The Sharing Foundation Newsletter
www.sharingfoundation.org
CARING FOR CAMBODIA'S CHILDREN
SUMMER 2018

The Sharing Foundation Celebrates 20 Years!

From the beginning: looking back

We are deeply grateful to Nancy Hendrie, Founder, for taking the time to document the early history of The Sharing Foundation. The story begins in this newsletter and continues at www.sharingfoundation.org.

After 25 years of pediatric practice in Massachusetts, and with the advent of HMOs and other increasing regulations which were making medicine less and less about the patient and more and more about paperwork, I decided to turn my attentions elsewhere, where maybe I could interact more with children than with forms and computers.

Having served on the board of directors for Wide Horizons, an adoption agency in Waltham, MA, for a number of years, and having made trips to Korea, India, and China to look at orphanage care and the children being sent from these countries for adoption, I had seen a lot of good and bad care of orphaned and abandoned children. My job with Wide Horizons had evolved into taking groups of 16 or more parents to China to complete their adoptions and taking care of scared and often sick new parents, as well as their infants who often came with significant medical issues. I was also frequently asked by Chinese authorities to assess individual infants in their care. If turned out the Chinese had almost as many rules as did the HMOs back home, and after two years, 1994 to 1996, I began to think about where I could find a job with more opportunities to actually affect care. Someone suggested, and I do not remember who, "Go to Cambodia. It's a cowboy country." So on the way home from a China trip, I went to Cambodia to see for myself.

Terrible conditions at Cambodian orphanages

It was immediately apparent as I visited two or three orphanages on that first trip that the care was almost universally terrible. At that time lots of infants were being turned over to orphanages, as poverty was rampant, birth control essentially non-existent, and AIDS was taking Cambodia in its grip and killing young parents, as well as infecting the babies. In the orphanages I visited, babies lay in

hammocks all day, diapers were not used, and the few workers, when they were not watching black and white TV, were propping bottles in the babies' mouths, or sloshing the infants with water to clean them up, and then putting them back in their hammocks. One infant, who had been born with no anal opening but had a rudimentary colostomy, weighed only about 10 pounds at 12 months of age because the "nannies" had figured out that if they did not feed her much, it was easier to care for her. Lots of infants were dying, often of diarrhea and dehydration, sometimes of tetanus related to their unclean deliveries, and most had skin infections, such as impetigo and scabies. The year was 1997.

Weaving through red tape, starting a foundation

Back home, Judy Jones, my partner for 23 years, heard all about the bad things going on with the children I had seen, and we decided we needed to do something radical. Judy was a pediatric nurse practitioner and could not let terrible care go undealt with. She set about going after all the dreaded paperwork to set up a federally recognized 501(c)(3), The Sharing Foundation, as well as a separate adoption agency, Adopt Cambodia, to be licensed in Maine where we were then living. Her persistence when we were challenged by a large money-making adoption agency CEO, and her quiet weaving through all the red tape accomplished both our aims.

CONTINUED AT www.sharingfoundation.org

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO

The 20th Anniversary Celebration

The Sharing Foundation

CARING FOR CAMBODIA'S CHILDREN

20th Anniversary

Changing the World One Child at a Time

Sunday September 16, 2018

11 a.m. — 4 p.m. | Feeney Residence

616 Lowell Road, Concord, MA 01742

REGISTER AT:

eventbrite.com | search for "Changing the world"

eventbrite.com/e/changing-the-world-one-child-at-a-time-tickets-47954305619

Twenty Years

By Ann Trudeau

Nancy Hendrie has provided us a brief history of The Sharing Foundation and I am amazed at how much has been accomplished in 20 years. Literally thousands of children have been affected, becoming healthier, better educated, and more responsible. The Sharing Foundation has changed since 1998, but we still follow the same concepts that Nancy used to create and expand the organization. Helping young people from disadvantaged backgrounds is our mission. Our geographical area is Cambodia and our methods are purposely ever-changing to match an unpredictable and unstable world.

In Nancy's brief history, she says "lots of infants were being turned over to orphanages, as poverty was rampant, birth control essentially non-existent, and AIDS was taking Cambodia in its grip…" Cambodia is a healthier country today with many fewer children being abandoned to orphanages and government regulations in place to impose some standards of care. However, "Corruption is deep-rooted and Cambodia is still one of the world's poorest countries, with most of the workforce still employed in subsistence farming." – BBC News, July 2018.

