Dr. Nancy House

By Colleen Gears

This March, The Sharing Foundation was thrilled to welcome founder Nancy Hendrie back to Roteang for the dedication of TSF’s newest building, the Dr. Nancy House. The building replaces an aging dormitory that was in constant need of maintenance and repair. The board enthusiastically agreed that the building should be named for Dr. Hendrie, in honor of her decades of dedication. Nancy Hendrie chose the name and construction was completed this February.

The new Dr. Nancy House is to serve as a dormitory for the boys and is located in the back of the Children’s Center. It is made of much more permanent concrete and is much brighter and lighter throughout. It offers the boys larger modern bedrooms and provides quiet space for a study room open to all children for after-school homework and tutoring.

To prepare for Dr. Hendrie’s trip and the formal dedication, TSF wanted to do something special including all of the children, who she has cared for so dearly. Ann and Colleen, while on their board supervisory trip, organized a painting day with all of the children. Peng Ron made sure that the water tanks next to the playground in front of the entrance

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

The Khmer Magic Music Bus visits Roteang

By Deborah Nelson

This year we did things differently! Instead of taking the RCC children on a field trip, we brought the field trip to Roteang!! The big celebration began when Cambodian Living Arts (CLA) (www.cambodianlivingarts.org/khmer-magic-music-bus/) arrived with the Khmer Magic Music Bus (KMMB) bringing dance and music and a special message from founder and Khmer Rouge survivor Arn Chorn Pond.

A program of CLA, the KMMB has the mission to bring traditional music to rural villages all around Cambodia. Our children learned how important it is to celebrate the traditions of live Khmer music, especially as the Khmer Rouge tried to wipe it out by killing many of the musicians and artists of the country.

We were all spellbound by inspiration-al words of Arn Chorn Pond, peace activist, survivor of the Cambodian genocide and the founder of CLA. Arn began by playing on his Khmer flute a propaganda piece he was forced to play for the Khmer Rouge beginning at about the age of 12. He reminded us of the power of music to overcome adversity and bring hope. In his case, music literally saved his life, as the Khmer

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3
At The Sharing Foundation, we have a long standing tradition of being transparent with our finances. Because of our recent increase in sponsorship costs, we felt it was important to update our friends on the underlying financial picture that motivated this change.

**Where do we get our money?**

Most of our operating budget is raised every year through private donations from people like you. Many of these donations are in the form of sponsorships. We raise about half of our money through the three sponsorship programs: Orphanage (Roteang Children’s Center), University, and High School. In addition, we receive funding through a few grants and the selling of crafts made at our sewing center. Our largest contribution in recent years has been an anonymous annual donation of $25,000.

We have an endowment whose purpose is to cover critical needs for the current Children’s Center population into the foreseeable future. Our spending policy allows for the unrestricted use of 4% of this money annually, with the hope that this will protect the funds for their long term purpose. We used the endowment to build the Dr. Nancy House at the Children’s Center. Other than that one time large withdrawal, we occasionally need to use a small portion to make up the gap between donations and operating costs.

**How much does it cost?**

Our total operating expenses, excluding special projects like that described above, are approximately $460,000 a year. We make every effort through these newsletters and our social media to give you a tangible sense of what these dollars support when they become people, materials, and time spent. For example, a photo of 40 children climbing out of a Sharing Foundation Bus in uniforms demonstrates a portion of the Vehicle and Education cost.

We are proud of our generous donors and our frugal care of their money to bring the greatest good for the youth of Cambodia. These children would be living on the streets or in the slums without you. If you would like more information, please feel free to contact me directly at atrudeau@sharingfoundation.org.
Share in a Young Cambodian’s Life

by Linda Clark

TSF welcomed 6 new children at RCC and they need your help! These children came to us in March through Friends International because their families could no longer care for them. They include two sets of adorable sisters; Eng Sreyleap, age 1, and Eng Sreyouth, age 3, and Moun Sreyath, age 1 and Moun Sreyta, age 3; and two enthusiastic little boys, Mom Cheb, age 3 and Dy Bopir, age 5.

Although we are just getting to know them, it has been so rewarding to watch how well they are integrating into their new family. Thanks to our dedicated nannies and teachers, they are happily making RCC their home. They are engaged at the preschool every morning, participating in dance and computer classes in the afternoon. The nannies lovingly watch over them at nap time, and the older children embrace and encourage them.

Please consider sponsoring one of these very special children. It is a wonderful opportunity to watch them blossom as they grow up, and you can be assured they will be loved and cared for not only by the staff, but also by the other children!

