



## News Letter 2018/19



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

This past year was another great year. KIDS assisted thousands of children and families in positive and productive ways. It is heartwarming to witness the changes that a caring community of donors can make possible. As the years pass we see how everyone's generosity is changing the day to day lives of individuals and communities we support and see the changes for a new generation of young people who will be literate and move out of poverty. The health of communities is increasing thanks to KIDS support of medical care. Students are living healthier lives as they have access to clean drinking water at the schools where we provide clean water systems. We hear from families what a difference it makes to have a simple bathroom and decent housing in their lives, that gives them dignity and protection from the elements. Women are learning to pull themselves out of poverty thanks to training programs that we support and we watch girls become young women in a safe and loving environment that KIDS provides. The children, youth, families and communities share their immense appreciation for the opportunities and support that we are all able to give. As Margaret Meade said..."Never doubt that a group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has". Thanks very much for being that group of people and partnering with KIDS to assist so many to live better lives.

Adrienne Dartnall and Rick Lennert  
Co-founders

## CLEAN DRINKING WATER

Clean water not only quenches thirst, it improves the health of students, which in turn helps them learn. Approximately 4 million people in Cambodia lack access to safe water. The main source of drinking water in rural areas comes from rainfall. Water is collected in huge cement containers and stored for long periods of time which can harbour parasites and can be the source of mosquito reproduction. This means that many people, especially children, get sick with diseases. This past year we built two more clean drinking water systems. One for a rural primary school of 1,400 students and the other on a floating high school for communities living on the Tonle Sap Lake. Now 250 students and teachers have access to clean water. Thanks to K.I.D.S donors children are healthier and free to drink to their heart's content.



# EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMS

K.I.D.S supports over 70 students, who come from very poor families by sponsoring them in a variety of educational programs. Some students are learning English as well as going to Cambodian schools, while some are taking vocational training and university programs in tourism, electrical training, web design, and business management. These young people work incredibly hard to reach their goal of changing their futures. This year we visited 10 of the students who recently graduated from a very good tourism-training program. They now all have good jobs, are living in the city and assisting their families back home. They have broken the cycle of poverty and it was a pleasure to see how well they are all doing. They are incredibly grateful to everyone for giving them this opportunity.



## COMPUTERS, BIKES AND BOOKS

Many schools cannot afford computers, although they do have teachers who can teach computer skills. KIDS is committed to assisting young students to learn these needed skills that will enable them better employment opportunities as well as give them a chance to further their education. This past year we were able to provide an inner-city high school of 4,500 hundred students with another computer lab. Together we have provided 107 computers for this high school, now hundreds of students can enjoy learning these much-needed skills.



Bicycles are a necessity for students in rural areas to get to school. Each year KIDS purchases as many bicycles as we can so that students can access education. We also support students with school supplies, backpacks and uniforms, which are always needed and many families cannot afford.



# CLASSROOMS and SCHOOLS

Many schools in Cambodia are overcrowded which, in turn, means large classrooms of up to 60 to 70 students. Due to lack of space some children are turned away and cannot go to school. This past year KIDS was able to increase the capacity to educate students at a rural primary school in a brick factory area, where we built four new classrooms. The principal, teachers, students and families were very happy to have new updated classrooms and more children are now able to attend school.



Many Cambodia families live in isolated villages on the Tonle Sap Lake. KIDS is committed to help bring education and healthcare to these areas. This year we partnered with Lions Club Norway to build the first floating high school for a large village called Moat Kla. In 2014 KIDS built a floating primary school for this same village and since that time hundreds of children have been able to attend school and get to a grade 7 level. Now thanks to our combined efforts, students will be able to continue their education and improve their chances of graduating from highschool.



# ENGLISH PROGRAMS

KIDS is pleased to provide English classes in different areas of rural Cambodia. Tourism and trade is a mainstay for the Cambodian economy. To find work in many fields, having English as a second language, is a necessity that enhances opportunities for employment and career choices. Thanks to our supporters we are able to assist hundreds of students with English lessons, which they greatly appreciate!



