College bound

By Nancy Kuziemski

This year, all 10 of our sponsored twelfth grade students from Roteng village passed the challenging Cambodian National Examination, essentially clearing the academic bar for university attendance. And more good news: two students from our orphanage community also passed - a major accomplishment. When students pass this exam and an English proficiency test, they are eligible for university scholarships from TSF.

The Cambodian National Examination is considered to be extremely challenging. The government has recently revised the test and divided it into Social and Science forms - seven subjects in each. The exams last one and a half days, and students often have to travel to another location to take the test. Students prepare in study groups and take practice tests, but still are extremely anxious about this immensely important test.

The Sharing Foundation created the High School Sponsorship program in 2004 to address the educational disadvantages of the village children. Most of their parents have not completed very much formal education, and the families face daunting economic challenges. Although slowly improving, the schools in Cambodia are significantly overcrowded and underfunded. Students attend school for only four hours a day, despite being asked to master many different subjects.

Sponsorships provide money so that students can pay for “private” special help study classes after school. These class sizes are relatively small, and the instruction is more personalized. In addition, students themselves organize peer-led “study groups” on Sundays. For example, one student in the group will be considered the top scholar in physics and will lead a section on physics for the group.

Our village students cannot afford these classes without our help. Here’s how the High School Sponsorship Program works: All students who are interested in sponsorship must be attending the English School that TSF has established. The head of the English program (Uch Sas) usually receives over 100 applications for our 10-12 sponsorships, and he chooses the final group of ninth graders each year.

Students begin with very basic English skills and, by senior year, are often writing impressively in English.

Sponsor a High School Student

Help a promising student afford higher education
Support the personal and academic development of motivated young scholars
Enjoy learning about life in Cambodia
Donate $30/month ($360/year)
Write letters to exchange with students four times a year

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Notes from the President
by Ann Trudeau

It was heartwarming to see so many friends gather to celebrate 20 years of TSF work in Cambodia. I was touched by each person’s presence, support and good wishes and I know the Board shares my sentiments. The highlight of the day for me was the opportunity to honor two of our favorite people, Dr. Nancy Hendrie and Judy Jones. Their vision, commitment and work has become the cornerstone of an organization that helps thousands of young people in Cambodia every day.

From the beginning, Judy Jones was the person behind the scenes who helped to create and grow TSF. She navigated the legal requirements, obtained nonprofit status, worked with lawyers and banks and more. In honor of her, The Sharing Foundation has created the Judy Jones Scholarship to be given to support a student to attend high school. Like our other sponsored high school students, they will write letters to their sponsor throughout the year, and Judy’s daughters have agreed to write back with the chosen boy or girl. When the student finishes their studies, another student will then be chosen as the Judy Jones Scholar.

Dr. Nancy Hendrie was the person on the front line in Cambodia getting things done - from advocating for good medical care for children, to building an orphanage and a school, and initiating many other projects in response to local need. We are excited to name the newest building at the Roteang Orphanage after her. One of our own graduates helped design the facility and several of our orphans have helped to build it. All of them capable young people that benefited from Dr. Nancy’s persistence and foresight 20 years ago.

Elephant, our In Country Director, traveled from Cambodia to be here for our celebration. He would say his favorite part of the day was seeing families with Cambodian children looking so happy and successful. He reiterated that he wants adoptive children to be proud of their heritage and the country of their birth. Elephant is the father to all of our 70 orphanage children.

Each day brings us new challenges and new successes in Cambodia. The family and friends of The Sharing Foundation make it a wonderful adventure. Here’s to another 20 years!

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Campus Improvement
by Ann Trudeau

In early 2000, Nancy Hendrie wrote, “we built our first building, a good sized wooden lodge out toward the back of the property...We already had agreed to take on 19 babies from the failing Cham Chao orphanage...and we needed it (the building) immediately.” This wooden building has served us well over the past 20 years, but being made of wood in a hot wet climate, it has deteriorated. And those 19 babies are now a population of 70. As they have grown into adolescents and teens, so has their need for a bit more space. We need a new building!

Over the summer we broke ground for new construction. The plans were drawn up by an architectural student of TSF and the building is being constructed by our own maintenance director, Peng Ron, who has grown into a talented builder over the years. Concurrently, we are redoing our septic system to address some standing water issues.