Also at this time, we are appealing for a half sponsorship for our delightful twelve year old girl, Vichiny. She has been with us since she was a baby, and always seems to have a ready smile and a willingness to engage in activities. She is in third grade, attending Beltel International School.

The cost of a sponsorship is $1800 per year, which can be paid yearly, semi-annually, or quarterly. This figure is based upon Children’s Center costs including food, clothing, staff, education, and medical needs. If you would like to sponsor one of these children, please contact Laurie Simons at lsimons@sharingfoundation.org.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Rouge spared him because he could play their music. Other Cambodians were not so lucky, as almost two million Cambodians lost their lives during this genocide, including Arn’s own family. His resilience and resourcefulness allowed him to escape the Khmer Rouge and make his way alone to the refugee camps in Thailand, finally being adopted by an American family.

He reminded us of the power of music to overcome adversity and bring hope.

Arn spent his teen years growing up in New Hampshire. Unable to speak English and bullied, he found life in N.H. harder in ways than the horrors of his time with the Khmer Rouge. Depressed, his father urged him to share his story as a way to heal and so Arn does. Spreading his message of love, not hate, he spends his time all over the world, but mostly in Cambodia and America.

In closing Arn offered a call to action paraphrased as “You have a lot of good in your lives; the resources and love and opportunities you have here, that’s a good thing and don’t take it for granted... Share it with others. A person may touch your life and you can go on to help many more. That’s what we should do in our life, so go like angels.” He gifted copies of the book Never Fall Down by Patricia McCormick (in Khmer), which tells the story of his life and urged us again to spread love, not fear and hatred.

The Khmer Magic Music Bus visits Roteang

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Arn’s passion and compassion are evident as he speaks to the children

In closing Arn offered a call to action paraphrased as “You have a lot of good in your lives; the resources and love and opportunities you have here, that’s a good thing and don’t take it for granted... Share it with others. A person may touch your life and you can go on to help many more. That’s what we should do in our life, so go like angels.” He gifted copies of the book Never Fall Down by Patricia McCormick (in Khmer), which tells the story of his life and urged us again to spread love, not fear and hatred.

He reminded us of the power of music to overcome adversity and bring hope.

Arn spent his teen years growing up in New Hampshire. Unable to speak English and bullied, he found life in N.H. harder in ways than the horrors of his time with the Khmer Rouge. Depressed, his father urged him to share his story as a way to heal and so Arn does. Spreading his message of love, not hate, he spends his time all over the world, but mostly in Cambodia and America.

In closing Arn offered a call to action paraphrased as “You have a lot of good in your lives; the resources and love and opportunities you have here, that’s a good thing and don’t take it for granted... Share it with others. A person may touch your life and you can go on to help many more. That’s what we should do in our life, so go like angels.” He gifted copies of the book Never Fall Down by Patricia McCormick (in Khmer), which tells the story of his life and urged us again to spread love, not fear and hatred.

All in all, it was a wonderfully rich afternoon, leaving lasting memories for many.

A special lovely note: Elephant arranged for a staff member to bring Srey Leak home from Krousar Thmey [school for the vision-impaired] for the concert!
I recently returned from my third supervision trip to Cambodia representing the board of directors, and this was the best one yet! What made it especially unique was that I was accompanied by my almost 18 year old daughter, Vanny. Her role was not one of tourist or passive companion; instead, she was our chief photographer, taking portraits of all the children of Roteang, all our staff members, high school and university students. Moreover, her fresh perspectives and insightful questions made for a better and more productive trip and I was honored to have her with me as my colleague.

I can report that our programs are strong and the children we care for are flourishing. In addition, I want to describe the details and highlights of our work. During our week in Cambodia, Vanny and I were involved in many issues, including:

