

Helping to Care for Cambodia's Children

THE SHARING FOUNDATION

Winter, 2001

Foundation marks great year

Now, our focus turns to the future

Roteang Orphanage turns one-year-old on December 14, the day we moved in with a new director, Dr. Ly Srey Vyna, a new staff, plus 16 nannies and 16 children transferred from old Cham Chao. A year later, 150 children have been under our care.

About a dozen children have come for safekeeping at the orphanage, and then biological families have come back for them; one died of neonatal tetanus a few days after arrival, and we had one crib death. Over 60 have gone to American homes in this year, but more than 70 remain in the orphanage as of this writing, some awaiting clearance for U.S. homes.

Some of the children are tiny babies recently abandoned and needing extended care and feeding, 16 have come with HIV, several with cerebral palsy, severe feeding



Roteang Orphanage cares for a number of children with disabilities that will keep them from ever being adopted. Children like, left, Choup Nath, Sok Eang, and Soheat Pov, are HIV-PCR positive and will develop AIDS within a few years.

difficulties, or other handicaps. Frequently, people arrive at our gate with an infant who has been turned away from other orphanages; many of these children have a tiny needle hole in the crook of their elbow, automatically notifying us that they have been tested for HIV, found positive, and rejected by other orphanages.

Previous newsletters have detailed the three children TSF has taken to Bangkok this year for medical care not available in Cambodia. Song Tola, our little 1-year-old whose heart defect was bringing her life to an early close, has now had her surgery in Bangkok, and is

back at Roteang where, for the first time, she is smiling and interacting with other children. She will soon have an adoptive family.

As our efforts in Cambodia have grown over the last year, we have also tried to begin securing our future work through the estab-

lishment of an endowment. A five-year matching grant from the Brook Family Foundation for \$100,000 has already made its first \$20,000 contribution. Other, private donations have secured another \$15,000 for the fund.

TSF's directors are now in the process of developing a long-term investment strategy for the fund, and we are continually working to raise additional donations and matching grants. The support for this fund makes it certain we will meet our goals to keep our long-term mission a success.

Our main objectives for the

Continued on page 2

next year are to continue to ensure the excellence of care at Roteang Orphanage with sufficient, well-trained nannies, abundant food, pure water, excellent medical care, well maintained buildings, and a secure and supportive environment for everyone living there. This costs about \$11,000 per month for 60 plus children and a staff of over 40. Diesel fuel to provide our energy is a huge part of the cost, and we are exploring ways to convert to solar power.

We are hoping to increase the number of families in our Farm Project and we will maintain and widen our large involvement with the local schools, a role we believe will be vital for the community's long-term economic improvement. We are continuing to operate our sewing program for girls, but are considering substituting other vocational training that might prove valuable to local youths.

And as always, we will be on the lookout for those special children who need medical care outside what is available in Cambodia and try on case-by-case basis to solve the problems.

We fervently wish we could afford to address the HIV treatment problem in at least some children - as yet no one in Cambodia has - and are trying to work on this.

Our outreach projects are thriving, and indeed, the lives of hundreds of children are being improved by TSF!

Thank You

This year we have received many individual "arrival", christening, and birthday gifts in honor of the following children who were recognized with multiple gifts.

Daniel Ash	Eli Begert
Laura Bonnell-Bradley	"Peep" Carson
Mayalea Conrade	Taylor Detenber
Leland Glanz	Grace Mahon
Sam Micheli	Alex Newman
Chay Allen Sumner	Avery von Herrmann

Parent Birthdays were also celebrated by multiple gifts to TSF:

Becca Thompson-Greaves, Mom of Will and Hannah
Kenneth Jacobs, Dad of Molly

A number of families asked that Memorial gifts be sent to TSF in honor of deceased family members: TSF uses these gifts with great respect, recognizing the opportunity to make a real difference with these donations, thus truly honoring the loved relative or friend. Multiple memorial gifts were sent in honor of:

John Allen, Grandfather of Christopher Sokphear Allen
Erline Burnett, Grandmother of Joshua Sok Chan Breen
Sawyer Evens, Brother of Cameron Bothy Evans
Thomas Miles, Grandfather of Avery Samnang von Herrmann
Arthur Pepe, adoptive Father, in process

Sewing Project

The graduates of our first three-month course now make clothes for local villagers at a shop below our vocational classroom. Some graduates are also now employed making school uniforms for the 200 poor children of the village who had nothing to wear to school. The schoolchildren receiving their first real uniforms are thrilled, the sewing graduates are happy with steady pay, and TSF is pleased that people-helping-people is real in this village.

