



Cambodia, September 2012.

### It is time to start a new project!

We already have a great program: We Protect, Educate and Care for a group of Wonderful Children and a Young Adult, living permanently in a secure home, that they never had before, as one large family.

Why don't we expand? ... Why don't we take more children? ... And why don't we invite inside with us, the local community? Families with little or no resources, they can send their children to enjoy and learn with TOGETHER FOR CAMBODIA, within our extra school education program!

Yes, it is time to share with more children. We will work closely with the community, educating children and young adults in very important subjects - foreign languages, computer, sports, dance, music, Khmer culture, human rights, and more...

But this program must be solid, permanent, and the only way is to own the land....it will ensure the future of TOGETHER FOR CAMBODIA and our today's children will be the ones who will one day manage the project... Yes, TOGETHER FOR CAMBODIA will be owner of its project totally!



**COLLABORATE with your donation for this project**

**THE CHILDREN'S LAND.**

We are looking to purchase 5000m2 of land, the owner is allowing us to pay monthly, with no interest, like a rent until it become ours but first we must cancel the debt, before we can start to build! Step by step making TOGETHER FOR CAMBODIA a solid and permanent project. We have already a percentage of the land paid, but we need still your help, come on, go on, and please help us!

**For US\$29 you can help us to buy 1m2!**

*A donation to this project will receive a certificate of thanks, with a mention of your help enabling our project to go forward. Give a donation as a gift to your family members, friends and colleagues, receive a Certificate in their name for birthdays, Christmas and other celebrations, with recognition to the mentioned person as one of those that contributed to make the dream real, for a new generation of Cambodians, enjoying education and dignity during their childhood.*

**BANK DETAIL**

**ANZ ROYAL BANK**

**TOGETHER FOR CAMBODIA**

**2549538**

**ANZBKHPP**

**A donation to this project will receive a certificate of Thanks!.**



## JULY 2012

1-During this month, throughout Cambodia, a very large number of children were affected by the sickness, Hand, Foot, and Mouth disease. A contagious viral illness that commonly affects infants and children, there is no vaccine to prevent the disease but simple steps reduce the risk. In TFC we always apply these steps, frequent washing of hands with soap, especially after using the toilet and before eating or preparing food. For all those that would like more detailed information, you can find it at <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/handfootmouthdisease/>. In our home there were no cases but the children could not go to school, as schools were closed for a week to avoid further spread.



2-Another disease that has been affecting many children and overwhelming the hospitals has been the dengue fever, causing approximately one hundred deaths alone this year in the child population. Two of our children got sick, and one needed to be under hospital observation for a couple of days in The Angkor Hospital for Children, and the other child was supervised at home.

3-For TFC it is very important that staff get training according to their position and also to enrich their knowledge and skill base, thus allowing their career pathway to develop and improve their future job prospects.

On the 9<sup>th</sup>, we started English lessons at TFC for our staff. Three days per week, 90 minutes each session, with a qualified English Teacher, Mr. BOTH. He teaches our children every afternoon in our centre, at home including the youngest children. Building on our staff's skills is another of our goals for Cambodia.





The 19<sup>th</sup> we started computer lessons for the staff, two days per week, one hour per day with a qualified teacher, Mr. SOPHA. He teaches computer lessons to our children, at different levels according to the children's knowledge and capabilities, during the afternoon.



4-We encouraged and supported these wing shop workers to open their first bank account, to enable them to learn about saving money and budgeting. It was normal for them to hide money in different areas of their houses, giving easy access to all the family, which made it difficult to save, even on a good salary. Noticing from some time ago that it was impossible for them to save money for when an emergency arose, we suggested this option and all of them accepted very happily. This way they will have the only access to their earnings. Afterwards all the TFC staff was encouraged and supported to do the same.



5-We organized to go to the local market to buy pj's, towels and socks for all the children, to replace the small and worn out ones! We budgeted, made lists so we don't forget anyone and anything, three children volunteers came to choose styles, colors and sizes and to be responsible for the shopping, in total 3 hours at the market!!!. Finally we came back home, after reaching our goal and all the children were very happy to get their new clothes from their siblings hands, bought with love and finesse.





