



Empowering families and children to effect lasting change... community by community.



Cambodia Update



Greetings from Sustainable Cambodia!

We've created Cambodia Update so our sponsors and supporters will know about the current projects and activities underway at Sustainable Cambodia. We keep the articles brief because the Update goes out often, but our quarterly Newsletters will contain much more detailed information.

My wife Susan Mastin is a fellow co-founder and volunteer director. We are leaving November 8th on a volunteer trip to the SC project sites, and are meeting or being accompanied by a number of fellow volunteers, including Rotarian Elena Casson (a fellow director from Florida), Rotarians DS Patel and Jim Kotas (both from Port Orange/Daytona, Florida), Rotarian Walter Haessel (a fellow director from Calgary, Canada) and Rotarian Paul Stringham (fellow director from Salt Lake City). Rotarians everywhere!

Sustainable Cambodia's only paid employees are native Cambodians working in rural Cambodia. The onsite staff is assisted by a group of international volunteers who typically devote from 4 to 18 months onsite. All international officers and directors are unpaid volunteers, who pay their own travel and living expenses. This ensures that 100% of funding goes

Beekeeping School in Kamrornh



SC volunteers and village families have been constructing a new Beekeeping School! The school is now near completion, and an upcoming newsletter will provide details and photos. Beekeeping was nearly lost entirely during the Khmer Rouge period. Bees are incredibly essential for pollination for successful crops and home gardening. And families who begin beekeeping create a source of revenue that can equal their income from labor. Bees are really an amazing gift!

With the completion of the Bee School, SC hopes to help beekeeping thrive and spread throughout Cambodia. Thanks to Tomaz Ostir, Matjaz Levicar and Robert Levicar, the beekeeper volunteers from Slovenia who are working in Cambodia to keep this project on track. In addition, the Rotary Club of Slovenia has generously donated money for this effort, as has Victor Nemes, from Romania, who recently purchased a cultivator for the Bee School to use.

Primary School Opening in Veal Village

By: Neeti Parekhrticle



On Tuesday, 7 October 2008, Sustainable Cambodia took part in the opening ceremonies of a new primary school in Veal village. Veal village is in the Kravanh district, one of Sustainable Cambodia's target areas. The ceremony included several speeches by SC staff members and members of the village community. After the ribbon cutting, a delicious meal of broth, vegetables, pork and rice was served.

The village families all helped establish the school, and Sustainable Cambodia coordinated the school's location, land donation, and legal documents from the government. SC also provided the school with an operating framework.

Article Headline



Each year a handful of students are awarded a Scholarship from the Cambodia government. These scholarships are highly selective, and only issued to students who perform in the highest percentile on the 12th grade state exams and who have

directly into the rural village programs.

As always, we welcome your feedback, ideas and comments.

Richard Allen
Volunteer CEO/Director

maintained the highest possible marks throughout high school. This year our 12th grader Sreyech Cheoung was awarded this very prestigious scholarship!! Sreyech will continue on to University in Banteaymeanchey Province, where she will major in Community Development.

Sreyech is a brilliant student. She's always helpful with activities around the school, and has gained the respect and support of her classmates. She's a subtle, natural leader among the students, through her care and attention. Her success and acknowledgement through this scholarship will definitely serve as a motivation to other students. We are very proud of her, and look forward to her help in the future with Sustainable Cambodia's mission.

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Sustainable Cambodia is a grass-roots, volunteer-based, Rotary-supported, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, working with rural Cambodian villages to help them achieve sustainability and self-sufficiency. Our model is unique in several ways:

- Only native Cambodians are employed as paid staff, and all international officers, directors and consultants are unpaid volunteers, ensuring that 100% of funding goes directly into the rural village programs.
- We are an empowerment organization rather than an "Aid" organization. We provide resources, assistance, training and education to the community, empowering families to revitalize their community and economy.
- Our approach is broad-based, including schooling for children, safe village drinking water, irrigation systems, alternative agriculture, vocational education, micro-business and healthcare.
- In return for the assistance, each family commits to helping surrounding villages: We not only "teach them how to fish," but teach them to teach others how to fish.

While we currently work in central Cambodia, our vision is for this empowerment model to spread across Cambodia, and ultimately to grow into other countries.

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