVID, migration increased from 1 percent to 20 percent. Migrants typically return home in complete despair from being abused and trapped in debt. Additionally, migration is creating a labor shortage on family farms which has resulted in idle land and food insecurity.

One of Friendship with Cambodia's programs empowers people in eight rural villages in Kampong Chhnang province to work together to address these issues. They learn about their land rights, get help organizing community networks, and learn how to use active non-violence to engage in protests and negotiations to protect their forests.



The local women's networks that we helped form and continue to support have monthly meetings with 458 participants. This last year they organized forest patrols and shared information about COVID. To address the food shortage, families were encouraged to start home gardens and raise livestock. The women shared best practices, including how to make organic compost and organic pest control.

We help the women set up savings groups, a form of micro-credit, so they have greater economic independence and better treatment from male family members. The women learn how to address domestic violence and discrimination.

One workshop included an educational documentary about the far-reaching impacts of over-consumption titled, "The Story of Stuff."



Recently, we held a training for youth in social problems and critical thinking. Topics discussed included the pandemic, use of chemicals in agriculture, and natural disasters, such as floods and drought, triggered by climate change. They also discussed how Cambodian society is managed by a small group of self-serving people.

Youth discussed the difficulty of using the online-learning platform during the pandemic. Many students cannot afford the internet fee, do not have smartphones, and/or have an unstable internet connection. Our staff helped the students realize that the most effective way to address these problems is to form small study groups so the students can help each other.

To reduce climate change, we organized 286 teachers, students, and Buddhist monks to plant trees at schools, pagodas, health centers, and community meeting halls.



Kindness in Action - Projects you helped fund

through our Cambodian partner OEDDO
Orphans, Elderly, and Disabled Development Organization



Rural Hospital Construction is coming along. Poor people will soon have medical care.



The Hospital's First Nurse is Rathana - an orphan who grew up at the OEDDO Center, graduated at the top of her nursing class, and has years of experience.



Our Medical Student, TRY Srey Muoy, graduated in Pediatrics.



44 Destitute Elders & Disabled Receive Food and Medicine

These people lacked basic necessities and had no one to turn to. Now they are loved and cared for and get help every month. Aeng is a widow and raising her grandson.



Vocational Training - These young men (above) studied jewelry making. Others were trained as drivers, an electrician, beauticians, chefs, & electronics repair person.

We support 44 University Students
Here are the nine through OEDDO:

Thai - Dentistry
Vanto - Pharmacy
Socheata - Pharmacy
Chira - Plumbing Engineer
Srey Lin - Accounting
Kim Leng - Marketing
Navy - Veterinary Science
Ariya - International Relations
Srey Leak - Electrical Engineering



30 Poor Children Sponsored
for nutrition and education



New Library is being painted.
It will be one of the first rural libraries.

Friendship with Cambodia's Programs

Education for Poor Rural Youth

We are supporting 44 students to attend university (39 girls and 5 boys). We give them career counseling, financial support, housing, English & computer classes, build their self-confidence, and help with internships and jobs.

Empowerment of Women & Youth

We are supporting the economic empowerment of rural women and training as community leaders. We provide support to Women's Self-Help and Savings Groups serving 582 poor rural women. We also empower rural youth through training about social problems, critical thinking, and leadership.

Healing for Survivors of Trafficking and Gender Violence

We support a Women's Shelter for girls and women who were sex-trafficked, raped, or beaten by their husbands. The shelter accommodates 60 women and girls and provides a safe home, counseling, life-skills training, literacy, English classes, legal assistance, and vocational training.

Supporting a Rural Center that Helps the Most Vulnerable

Through OEDDO (Orphans, Elderly & Disabled Development Organization) we are addressing problems in a poor rural community through relief work and empowerment. Current programs are summarized to the left.

Emergency Food for Families Impacted by COVID

Closure of garment factories, the halt of tourism, and stay-home orders have severely limited the earning ability of the poor. Families facing food shortages are provided rice, canned fish, eggs, cooking oil, fish sauce, & soy sauce.