This first group of sewing trainees is now self-supporting, and as agreed, we will give each girl her treadle sewing machine six months after graduation if she is continuing to support herself through her sewing. The girls' discussions about health, family planning, and self-esteem continue with Dr. Ly, and the strength of the group has raised the young women's respect by the whole community.

English Program

The Roteang village school program now has six teachers, each teaching two 45-minute sessions a day for about 25 children ages 8 to 15 years in each class. In September the head teacher, Heang Sophear, tested all the children with written and oral tests, and on Oct. 4 an awards ceremony was held and the top student in each class was presented with an English-Khmer dictionary which TSF had bought for \$1.60 each. About 500 schoolchildren filled the yard, and clapped and cheered vigorously for each winner.

U.S. parents got to present the awards, and we were very touched when the first speech in this simple, dusty yard was to extend condolences to us Americans for the Sept.11 attacks.

Enrollment in this local public school is now about 720 pupils. Before our English program started, and the first-ever public school playground was built by TSF, enrollment was about 615. The principal tells us that the school is now looked upon by parents as a very good one, and more are sending their children to study, instead of keeping them in the fields.

The Farm

The cooperative farm, established last March in the poorest section of the village, has significantly raised the standard of living for over 32 families,



Quilt for Kids

Families with Children from Cambodia is raffling this quilt made by its members and a group of Canadian quilters to benefit The Sharing Foundation's endowment fund. The FAMCAM quilt will be raffled at the annual FamCam holiday party in mid-January in Boston, Mass. Raffle tickets are available through the mail by writing to Paul Kelly/Betsy Roosa at 394 Strawberry Hill Road, Concord, MA., 01742, (include name, address, phone, and check) or download a ticket form at www.famcam.org. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10. All checks should be made out to The Sharing Foundation.

including about 90 children. Under the guidance of Dr. Om, and head farmer Pang Vanny, three complete crop rotations were planted, tended, and harvested, including corn, pole beans, Chinese cabbage, kailan,

Continued from page 3

tang-or, morning glory, and herbs. The villagers are paid approximately \$2 day for a family member working, and the produce is divided among the people as it was picked. The farmers raised enough to pay for their own seed and fertilizer. With the floods now over, the first crops for a new season are already in the ground.

Additionally in the last six months, the same farmers have planted 50 fruit trees in the yards of the villagers' houses, so that within two years, papayas, mangoes, jack fruit and bananas will be abundant in the community. Within the next few weeks, 100 more will be planted.

Clean drinking water - the first local residents have had ever available - was also an objective for this area; a 50-meter well put in last spring provided parasite and bacteria-free water for the first time, a huge public health benefit to the community. Since then, a second well has been donated, and is about ready to be operational, so that no village will have to walk far for clean, safe water.

Other projects this year:

At Kampong Speu Orphanage, thanks to two large donations, we built and equipped a cooking/dining facility for the 50 older orphans.

Their cooking had previously been done on a wood campfire on the dirt floor of a wooden cow shed, with serving done at one dirty picnic table in rotations of eight kids. We will need to continuously support the propane gas now used for cooking.

Quite steady donations toward nanny care and other bills have been made to the Nutrition Center. Tabitha Cambodia, run by Canadian Janne Ritske, (the community cooperative group for self sufficiency and home building by the poorest Cambodian families) continues to be supported by our donations.

We are also helping support the Australia Cambodia Foundation, a long-established entity building a new orphanage complex for 100 where vocational training and self sufficiency are stressed. We will build a fish-farming area, four large ponds where fish will be raised for orphanage consumption and for sale. There are other opportunities at this orphanage to help, and we may fund other projects if money becomes available.

