The Sharing Foundation Newsletter

www.sharingfoundation.org

CARING FOR CAMBODIA'S CHILDREN

HOLIDAYS 2018

College bound

By Nancy Kuziemski

This year, all 10 of our sponsored twelfth grade students from Roteang 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.

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

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.

Class of 2022—they finished their high school years together and now will be sharing duties in the dorm like shopping, cooking and cleaning as well as studying together for the next four years!

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

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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

Contact: Nancy Kuziemski, High School Sponsorship Program, The Sharing Foundation: **nkuziemski@sharingfoundation.org**

Notes from the President

by Ann Trudeau

It was heart warming 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! TSF

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 then 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.

Piseth uses his free time to hone his masonry skills for the new building

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

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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. TSF

College Bound

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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! TSF

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.

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

TSF 20th year celebration draws an enthusiastic crowd

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 Gearns 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.

Goofing off at the water park in August!

Enjoying apples after school!

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!

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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

The Sharing Foundation

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The Sharing Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

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