6-The 19th two representatives of the organization IBIS RICE came and donated 15 kilo of rice. An anonymous person had ordered them. This organization was founded to promote and market wildlife-friendly products grown or crafted in the communities, located in all categories of land protected for their biodiversity value in Cambodia. Its works links wildlife conservation to improving livelihoods of villagers, limited by the constraints of living in a remote area with little opportunity to expand operations and limited market access.



7-During this month a Volunteer JAN N. (Canada), worked in the financial department, implementing new accounts software QuickBooks, to have total control. He supervised all the work done throughout this year. He established a list of priorities and recommendations to follow up monthly and annually. He worked very closely with SEREY, the person in charge of this department, who during her maternity leave came to several meetings so JAN could share with her procedures and protocols.



8-We are thankful to our benefactor from Australia, ANDREZZA K. for her permanent support and focus of her attention to our sewing shop. She did an exhaustive presentation to the company where she works, SKM, who accepted her project. They are the sponsors of one of our sewing workers, SREYNEANG, who over several months will be learning and improving her skills, in another shop with an excellent sewing teacher. She continues to receive her monthly salary, the training is paid for too and once she has finished especial sewing machine and all the expenses will be paid for. SREYNEANG has the exact profile requested because besides her natural skill for sewing, she has been working for more than 2 years in our sewing program and she has always been very professional and a very good example for everyone. She has used her salary to improve her family house with a metal roof instead of a palm leaves roof, electricity, water pump supply and recently a second hand motorbike.



9-SRAYA, is the youngest sewing worker, she has continued with her English lessons, she comes 3 times per week learning English with our program at home. She is a very capable worker and her life has changed totally after working with us. Before she was a vulnerable young adult begging on the streets, now she is an efficient worker with many opportunities to come into our advanced program for sewing workers. My dream is to see her as Sales Manager, in charge of the sewing centre! If she wants to, I will do all possible to make it happens!.



## AUGUST

10-The 14th, the Ministry of the Social Affairs in Phonm Penh invited us to go to sign and collect the Agreement Certificate between us, that signifies that this institution recognizes us as a partnership member because we are in accordance with the minimum standards established by the MOSAVY. This document is very important because it is necessary to complete all requirements for an organization with our characteristics. Now we will be invited to all meetings, discussions and decisions from this Ministry. Actually they have registered around 3000 NGO's with a similar profile to us, but only 127 have this certificate of agreement.



11-The 16th and the 28th, The Ministry of Social Affairs invited us to assist our first meeting together with another organization. Find attached the report by our TFC's Director Mr. Piseth.





12-The 20th, the children of TOGETHER FOR CAMBODIA donated to the NGO APLE-Action Pour Les Enfants. This organization observes, investigates and follows up complaints of pedophile cases in Cambodia. They had financial problems that stopped them bringing some children from other provinces to Siem Reap to declare in front of the Judge, (transport, lodge, food, etc).When our children knew about this, they offered to donate from their budget for clothes and shoes, festivals, celebration, until the end of the year!!! They were prepared to include the basketball coaches wages, outings during weekends, snacks on Saturdays nights watching TV...but all those were not necessary, with shoes, clothes and TFC anniversary party, was enough!!!. Actually we expect and hope that APLE can with ours and other donations cover those important needs and in the long term we hope the situation will be better permanently. We don't forget the important role that APLE played in our lives 2 years ago!! For more information, please follow this link:

[http://www.aplecambodia.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1530&Itemid=518](http://www.aplecambodia.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1530&Itemid=518)



### SEPTEMBER

13-The School year 2012-12 started at the New York International School, 39 of our children are there, and all of them got a new set uniform and a new complete set of books.



14-At the Australian Centre for Education, one of the best centers to learnt English in Siem Reap, we have 26 children attending that have already passed the 3rd term with brilliant results!!! Three of our children got special certificates mentioning achievements and top positions.

15-The 5th we signed the contracts of selling-buying, the loan and other documents related to The Children's Land Project, owned from now on by TFC.



16-The 11<sup>th</sup> the organization WORLD VISION invited TFC to participate in a workshop related about "Case Management System Meeting", including about the procedures to follow for all the membership in cases of Child Trafficking and Exploitation, Child abuse. TFC Social Workers, SREYTHEA and SREYROTH assisted and followed up.

During this month we have been working on the publicity: Updating the brochure, the web site, making a special certificate for donors involved in The Children's Land project (attached an example) and special cards indicating the whereabouts of our sewing shop.