Youth aids endowment

O.K., so 3-year-old Ike "Rasy" Sweetnam couldn't sign the check himself, but we did get a donation from this smiling little boy for the endowment fund, proving money is coming in from a range of sources for The Sharing



Foundation's long-term support for children in Cambodia. Ike and his parents, Libby Sweetnam and Vance Dickson, are

just some of the many people who have given the nearly \$15,000 we've received from private, individual donors. That money is key toward helping us match a five-year, \$100,000 matching grant from the Maine-based Brook Family Foundation.

We're always eager to accept additional matching challenges or contributions and are a tax deductible charitable foundation. View us at www.sharingfoundation.org or contact us at 207-442-7612 or at Nhendrie@AOL.com

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Punk to beach, fund-raisers keep projects on track

Over the course of 2001, The Sharing Foundation has been the beneficiary of dozens of fund-raisers around the country. We can't mention every event, but we do thank all of you for the help you've given us this year.

The events have ranged from the surprising to traditional. A walk-a-thon organized this summer in New York City by Jeanne Starren, the mother of 3-year-old Cambodian twins, Genevieve and Quinten, raised more than \$11,000 with matching funds still to come. Starren, who works for Deutsche Bank, was joined by co-workers and friends in the walk that included 54 people. Pitney Bowes, Inc., kicked in \$5,000 toward the effort.

Another New York effort, this one dubbed "Rock-athon for Cambodia's Kids," took place in Amityville, N.Y. Organized by Sean Sanders, the father of an adopted Cambodian boy, and guitarist and lead singer of a punk rock band, the event drew 14 bands and raised more than \$400.

In Massachusetts, the annual South Eastern Adoption Services picnic brought in nearly \$7,000

thanks to the organizing efforts of Bev Baccelli and Liz DiCarlo. More than 90 people enjoyed that day on the beach Mattapoisett, Mass.

Jim Flanagan, the father of Serey Maxwell Flanagan, 2, sponsored a sophisticated buffet supper at their home, and that of John Meunier, in Boston last May. Lots of friends of Jim and John and Max came, and the group donated nearly \$5,000.

Bettina Blanchard organized a picnic in August at the home she and Leslie Livingston share with little Kyle Sambok, now 2 years old, in North Yarmouth, Maine. Forty adults and about 40 children came from around Maine, as well as Massachusetts and even Connecticut. TSF benefited by nearly \$1,500.

"Loose Change: Bottle Yours and Change the World," launched in February, is a concept and fund-raising effort conceived and directed by Sandy Powers and Krissie Mason of Princeton, Minn. The achievement funded construction of the kitchen facility at Roteang Orphanage, raising more than \$11,000.

Sandy and Brad Powers have two girls from Cambodia, Ratana and Seyma. The Masons adopted Mari Yana this year. Contact us if you want to be in touch with Krissie and Sandy to learn how to run a similar program.

Cathy Conrade, Marci Kaplan, Ben Lem, and Karen Jacobs, all adoptive parents of Cambodian kids, organized a fabulous evening for children and parents at Tot Stop in Arlington, Mass., on Nov 3, raising \$3,000. Carolyn Kenney donated use of this indoor play space.



Members of Real Moms, an organization of mothers involved personally or interested in adoption, study a Sharing Foundation display at a fund-drive they held to aid TSF's medical efforts.

Success Results from Lots of Help! Many Thanks!

The Foundation's ability to manage so many projects is the result of many, many donations large and small and we want to thank you all who have given this year, both of your time and your money. We appreciate fund raisers, arrival recognitions, christening gifts and birthday contributions too numerous to list. We are honored by Memorial funds sent in memory of loved ones. Special thanks to our leadership donors: **The Brook Family Foundation, The Crossroads Foundation, The Feeney-Mannix Family, The Ruetters Family Foundation, Soroptomist International of Vancouver. Fred and Angela Conover**, Grandparents of Elizabeth Conover-Prentiss, spontaneous monthly donors for over two years-you are terrific!