Friendship with Cambodia

PO Box 5231, Eugene, OR 97405
Bhavia Wagner will continue to be the Executive Director for five more years.

Founded in 2003 as a non-profit organization to provide humanitarian aid to Cambodia.

www.friendshipwithcambodia.org
friendshipwithcambodia@gmail.com

Please support our programs. Tax-deductible.

Our 14 new university graduates are helping society and their families

For the last two years of COVID, our sponsored students have been learning online. They faced many challenges including unstable internet access, losing their part-time jobs, and for some, having to return home to study. They worked hard to complete their internships, finish their theses, and patiently waited for exams to be scheduled. In spite of the obstacles, all 14 students graduated in 2021. They are paying it forward by supporting relatives and ending poverty in their families.



Chay Mon: Social Work
Wants to work with high risk children and to support her nephew's ed.



Kit Sadayana: Management
Working for a real estate company and supporting her two siblings' education.



That Dara: Bioengineering
Working as a microbiologist in a clinic and supporting his niece's & nephews' education.



Oeu Phally: Community Development
Wants to create jobs to reduce migration and support her brother's ed.



Nei Savandy: Community Development
Wants to help vulnerable children and families and support her brother's and sister's ed.



Suon Pisey: Finance and Banking
Wants to start "Wing" a money transfer agency and support her nephew's education.



Lam Vanchheun: Social Work
Has a job at an environmental organization and is supporting her two brothers' education.



Neang Sokthy: Electrical Engineering
Has a job at a company and is supporting his brother's education and wants to support an orphanage.



Dul Sreybroem: Social Work
Wants to be a child protection officer and support her sister's ed.



Ret Sakun: Veterinary Medicine
Plans to start a pig farm and create jobs in his community and will support his sister's ed.



Norm Sopheara: Social Work
Wants to support child welfare and support her brother's and sisters' ed.



Sung Sreyhuon: Social Work
Wants to be a case manager and empower disadvantaged youth and support her brother's ed.



Kong Layheang: Architecture
Wants to start her own firm. Will design a high school for her community in hopes the government will build one there. She is supporting her sister's education.



Yeng Srey Oun: Community Development
Works with autistic children, plans to guide high school students to attend university and support her niece's education.

Sex-Trafficking Survivors Receive Help

In 2021, 84 sex-trafficking survivors received support from FWC. Eighty were trafficked to China, two to Malaysia, one to Thailand, and one in Cambodia.

Schan had been promised a well-paying job in China, but when she arrived, she was trafficked into a forced marriage. She was emotionally abused by her husband and his family.

Five years later, she escaped and lived

with a friend for a few weeks before being arrested by the police for not having proper legal documents.

Schan was held by the police for three months. She was sent back to Cambodia in November 2021. The Cambodian government took her to our shelter for trafficked girls, run by the Cambodian Women's Crisis Center.

Schan received counseling, vocational skill training, and help with reintegration to her community. A month later, she returned to her home town in Kratie Province.



Survivors in group counseling



PO Box 5231
Eugene, OR 97405

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Create Your Own Legacy of Education

Please consider adding our new endowment fund to your will.

Your donation will support university education for poor rural youth in Cambodia - forever !

Friendship with Cambodia is establishing an endowment fund through Oregon Community Foundation to support students from poor families in rural Cambodia to attend university in Cambodia. Eighty percent of the students will be girls because education for girls is key to ending poverty.

For every \$50,000 in the fund, we can support one student in university for a year, indefinitely. A generous donor gave us a grant to start the fund. Donations in any

amount are welcome. You can create your legacy of education and happiness for future generations.

The Oregon Community Foundation was established in 1973. Their assets are over \$2 billion and they award over \$100 million in grants each year. It is the ninth largest community foundation in the United States.

Donations to the fund can be sent to Friendship with Cambodia. Contact us for information on how to list it in your will.

