



## NEWS LETTER 2015

### ***Dear Friends of K.I.D.S,***

*We have recently returned from our fourteenth trip to Cambodia. Each year we are inspired by the people we work with there, who dedicate their time and skills to improve the lives of their children and communities. We are also moved by the generosity of all of you who support these children and families. We see how the improvements we all contribute to are changing lives for the better. We witness children and young people getting stronger through proper nutrition, clean drinking water, education and healthcare that KIDS provides and supports. Children who were once tired and listless are now full of life and eager to learn. Cambodia has suffered tremendous losses however with your support and the support of others they are trying very hard to rebuild their country. On behalf of all the children and families you have assisted this past year and on behalf of ourselves and our Board of Directors we sincerely Thank You.*

*Adrienne Dartnall and Rick Lennert  
Co-founders*

### **Clean Drinking Water**

Clean drinking water is essential to life and something most of us here in developed countries have free access to however in Cambodia over 50% of the rural Cambodian population does not have access to safe drinking water and 20% of the deaths of children under 5 are due to waterborne diseases. Over the past years KIDS has been dedicated to providing clean drinking water for thousands of children. This year we were again able to provide three schools with clean, filtered, safe drinking water for the students and they are also able to take some home to their families. A big thank you to Compassionate Eye Foundation and Lush Charity Pot for partnering with us again to bring clean water and improved health to thousands of children and their families



Kompong Kleang Rural  
Primary School



Pouk District Primary  
Rural School



Feeding Children's Dreams  
Inner City Free School



The Gift of Water

# TONLE SAP LAKE

## The Lake Clinic - Cambodia

KIDS is proud to support this innovative and life saving program. Each week the The Lake Clinic (T.L.C.) brings free health care to isolated villages on the Tonle Sap Lake and the Stung Sen River. Two teams of Doctors, Nurses and Midwives travel long distances to assist this underserved and isolated population. Not only do they travel long distances on boats and in vans, they are committed to protecting the environment by using bio diesel fuel. KIDS supports this endeavor by funding the fuel for the water taxi on the lake. KIDS also assists with salaries for medical positions and maintenance of the floating clinics.



## Moat Klah Elementary School

KIDS continues to support the floating primary school that we built 5 years ago in Moat Klah Village on the Tonle Sap Lake. Without this school children would never be able to learn to read or write or think in creative and critical ways. Families live a very subsistence life here and the average wage is about \$1.00 a day. Many of the children work with their families fishing and go to school. Education helps them to learn and break the cycle of illiteracy and poverty. This year KIDS brought school supplies and Adrienne and Rick built a small library in the school. The children were incredibly excited to be able to read storybooks and escape their sometimes difficult lives. KIDS will continue to stock the library with books for the children and assist this great school.



**Floating Gardens** In partnership with The Lake Clinic and Global Roots KIDS assisted in teaching local villagers on the lake how to grow floating gardens by using an invasive hyacinth plants.



Vegetables are scarce so the gardens will help families with their nutritional needs. We enlisted the children from the school to help make the first bed and families then made their own.

# EDUCATION AND GIRL'S HOME

## KIDS Home for Girls

For the past seven years KIDS has funded a home for girls who have either been orphaned, abandoned or faced extremely difficult situations. The Girl's Home now has 23 girls living there, ranging from ages 2 to 20 years of age. Some of the older girls are now getting work and moving into independence. The older girls assist the younger girls and together, under the professional and loving care of You Vath, the Director/House Mother, have formed a caring family. The girls are able to go to Cambodian school, English school and practice their traditional dances. It is wonderful to see them grow and mature and have the opportunity of a healthy and productive life thanks to your generous support.



## Labs for Learning

Most young people in rural Cambodia have little or no access to computers. When students get to high school if they do not have an opportunity to learn computers their chances of getting into university or finding a job are very limited. Students are eager to learn computers and want to change their futures. KIDS now focuses on bringing computer labs to these young people both in the rural areas and in the slum areas of the city. This year we were able to provide three school/programs with computers as well as assist in providing teachers who are skilled in IT.



Sarsadam High School classes of 25 students run all day long

Smart KIDS Program 36 students learn computers on Sundays

Feeding Children's Dreams an urban free vocational training computer program

**Bikes and School Supplies** Each year KIDS provides children and youth with bicycles. Without these bikes many children would not be able to travel the long distances in rural areas to get an education. KIDS also provides essential school supplies such as school uniforms, books, pencils and flip flops, for those that walk!



# STUNG TRENG WOMEN'S WEAVING CENTRE AND RURAL EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

## Stung Treng Women's Development Centre (SWDC)

SWDC has been supporting women to earn sustainable incomes making beautiful silk weaving products since 2002. KIDS supports this very worthwhile program by providing an on site preschool/kindergarten for the weavers children and village community children. In this very poor area of Cambodia women are breaking the cycle of poverty. Thanks to KIDS donors the women can bring their children to work with them and know their children will get a nutritious hot lunch and a very good early childhood education with well trained teachers that KIDS trains and supports.



## Smart Kids Program

In an area of Cambodia, where many children have to work in brick factories along with their families to make a living, KIDS supports some of the poorest students to attend high school. Through donations we are able to fund their education, bicycles, solar lights, school supplies, uniforms, English lessons and weekly English tutoring. We now have 36 students in the program and they are all working very hard to get an education. Many of the children still work part time in the brick factories however they are able to see that with an education they will be able to find a better future and in turn help their families.



The original 23 students



Ten new students with their new bikes



English tutoring class

**Support for Education** KIDS also supports a variety of young people to better their lives through education.



These young people attend a variety of educational programs. So far there has been 100% success in finding jobs when graduating from this KIDS supported program.



KIDS supports the young girl while her mother and grandmother work hard sewing and doing laundry and in their one room shop/home.



Samnang has lived most of his life in shelters and now he is graduating from cooking school.



Sopeak has been working hard for years and is top of her accounting class in university.

# SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES AND GIRLS



## Girl's Bathroom

This year KIDS, in partnership with Compassionate Eye Foundation, built a girl's bathroom for a high school/primary school of 1500 children, youth and teachers. The school only had four toilets for the entire school. We built a girl's only bathroom for the female students and teachers. As many girls miss school due to lack of hygienic facilities these bathrooms will not only give them dignity it will improve their attendance and further their education.

## Family Support

As we visit families of the children and youth we support we find some are facing very dire situations. Although they are trying very hard to work and support their children it is difficult due to a variety of situations. This year we were able to help some of these families to improve their living conditions. In some cases we supplied the materials and they did the work often with their communities help, which is very heartwarming to witness.



Sarah and her brother's mother died and their father abandoned them. Their small house blew down in a windstorm and they were living on a platform. Thanks to KIDS we were able to build a small house where they can be safe and protected.



Lekena's family of six lived in this house that was falling down the hill. They had the land and some materials. KIDS provided the rest of the materials they needed and their family came together to build the new house.

**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS AND THOSE THAT SUPPORT KIDS IN OTHER WAYS**

- KKP Printing** for supporting our annual newsletter
- All Volunteers and Donors** who support our Wine and Wrap annual fundraiser
- Compassionate Eye Foundation** for partnering on water, healthcare and education
- Lush Charity Pot** for supporting clean drinking water systems
- Cedrick's Coffee House** in Crofton BC for donating profits made to KIDS
- Tracy Balanik** for our website
- Vancouver Island University** Child and Youth Care Social Justice Club
- Local Schools** who fundraise to assist children in Cambodia

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