



## A dream come true: from Cambodia to Atlanta!

Over a year ago, The Sharing Foundation began the involved process of arranging, for the first time ever, an internship in the United States for a Cambodian young adult, San Soroth. TSF President Ann Trudeau, friends of TSF Ann Bates, Kelli Kirshtein and Marge Stockford worked with the cultural exchange nonprofit, CIEE, and the Galloway School to make Soroth's dream of a U.S. placement a reality.

By San Soroth

Life is about moving forwards and living your dream. It is like a roller coaster which has ups and downs. And every up and down will teach you very important lessons in life, and you have to make use of it to extend your horizon.

I was just a poor, little boy raised up in a very humble family with no hope of education, better life and internship abroad. I was always lazy for school. I was just a stupid boy who almost got addicted to gambling and was about to join a gang group. Let's imagine, who would I have become and what would I have done by now?

Do you know what has actually changed me and my mindset? I was a sponsored student in the high school



Welcome! Host family parent Ann Bates greets San Soroth upon his arrival in Atlanta.

“ I have enriched myself with this organization during my course, and I have learned to be independent. ”

and college scholarship programs of The Sharing Foundation. I have enriched myself with this organization during my course, and I have learned to be independent.

Now, I am now interning in The Galloway School, one of the private, famous schools in Atlanta city of Georgia of America so as to advance my skills and future career. I am excited

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## Meet Dr. Ney: TSF's dedicated physician

For the last 13 years, The Sharing Foundation, our orphans, staff, and the villages we immunize have all depended on the reliable medical expertise of Dr. Ney. Each week, he spends between 15 and 20 hours at the Rotteang Orphanage, checking on our kids, working with the adults there, and dispensing medications as needed. On her recent trip to Cambodia, TSF President Ann Trudeau sat down with Dr. Ney to ask him a few questions about his work at the orphanage and how he coordinates the TSF immunization programs in rural villages.

### What do you do at the Orphanage?

There are 68 children living there and, besides the 14 who have HIV and those who require special attention because they have serious handicaps, someone always seems to have a cold, or an ear, eye or skin infection. I also teach the nannies and children about common illnesses, disease prevention, and the importance of basic hygiene. It is especially important that the cooks understand the importance of washing their hands, fruits and vegetables. In addition, staff members are given regular tests to ensure that they stay healthy.

### When you start a TSF immunization program at a rural village, how is the message communicated to the families?

A few days before the immunizations, members of my team go through the village with a loud speaker letting them know where and when the immunizations will take place.

### Who is on your immunization team?

I have a group of ten medical students who accompany me and help with the entire process from start to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

# Notes from the President

by Ann Trudeau

Cell phones are now visible in many parts of Cambodia. In fact, they seem to have arrived before landlines, television, the Internet and even post offices in most rural villages. But for the most part, communicating with people in remote areas still means finding them in person and talking face to face. When that is the case, can you imagine the impact of receiving a personal letter with your name on it from somewhere across the world, from that country where everyone seems so different, so wealthy?

All of the students in The Sharing Foundation high school and university programs (44 and 30 students, respectively), receive letters from their sponsors four times a year. For most students, this is the basis for a relationship that grows and bridges the divide between east and west. The letters sometimes require painstaking effort, with students struggling to write in a foreign language, not look foolish, and know what to say to strangers who have taken an interest in their lives. However, they are always thrilled when the responses arrive from the U.S.!

We have seen as many styles in these letters as there are sponsors and students. Some of them have only a few paragraphs, while others are pages long. Many include photos, while others might have a drawing. We re-


ceive hand-written and typed letters, personal and strictly informational. They're all good!

On my recent visit to Cambodia, I spoke with many of the kids about what they liked to read in those letters. I was surprised to hear that the most popular subjects are work and school. From the U. S. students, they like to hear in detail about what they're studying and what they want to do in the future. They want to know what jobs are out there and what those entail. One young sponsor wrote that she wants to be a physical therapist. Was it a coincidence that a Cambodian high school student recently told me she wants to be a physical therapist?

The kids really want to know about their sponsor's health, hobbies, family news, and vacations. Information about the world also seems to interest them. Descriptions of the Statue of Liberty, London, the most popular drinks at Starbucks, and dancing styles were mentioned as some of the varied and well-received topics.

Our students also really appreciate hearing words of encouragement. Because most of them gave up an income to pursue an education, they and their families are experiencing some hardship. Their school work is difficult and their role models are few, so the positive support they receive from abroad is especially dear to them.

I spoke with over 60 kids and no one mentioned pets or politics as an interesting topic, most likely due to cultural differences. In their community, animals, even those we would consider pets, are sources of food or protection, not beloved members of a family. I can understand how our stories of pets would make them uncomfortable. As for politics, that can be dangerous; in Cambodia, talking about politics can get you jailed.

We are grateful to our donors who make all of the TSF programs possible. To those who are sponsors, we understand that those due dates for letters can come quickly but those messages are always warmly received. TSF sponsorships are some of our most important programs, helping hundreds of children each year as they grow and move closer to a future where they can support themselves, their families, and hopefully their country. 

*If you are interested in sponsoring a high school or university student, please contact Laurie Simons or myself at [info@sharingfoundation.org](mailto:info@sharingfoundation.org). See our website, [www.sharingfoundation.org](http://www.sharingfoundation.org) for details.*



## Note from Nancy Hendrie to families who adopted through Adopt Cambodia:


"In sorting out lots of old papers from adoption times, I have found many pictures of the children at the time of their admission to the orphanage, plus original medical assessments and lab results. Rather than just shredding them this many years later, you can claim yours if you wish.

