



Kids International
Development Society

News Letter 2014

"When planning for a year, plant corn. When planning for a decade, plant trees. When planning for life, train and educate people" Chinese Proverb



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

A large part of what K.I.D.S. focuses on is education, as we believe education not only changes children's lives it changes the futures of families. With your generous donations this year we are able to support children, youth and young adults in a number of ways, including: clean drinking water systems, community school library, high school computer lab, school supplies, bicycles, lunch programs, safe housing and early childhood development programs. K.I.D.S. also focuses on health programs that support the well being of children and families. This newsletter highlights projects and people that you so kindly assist. On behalf of the Board of Directors of K.I.D.S. and our partners in Cambodia and Myanmar we thank you very much for your support and commitment to creating opportunity, hope, healthier and brighter futures for children and families.

With appreciation,

Adrienne Dartnall and Rick Lennert

Clean Drinking Water

Thousands of children now have access to clean drinking water thanks to your support. Children in Cambodia travel long distances by biking or walking to attend school. Many have either no access to clean drinking water and are forced to drink water containing iron and arsenic; which often caused them to be sick. This year we were able to add two more schools to the list of schools K.I.D.S. supports with clean water. Sasarsdam High School and Muk Pen Elementary, both now have excellent filtered water systems that provide around 2000 students and their families with clean drinking water. A special thanks to K.I.D.S. supporters, Compassionate Eye Foundation and the Jetter's through Marin County Foundation, for their assistance with these two projects. The villagers, teachers and students greatly appreciate now having access to safe drinking water.



Muk Pen Elementary (360 kids)



Sasarsdam School (1500 kids)



Water tower being built

Bikes and Lights

To assist students to get to school and be able to study at night K.I.D.S. provides both bicycles and solar lights. Many children in Cambodia have to travel long distances on dusty bumpy roads. The lack of a bicycle can prevent children and youth from attending school. Most families do not have electricity in rural areas, solar lights allow children and youth to study. Thanks to Vancouver Island University Child and Youth Care Social Justice Club and Pauline Haarer Elementary School for helping to fundraise for bikes and lights for kids.



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"Too often we underestimate the power of touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around".

K.I.D.S. Home for Girls

For eight years K.I.D.S. has been providing a caring safe home for 14 girls. The girl's are ages 2 to 22 years of age and they have become a family thanks to You Vath, the Director/House Mother, who skillfully and tirelessly provides direction, support and safety. These girls all come from very sad and difficult backgrounds, however today they study both Cambodian and English and work very hard to better their lives. They never forget where they came from and how far they have come and they truly appreciate the support they are receiving.

Safe Home for Boys

K.I.D.S. also helps to support a home for boys. The home provides 15 boys, ages 5 to 20 years old, a place where they can live, study and support one another. Most of these boys have been abandoned or found living on the street. Now they are moving forward in a positive, productive and nurturing environment.



Girls's home for 14 girls



Girl's and boys together at Girl's Home



One boy with new shoes

Stung Treng, Cambodia

In the N.E. area of Cambodia, K.I.D.S. provides support for the Stung Treng Women's Development Centre, where women are able to develop skills in weaving and break the cycle of poverty for themselves and their children. This empowering program supports women with health care, child-care and a home for women and children that are in dire situations. K.I.D.S. provides the salaries for the teachers and the on-site kindergarten program where 50 children can be taken care of and learn while their mothers work. K.I.D.S. also built and funds a small school in Srey Poh village behind the weaving cooperative where another 40 children age 3 to 7 can learn and receive a nutritious lunch. They are provided with school supplies, clothing, nurturing and health care. Where once these children spent their days in the dirt, they now play, learn and grow in a colorful and caring environment.



Srey Poh Village School



Srey Poh Village School children



Kindergarten kids at weaving centre

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"Make every home, every rickety structure a center of learning"

Nelson Mandela

Support for Schools

K.I.D.S. works with a number of schools. Our goal is to provide each school with the basics so that children have a chance to be successful in learning. We have been working with rural elementary schools to ensure that they have clean drinking water, school supplies, libraries (where books can be freely read and borrowed), food programs for those children that are at high risk of starvation and community gardens to assist with the food programs. This year, we also supported Sasarsdam High School with a computer lab that will assist young students to learn computers and improve their opportunity to attend university. When we first started working with these schools many years ago, the children were often listless and sad looking. Now we can see the difference in their behaviour and attitude, as they are better nourished both physically and intellectually. The school communities are also involved and very appreciative for your assistance to better their children's lives.



Library for 370 children



Lunch program for 60 children



Computer Lab for 800 students

Individual Children, Youth and Young Adults

There are many children and young people who are unable to go to school because they often have to work at back breaking jobs. We are fortunate to work with some dedicated teachers and community members who help us identify young people that desperately want to learn and further their education, so they can help their families in the future. Each year, K.I.D.S. supports about 50 youth and young adults in various educational and training programs by paying for their tuition, school supplies, bicycles and English lessons. It is inspiring to see that over the years many of the young people are now holding good jobs and breaking the cycle of poverty. We meet each family and ask them to let us support one child to learn rather than work and although this is difficult for the families they often agree, as they truly want better futures for their children.



Kids celebrating passing English



One of the boys K.I.D.S. supports



Sopeak, now in University inspiring and teaching other younger students.

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"In Health there is freedom. Health is the first of all liberties"

Henri Frederic Ameil

The Tonle Sap Lake

The Lake Clinic - Cambodia

The Lake Clinic (T.L.C.) brings free basic health care to isolated villages on the Tonle Sap Lake and the Stung Sen River. Teams of Doctors, Nurses and Midwives travel long distances to serve this underserved population. Over the years K.I.D.S. has built a floating clinic, provided support for other floating clinics, funded Doctor's salaries, helped with fuel for the medical teams transportation and supported village health volunteers. Without this outstanding program, the people on the lake and the river would face suffering and lack of access to healthcare and medicine.



Two TLC Clinics



Medical team setting up



Medical team transport boat



A healing touch

Moat Kla Elementary School, K.I.D.S. built

Four years ago, K.I.D.S. built a school for the children in Moat Kla village on the Tonle Sap Lake. Since that time, K.I.D.S. continues to provide support for this school in a variety of ways. This year we were able to have a small boat built so the teachers could come and go from the school as well as providing them an engine for their larger boat which takes the teachers to district meetings. The teachers live on the school during the week and the boat helps them to visit their families on the weekend. We also purchase supplies for the children and life jackets so the little ones can get to school easily. If it was not for your generous contributions, this school would not exist and 300 children would never learn to read and write.



Moat Kla School children



New life jackets for lake kids



Teachers's paddle boat



Homes on the Lake

Medical Action Myanmar

K.I.D.S., in partnership with CWAsia Fund, supports this important and life saving program by providing funds for salaries, and medicine for very poor children and families. The program is focused on HIV /AIDS, TB, Malaria and Malnutrition.

