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



Celebrating The Gift Of Clean Water!

Clean water is something that most of us take for granted. But for many rural Cambodian families, it has been an impossible dream.

Sustainable Cambodia (SC) has been working diligently over the years, with Rotary partners and with the help of Child Sponsors and individual supporters, to help families create access to clean water. The clean water program includes wells, community ponds, latrines and filtration (primarily using BioSand Filters, aka BSFs).



Pictured to the left is one of the wells sponsored by Rotary International's 3H grant (Health, Hunger, and Humanity). The 3H Grant includes three water projects: BSF filters, latrines and wells.

To the right is a BSF filter. BSFs are built by and for individual families, and the filtered water is safe to use for drinking and cooking.



A joyous event to celebrate clean drinking water took place recently in two of Sustainable Cambodia's target villages. In the morning, the SC team - made up of the SC staff and several international volunteers - loaded up over 100 water containers for use with BSFs and made the journey to Veal Village, some 45 kilometers from the SC campus in Pursat.

The men, women and children who live in the village gathered at the one of homes to receive their water containers - a community celebration. The water containers were distributed, and after lunch the team proceeded to Prek II. To get to Prek II, one must cross the Pursat River, quite a challenge considering that there is not much of a bridge.

At the village, nestled under the shade of a beautiful tree, another ceremony took place - gracious words by SC staff - Sothea, Sopheary, Ponlue and Soknay. More gracious words from one of the village leaders. Coconut juice sipped from a freshly cut fruit offered to the SC team by the villagers as a token of their thanks.



The team



returned to SC with an empty cart - the one that had carried the many bottles to both of the villages. But hearts were much fuller and blue bottles were plentiful in both villages... one

more step in helping to provide clean water to everyone.

Please consider giving the gift of water, sustainability and self-sufficiency, either through SC's Village Gifts pass-on program, or by sponsoring a child, or by working actively with a Rotary Club.

Quick Links

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Sustainable Cambodia is an internationally supported grass-roots not-for-profit organization, led by dedicated Cambodian staff with help from international volunteers, and with support from child sponsors and Rotary Clubs from all over the world. SC works with rural Cambodian villages to help them achieve sustainability and self-sufficiency. Sustainable Cambodia was co-founded by Rotarians, and active Rotarians make up a majority of Sustainable Cambodia's governing Board of Directors. SC aligns its values with those of Rotary International, including RI's ideals of empowerment, peace through understanding, world service and community service. We apply Rotary's effective "Four-Way Test" to ethical issues. 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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