



News Letter 2017/18



Dear Friends of K.I.D.S,

Eighteen years ago, we went in search of meaning in our lives after the loss of our daughter and only child Danielle. We started volunteering in developing countries and found that helping children, who faced incredible challenges and poverty, gave us purpose in our lives. Fast-forward to 2018 and with the support of a caring and compassionate community of donors, we have gone from painting classrooms to building schools, digging family wells to bringing clean drinking water to thousands of children, buying small amounts of medicine to providing clinics and medical laboratories as well as supporting children, families and communities to improve their lives in other various ways. Thanks to our board of directors, your collective support and the dedication of people who work very hard to improve the lives of their own families and local communities in developing countries, we are changing children's futures for the better. Here are some of the positive and productive changes you have helped to create this past year.

Thank you for all you have supported,
Adrienne Dartnall and Rick Lennert
Co-founders

CLEAN DRINKING WATER

Clean water is a human right. K.I.D.S is committed to bringing this much-needed resource to children and families. This past year we visited two schools, one high school had 4600 students who travelled long distances to get to school and had to buy water, drink dirty water or go without water. When the students buy water, they use plastic bottles, which are not recyclable. Now students and teachers have clean water to drink and the students can bring their own reusable bottles to school. As well we supported a smaller rural primary and middle school with 550 students without access to clean drinking water. Now all these students can drink as much water as they want and need as well as take clean water home to their families. Thanks to K.I.D.S donors children are healthier, happier and have more energy to focus on their learning.



EDUCATION

Smart Kids Education Sponsorship Program

K.I.D.S continues to support 33 students who formerly worked in brick factories with their families for incredibly low wages. Thanks to K.I.D.S donors eight of these students have graduated from grade 12 and are now half way through a tourism and hospitality training program in the city. They are all doing incredibly well and when they finish they will be able to get good jobs and change their lives, the lives of their families and future generations. The younger students continue to study and work hard and want to follow in the older students' footsteps.



Sohing's Village English School

Each day 40 young people come to learn English after school under Sohing's house in a small village. They are eager and enthusiastic and hope to break out of poverty by improving their chances for employment in the future. Sohing also provides the kids with two meals a week to improve their nutrition. K.I.D.S is happy to support Sohing's compassionate mission to change the lives of children in her village. We also love taking them on a yearly outing, something they would otherwise never be able to do.



Bikes, Books and Backpacks

Each year, thanks to donations from many children in Canada and K.I.D.S donors we are able to bring needed supplies to students in developing countries. A \$50.00 bike makes the difference between going to school or not for many students. This past year we were able to provide 175 bicycles as well as books, backpacks and other needed supplies.



EDUCATION CONTINUED

Computers, Kitchens and Floors

Last year, K.I.D.S provided 20 computers for a high school with 4600 students. This year we were able to increase the number of computers to 60. The school wants to bring these students into the world of technology and without computer skills going to university and finding decent jobs is very difficult. K.I.D.S also built a kitchen at Feeding Dreams Cambodia; a free school that teaches English, computer skills and hospitality training to inner-city poor children. Feeding Dreams feeds 800 kids everyday! In Cambodia kindergarten students sometimes have to learn on dirt or cement floors. Together we provided tiled floors for three classrooms, in rural Cambodia, which makes life much cleaner and more comfortable.



STUNG TRENG WOMEN'S WEAVING CENTRE KINDERGARTEN AND COMPUTER TRAINING PROGRAM

SWDC lifts women out of poverty by teaching them silk weaving, which enables them to earn sustainable incomes by making beautiful silk scarves, which are sold worldwide. K.I.D.S support the on-site preschool/kindergarten. The children learn, while their mothers earn and everyone receives a nutritious hot lunch daily. In this area of Cambodia, there are few computer-training programs. K.I.D.S funded a computer lab at the centre where weavers and others from the community can learn computer skills that will assist them to improve their futures and increase their opportunities for further education or viable employment.



HEALTH CARE



The Lake Clinic Cambodia brings free health care to people living on the Tonle Sap Lake and the Stung Sen River. The Lake Clinic is a life-saving program that K.I.D.S supports. Teams of dedicated doctors, nurses and midwives travel long distances by boat each week to serve isolated villagers. This past year we were able to support three midwives' salaries as well as do the maintenance on the five floating clinics. Thanks to K.I.D.S supporters this program continues to assist people to live healthier lives and decrease pain and suffering.

FAMILY SUPPORT

The lack of decent housing and sanitation is prevalent in rural Cambodia. Many of the students in our sponsorship programs live in extremely poor conditions. This past year K.I.D.S was able to build four houses and 19 bathrooms for the most needy families. These families now have safe and decent housing as well as hygienic bathrooms thanks to all our communal efforts. These building projects also provided employment to the local builders and villagers, a great group of hardworking people. We are pleased to pay them a good living wage and assist them in improving their lives as well.



NEPAL



We heard of a grassroots program serving women in Nepal started by David Walton from Canada. David and a Nepali couple, Raj and Harimaya, decided to start a literacy program for women called, WELNepal (Women's Education and Literacy in Nepal) in Sauraha. We went to visit some of their programs and were very impressed with the work they are doing for women living in poverty. WELNepal offers literacy classes, libraries, income generation programs and scholarships for women and girls. We are pleased that K.I.D.S could add to their good work by providing: a sewing program for income generation and more libraries that are placed in villages for women to have books to read. In addition K.I.D.S purchased 250 pairs of glasses, sponsored a young woman with university as well as bought school supplies for village children.

K.I.D.S HOME FOR GIRLS

For the past 10 years, K.I.D.S has funded a home for girls who have been orphaned, abandoned, abused or neglected. Over the years, we have watched these young girls grow into kind, capable and happy people. Under the care of You Vath, an outstanding house mother/social worker, the girls have created a family. Some of the girls have moved on to either higher education or training, and all their futures look bright.



THANKS TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WINE AND WRAP FUNDRAISER VOLUNTEERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Board of Directors

Rick Lennert
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LOCAL SCHOOLS AND KIDS HELPING K.I.D.S IN CANADA

K.I.D.S speaks to school students and social justice clubs about global poverty, activism and global citizenship. Through presentations and slide shows, it is our goal to raise awareness about how children around the world live. We would like to thank the teachers and students who support K.I.D.S by collectively fundraising to buy school supplies, bikes, bathrooms and other needed educational materials for students in Cambodia and Nepal. We would also like to thank the Child and Youth Care Faculty and Students at Vancouver Island University for partnering with us to work with local students on supporting global citizenship and social justice clubs in schools.



THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Kids International
Development Society

Website: www.kidsdevelopmentssociety.org E-mail rlad.kids@gmail.com