



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



Cambodia Update



Khmer New Year!!

On Friday, April 10, SC's students, staff, and their families held an opening celebration of Khmer New Year.

Students and staff decorated the main floor of the school with fruit, balloons. Five monks from the Peal Nyek Pagoda led the everyone in traditional Khmer (Cambodian) chants wishing good luck, good fortune, and good health for the coming year. This was followed by an offering of rice that Cambodian tradition says will be passed on to their Ancestors. The monks shook leaves dipped in water, sprinkling everyone as a blessing. And then, after the monks left, the games began!

Students and teachers filed downstairs and, to the beat of Cambodian music, participated in traditional games. The most fun was the blind-folded game where team

Mike Reusing Healthcare Grant

February and March was an exciting time for Sustainable Cambodia's healthcare staff, as they led two training sessions funded by the Mike Reusing Healthcare Grant to teach basic First-Aid Care to the communities within the Kravanh and Sampov Meas Districts.

In the SC model, each village creates elected committees to help run projects, and all 13 villages had healthcare committees involved. The committees received well-equipped first-aid kits to treat small cuts and wounds, burns and minor injuries. SC Healthcare Manager Kong Sokai and his knowledgeable staff did an excellent job. Among other skills, participants learned how to wrap and treat wounds and give CPR.

Benefits came quickly, and the village communities have already used the first-aid kits to treat cuts, burns and accidents with machetes (ouch!). Without these kits, a majority of the people wounded would have been left untreated, as most are unable to find medical treatment elsewhere.

More kits are coming for the Agriculture Training Center in Kravanh, the SC school in Sampov Meas and three large villages in Kravanh. The projects funded by this grant are a tremendous benefit to the villagers served.



SC Student Wins Full Scholarship to United World College Singapore



For the third year in a row, one of Sustainable Cambodia's students has received a scholarship to study with United World College. This time it is Shinh Chinh, a 16 year old girl from the SC/Trivani Kravanh Bright Futures Center (KBFC). Shinh Chinh lives in Kravanh, one of the most challenged regions in SC's area of operation.

Under a full scholarship, she will be attending the Singapore campus of United World College for 5 years, spending a week at the school this coming August and beginning full classes in September. Imagine growing up in a tiny rural village without

members must feed each other bananas while being unable to see their partner's mouths.. Tasty fun!

After the games, everyone began dancing around a table piled with fruit, singing along to familiar Cambodian songs.

Khmer New Year is celebrated in mid-April. For two days before the celebration, families clean their homes, light incense, and spray perfumes. Many people travel to spend the holidays with their families.

We wish everyone a Happy Khmer New Year, and may you and your families be blessed with good health and happiness.

running water or electricity, and having the opportunity to study in Singapore! Shinh worked and studied very hard for this. She was selected by 3 committees after testing in math, English, current events and general Cambodian knowledge.

United World College has 12 schools across five continents, offering IB and other college programs. One SC student is currently attending a UWC campus in Italy, and another in Canada, all on full scholarship from UWC. Six students from Sustainable Cambodia are currently preparing for their chance at a UWC scholarship, with their exams beginning on April 26.

It is very exciting for the teachers, students, and their families to have opportunities such as this one. Not only does this change the life of the student who receives the scholarship, but it proves to all the students that dedication and hard work can lead to tangible benefits. All of these students have spent several years surrounded by Rotarians and others doing community service. They are all dedicated to returning to their country to help others. This is sustainable long-term change! We honor and celebrate the dedication it takes in the students and the teachers for this to happen.

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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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