

Helping to Care for Cambodia's Children

The Sharing Foundation

www.sharingfoundation.org

PO Box 600 Concord, MA 01742

Fall 2011

A Tribute to our Founder

In this edition of our newsletter, we pay tribute to our founder, Nancy W. Hendrie, who has now retired from The Sharing Foundation she so compassionately started and so energetically nurtured for some 12 years. We thought it fitting to try to capture the impact Nancy has had on just a few of the many lives she has touched over the years.

The work of The Sharing Foundation continues by those of us who worked alongside Nancy, learned and drew inspiration from her. We hope that you will continue down the road with us, as we are reminded that even Nancy, with all her dedication and vitality, could not have accomplished what she did without the generous support of all of you.
—from the Board of The Sharing Foundation

The Sharing Foundation - How It Began

By Rick Recknagel

My wife Kathy and I first met Dr. Nancy Hendrie in 1996. At the time, she had retired from her pediatric practice and was working for an adoption agency here in Maine. In early 1998, we travelled with her to Cambodia, to complete the adoption of our first child, David.

Several times during that trip, Nancy expressed great concern for the suffering that occurred among Cambodia's poor due simply to the unavailability of basic medical care. Nancy also recognized the plight of children who, for one reason or another, could not be adopted by U.S. citizens, such as those who had tested positive for HIV. Nancy felt that we really had a duty as adoptive parents to do something more for

Cambodia. On the plane ride, Nancy asked us if we would like to be involved with a group to help orphaned and severely disadvantaged children. Of course we said yes.

Shortly after we returned with David, Kathy and I met with Nancy, Judy Jones, and three others to discuss the formation of a 501(3)(c) non-profit group. The first project was the construction of a small masonry building at the Cham Chou Orphanage. It was roughly the size of a large mobile home. It served as both a clinic and a school. The total cost was only about \$18,000 US, and it was completed in September of 1998. In the years since, Nancy's dedication to the well-being of Cambodian children never faltered.

Our volunteer group and donor base grew immediately, and The Sharing Foundation's programs also expanded quickly. In 2000 the Roteang Orphanage opened, providing a new standard of care for Cambodian children. Under Nancy's oversight, The Sharing Foundation grew to serve over 1,500 children each day in orphanage, health, educational, and vocational programs. Within those programs Nancy organized countless initiatives which procured such things as toys, reading materials, and

Cambodian Staff & Students Will Miss Dr. Nancy

By Bob Luoma

All of The Sharing Foundation Cambodian staff and high school students living at Roteang Orphanage have nothing but praise for the legacy created by Dr. Nancy Hendrie, and the good works she brought to the people and children of Roteang village. In interviews, they recalled working with her and what she contributed to their lives.

Chan Kim Leng (better known as Elephant), TSF In-Country Director, started his relationship with Nancy Hendrie as a driver and translator in 1999 on her early visits to Cambodia. He recalls her boundless energy, working tirelessly from 7 a.m. to 8

p.m. every day performing medical checkups on Cambodian children. Those early medical checkups soon expanded into a program for HIV-infected Cambodian women, assistance for poor village farmers, an English school, a computer school, a Khmer literacy school, high school and university student sponsorships, and of course Roteang Orphanage itself. Elephant says about the Sharing Foundation that "Nancy Hendrie started with something very small and turned it into something big."

Mam Sary is currently head of the Sharing Foundation's English language program at Roteang Village School, a position he has held since 2006. Mam Sary says that Nancy is a highly responsible person, with lots of good ideas and energetic leadership. "She has helped children's welfare with immunizations, primary education, and the English school, which gives the most outstanding students a chance to go to university," says Mam Sary. He will never forget that Nancy taught the people of Roteang village to do for themselves, as well as her dreams for what TSF has yet to accomplish.



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medical supplies and equipment.

Very early on, David Boardman and Shirley Brook, adoptive parents and TSF volunteers in Maine, saw the need to fund an endowment to permanently secure key projects. With Paul Brook, also of Maine, they made the initial donations. Thanks to the leadership of Nancy, Judy Jones, Lisa Hicks, and the hard work and great generosity of many, the endowment project recently came to fruition.

I was once told by a United States Navy Admiral that the difference between a good person and a great person was physical and mental stamina. Nancy always had a world of both, and a world of kindness.



