



Celebrating Children's Day with Old Friends!

It was 12 years ago that we first met, when Monique M. visited Cambodia shortly after the Asian tsunami. We spent an amazing week together and became "friends forever" as she joined us in several projects to assist the needy. Always assuring us that "I shall return", the opportunity finally came. We agreed this time to partner on reaching out to the neglected elderly in the villages surrounding our school in Kampong Speu province.

On June 1st we celebrated with 67 seniors at our Village Learning Center. As it turns out, this coincided with International Children's Day. A number of our students asked if they could participate in the event, preferring to help us serve and honor the oldest, and poorest among the community rather than join in on other kids' activities in the area. These folks all lost their childhoods during the extreme suffering of the Pol Pot/civil war years; so it was fitting to laugh, dance and play games of Musical Chairs and Simon Says. Like being a child again!

Monique, and her friends, sponsored care packages for each one attending. The rice, cooking oil, canned fish and sauces will last them for 2 months. We also had a special snack of soft cakes & biscuits. It was a beautiful event & a big encouragement to all!

"Be related, somehow, to everyone you know. Treating others as kin forges powerful social bonds that draw all into relationships of respect." Ella Doria, Social Anthropologist

A meaningful life is not about being rich, being popular, being educated or being perfect. It's about being real, being humble, being ourselves and being willing to share our lives to touch the lives of others.



Changing the World One Community at a Time

How true the saying, *“Help the life of one person, and you can help the community. For without a sense of caring, there is no community.”*

Snoul is a rural community located on the National highway to Monduliri amidst pepper farms, rubber plantations, and a bustling country market. It's also the location of our Community Sports Center. Besides the soccer court, volley ball courts and boules court, there is also small hall and café for community gatherings. It is fast becoming a hub for positive, enriching community activities.

In May Alex taught a seminar on the topic of “change the world” to almost 40 young sports enthusiasts who frequent the sports center. At the same time, a local doctor sponsored a 2 day soccer competition to which 5 youth teams were invited to participate.

Brother Borith, who manages the center, has started a youth club which meets each Thursday to engage local kids in fun and meaningful activities. A Family Club meets on Wednesday nights, where parents come for discussion, prayer and inspirational reading. Change your community, change your world!



Teen Soccer Competitions



Change the World seminar



Kids Club



Intern Partnership

We were delighted to receive our first student interns from VIA university in Denmark. A warm welcome to Caroline and Mathilde, Pedagogy and Social Pedagogy majors! For the next 5 months they will lend their talents with teaching preschool, curriculum development, conversational English lessons and remedial tutoring at our village learning center in Kampong Speu. Meanwhile the multicultural experience will add a new dimension to their university studies!

A Chance to Learn is A Chance to Succeed

This importance of English and IT training on Cambodia's rural children Siem Reap Project Update



Third graders learn how to use a Khmer-English dictionary



5th and 6th graders practice Microsoft Word, Excel & typing skills



Each year more of Cambodia's rural children enroll in grade 1 and fewer students drop-out before grade 6. This upward trend is encouraging!

But in order to gain entrance to a university, or join the work force in a skilled labor capacity, a knowledge of English and computer is essential. Textbooks, free education websites, tutorials, scholarship opportunities and more can be found online, but one must know English and IT to access them.

More than 85% of the nation's children live in rural areas where there are few options for such training. But in Siem Reap, our education programs are thriving! Over 380 primary school students are enrolled in our daily IT and English classes. Many thanks to our dedicated teachers and sponsors who help us provide hundreds of children with a chance to learn and to succeed!



Julie and Yuyoung with baby Nah-in

Never Underestimate the Power of One!

While visiting our granddaughter, Julie, in Singapore, we met her friend, Yuyoung, a 12 year old middle school student at UWCSEA (United World College SEA). After discussing ways to reduce poverty & enhance education in developing nations, Yuyoung decided to take action. She asked her school for permission to start a charity drive to collect children's books, school supplies and clothing for our village learning center. They enthusiastically supported her passion, and within a few weeks hundreds of kilos of quality materials had been donated by fellow students. Soon Julie, Yuyoung and her mother, Ms. Sujin, flew to Cambodia loaded with supplies. They spent 3 days with us at the village school, setting up the library, distributing supplies for



School supplies

students, teachers & classrooms, and helping with English and art classes. They also designed bright posters to hang in the classrooms and library. Staff and students alike were impressed with how much one young person achieved with commitment, compassion and the will to take action! Never underestimate the power of one!



Library books



Bright posters to encourage learning and creativity



Making fun memories together; so much in common

What will you do?

How about you? Would you like to get involved in our various projects in some way? If you are interested in volunteering, sponsoring, supporting or partnering in some capacity, visit our new website www.familycarecambodia.org.

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 or volunteer, visit our new website, www.familycarecambodia.org

We look forward to hearing from you!

Alex and Ann Soldner