



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



Cambodia Update



8 Years with SC Makes a Difference

The beaming young woman on the right in the photo above is Thun Visa. Visa is now a rising senior in Sustainable Cambodia's school. Visa was one of the first students to join SC's school, back in 2002.



What a difference a few years with SC can make! The photo of the sweet young girl to the left is Visa eight years ago, when she first joined the school.

The change that this school experience makes in the lives of these young people is profound and lasting. Their hard-working families are given the opportunity for clean water, agriculture and skills training, creating a home environment where the children can thrive. And as the children grow, their enthusiasm for learning grows, as does their belief in themselves. They learn about

volunteerism and giving back.

Visa is an active student volunteer and a founding member of the school's Youth Club, through which she delivers healthcare training to the village families and guides the younger children in the SC school.

Please Help Us Spread The Word

An Exciting Time for Literacy in Cambodia

Students, villagers and teachers spent time in April promoting literacy, as part of the 1st Annual Cambodia Literacy Campaign. Hosted in Veal village, students, villagers, youth clubs, teachers, committees and Sustainable Cambodia joined in the 2-day celebration with comedies, speed-reading contests, films and even a "fashion show".



Students and local groups displayed what literacy meant to them with exciting activities and games. Around 500 people attended the event, and on the second day adults joined in the first March of Literacy.

Buffalo Pass-On!

Sustainable Cambodia has been partnering with Heifer International, Rotary Clubs of Gainesville, Florida and Salt Lake City, and OxFam International in animal pass-on programs, and recently the Buffalo Pass-On program launched in the Svay Att community. As the cows in the pass-on program have calves, the calves are passed on to other village families. These cows are used for farming and can transform a village, helping the families to harvest and plow. The work ethic of the families really stands out.



International Labor Day Clean-Up

Child sponsorships have dropped off tremendously in April & May, and Village Gift contributions (gifting of pass-on animals, beehives, fish ponds, etc.) have been almost nonexistent. The world economy is certainly a factor. We believe it would help tremendously if more people knew what SC is doing. So we are asking for help in spreading the word... Our website includes a "Tell-a-Friend" feature (on the upper menu), or you can use the "Forward Email" feature on this newsletter to pass along the story of the work we are ALL doing together.

Anything you can do to help us spread the word would be wonderful.

You are changing lives every day, and for that we celebrate and thank you!

Love & service,

The SC Volunteer Board

On April 30th, the students from Sustainable Cambodia's Sylvia Lasky Memorial School celebrated International Labor Day by participating in the annual Sampov Meas Island clean up. Sampov Meas Island is a small island in the local river where the people of the Pursat province go to relax, play with friends, pray and celebrate with families. Over 100 students went to the island and spent the morning cleaning up all of the garbage. The students have done this community project since 2003, and they love to see Sampov Meas Island in its clean and beautiful con



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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 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 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, vocational 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 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.

Contact Info:

Richard Allen & Susan Mastin, Volunteer Directors/Officers

usoffice@sustainablecambodia.org

US phone: 352-371-2075

visit us at www.sustainablecambodia.org

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