



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



Cambodia Update



January in Cambodia

Joy at the start of a brand new year, and the start of a new life and new opportunity, is captured in the faces of our students in this photo taken by volunteer David Emery on one of his trips from the village to the office. With these shining faces cheering you on, everything is possible!

Many of Sustainable Cambodia's supporters chose to contribute Pass-On Animals during the holiday season, or to give gifts of ponds, wells, bees or other resources that are vital to sustainability. As we enter 2009, the lives of the families and children in the villages will be transformed as these resources are deployed. Others of you are sponsoring children through SC, providing education and family empowerment. Thanks to you all for all you do to "Be the Change" you wish to see in the world!

During the last half of 2008, Sustainable Cambodia worked with the village families to expand the preschool program. The preschools provide young children the opportunity for early education, but most importantly they provide mental and creative stimulation, while freeing up older siblings to go to school and allowing the parents time to work and earn an income to support the family.

A number of Rotary clubs in western Australia are joining together to provide a daily nutritious hot meal to the children. Many of the children suffer from

Holiday Gift of Traditional Music



Thanks to the grass-roots of PEPY, Sustainable Cambodia was able to purchase a new set of traditional Cambodian musical instruments, called Chhay. Many of the children are now taking music lessons.

PEPY, a small nonprofit local organization in Cambodia, organizes bike rides across Cambodia to raise funds for rural communities in improving standards of living, with a focus on increased access to quality education. The PEPY ride has included Sustainable Cambodia's mission.

in Pursat for the past three years. This year, the organization contributed \$2,000 was used to provide bikes to 32 in-need students, as well as the purchase of musical instruments. And the 16 members of PEPY who rode through Pursat from the bike ride to teach ecology and environmental lessons to the SC students.

The difference that bikes, music and education make in the lives of these young people is amazing!

Ponds, Pumps and Gardens Three Projects Sponsored by Care for Cambodia

Care for Cambodia, a Sustainable Cambodia affiliate based in Utah, is in the final planning stages of a Ponds, Pumps and Gardens project. The project will involve village families in three target villages digging large community ponds for home and agricultural purposes.

Land for the ponds will be donated by residents in each of the three villages. The ponds will be dug by hand by village residents. SC will provide tools and technical assistance, as well as manual irrigation pumps and will pay for the construction of nearby water cisterns. The water will then be used to water garden plots placed on the periphery of the ponds, as well as being used for irrigation.



malnutrition before attending school, which can have a lifelong negative impact on their mental and physical development. The hot meal will give the children the extra nutrition they need, and will simultaneously increase attendance.

As 2009 begins, we thank all of you for your continued support. What you do makes a huge difference in children's lives!

We wish you all the very best in the new year.

animal watering purposes. SC will also provide start-up seeds for the home g extensive agricultural training.

Along with biosand water filters, the ponds and pumps will provide families wi changing year-round access to water.

65 Students Participate in Child Rights Workshc




Under a matching grant with Rotary Foundation and the I of Locust Valley, NY, 65 chi participated in a number of learn about child rights.

The Locust Valley club's prc focused on extremely high-r who were most at-risk for ex The program included helpii families of the children impr quality of life through farm a water, vocational and agricu training. But heavy emphasi placed on workshops that e

children on their rights, and the laws that protect them.

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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 villag 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, ensurir 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 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, vocat 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 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 c

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