<http://juntosporcamboya.org/THE%20CHILDREN's%20LAND%20Project.php>

<http://www.togetherforcambodia.org/THE%20CHILDREN's%20LAND%20Project.php>

17-The 21st September at TFC we made our first annual awards to our employees. Three certificates were given to those staff that have and continue to demonstrate above and beyond their duty: commitment, a serious attitude to their work, responsibility, respect, flexibility, achievement, and effusively facing challenges. We made 2 special mentions to other staff and promoted one House Mother to Team Leader/Counselor. I thank all of them for making TFC one of the best organizations in Cambodia, recognized by all government offices and included in all the important meetings in the country.







18-The 21<sup>st</sup> till the 23<sup>rd</sup>, eight children that got a special mention during the school year 2011-12 went to Phnom Penh as promised as an incentive, to celebrate. They visited the National Museum, the Royal Palace, Riverside, Wat Pho Pagoda, Central and Oressey Markets, and they were responsible to buy books and educational games for our library at home, following a compiled list done during the last 3 months of requests from all the children together. Thank you to The Rotary Club of Mt. Waverley (Australia) to make the dream real!.





### MISCELLANEOUS

19-The last few months basketball is the favorite home game, the children get coached every Saturday afternoon for one hour and a half, to see them training and playing with all the heart and energy that they have its great!!! The sport helps them to grow up healthy and strong. At home we play sports every day.



20-The Social Workers SREYTHEA and SREYROTH have been visiting different communities during the last months. They compile and update the children's background information. This work requires a lot of patience and follow up, in many cases it is very difficult, because the guardian is dead without information about the reasons or the dates. In other cases they are in an unknown place from some time ago or have established new family units and they don't include the first one. In many cases we have access only to the Grandmothers, that are living in poverty, the Commune Leaders, or some relatives that finally we discover they are neighbors or relatives in law.



21-SEREY, is responsible for the accounts, she recently came back from maternity leave. Congratulations for the new family member, wishing that he grows up healthy and very happy child!!! Welcome again to TFC!!!

**22-SREYROTH**, who main job is House Mother, is really progressing, first as a Counselor for the children, she is working beside the Social Worker to learn about assessment, the use of standards parameters, interview technique. Also she is getting involved in meetings and workshops with other recognizable institutions. It's amazing to see a woman in her forties, with four children, with poor resources, with no limits to her capacity for improvement and always she wants more, yes we will give her more!!! Welcome to my world, where the challenges and the dreams are possible!!!.



**23-The organization WORLD VISION** sent to us 2 Facilitators, to evaluate the learning and application of the CEPAT tool by 2 of our House Mothers, after they were trained for one week in Phonm Penh by them. This special interview is a good support to evaluate the abuse or exploitation of females through their lives.





24-The organization named CHILD HELP LINE CAMBODIA, asked TFC to be involved with them as a partnership member to care, protect, advice and defend the children that are at risk of abuse, exploitation or trafficking. They have a 24 hour free phone line for the children at risk or vulnerable. Their main office is in Phonm Penh, and TFC as partner member should assist those children calling them, to evaluate the situation, update and afterwards consider all together the best for the child.

25-We visited the Technical School Paul Dubrule in Siem Reap, a training specialist in hospitality, to get information about the steps to follow in accordance with the Ministry of Tourism to study and achieve the certificate as a Tour Guide.

26-Special Purchases: -Note books 600 units. -School uniforms 48 units. -Bicycles 2 units. Helmets 3 units. -Copy machine. -Electric Cook Rice pot 1 unit. -200 Books + 10 posters + Pedagogical games + 10 puzzles -CHILDREN's LAND.

27-THANK YOU very much to the sponsors in Spain that donated the first percentage for buying the land.

THANK YOU very much to Spotlight in Australia supporting the "Cook for the Soul" sells and fundraising together with Michael K. a huge percentage too.

THANK YOU very much to Sue O. (UK), Peter H. (Australia), Bjoern & Irena E. (Germany) and Celsa P. M. (Spain) for support as individuals in the purchase of land!.



Thank you for the following packets with donations: Books donated by Judith & Jeff from USA. Computers donated by Peter T. from Australia. Sport's balls donated by Ted, Maddie, Sam, Jane & Andrer from Australia. AUKUN Tom Tom.