# HOUSES and HYGIENE

The lack of safe housing negatively affects families' health, happiness and well-being. As an organization that focuses on improving families and children's lives, we work on providing very poor families with decent housing. This past year we built six new houses for families that mostly work in the brick factories in Siem Reap province for very poor wages.

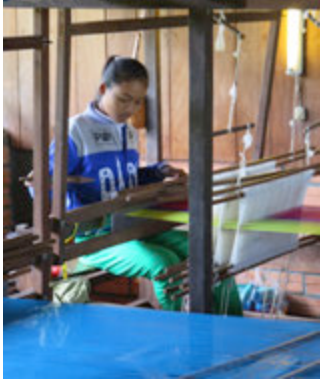


Having bathrooms gives families dignity and safety. Bathing and washing in dirty ponds causes illness and people also risk snakebites. An enclosed hygienic bathroom provides a place to bathe, wash clothes and gives privacy. Families are so grateful to be provided with a bathroom. Each year KIDS supports as many families as we can.



## WOMEN'S TRAINING PROGRAMS

In the N.E of Cambodia, KIDS assists the Stung Treng Women's Development Centre. At the Centre women learn how to make beautiful hand-woven silk products that are sold around the world. Women break out of poverty by working in a fair trade organization where they have maternity leave, healthcare and good wages. Their lives are improved, as KIDS provides a free daycare so women can work just steps away from their children, while the children learn, play and enjoy a nutritious meal program.



WELNepal is an ethically run organization that changes women's lives through education. It teaches women to read and write as well as assists them to learn to become self-sufficient by supporting women's vocational training. KIDS is pleased to provide sewing programs that support these women to learn skills that promotes self sufficiency and generates income.



## HEALTHCARE

The Lake Clinic (TLC) serves the underserved. KIDS built the first floating clinic in 2012 and we continue to assist this life-saving program by providing medical support for midwives and nurses salaries. Each week teams of doctors, midwives, nurses and dental hygienists travel long distances to serve villagers living on the Tonle Sap Lake and the Stung Sen River. Without TLC people would suffer and not get the free medicine or treatments needed. Thanks to our supporters, this year, KIDS has funded three midwives/nurses' salaries that in turn give hundreds of people healthcare, which they would never be able to afford.



# THANKS TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**KIDS Board of Directors:** Rick Lennert, Robyn Kemp, Pam Botterill, Paula Beltgens, Ashleigh Martinflatt, Dave Francis, Erin McCammon



## ANNUAL WINE and WRAP FUNDRAISER VOLUNTEERS



## FOUNDATIONS AND BUSINESSES THAT GENEROUSLY SUPPORT KIDS



Ames Family Foundation  
Anonymous Foundation  
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Lush Charity Pot  
Mazzei Electric  
Johnston Johnston & Associates Chartered  
Accountants  
Rotary Club of Nanaimo Oceanside

**THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT**

Website: [www.kidsdevelopmentsociety.org](http://www.kidsdevelopmentsociety.org) E-mail [rlad.kids@gmail.com](mailto:rlad.kids@gmail.com)



# GIRL'S HOME

In 2006 KIDS started a home for girls that were neglected, abandoned or orphaned. Over the years many girls have lived with You Vath, a dedicated, caring and trained social worker. Together we have created a safe and loving home where they are able to reach their potential through education, English classes, traditional dance and creative activities. Many of the girl's are now independent and on their own, living happy, productive lives thanks to KIDS supporters.



# LOCAL SCHOOLS AND KIDS HELPING KIDS IN CANADA

Local students in our community come together to form social justice clubs where they can explore social issues that affect children, youth and families in our community as well as globally. KIDS works with some of these classes to share informatiton and talk about activism, empathy and being changemakers for a better world.



We also work with the Child and Youth Care Outreach program students through the Vancouver Island University. It is very rewarding to see these students wanting to improve the lives of others. Individual kids often donate to KIDS by raising funds through their birthday parties and other events. Thanks to these great young people for their generosity and kindness.