Our infants and toddlers have grown into all kinds of teenagers and young adults! We have a medical student, a bookkeeper, a few welders, a car mechanic, and others with aspirations to be policemen, dentists, and custodians. Our major concerns in the orphanage have gone from formula and diarrhea to emotional, educational and psychological development.

With our continued strength, we have expanded our reach into many other villages. Helping other orphanages has been part of our mission since 1998 and

we continue to support Kampong Speu. But for the most part, we now work with schools which serve as the village center for our immunization programs, clean water tanks, bathrooms, and educational advances. We are serving an increasing number of older youth, strengthening our university program and working with our alumni.

At this milestone, I would love to hear your thoughts on the foundation's last 20 years, and also where you see us going next. Send us your thoughts, or better yet, come to the 20th year celebration. I hope to see every one of you there so I can thank you for all that we have accomplished together!

Ann Trudeau is the TSF Board President

Then & Now!

Ly Sopheak

Piseth & Sopheak

Thyna & Mom Vireak

A workforce of about 25 men moved onto the property. They brought their own cook tent out front, and tarp shelter for the men to sleep under. There is no commuting to work by construction workers in Cambodia.... I spent over three months in Cambodia that summer and fall, overseeing the care of our first children, and watching the construction work daily. Rebar used in the cement for reinforcement was bent by hand; the cement mixer was a small kettle-sized one...Scaffolding was bamboo, and the men worked barefoot to get a good grip. When the very high ceilings were being finished, and the men worked way up on the swaying bamboo rods, I could not bear to watch for fear of a catastrophe.

Wells drilled at Kampong Speu

Adoptions halted by U.S.; orphanage filled (77 kids)

Sreng Samnang brought to U.S. for cleft palate surgery

Anti-retroviral drugs for HIV + children made available through Maryknoll

Immunizations provided for all orphanage kids and farm project families

Sewing School moves into new building

Robin Jean sets up Montessori-like pre-school for orphanage

College sponsorships begin; 10 students pass National Exam and move into Phnom Penh dorm

TSF raises $100K in online charity challenge

Mam Sary becomes head of English Language Program

Dental program begins.

A larger Khmer literacy school is built at the farm

Computer school starts

570 Roteang village children immunized (born since 2003).

Workshop started for job and interviewing skills for college graduates

8 students pass National Exam to enter University

Mary Jane's House, a girls' dorm, is finished and opens

Traditional Khmer Dance classes begin at Roteang Orphanage

Nancy Hendrie steps down as TSF president

Critical Thinking Program offered to college students

Alumni form group as a way to give back

Farm Project moves to adjacent land and Farm School rebuilt

Severe flooding forces farming to stop for two months; TSF provides farm families with rice and subsidizes food.

Mary Jane's House is furnished; girls and their nannies move in

Orphanage children take first trip to Angkor Wat

TSF hires first U.S.-based part-time employee

Provided "catch up" immunizations to new Roteang village children

New bathrooms built at Farm School

Begin HPV vaccinations for TSF girls

Partner with Perkins School for the Blind

Find Happy Kids Clinic for Panha with CP

"Connect & Reconnect" event in Concord MA

Staff attend workshop at Caritas

Orphanage students pass test to get into BELTEI (private school)

Immunizations continue (500+ children in villages across the Mekong)

Libraries built and supplied in Prek Char and Sambour

Playground built at Prek Char

Intern, San Soroth, comes to U.S. for 10 months

Construction of orphanage in Roteang village begins

December 14: Move into Roteang Orphanage!

TSF procures licenses to operate

Sewing students were paid $10 a week, often more than their parents were earning, and the young women could then move into supervisory jobs in the garment industry with reliable wages of about $50 per month.

Sewing School makes first uniforms

1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018

Nancy Hendrie meets Elephant

In August of 1999, another event occurred, which would turn out to be a major turning point for TSF: we found Elephant. Chan Kim Leng, Elephant, had been working as a taxi driver with his ancient Toyota. He often parked in front of the Sunway Hotel in the city, where the adopting parents stayed at that time. One day some parents told me that they had had this driver who seemed unusual in his outlook, his command of English, and his desire to work hard.