By the Numbers

Nancy always likes numbers. Here are some numbers that she - and you - can take great pride in:

- 4** wells TSF has installed
- 10** large water collection systems TSF has installed
- 55** small water collection systems TSF has installed
- 60** girls who have attended TSF's sewing school
- 200** babies born at Owens House given nivoripine at birth to prevent HIV transmission from their mother
- 300** children at Kampong Speu Orphanage served by kitchen/dining area provided by TSF
- 350** children who have lived at Roteang Orphanage
- 450** children who have attended the Khmer literacy school
- 1,000** students who have attended TSF's computer school
- 2,000** children immunized against Hepatitis B and DPT
- 2,300** students who have attended TSF's English program
- 30,000** school uniforms TSF has given out

Cambodian Staff... continued from page 1

Impressed with Nancy's fortitude, Mom Seaneth, head of the Sharing Foundation Farm Program since 2004, says that "Nancy is a very strong woman. I'm younger than her, but I cannot work as hard as her!" In addition to teaching farming practices, much of his job involves social work, important skills which he learned from Nancy. Mom learned how to work with families with children, especially the importance of convincing those families to send their children to TSF's Khmer literacy school. Mom is proud of Nancy because of her many good ideas about how to improve the quality of life in the farm program community. "She is a great woman!" says Mom Seaneth.



Kong Maneth, a TSF-sponsored college graduate from the prestigious Institute for Foreign Language in Phnom Penh, has returned home to teach in the English school and computer school in Roteang Village. He says "Dr. Hendrie and TSF have changed my entire life. I wouldn't have had such a good opportunity if TSF didn't help me. TSF means HOPE for us."



Tep Vuthea, now a senior at Jayavarman VII High School, has grown up at Roteang Orphanage under Nancy's tutelage. He brings a different perspective about what she has done for Cambodian students and the children of Roteang Orphanage. Vuthea happily remembers field trips to the zoo and water park in Phnom Penh where Nancy took the orphanage children. These are simple pleasures that American children take for granted, but they become adventures of a lifetime for poor orphans from rural Cambodia who start out with nothing. According to Vuthea, because children from Roteang Orphanage have educational opportunities like the English school and the Computer school, "they are more clever than the kids from outside" the orphanage, and have a better prospect of getting jobs.



"Dr. Nancy loves all children equally", says Tep Vuthea. He speaks for everyone when he says "I will miss Dr. Nancy very much."

Cambodian Sponsorships Bring Joy, Gratitude

By Margaret Baltz Darling

If it hadn't been for The Sharing Foundation's newsletter stories of children in need, and my deep admiration and respect for Nancy Hendrie, I would never have thought of taking on the responsibility of ongoing sponsorship. When I think of what I would have missed in my life without this, I am filled with gratitude that things happened as they did.



Here I am, years later, with a thick folder of pictures of a beautiful and capable handicapped teenager from a tiny rural Cambodian village, whose life has been transformed by TSF with our support. I also have a stack of colorful drawings and wonderful letters written in curly Khmer, translated charmingly by Elephant, as well as many notes from Nancy on her progress and the positive changes in her family life. And with a click on a link, I can watch TSF's first

video and see her beaming smile.

I have loved the personal connection that TSF has allowed me to have with this child, now a young woman excelling in high school. Srey Len. I didn't even know how to pronounce her name, and I still haven't met her - perhaps I never will. But now I can't imagine my life without her ongoing presence in my thoughts.

So what could be more natural than taking on another? Now our family supports a child in Roteang Orphanage as well, Ly Sopheak - a younger girl with a horrific back story that has been replaced with smiles, good nutrition, health care, a loving nanny, and hope for the future. She's learning English, I hear - someday we'll be able to write letters to each other. I look forward to that!

I've never had the tiniest regret for making these commitments, and intend to continue them as long as the need is there and our family has the ability. The payback in sheer joy is everything you could wish for.



Two Lives Forever Changed By Nancy's Medical Intervention

Bonny

We can't thank Nancy Hendrie enough for her perseverance, her ability to get things done, her medical background, her loving nature and for bringing Bonny into our lives. The care for the children of Cambodia always comes first in Nancy's life. Every day we count our blessings that Bonny is part of our family, and we'll continue to raise Bonny with love and affection, and to give her every opportunity imaginable.



Bonny was born on May 19, 2004, in Cambodia, with a bilateral cleft palate and bilateral cleft lip. At approximately two days old, she was abandoned at Roteang Orphanage. Dr. Hendrie brought Bonny to Dr. Michael Lewis, Chief of Plastic Surgery at Shriners' Hospital in Boston, who graciously accepted Bonny into the program and has performed five successful operations on her. There will be more surgery to come.