Email me at [nhendrie@roteang.org](mailto:nhendrie@roteang.org) and I'll tell you if I have things pertaining to your child. Make sure to give your child's Cambodian name and birthdate. Then, if you want what I have, I'll send it for \$5; any profit will go to TSF."

## Doing their share

Children in the remote village of Sambour now have a wonderful playground, thanks to funds donated by Steve Peckar of Colorado. Sambour, accessed via ferry across the Mekong River, is one of four underserved communities that TSF supports in a variety of ways.

In another remote village, Prekchar, close to 500 children received immunizations for Hepatitis B, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus thanks to funds donated by Stephen and Sharon Willey and Carol Easter of Pennsylvania. The Sharing Foundation's Dr. Ney supervised the process. (See story on page 1.)

We thank these friends and all of our donors for their generosity of spirit so that the kids we reach in Cambodia are safe, happy and healthy! 

# Gifts from the hearts and hands of Roteang orphans

Always on the lookout for new and creative ways to engage our children at Roteang Orphanage, several years ago TSF board member Korey Lee bought some needlework kits. Since then, a number of the girls have put significant time, energy and tal-

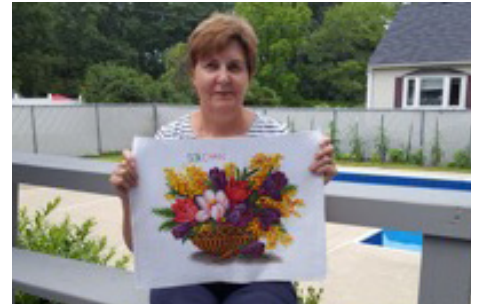


Ly Sopheak of Roteang Orphanage proudly shares her completed needlework!

ent into this endeavor. As some of the panels neared completion, the girls were enthusiastic about giving them to their sponsors who had done so much for them over the years.

One of our young orphanage enthusiasts, Ly Sopheak, told us she had been doing needlework for about three years now and proudly stated that it sometimes takes her only nine days to complete a piece, even with an intricate design. Through the process, she has discovered that she likes working with her hands and creating something beautiful.

Needless to say, the sponsors were pleasantly surprised with their lovely gifts! Jeanne Reynolds of Massachusetts wrote, "Sok Chan, the young teenager I sponsor at Roteang Orphanage, recently surprised me with a lovely needlework piece she stitched.



Jeanne Reynolds "never in her wildest dreams" expected such a lovely gift from her sponsored student, Sok Chan.

In the past, I have received photos, drawings and letters but I never in my wildest dreams expected anything like this. Her work is perfection and I am so delighted that she was willing to send me this wonderful gift that she worked so hard on. I am really proud to be her sponsor and envision a bright future for her." [TSF](#)

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

about being trained there. I am doing well living with my hosts, the Bates family. They treat me like I have never been treated before. I have felt warm and comfortable. Honestly, I never feel homesick which I am supposed to be. I am really grateful for that and happy living here, exploring new things so as to extend the corner of

the world here.

I come to this far, not made up by a miracle, but perseverance towards a sense of hope after experiencing many failures. To sum up, every single tiny movement of life has its reason. Never look for trouble but a way out, which is a way out of poverty, ignorance and hardship.

Thanks for everyone's helping hands to make things possible. Without the opportunity and emotional support given by The Sharing Foundation and family, I bet I wouldn't be ever here. I wish you the best of luck and health. [TSF](#)

## Meet Dr. Ney: TSF's dedicated physician

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



At Roteang Orphanage, Dr. Ney advises staff and children on best health practices

finish. This past time, in the village of Prekchar when we gave the initial shot, Sharing Foundation board members Jennifer Mendelsohn and Korey Lee were there to observe. Elephant, our in-country Director, is present at every immunization.

### What is the process for administering the immunizations?

Once the children are gathered, and there are usually between 500 and 600 kids, we register them by taking down pertinent information. We want to make sure that there is no redundancy so we first compare the names against lists from other villages. It is very rare that we find a child who has already been immunized. Of those we register, about 95-98% of the children then present themselves for the immunization.

We meet with each child four times. The first time we meet, we explain the process to them, and why these shots are important. This is an essential part of what we do. Then we draw blood to make sure they test

negative for Hepatitis B before we begin. The first shots in the village of Prekchar were done in February, the second in March and then the third shot in July. We immunize all children under the age of 18 against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus and Hepatitis B, which is endemic in Southeast Asia.

### Tell me about your other work and your family

My wife is also a doctor and will receive a prestigious award from the Cleveland Clinic in May. In addition to my work for the Sharing Foundation, I work at a nearby hospital and teach medical students in Phnom Penh. I have a son and a daughter. I am very grateful for my family, and for my fulfilling work. [TSF](#)



# The Sharing Foundation

CARING FOR CAMBODIA'S CHILDREN

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## Take a moment and explore our colorful new website

The Sharing Foundation is excited to announce the launch of our new and greatly improved website, [www.sharingfoundation.org](http://www.sharingfoundation.org)!

We encourage you to explore the galleries of photos, some of which have never been shared before, and also see expanded program descriptions detailing the impactful work we are doing in Cambodia. The site is now more user-friendly and compatible with all mobile devices and browsers. Historical information has been transferred onto the new site, so you can revisit past newsletters and follow the history of the organization.

New photos will be routinely added to the website, as well as updates on current initiatives. We also hope to expand our communications, via email to those for whom we have email addresses, on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Our goal is to update all of our sites several times a month. There are many ways to stay in touch with TSF throughout the year besides this newsletter, and we hope you will! 

## The Sharing Foundation

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

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