Sewing School and Farm Project begin

English Language School opens

Song Tola has successful heart surgery in Bangkok

$100K matching grant announced to fund endowment (Brook Family Foundation)

Wells drilled in Roteang

At first the adults balked: they had never been to school, and saw no need for the children to go. We held fast...they had to send their kids to school...Soon we had so many people working on the farm, and so many children in school that we had to find bigger fields, build a two-room schoolhouse, and have morning and afternoon shifts.

Library expanded, new playground installed

Rath Srun brought to U.S. for surgery; narrowed esophagus corrected

First special needs child is sponsored at Roteang Orphanage

High school sponsorship program begins

Owens House opens for pregnant women with HIV

Our program at Owens House for pregnant women with HIV was going well, with more than a dozen infants treated with niviripine at birth to interrupt the transmission of the HIV virus from mother to baby, and to educate mothers about safe infant care and feeding. Our own HIV-infected children at Roteang Orphanage, all on antiretrovirals, were doing well, indistinguishable from our non-infected children.

Kampong Speu orphanage immunized

Elephant becomes In-Country Director

One World School opens to replace decrepit building at Roteang village school

Dr. Ney is hired as new orphanage pediatrician; Mom Sineath hired to manage Farm Project

New playground equipment installed at Roteang Orphanage

Clinton Foundation takes over provisioning anti-retroviral meds for Cambodian HIV + children

Computer school obtains laptops

Computer school expands

Endowment campaign goes public

English classes begin for Roteang Orphanage children

500 + kids from Roteang and surrounding communities immunized

Panha and Hey Leap have surgery for their legs

TSF-sponsored architectural student, Sam Putchai, goes to Singapore for internship

Immunized all children in Beng Krom village

New playground built in Beng Krom

Rusted out playground replaced in Roteang

5 new children come to the orphanage

Concord and Carlisle groups visit TSF projects

Construction begins for new school building in Roteang

17 university students graduate—biggest class to date

Musical Instruments purchased and music program starts

Partner with Caritas Mental Health and Physical Rehabilitation Center for Children

Older orphanage kids learn how to drive, ping pong table purchased

Zand Graduation Fund begins

New bathrooms built at Roteang school

New playgrounds built at Kampong Speu and Lvea Sor

At first the boys would not do kitchen work, because in the village that would all fall to women, but when we pointed out that this could not be so in their new environment, they capitulated and, in fact, one of the boys, Sokret, became the favored chef.

TSF Celebrates 20th Anniversary!

OUR MISSION

For 20 years, the Sharing Foundation's mission has been to help meet the physical, emotional, educational and medical needs of orphaned and seriously disadvantaged children in Cambodia. We continue to help prevent some of the problems of poverty by developing, in consultation with Cambodian community leaders, programs to improve the health and welfare of these children and their families.

Thank you for your helping us to touch so many lives!

The Sharing Foundation

CARING FOR CAMBODIA'S CHILDREN

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Au Kuhn Ch'ran and THANK YOU for 20 life changing years!

Changing the World, One Child at a Time

We hope you will be able to join us on Sunday, September 16, 2018. We are celebrating 20 years of the good work you and TSF have accomplished together! Register at eventbrite.com and search under "Changing the World". There you will find event information which will be updated throughout the coming weeks as to special guests, speakers, workshops offered, what to expect, etc. Tickets are $20, but don't let cost be an obstacle to your attendance; email us at info@sharing-foundation.org for more info.

We are creating a compilation of reflections entitled, "20 Years, 20 Stories" and we need your help! Whether you can attend the event or not, please send us a short video clip from your phone, or a written anecdote, sharing an experience, maybe how you first heard about TSF, a heartfelt interaction, or the impact the foundation, Nancy Hendrie and Judy Jones, have had on your life.

Please send your stories and/or questions to Laurie Simons: lysimons@gmail.com or Kat MacDonald: katmacdonald.02420@gmail.com by August 20, if possible.

Thank you for being a big part of the TSF story and for helping The Sharing Foundation change the world, one child at a time.