A very, very BIG Thank You to the Hotel LA RESIDENCE D'ANGKOR. Twice a week they open their doors to us, inviting us in, giving our children the opportunity to enjoy and practice English and at the same time meet benefactors who want contact with us. All the Management and staff make the children feel respected and loved. Every month the Hotel gives us 200 kilograms of rice, THANK YOU from all of us. And the Hotel orders different handmade products from TFC, so helping us and the community. Similarly, through ordering laundry bags for your guestrooms, made by our sewing ladies in our workshop, you help us to help them increase their skills and make an income to support their families.



Thank you to SPOTLIGHT Australia for helping us pass on the teaching of sewing skills through their program STITCH IN TIME. The donation of the sewing machines, enabling our ladies to make cloth bags and the monthly order of bags, are now a sustainable project, giving protection and a new life style to a group of 6 families. These women are getting skills and a fair salary which enables them to re-organize their lives and improve the quality of hygiene, health and education for their children. And also Thank You very much for permitting the distribution of our book FOOD For The SOUL through your stores across Australia.



Thank you to EVERYONE that through the Child Sponsorship Program, the Scholarship Program and donations for different projects altogether make it possible that we stay on budget.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH to ALL the Staff members for their work and to ALL the Benefactors who give us hope.

**Bank details:**

Bank Name: **ANZ ROYAL BANK**

Account Name: **TOGETHER FOR CAMBODIA**

Swift: **ANZBKHPP**

\*Account Number: **2087220** (Child sponsorship, Scholarship, General Budget).

\*Account Number: **2549538** (Buying – Building THE CHILDREN's LAND Project).

\*Only US\$.

**Contact details:**

[www.togetherforcambodia.org](http://www.togetherforcambodia.org) and [www.juntosporcamboya.org](http://www.juntosporcamboya.org)

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/JuntosPorCamboya>

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Lidia Linde Ginesta.

President and Founder.



## **Meeting Report**

### **At the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation**

*Phnom Penh, 16 and 28 August 2012*

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After signing the **Project Agreement (MOU)** between **Together for Cambodia** and **Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation** of Kingdom of Cambodia on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2012, **Together for Cambodia** was invited to join the meeting with many other organizations which are recently working with **Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation**.

Meeting Agenda: “**Selection Meeting for Candidates Representing Facilitated Non-Governmental Organization Team for the Annual Discussion Meeting between the government and Non-Governmental Organization on 16 August 2012**”

The meeting was voted seven organizations working with different skills as below:

1. Mith Samlanh
2. Chab Dai Coalition
3. Plan International Cambodia
4. SOS-KDI (Children Village)
5. Cambodian Disabled People's Organization (CDPO)
6. Help Age International Cambodia
7. Prison Fellowship

There were 200 organization representatives participated in the meeting and the candidates of the organizations elected in the first round would make the final selection on 28 August 2012 in order to choose only one representative organization to be a **Non-Governmental Organization Facilitated Team**.

On 28 August 2012 at 14:00, the ministry held the meeting again having “**Selecting a Representative NGO of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation for the Annual Discussion Meeting between the government and Non-Governmental Organization**” on the agenda with the participation of **H.E. Ith Sam Heng**, Minister of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation ministry.



There are many Non-Governmental Organizations and Government Officers attended the meeting. **H.E. Ith Sam Heng, Minister of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation** said that there are more than 3,000 organizations working in Cambodia which 212 organizations work with the ministry of Social Affairs, but only 127 organizations have signed the Project Agreement (MOU) with the Ministry. His Excellency addressed admiring all the organizations for their efforts to work as development partners with the Royal Government, especially with the **Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation**. He added that we can't work without accepting organizations for the development of Cambodia. All organizations working with Ministry of Social Affairs have **more than 200 million US dollars for their 3 year-budgets, and it means about 67 million US dollars each year in comparing to the budget of the ministry of Social Affairs having about 80 million US dollars**. We can see that the amount is almost similar, so all organizations really involve in developing Cambodia.

After finishing his speech, His Excellency had assigned the committee for voting to choose the representative organization for **the ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation**. Finally, **Plan International Cambodia** was selected to be a representative NGO. The meeting was closed at 17:00.

Reported by: **OUK Piseth**

