

Supporting Silk Sisters Project Inc

Community development through care and compassion

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Windchime

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DONATIONS

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NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2016



1 Dr Linda Jones, Marcel Campbell, Daniel Campbell, Jenny Noble, Richard Burrowes, Dr Nourn Sophat and Olivia Mason-Bryant.

This year has certainly proved busy and moved along swiftly.

Sadly, we farewelled our President Mark Kristensen and his wife Sharon who have left the Sunshine state and moved to Victoria. They have both been great workers and supporters of Supporting Silk Sisters. We thank them for their contribution and friendship and wish them well in their new home.

We undertook two successful trips to Cambodia this year. The first in January/February followed by June/August.

In January I was accompanied by volunteer team members including Dr Linda Jones a midwifery/nurse academic from Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and Jenny Noble, Clinical Educator from Australian Catholic University. Other team members were Olivia Mason-Bryant third year nurse undergraduate from Adelaide University and Daniel Campbell student in Mechatronic Engineering at Flinders University. We joined with Richard Burrowes, our Clinical Nurse Advisor, now located in Phnom Penh. What an eclectic team we were that worked well together achieving positive outcomes.



2 Linda and Jenny in action!

Jenny and Linda, who are both extremely experienced midwives, were keen to see how the health system operated in Cambodia and especially midwifery practice. They travelled to Prey Kebas Referral Hospital and spent valuable

time with the midwifery staff providing further clinical education. Once again our clinical educators were supported by our Cambodian translator high school teacher Mr Keo.

Borei Keila Clinics

Following requests from Rath Rot Mony and members of the welfare committee at Borei Keila we commenced our new project, free primary health care clinics in the Borei Keila slums for women and children. This area has hundreds of impoverished people waiting for compensation for the loss of their homes and land in the face of development. When the city dwellers lost their homes and land they lost their income as many were street food vendors with small shops under their dwellings.



4 Our clinic at Borei Keila



3 Children at Borei Keila

We undertook numerous clinics at Borei Keila for women and children. Men are scarce as many are working as unskilled workers in construction in Thailand or in the Provinces.

Following negotiations with the Welfare Group in the slums we commenced a small feeding program for a Grandmother caring for 11 children. We also transported some sick children to the National Paediatric Hospital for treatment paid by SSSP. A large number of children in Borei Keila suffer from anaemia and serious malnutrition. HIV is present in the children and they do not always receive their prescribed medication as it is sold off to buy food. Children are unable to attend school because their parents have no money. As a result of this poverty children will be illiterate in both Khmer and English languages with little prospects in a rapidly developing nation fuelled by foreign capital. This is how children become ensnared in abusive trades.

We dream of a permanent clinic in the Borei Keila area that could be used as a clinic and preschool where the health of the children could be monitored and they could receive early sensory stimulation.

I would like to thank Olivia Mason-Bryant and Daniel Campbell for the contribution they both made to this trip. Their support and contribution to the people of Borei Keila was outstanding.

We treated many children for worm infestations, anaemia and infections and also provided iron and vitamins to the severely malnourished. Many of these children are also protein deficient because they exist on rice.



6 Richards Burrowes Clinical Nurse Advisor



5 Pholla 4th Year Medical Student with Marcel Campbell

There is always one child that stays with you. Soksophea has malnutrition and a congenital facial vascular malformation that requires medical assessment and specialist care which is not present in Cambodia.



8 Volunteer Nurse Olivia Mason-Bryant with Nget Kuhn the Mommy of the Slums.



7 Volunteer Daniel Campbell with Soksophea, Borei Keila

During our **June/August** trip we were able to have Soksophea and her Mother admitted to the National Paediatric Hospital. SSS paid for her admission and treatment. Ideally she needs assessment of her condition in Australia at a children's speciality unit. Following negotiations with Soksophea's parents we were able to take them to meet the Salesian Nuns at the Don

Bosco Boarding School in Phnom Penh. These remarkable women work only with the poor and they have agreed to accept Soksophea as a special case because of her living conditions and malnutrition. SSS has provided uniforms, books, blankets, mattress, pillow, sleeping mats, mozzie net and six months supply of toiletries for her to start school on October 9th. We are hoping and praying that her parents make the commitment.

SSSP is now also a registered NGO in Cambodia. We have joined with NGO CLARI Cambodia



as our over arching body. The Director of CLARI Rath Rott Mony supports our work in the slums. We have appointed a Project Officer Long Kimheap to follow up Soksophea and provide food for her family. In July we were able to find safe accommodation for the family

Rath Rott Mony will assist Soksophea's father to find work.

9 Soksophea with her Mother, brother, Marcel and Sr Ched.

Our **July/August team** consisted of our German volunteers Sandra Brock, Sebastain Hinz, Midwife Emma Williams, New Zealand Mental Health Nurses Eileen Weekly, Maureen Hooper, Richard Burrowes and myself. Emma Williamson was new to Cambodia and a wonderful asset. Thank you Emma we hope to have you join us again in the future.

Eileen and Maureen continue to support Dr Hun of Prey Kebas referral Hospital. They provide staff support along with mental health and anti convulsant drugs that are not available in Cambodia.

One of the highlights of this trip was attending the three day country wedding of our student Rathana. We have supported her English studies for four years. This year she will graduate with a Law Degree. We also constructed a toilet wet room for her family. As she is now married and about to graduate we will no longer support her English studies.

We wish Rathana and Charlie a long life, health, happiness and success. We are very proud of her hard work and achievement.



10 Rathana and Charlie's Wedding Day at Po Village, Takeo Province. Richard Burrowes, Sebastian Hinz, Charlie, Rathana, Sandra Brock, Marcel Campbell, Emma Williamson.



Richard Burrowes Clinical Nurse Advisor and our newly appointed Project officer Long Kimheang are continuing to responds to the needs of homeless children and women.



11 SSS Project Officer Long Kimheang and Richard Burrowes.

Our next trip in **January 2017** is shaping up to be a cracker! We will have our two returning Midwives Caro Bergan Mater Brisbane and Jenny Noble, ACU. They will evaluate the education given to midwives during the past two years and the clinical outcomes. Newly graduated Olivia Mason-Bryant will be joining us!. The midwives will concentrate on Prey Kebas Referral Hospital with Olivia, Richard and I working in the Borei Keila slum clinics.

Thank you all for the support in donations and goods that we receive. We could not do what we do without your support. We dream that maybe one day we will find a corporate sponsor!

Blessings to you all

Marcel and The Team