The Sharing Foundation is always looking for ways to expand our children’s horizons. In early September, thanks to the wonderful Tina Johnson, we were able to do just that at a working silk farm. Nestled along a busy street in Chip Mong, Phnom Penh, is an ethical working silk farm. Once inside its spacious accommodations, we were treated to a memorable experience with educational activities that truly engaged our children.

This Silk House is a unique museum. Through hands-on activities, visitors can learn everything there is to know about silk: where it comes from and how it is made, as well as the lifecycle of the silkworm. Further demonstrations reveal the complex processes of how the threads are threaded and then traditionally woven into eye-catching materials before being transformed into accessories and clothing. In addition, this Silk House works with dozens of rural communities across

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The Gift of Opportunity
by Nancy Kuziemski

The Sharing Foundation’s High School Sponsorship Program began in 2004 to address the educational disadvantages of Roteang Village children. Although slowly improving, the Cambodian education system is overcrowded and underfunded. In order to complete high school successfully, students need to take additional “private” classes where they can access smaller group and personalized instruction from teachers. Students also can focus on school instead of working to support their families. They all dream of the opportunity to attend university.

As a result, students in the program take their studies seriously. They form their own peer-led study groups on Sundays and take private classes to supplement their studies, even during summer vacation. One student recently described how she needs to pay $10 for physics, $10 for chemistry and pay $10 for mathematics during the rainy season break. Another thanked his sponsor for “your support... and opportunity to make my life better than before.” Yet another writes how with school completed, she is helping her mother to “sell fishes [in] the market...I must try to do everything for her.”

Motivated students, all of whom must be attending our English language school, apply for our program before starting ninth grade. Their applications (written in English) are reviewed by Uch Sas, TSF English School Head, and TSF Board visitors, who also interview the likely 10-12 candidates. Invariably the students express yearning and ambition to attend university, but also to help their families, their village

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Two thumbs up for TSF sponsors!
Notes from the President: Why I choose TSF
by Ann Trudeau

It can be a challenge to find donors interested in helping children from Cambodia. After all, there are children here in the US that need help, and there are children in other countries that may be worse off than Southeast Asians. Why do those of us at The Sharing Foundation believe so strongly in this organization?

We directly impact over 1,000 needy children on a daily basis

My belief is that I cannot change the world. But I can change a part of the world that is in my reach. The Sharing Foundation put a very needy population within my reach. Nancy Hendrie made it possible for me to do a HUGE amount of good for a little amount of money. And that has become one of The Sharing Foundation’s most important goals.

We directly impact over 1,000 needy children on a daily basis. Their lives are completely altered once they are touched by The Sharing Foundation. One of our graduates tells the story of how he was getting into trouble as a young teen before our English Program took him in. By the time he was in 12th grade he was teaching in his spare time, contributing part of his income to his family and helping them to survive. He graduated from our University program and became Principal of a school in Phnom Penh. His entire family does not need to worry anymore and the value of education has been made clear.

How much did his education cost us? This young man was educated, including learning to read and write fluently in English, for under $7000. And, like all of our children, he was immunized and watched for serious health issues. I cannot tell you how much it cost me to educate my children! Let’s just say I could have sent 50 children to University in Cambodia for the cost of one of my kids.

The Sharing Foundation has very few administrative costs. The executive management of the organization is all volunteer, our office and storage space is donated, most of our administrative work is done by volunteers, sewing products made at our sewing center in Cambodia are carried to the US and sold by volunteers, our HIV medication in Cambodia is donated, dental care for our 68 children is donated, we do not have any paid advertising or advertising staff. These are just some of the things that we DON’T pay for.

Here are some of the things we DO pay for. If you are looking for a gift idea you might want to consider giving the powerful gift of helping a child in need.

- $24 - Hand Soap for the Children’s Center for one month
- $42 - Blank paper for the English School at Roteang for one year
- $125 - Support for a farm school child for one year
- $180 - Electricity for the Sewing Center for one year
- $260 - Support for a Nanny for one month
- $360 - High School sponsorship
- $550 - Three tutors at the Children’s Center for one month
- $900 - Half sponsorship at the RCC
- $1,000 - University sponsorship
- $1,800 - Sponsor a child for a year
- $3,600 - Dance teacher for a year

We are currently fundraising to improve staff support at RCC including a more structured employment agreement and training, while also adding a few new staff members. The average salary of a nanny in the Children’s Center is $260 per month, $3,120 per year. Would you like to pay for a nanny for a month?

There are many options to help care for these children. If you want to make a difference with a group of hardworking volunteers and a little bit of money, please support The Sharing Foundation.

Moving a Farm: The Time is Now
by Korey Lee

The lease is up, and the time is now to move our Farm Project to a bigger and better place. In Cambodia during the rainy season, much of the farmland can be flooded with the heavy rains, which compelled us to look for higher ground. Our incredible team of Elephant and Mom found just that. The land is larger, giving us the opportunity to include some mango trees along with vegetables. Our Literacy School will be more accessible to the 150 plus children that come through daily, and school sessions won’t be hampered by flooded land.

Our Farm Project is one of our many treasures as it helps to launch the farm children into the Roteang Village School. Considered to be a preschool, many of the students that attend might not be able to carry on their education without it.