A few of our children want to participate in the construction and are allowed to help on the building with supervision. What could be more fun than playing in the dirt and building? We are careful not to take advantage of their enthusiasm and let them do too much, but it is also a great way for them to learn about the construction trade.

The building will house our older boys, about 30 of them, and several staff bedrooms and bathrooms. The exist-

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Sponsors play an integral role in our students’ lives as seen here; our college students receive their sponsor letters with smiles, joy and anticipation.

Another class graduates university, making the total graduates since the program started 89 men and women. Pictured is Sek Kanchna who graduated in 2016. She came to witness the graduation and to meet her sponsor, Carol Easter, visiting the TSF projects through our collaboration with the Ties program. All of our graduates remain friends and supporters of The Sharing Foundation.

Campus Improvement
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ing dorm will remain in use, including dorm rooms as well as new study space.

This new dorm building is an important part of an ongoing effort to keep the grounds well maintained and to ensure that the facilities meet the needs of the children as they grow. For example, we have recently expanded the dining area and installed chairs and tables, replacing the old style of sitting on mats on the floor. The preschool, built in 2004, has been retooled into an educational and play center, Mary Jane’s house, built in 2009, houses the girls in dormitory rooms.

The orphanage is looking very nice these days under the care of the head nanny, Chanthan. She has hung orchids around the outside and put potted plants along the driveway. It is a clean and happy place.

The new building, which is to be named after TSF Founder, Dr. Nancy Hendrie, should be completed in March 2019.

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year. Students fill out the applications - in English - explaining a bit about their families, their favorite subjects, and their aspirations. Students almost always stress wanting to help their families and their communities through their own career achievement.

Students and sponsors are paired and then begin a four-year relationship through letter exchanges. TSF board members transport the letters when they are visiting Cambodia, four times a year (winter, spring, summer, fall). The students eagerly look forward to the letters from America and write back in response. Students begin with very basic English skills and, by senior year, are often writing impressively in English. They consistently express deep gratitude for the help and encouragement they receive. Sponsors also benefit from getting to know the highly motivated students and learning about their lives in Cambodia.

Congratulations to all the hard working, ambitious students and generous, supportive sponsors! We’re proud of you!

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Under a sunny September sky, over 200 TSF supporters gathered in Concord MA to share in a joyous celebration of the The Sharing Foundation’s 20 years of work on behalf of Cambodian children. The TSF Board was pleased to acknowledge the contributions of Founders Nancy Hendrie and Judy Jones, to welcome In Country Director Elephant, and to thank the many adults and children who have made its mission a reality.

Additional photos and videos of the event can be viewed at sharingfoundation.org
Twenty-three Roteang Orphanage students proudly don the uniforms in front of their new school, The BELTEI International.

Four year old Paul strums and sweetly serenades Sreyleak, age 4. The kids at Roteang Orphanage are exposed to music in many forms and dance, from Cambodian to American, classical to contemporary, vocal and instrumental.

Our youngest children love the idea of going for a ride!

Learning looks like fun for these children at our Farm Literacy school. Close to 140 children attend while their parents work in the fields.
Board member Colleen Gearys gives out uniforms, one of the most important projects TSF is involved in. Uniforms are a requirement for public school attendance and TSF supplies close to 1500 every year.

The library proves to be a popular place for the students at Beng Krom.

Enjoying apples after school!

Goofing off at the water park in August!

This motivated young girl is happy as she begins another school day.
This holiday season, please consider a gift to The Sharing Foundation

A simple, meaningful gesture which gives to those who do not have, and honors those who do. Each recipient listed below will receive the card shown below, acknowledging your gift.

Thank you for sharing and giving!

Please mail this form and make checks payable to:
The Sharing Foundation  ∙  P.O. Box 600, Concord, MA 01742  ∙  www.sharingfoundation.org
Looking for the perfect holiday gift?
Consider purchasing The Elephant Walk cookbook (Cambodian fare), which is currently out of print but available through us for $25.

All proceeds go to TSF.

Contact us through info@sharingfoundation.org and we will mail it to you!

Shopping online?
Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchases to TSF when you shop on AmazonSmile by using:

http://smile.amazon.com/ch/01-0518534

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