



March 2013, Cambodia

This is our Newsletter on the experiences during the Dry Season of 2013. During this season Cambodia lives in a world of less green and more orange. The rice fields are waiting for the rain waters to return them to their magical green color.

In the month of January the temperatures drop, and Cambodians may shiver in the "real winter". In the morning the temperature is about 16 degrees Celsius which is wonderful!! The weather changes in February and by March it can be a hot, wet oven.

I will explain in detail everything that has happened during these months, so that you may feel close, so close that I can feel your presence.

**THANK YOU, Thank You** for being with us during these months. Without your help it would not be possible to make our dreams become real.



Welcome to TOGETHER FOR CAMBODIA Dry Season 2013 Newsletter!!! **THANK YOU** for making it possible, for helping to make dreams come true.

## LATE DECEMBER 2012

**\*\* The Volunteers GERT, (accredited English Teacher and Flight Attendant), and KAREL, (Aeronautical Engineer), came from Belgium to instruct in areas such as Music, Crafts and Aeronautics. We all enjoyed and learned from their skills. We are grateful for their enthusiasm and great work and for the donation of a piano, a ukulele and several tambourines and small musical instruments. The volunteers also organized two visits to airport facilities to support practical lectures and learning. Simply Brilliant!**



**\*\* Awareness and Preparedness for domestic fires and extinguishing systems. All staff of TFC was taught some techniques of domestic fire prevention and proper decision making in unforeseen emergency situations.**



**\*\* During the Christmas season we shared the magical event with the Hotel La Résidence D'Angkor, who invited us, once again, to celebrate with them in their wonderful facilities. Upon our arrival, we enjoyed a dinner they had prepared for us and the children sang several carols. We then had cookies, sodas, juices and a magical end to the evening with several gifts that Santa left for the children at the hotel. The gifts were greatly appreciated by both the children and the staff of TFC.**





Hotel La Résidence d'Angkor Management team with the TFC Family during Christmas's Eve.

**\*\* Thank you very much for the donations that many of our visitors make. We love to consult our "List of Wishes" on the website, and then at your request, make a budget and go along with any of the TFC employees to acquire rice, toiletries, shoes, school supplies. Thank you very much to Aleix Creus NGOs representing Estrellas de Camboya (The Star of Cambodia) from Barcelona, the family of Silvia Camacho from Barcelona, the family Mc Kenzie-Martin representing the Rotary Club of Mt. Waverley in Melbourne, who went to the market to buy schoolbags for college, and to Allan Tillet and his family from Australia who brought books and school supplies.**





Thank you very much to all those who are carrying their luggage halfway around the world full of clothes, shoes, school supplies, medicines, toys and much more. Thank you.

## JANUARY 2013

**\*\* We are delighted with the oven that Santa Claus gave us last Christmas at Hotel La Résidence d'Angkor. The kids are great at kneading and of course eating the cookies and cakes that they make. We may have some future bakers!.**



**\*\* The 2013 football league coordinated by Globalteer starts in January! We have three teams participating (under 18, under 14 and under 10). The latter group is mixed and our players are excited to play ball!**



**\*\* SKM, an Australian company, sponsored Neang, one of our sewing workers, by sending her to another shop to learn more about sewing positions and sweatshirts. After several months of sewing education we are ready to accept orders. Our new phase for TFC has begun with three shipments of 50 poles each in different departments of SKM. Thank you very much to SKM for opening the doors to a new market of needle and thread; particular thanks to our benefactor Andrezza Kuhl for all the effort and enthusiasm it took to create this initiative and coordinate each of the steps.**



**\*\* We visited the Provincial Career Fair in Siem Reap with a group of our young adults. Universities, Technical Schools, hotels and companies presented their curricula and jobs. We were able to evaluate all the programs and options in one place.**



**\*\* We were visited by several sponsors and took the opportunity to present the accounts and budgets for 2012 and 2013. In this presentation, each department (Accounting, Social Work, Education and Health, Equity / Legal Aspects) outlined the work undertaken during 2012 and the projects for 2013. Thank you very much to the Mc Kenzie-Martin family, Casper family and the NGO Un Due Tre Stella for their participation, comments and suggestions.**



**Family Casper in The Children's Land / Mrs. Rhonda McKenzie with the team that made the presentation. L to R: Piseth (Director), Serey (Accountant), Sreythea (Social Worker), Lidia (President). Rhonda and Vanntha (Assistance Manager).**

**\*\* On January 26 we signed our first contract, to start work on the Land of the children. We started building a wall 1 meter high, and filling the land with more land, totalling 0.70 m in height, to protect the land from flooding during the rainy season. Come to the first phase of construction for the Great Project!**



**Lidia and Piseth happy!. The first contract signed with the builder Mr. Sean**

On January 29, the work began! We began to lift the 1 meter wall and fill the ground to avoid flooding during the rainy season. The dream begins to take shape.



