



## First Quarter News Round-up!

Welcome to our first quarter news update! It's been a great start to 2017 and we'd like to take you through a quick tour of each of our projects thus far.

### Community Sports Center Opened

In January we completed the construction of a "Futsal" soccer pitch in Snoul district of Kratie province, & opened the first ever Community Sports Center in the area. A volley ball court has also been built and a Boules court is underway. Managed by our co-worker, Mr. Suon Borith, the Center also has an outdoor café and coffee shop, as well as



Alex with a seminar group of local youth leaders & pastors

a large room that can be used for club meetings, seminars or social gatherings. Since the center opened, several local soccer groups have formed that regularly practice and compete, including teams from the business community, the police department and the Snoul Youth team. It's a great way to inspire healthy exercise and create bonds of friendship. We also conducted two free training seminars and offered

the use of the facility for youth clubs, women's and mother groups.

### International Women's Day

We celebrated International Women's Day at the Community Center with the seminar: *A Biblical Perspective on Women*, followed by a special dinner in honor of the mothers, wives & daughters who are the strength of the community. *"Who can find a virtuous woman, for her value is far above rubies. Strength & honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom; & in her tongue is the law of kindness. Her children arise up, & call her blessed; her husband also praises her."* Proverbs 31



## Education & Training Programs

Educating children and equipping parents & teachers with needed resources continues to be one of our main focus areas in 2017.

Alex traveled to Siem Reap each month for meetings with our local teaching staff to discuss progress, challenges and solutions. Ann began weekly short trainings for the teaching staff at the Village Learning Center in Kampong Speu, as well as for the Khmer teacher's at DK International School in Phnom Penh. These trainings provide needed input and current educational research to strengthen the hard working teachers in their important tasks. *"Teaching others to teach others to teach others!"* 2 Timothy 2:2

We began our 11th year of free education programs for primary school students in Siem Reap. During the weekdays, 400 children in 3rd to 6th grade are enrolled in English and computer classes in 2 different public schools. In the evenings, the classrooms are open for high school students—most of them graduates of our primary school program—who wish to continue their English and IT training.

At the Kampong Speu Village Learning Center, over 120 children are enrolled in English & IT classes. With a special emphasis on Early Childhood Education, we now have 30 little ones enrolled in preschool. Starting early with language skills & learning fun is a great preparation for their formal education.



*Alex leads monthly teachers meetings in Siem Reap*



*400 rural kids study daily in our 2 IT labs*



*Early learning fun: Modeling clay & toothpicks!*

### Public Service Radio

Ann was invited by the Far East Broadcast Co., a Christian radio station, to be a guest speaker on their Child Safety & Parenting program. The topic was *"The Effects of Screen Time; TV, Ipad & Smart Phones, on Child Development."* We discussed other activities besides the screen, that are more important to a child's creativity & development.

### Parenting Seminar

The family unit is the foundation of society, and how we raise our children today will impact the next generation. We were honored to engage a group of 20 parents of young children from DK International School in a parenting seminar. Having a balance between love & firmness, and using action to motivate, rather than anger were among the topics.



*Back on Air: Child Safety & Parenting Show*



*Parenting Seminar at an International Preschool*



## Honoring the Elderly

In February we organized a special event for the 60 senior citizens from 8 villages surrounding the Kampong Speu Learning Center. The dedicated HFHL staff try to make regular visits to these poor and neglected folks. One elderly gentlemen told Raksa, "Before you came, most of us were sick, in pain, alone and hopeless. We had nothing. But you always visit us. You taught us about God. You pray for us. You bring us together for joyful celebrations. You give us food and other needed supplies. You have helped us find happiness again." Thanks to Mr. Allen Lee of ITI company, who sponsored a delicious lunch and care packages with enough basic food supplies to last for 2 months. We shared testimonies, laughed, danced & played fun games with prizes; it was lovely! In the photo below are 2 grandmothers who won the prize for the best smiles in our "pass the smiley face" game.



## Learning About the World—Through Art!

We had a lot of fun learning about cultures around the world through art! In January, for international New Year's day, we made party hats to celebrate the arrival of 2017. In February, we welcomed the Chinese Year of the Rooster with a colorful collage made from traced handprints. We also made Valentine's Day cards with cut out hearts arranged in unique designs. In March we learned about St. Patrick of Ireland and did water color paintings of shamrocks while listening to Celtic Music. Teacher Ann even danced an Irish jig (well, Ann's version of an Irish jig) which had the kids laughing and trying to dance along! And on that joyful note we conclude our 1st Quarter news roundup. Many thanks to you for your friendship, support and encouragement. We couldn't do it without you.



**Family Care Cambodia is a non-profit, volunteer organization. The activities you have just read about were made possible through donations from businesses and concerned individuals. If you would like to help sponsor our projects, visit our website, [www.familycare.org/network/family-care-cambodia](http://www.familycare.org/network/family-care-cambodia).**

*We look forward to hearing from you!  
Alex and Ann Soldner*