Shortly after Bonny's first surgery to repair her bilateral cleft lip, she came to

live with her current family - Linda McDevitt, Gracie Johnston, and siblings sister Teany and brother Khemara, both from Cambodia. Bonny, now seven years old, calls South Portland, Maine, her home. She adores her older sister Teany and brother Khem. Bonny is an active, athletic and smart little girl. She enjoys riding her bike, writing plays, poetry and playing minor league softball.

Bonny told me one day she'd like to be a doctor like Nancy and Dr. Lewis so she can help other kids - and maybe be a fashion designer too!

Gracie Johnston



Song Tola

In April of 2001, at six months Song Tola (aka Tola Joy MacInnis) was brought to Roteang from relatives with whom she had been staying. Tola was very ill with pneumonia when she arrived, and in quite a bit of respiratory distress. As it turns out, she was suffering with a cardiac anomaly from birth, PDA (Patent Ductus Arteriosus). This is a condition easily repaired in the US, but of course not so in Cambodia. The Sharing Foundation paid to send Tola to Bangkok to the Bumrungrad International Hospital, with Elephant as her loving escort, not once, but twice.

Her second trip, in October of 2001, resulted in the surgical correction of this cardiac problem, and she returned home to Roteang. Tola's health improved steadily under the amazing care of Nancy and her Roteang staff. Although the adoption was delayed by a year for various reasons, Tola was put into our arms in September of 2002.

There are really no words to express our gratitude, respect, indebtedness and appreciation for the work Dr. Nancy Hendrie did for so many needy children as she could possibly help, but in particular, how Song Tola was such a priority for her. Without this surgery, Tola's life on earth would have lasted maybe to age 1.5 or 2. Here she is, cleared by the Mass General Pediatric Cardiology Chief of Service as "completely recovered from her PDA". Any of you reading these words, know what this means to a parent, and know that there are no words to convey the depth of our gratitude.

Tola is now 10 years old. She just this week was part of a winning softball team for her town of Beverly, MA. She has just completed her 5th year of piano study and also plays in the city-wide strings symphony playing viola. She shares life with her sister Mai, also 10, also from Roteang, in a relationship of harmony and mutual love.... most of the time!

Joanne MacInnis & Laurie Petrovik



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Roteang Orphanage

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Roteang Orphanage Children Awaiting Sponsors



Sok Reach, 6 ½, is a young man with a big smile that rarely leaves his face. He was born October 11, 2004 and came to us in October, 2005. He has HIV, contracted from his mom at birth, but he is in very good health as he has been on antiretroviral drugs since we got him, and his 3 monthly checkups of viral load and CD4 count have stayed very stable. He will, of course, require HIV meds for life; there is no cure.

Sok Reach is now in first grade in our orphanage home school, and is "very smart," according to the teacher. He is just starting to learn English and will soon join the beginner computer group too. He loves the playground at the orphanage, as well as the puzzles, blocks and books of the after school enrichment time. He is truly a gem of a child with many friends. He has had very loyal sponsors but they have needed to stop due to job loss.

If you would like to sponsor Sok Reach, the cost is \$1,200/year, which can be paid quarterly. This covers his food, clothing, medical care, his nanny, his school and the ancillary people who keep Roteang orphanage and Roteang programs in top condition. You will receive pictures of Sok Reach with an update four times a year, and are welcome to visit anytime.

Please email orphanage@sharingfoundation.org.

Bros Lux was abandoned shortly after his birth on May 3, 2003. He came to us at about 2 months of age, skinny and suffering from severe malnutrition.

Now in very good health, Bros Lux is a cheerful, active 8-year-old boy. Having just completed second grade at the orphanage home school, he will start third grade at the Roteang village school in October. Bros Lux enjoys his English and computer classes and is a quick learner. He can always be found on the soccer field whenever a pickup game is set to begin.

Like many, Bros Lux's long-term sponsors are struggling with the financial times, and are unable to continue his sponsorship.

If you would like to sponsor Bros Lux, the cost, again, is \$1,200 per year, which can be paid annually, semiannually or quarterly. You will be rewarded with a quarterly update and picture, and the assurance that you are supporting one really great kid. **Please email orphanage@sharingfoundation.org.**

