



Siem Reap, Cambodia, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Dear **BENEFACTORS** and **FRIENDS**

We have celebrated some very important dates for the Khmer people (Cambodian). In the middle of April and, according to the Buddhist calendar, the **KHMER NEW YEAR** is celebrated. We have participated in festivals and excursions, fulfilling the traditions and creating all together unforgettable moments, proving that family traditions are not lost. The dates of the official celebration have been **April 14, 15 and 16**. We also added the 12th, which was the beginning of school holidays at JAVI School, and organized a party for students and teachers.



\*\*\* April 12th \*\*\*

A fantastic party took place in the facilities of JAVI School (our school in the center Dei Koma-The Children's Land). The students divided into teams that they themselves decided and organized decoration, games, gifts, drinks, music, cleaning and collaborated directly in food preparations. We had a fantastic time!!! Laughs, songs, dances and a good feast of curry with bread and hot dogs !.



Many Games and Awards.





**Pull the rope by teams, the musical chairs and competition of eating water melon!.**





**Awards, Food, Drink and DaNcE!**



### \*\*\* April 14th \*\*\*

In the morning, we visited the pagoda of our community, to deliver food to the monks and be blessed. In the afternoon play, dance and rest.



### \*\*\* April 15 \*\*\*

Fulfilling one of the most relevant traditions of these dates, in which the children have to wash the parents, cover them with perfumed talcum powder and ask for forgiveness of the mistakes made in the previous year and wishes for the next of good luck, health and long life. Fulfilling the tradition that says "As you cleaned me when I was a helpless baby, now I wash you, because I have no other way to show you gratitude for what you did for me."



**Barbecue and Dance!!! A great barbecue that closed with music and dance!**



\*\*\* April 16th \*\*\*

At 7 in the morning we headed for the Hindu temples of Koh Ker and Beng Mealea. We enjoyed a magical environment and its history. We took food, water and fresh fruit, returning to Dei Koma (Children's Land) at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

KOH KER, is a remote archaeological paradise that was the center of the Khmer empire, with almost 200 sanctuaries. Only a couple of dozen can be visited, because most are hidden in forests that have not been cleared of land mines.



BENG MEALEA, invaded by the Cambodian jungle and with very little restoration – it has been left almost as it was when discovered- is an amazing temple. Walking its fantastic ruins is an adventure. The fusion of man and nature creates an atmosphere of mystery and legends.





In addition, another daily practice is to wet each other in the streets and cover each other with talcum powder, as a symbol of purification and cleanliness. This tradition has taken root and at night, games and dances are held in the most emblematic streets.



Many THANKS for your TRUST, for your DEVOTION and ENTHUSIASM, but above all, for your LOVE.

BANK NAME ... ANZ ROYAL BANK

ACCOUNT NAME ... TOGETHER FOR CAMBODIA

ACCOUNT NUMBER 2087220

SWIFT ANZBKHPP

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

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

<https://www.facebook.com/JuntosPorCamboya>



Lidia Linde Ginesta

President & Founder