A long view of the new farm land

The bones of the farm school take shape

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Thank you Sally, for your relentless work [on behalf of our kids]

by Laurie Simons

After her tenure of almost 20 years with The Sharing Foundation, Sally Stokes has stepped down from the Board of Directors. She will be greatly missed by the Board members, staff and the kids in Cambodia on whose behalf she worked so tirelessly. The debt of gratitude we owe her is enormous.

Sally was the President of the Foundation for over three years, while also holding down a demanding, full-time job. She was instrumental in forming the basis for the foundation to grow as the founder retired. Throughout her time on the board, Sally wore many hats. She made innumerable trips to Cambodia, and sometimes, at a moment’s notice. She worked on the TSF newsletter for years, providing keen insight and perfect grammar! Her institutional knowledge steered the board in making careful and thoughtful decisions throughout TSF’s history and her grace under pressure never wavered.

For the sponsors of children at the Roteang Children’s Center, Sally was the point of contact for many years. She sent out annual updates on the children’s progress and kept them informed of developments in Cambodia. There is now a committee of four to do the job she did singlehandedly!

Sally’s guiding principle was to keep the children’s welfare in the forefront— their best interest informed all of her decisions. We will be forever grateful for the energy she expended on behalf of our kids. As we often say, our children may never know on whose shoulders they stand, but we do and we offer our profound thanks and deepest bow of gratitude to Sally.

Half Sponsorships for College Students—Yours for the Taking!

by Lee Steppacher

We see over and over again how the educational opportunities offered by TSF have changed lives, and we are thrilled and gratified by that! For those students who attend university, a new world is opened to them. They move to Phnom Penh, live in a dormitory and study in a field of their choosing. All 40 present university students are sponsored by individuals or families here in the U.S., and correspond with their sponsors through out the year.

One young woman, Somneath, studies English and very proudly has just been accepted into Toastmasters Club. Toastmasters operates clubs worldwide in order to teach communications, public speaking and leadership skills; additionally teaching members to listen and to think. To our knowl-
The annual Birthday party every January is a bright day for all the children at the RCC.

Recitation is embraced enthusiastically by the farm school students.

Channa proudly displays his handiwork in front of the water tanks painted in honor of Dr. Nancy Hendrie’s February 2019 visit.
Smiles abound as the university students read one of their quarterly letters from their sponsors.

Panha and Sreynhanh at play.

Everyone crowds around Sokneath, who has returned from the university dorm for the weekend.

Congratulations to Yi Sophal, who is university bound in November having passed the National Exam this past summer! She joins Sokneath as two of our most recent RCC (Roteang Children's Center) members to head to college and dorm life in Phnom Penh.

Sokchea, Vichiny and Veasna listen closely to someone just out of view.

Smiles abound as the university students read one of their quarterly letters from their sponsors.
Our Kids Visit a Silk Farm

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Cambodia to provide them with a sustainable form of income, at the same time helping to revive the country’s rapidly dwindling silk-weaving heritage.

The founders, Mrs. Vannary San and her husband Mr. Kosal Sim, own this property. They are committed to using as much recycled building materials as possible, adding warmth to the journey through the various processes.

With all the hands-on activities, fourteen of our children, both boys and girls, had a wonderful experience that was finished off with ice cream and feeding the fish in their ponds.

The Gift of Opportunity

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and Cambodia. Many of the successful students have eventually returned to help teach English, tutor, or give back in other ways.

This year, 10 of our 12 seniors passed the Cambodian National Examination, as well as an English proficiency test, so they will be supported by sponsors and TSF to continue at university. We also had one student from our Roteang Children’s Center who passed the exam, a significant accomplishment considering that the test is very challenging and stressful. Students often must travel to the city and stay with relatives or go long distances to the testing sites. The overall passing rate in Cambodia this year was only 66%, so clearly our program is effective. Congratulations to all the hard-working students and generous, faithful sponsors!

We need new sponsors for the upcoming freshman class. Here are the basics: Students and sponsors are paired, and then begin a four-year relationship through letter exchanges four times a year (winter, spring, summer, fall). Letters are transported by Board members on quarterly visits to Cambodia. The letter writing component is crucial to the success of the program: through it, students deeply appreciate the encouragement, improve their English skills (amazing to observe!) and learn about their sponsors’ culture. Similarly, sponsors benefit from getting to know their students as individuals and learn about Cambodian life. Please consider offering this gift of opportunity to a promising high school student.

Moving a Farm: The Time is Now

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We continue to have three sessions daily of Khmer classes and a fourth session has been included by our Project Manager Mom, who teaches an English class five days a week after regular classes.

We will have to rebuild our two-room thatched roof school, but this time we are going to add some improvements to make it a little sturdier. Much of the old school will be repurposed to reconstruct the guard house. Electricity will have to be brought in, along with the irrigation needs. The new location is in a section of Roteang that is just starting to build up. Improvements to the road will also be necessary. All of this takes time and money and we are always looking for donations to keep this project moving in the right direction.

Sponsor a High School Student

Provide opportunity and support for a motivated high school student

Help a promising student pursue higher education

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: highschool@sharingfoundation.org

Upcoming Craft Sales are listed on our website under News. | www.sharingfoundation.org
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 an In Honor Of card, acknowledging your gift.
Thank you for sharing and giving!

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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!

We just want to say thank you for those who click on The Sharing Foundation when using AMAZON SMILE to purchasing items. We receive a percentage and it adds up so thank you for taking the time to remember TSF.

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