## February 2013

The children studied Khmer General Education at the New York International School from Monday to Friday and in February they finished their first semester exams with good results. They continue to work very hard and are committed to their studies. The staff oversees the students to ensure they do their homework in the evening after dinner. All the children are well organized and have good morals. They are always admired wherever they go.



Twenty six children study English at ACE (Australian Center for Education). The children are studying very hard and making tremendous improvement.



We have sufficient school materials in stock for the children. We recently bought 400 notebooks.

Grand Puppet Parade. We enjoyed both the preparations and walking the streets with other organizations and a large audience. The parade is a highly anticipated event where the magic of bamboo and paper makes dreams a reality. We were responsible for “Honey Bee”.





In late February work on constructing the wall and filling in the land is 75% complete.



The last 2 photos were made on March 20, 2013.

## MARCH 2013

The Educational Travel was generously sponsored by the Abzatz family. We travelled with a group of 6 young adults at the invitation of the Technical School Don Bosco in Kep, to attend the inauguration of its new Social Communication and Journalism program. During our travels we visited Phnom Penh, Kep, Kampot and Sihanoukville.



Moments in Don Bosco Kep Opening / Mr. Hector & Mrs. Helen Lootjens brought from Holland necessary parts to fix the bike Savong, which they donated now 1 year ago / TFC gave a diploma thanks to the rector and friend Albeiro.

In the city of Phnom Penh our youth visited Tuol Sleng museums (based on the genocide during the Khmer Rouge regime), the National Museum and several major avenues and markets.



In the other provinces we had the opportunity to see the salt field of Kep and its "Dragon Mountain", where the hand of nature has created a universe of passageways with stalagmites and stalactites. Our students also visited Bokor National Park in Kampot, and the Don Bosco facilities in Kep and Sihanoukville. They had an opportunity to see the Don Bosco workshops, classrooms, dormitories and meet with some of the Don Bosco students.



Salinas, Dragon Cave and beach in Kep / A stopover at Bokor National Park (Kampot).

Once at our home in Siem Reap, our group shared their experiences with everyone, explaining the lessons learned and most importantly a trip that they will never forget. The passage of time may erase dates, perhaps names, but it can never erase the experience of knowing a little more about their country and their future academic options.



Don Bosco Sihanoukville: Social Communication Section Director Mr. Sambo, gave a talk on the importance of having a good education and future / Classroom Section Hospitality and its Director and friend Roberto.

**\*\* We have started a Guidance Workshop for our Young Adults, led by Sreythea, the Social Worker at TFC. These workshops will consist of a total of 4 different modules, which aims to prepare the way for adulthood through gaining more knowledge about themselves and about the world around them.**



### **Guidance Workshops Agenda**

**- Who am I?. - Communication. - Reproductive Health. - Gender Differences**

In March we launched the first module of the Training Workshops. This was on **"Who am I?"**. The course comprised lessons and activities (exercise about what they like and dislike, drawing Tree of Life, etc.), and self-assessment exercises to do with self- knowledge, thoughts, feelings and behaviour. This program started with a group of 12 young people aged from 14 years. A second group of 12 young people will be doing this workshop during the month of April 2013.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### \*\* TFC Sewing Shop

Over the past 3 years Spotlight, an Australian company, has been placing cloth bag orders with us. Because of these orders we have managed to change the quality of life for many women in Cambodia, their children and their families. Spotlight, Thanks for trusting us and for being with us. Thank you for helping to make a difference in the community of Siem Reap. Your help has assisted marginalized women that have few resources. Some of these vulnerable women now have a job, a decent salary.



Our Sewing Shop has also created our own model type Patch bag. We sell this bag to tourists who visit us and to other hotels that order laundry bags.



