

Supporting Silk Sisters Project Inc

Community development through care and compassion

Patron: Professor Philip Darbyshire

Windchime

127 Chardon Bridge Road
Cedar Creek Qld 4207 Australia

Registered charity (Qld): 2255
Incorporated association (Qld): 1A40386
Phone: +617 5546 4995 Office
+614 1968 7628 Marcel
+614 1770 5310 Barry

Email: Marcel Campbell marcelcampbell@bigpond.com
Barry Campbell barry_campbell@bigpond.com



DONATIONS

ANZ Bank, Beenleigh QLD AUSTRALIA
SWIFT CODE: ANZBAU4B
BSB: 014-506;
Acct no: 1878 51912

www.supportingsilksistersinc.org

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2014

Dear Donors, Friends and Family



Since my last newsletter I have visited Cambodia on three occasions managing our projects so this newsletter is long overdue!

The birthing room at Rumpeameanchey was completed in January 2014. I travelled to Cambodia in February, 2014 for the blessing and official opening. It was a moving Buddhist ceremony attended by the clinic medical officer, Chhnong Nai, clinic midwives and birthing attendants. The service was led by a village holy man.



Sitting on the floor surrounded by chanting and incense I thought about how our lives had changed during the past three years.



We knew that we could not change the world but believed that with support we could make a difference to the lives of individuals. This certainly has been achieved through the construction of the birthing room which is solid and will stand for many years.

In March this year Chhong Nai was successful in obtaining a visa to attend her grandson's wedding in Sydney. She was as overwhelmed by Australia as we were with an invitation to attend the wedding.



Blessing ceremony.



The family at Prey Vihear with the blind Father were visited again to see how they were all faring. In April this year Ramya Moang transported the father to Caritas Eye Clinic in Takeo to consult an eye specialist. Unfortunately, the specialist confirmed that he would be permanently blind. The family are happy with the house that we built and had much pleasure in showing us what they had done inside.

As both of the children have weight loss and signs of malnutrition, we supplied the family with vitamins for adults and children, eggs, dried fish, rice, vegetables and soy milk for the youngest child. Because the needs of this family will be ongoing we have been successful in negotiating with an Australian NGO, Caring for Cambodia, who will ensure that the family receives enough food to survive. Our Cambodian colleague Ramya Moang will liaise with the NGO in Takeo and we will continue to visit the family when we are in Takeo Province.

Richard Burrowes our colleague was approached to visit an Australian who is serving a twenty five year sentence in Phnom Penh prison. We visited and delivered a comfort pack containing water, vitamins, antibiotics, toiletries, coffee and provided a gas ring and bottle to prepare meals. We took this opportunity to investigate the quality of care being delivered to children who are with mothers under sentence.



The SSSP team in Phnom Penh.



Carmel Horsburgh, Ramya and I travelled to Prey Kebas to undertake some staff education and complete a snap scoping report for the Medical Director, Dr Nourn Sophat. The paediatric and general ward donated by the Japanese Government is still under construction. SSSP donated medical equipment and medical drugs to the hospital and provided staff with personal stethoscopes. Barry and I will be returning to Prey Kebas to assist Dr Sophat prepare a hospital management plan for submission to the Minister of the Interior.

I worked alongside the medical director in daily clinics and honed my skills in reading TB X rays. TB is endemic here with many children affected. There were also numerous in patients with Typhoid. Carmel used her extensive midwifery skills in the birthing area where she was welcomed by the mothers and their families. The birthing attendants, midwives and doctors recognised her skills and we are hoping that Carmel will return to Prey Kebas in February, 2015.

We also donated a refrigerator to store the birthing room drugs according to WHO recommendations and financed transport and medical care for two patients to Phnom Penh.



After two weeks at Prey Kebas we returned to Phnom Penh where we were spent some time with NGO CHOICE. We visited two areas of displaced people who are homeless and live on a road. These families have 60 litres of water supplied twice a week by CHOICE. The only water they can access contains high

levels of natural Arsenic and causes mouth ulceration and serious illness. There is no medical care available to people and women receive no ante natal care. People told us that they did not trust government clinics where they struggle to pay for treatment. We have been asked to return in November and set up some clinics for these displaced people.

Unfortunately our Dollars for Ducks Project was unable to be rolled out due to a shortage of ducks in the area! We are grateful to TAGS at Cairns for getting behind this project and hope that we can implement the program in November during our next trip.

A special thanks to the Sally Foxley and her family for their time and generosity in supporting us in establishing our Web Page www.supportingsilksistersinc.org.

Thanks also to our auditor Stephen Firth for performing his vital work.

Best wishes

Marcel, Carmel, Richard, Ramya and Barry