• Working with Dr. Nye we obtained viral load numbers and plans for our children who are HIV positive
• Working with Dr. Nye and Elephant, a plan was formulated to test children most at risk for anemia and lead
• Working with Elephant and the teaching staff, we identified all the tutoring groups taking place to support the learning of our children, who is teaching, by subject, and the children’s attendance
• Conversing with Elephant informally on the many car rides to visit TSF projects and children who reside away from RCC (Srey Leak at Krousar Thmey and Pov Socheat at Friends). Elephant shared information on individual children and we discussed their specific needs/supports and potential plans for them. We discussed ways to enhance critical thinking among our high school and college students to enhance their abilities to analyze, synthesize and think outside the box. (This last topic was well timed with a visit Vanny and I made to The Harpswell Foundation, which seeks out the very brightest young women in all of Cambodia—and brings them to Phnom Penh to attend university while housed in the Harpswell dorms). We talked about a number of strategies we could employ to create better thinkers and had fertile discussions with Elephant about best practices in teaching. Elephant followed up by instituting debate sessions for our university students with the help of Maneth, one of our English teachers! We also enjoyed some car-pool karaoke on our rides as well!
• Visiting Beltei, the private school 43 of our youngsters attend. The tour given by two top directors demonstrated the extraordinary opportunities for a better education being afforded our children. We felt the palpable culture of learning. Our visit showed the administrative and teaching staff there how invested we are in our children and that we are paying close attention to them and their needs. As Elephant says (of all our children!) “I want a really good future for them.”
• Checking in on our new babies and toddlers! They were getting more filled out with the good nutrition and of course the love from their nannies. Elephant says their brains are working better now!
• Arranging evaluations and extra support services for one of our youngsters who is not progressing as we would like
• Interviewing several of our children in more depth. Our plan is for each board visit to include getting to know our children and their strengths and challenges better so as to best advocate for them
• Visiting several other not for profit programs that teach skills such as weaving, electricity, mechanical work etc. to assess fit for some of our youngsters to perhaps go to when the time is right
• Checking in on our farm program: the farm had 7 productive workers planting long beans and 130 smiling children in two classrooms learning happily and enthusiastically. Vanny passed out apple treats for them which we purchased ahead of time
• Seeing that the buildings and grounds were well cared for
• Arranging and participating in our special music/dance extravaganza for RCC children and some of the students from the village (see separate article)

Vanny made some very useful recommendations for future trips which we hope to employ. One such suggestion included having the children give the board representative the tour of the center, rather than Elephant – allowing for a new and different perspective.

All in all, it was a productive and meaningful trip to visit some of the most special people in the world! For her part, Vanny reflected later that this trip was different than other times she’s visited Cambodia. When we visited Roteang, she was able to reflect that as a former resident there, she too could have been growing up there, like many of the children we met. This trip she felt more of a connection to Cambodia, and less like a visitor. Indeed, when we arrived at the visa desk in Phnom Penh’s airport, while I paid $30 for my visitor visa, she, having been born in Cambodia, was charged nothing and was granted a permanent visa. She came home very much wanting to return and to learn Khmer as well.

Note: TSF did not pay for any part of Vanny’s trip; her trip was under the auspices of her senior year two-week project at her high school and as such, was a personal not official TSF trip.
to the Dr. Nancy house had a fresh coat of bright white paint, while Ann and Colleen searched Phnom Penh markets for the best paints for children to use to cover that bright white. Every child flexed their art skills with the paint, brushes, and paint pens. Each child wrote their name next to their section and many included well wishes and thanks to Dr. Nancy. The littlest kids left their mark with adorable handprints. Everyone was excited and engaged in the project, even all of the teenage boys! It was a great day of painting with TSF staff getting involved as well.

TSF will forever be indebted to Nancy Hendrie for her vision and decades of work in support of the children in Cambodia. Naming our newest structure in her honor is just a small gesture, but one that leaves a permanent mark bearing her name at Roteang Childrens Center. It is a daily reminder to all of the children living in TSF care and for the employees that honor the fulfillment of her vision.
The Sharing Foundation
P. O. Box 600, Concord, MA 01742
www.sharingfoundation.org
Email: info@sharingfoundation.org
The Sharing Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

Board of Directors
President: Ann Trudeau, Concord, MA
Vice President: Deborah Nelson, Ipswich, MA
Secretary: Linda Clark, Carlisle, MA
Treasurer: Kat MacDonald, Lexington, MA
Asst. Treasurer: Jennifer Mendelsohn, Newton, MA
Chuck Bagnaschi, Carlisle, MA
Colleen Gearns, Garden City, NY
Gracie Johnston, South Portland, ME
Nancy Kuziemski, Carlisle, MA
Korey Lee, Branchville, NJ
Lee Steppacher, Norwich, VT
Marge Stockford, Portland, ME
Founder: Nancy W. Hendrie M.D., Concord, MA
Foundation Coordinator: Laurie Simons, Beverly, MA
Newsletter Staff: Laurie Simons, Lee Steppacher, Deborah Nelson, Emma Schumacher

Bookclub meeting on the other side of the world!