Belen and José L. who are traveling the world stopped in at our Sewing Workshop to buy two wonderful jackets.

A story from the Sewing-Shop: Ms. Ny is 44 years old and has four children. Her husband repairs appliances. For the past year she has been working in our sewing workshop making cloth bags. For many years she worked as a cleaner for little money and was very sick because of the long hours and hard work. She sometimes would go to the pagoda where she cooked rice and other food for the monks. Since working at TFC her health has improved, her home now has a private bathroom and improved living conditions with respect to hygiene and food quality. Ms. Ny is the older stepsister of some orphans that we protect and care for in our home "The Children's House". Previously she did not have the ability to take care of the orphaned children but now with her improved economic situation they go to visit her during the weekends and national holidays. Thanks to the TFC Sewing-Shop this family has improved their quality of life and can visit during holiday periods.



**\*\* Congratulations to TFC's employees who continue to take English classes three times per week. Our organization provides the English classes in the mornings and the employees' progress in the English language is excellent.**



This year we have created a dedicated budget to work with some of the most vulnerable in the communities that the children residents come from.



We continue to focus on our goal to improve the quality of life and well-being for Community Children who are born with deformities to their bodies by Meningocele. These children are sent to receive the best possible care, support and guidance from the Children's Surgery Center (CSC) in Phnom Penh. We accompany parents from remote villages to the hospital. We are working in the community to lessen if not eradicate birth defects or injuries arising from accidents.



TFC coordinates with the families of the children living in remote villages and the hospital in Phnom Penh.

**\*\* We also continue to work on our goal of improving the living situation for some of TFC children's grandmothers. These women live in very poor and difficult conditions and they lack the ability to earn enough money for their survival. Our objective is to help and support grandmothers and their families so they will have better living conditions in the future.**



**\*\* Our young adults and children having a great willingness to help with the routines of the kitchen. They help wash, peel, chop and even do some of the cooking! On weekends and holidays they accompany the cook to the market to learn how to manage at the market and to appreciate the work of TFC employees.**



**February 2013 Food and Groceries Expenditures in \$US:**

- Food: \$1,219.24
- Ingredients: \$ 91.53
- Rice: \$ 95.00 (Received Rice donations for an equivalent amount)
- Pure Water: \$ 19.55
- Coal and Gas: \$ 20.00
  
- TOTAL: \$ 1,445.32

**\*\* On our weekend outings to lakes, mountains and temples, we get a delicious snack consisting of seasonal fruits and soybean milk.**



**\*\* At The Children's House we have enough playground for the little ones to enjoy playing freely. Thanks to the generosity of our Benefactors we have a wide range of materials for fun !.**



**\*\* And there is also plenty of room to enjoy learning, as in the Counseling Room or in our Library. Thanks to the generosity of our Benefactors we have a wide range of materials for academic support.**



## **Budget 2013 Pending**

- RICE **\$US30 per week, \$US120 per month, \$US1,440 per year.**
- FOOD INGREDIENTS **\$US1,600 per year.**
- PURE WATER **\$US300 per year.**
- COAL / GAS **\$US500 per year.**
- NOTE BOOKS **\$US300 per year** 1000 units.
- GRANDMOTHERS, pending 3 with Food Kid monthly + Medicines **\$US1,800.00 per year.**
- COUNSELLING MATERIAL **\$US100 per year.**
- SPORTS MATERIAL **\$US300 per year.**
- STAFF UNIFORMS **\$US500.**
- CLOTHES **\$US2,400.**
- SHOES TRAINERS **\$US560.**
- SHOES FLIP FLOP **\$US400.**
- ELECTRICITY **200\$US one month 2,400\$US one year.**
- REPAIR & MAINTENANCE **\$US50 one month, \$US600 one year.**
- WASTE COLLECTION **\$US20 one month, \$US240 one year.**
- FIRST AID KID **\$US25 one month, \$US300 one year.**
- ANNUAL BONUS STAFF **\$US500.**
- STAFF TRAINING **\$US1,200\$ per year.**
- STAFF MISSION **\$US600 per year.**
- LEGAL SERVICES **\$US3,300.**

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** Only US\$.

**Contact Details:**

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

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

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

[lidiaginesta@gmail.com](mailto:lidiaginesta@gmail.com)

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

AUKUN CHARAN

Lidia Linde Ginesta.

President & Founder.