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Newsletter

2024

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Life and Hope Association

Brining HOPE into LIFE through Compassionate care and EDUCATION

The first semester of 2024 was also a very fighting time even the Covid-19 gone for a few years because global crisis is overall impact to many parts across the globe until these days. LHA is a small and local NGO in Cambodia has been badly effected. Why? Because 99% of our running costs are relying on every single drop from all warm hearted individual who are outside of Cambodia, especially our existing donors and their friends including found provider foundations such as Give2Asia, Go Campaign, SE Asia, and OMPRAKASH. This crisis is truly destroyed donors profits. Their business are not going well and profitable as usual, so this impact continue to LHA as well. In honestly, without the generous support, we could not move on our works. Therefore, to respond and adopt the reality plus to find the way to move forward, we decided to cut some staff and reduce the numbers of beneficiaries. Moreover, we also cut some expenditure lines to ensure that we can move on in this suffering time to completing their education successfully. Consequently, we got strong commitment from our donors for ensuring further support at least helping the last group students to complete their high school. Unless, we have faced numerous difficulties but we can keep going and making some incredible and remarkable changes to many lives gradually with our adopted plans. Therefore, we are delightedly cheerful and proud with what we have done so far and we would like to share these remarkable successes to you as well.

LHA's Programs

1. Introduction
2. Sustainable Community Project (SCP)
2. Children Development Village (CDV)
3. Program Advancing Girls' Education (PAGE)

4. Park Hyatt Siem Reap & LHA Sewing School (STS)
5. Buddhism in Society Program (BSP)
6. Others

Sustainable Community Projects (SCP)

Mr. Lorm Lon, Project Coordinator



The Sustainable Communities Project started in 2008 with the aim to help the most disadvantaged in the community help themselves to improve their lives. We do this through a series of community based, social programs.

Many social problems plague our society. Families already stressed by poverty, can feel a sense of hopelessness and frequently fall victim to alcohol abuse, drug addiction, domestic violence and gambling. Helping people to overcome these problems and offer a helping hand to financial independence has been the pillar of our Sustainable Communities Project.

We have learnt over the year that continually providing people with charity does not help them to help themselves. Rather people become dependent on hand outs and have no motivation to become self-sufficient. Our strategy is to work with families to help them earn an income by encouraging them to start a small business and providing them a low interest, micro loans. In extreme cases we give food support and safe housing to families in desperate need. In turn, the

families commit to try to become more self-sufficient, address their social issues (with our support) and send their children to school regularly.

Very fortunately, our donors in Rice for Cambodia based in Australia have committed to move on further support for the coming year 2024 for all families in SCP, so these families and children can ensure food security for another year. To be a part of healing the world and climate change we changed the way we offer food drops to the families from using plastic bags to use hand made baskets which are produced by local people from a kind of vines that they can find at farms there. With this usage, we can cut so many plastic bags per year and moreover, this way can help local people to job and making income as well. We are very pleased to do this and we will keep doing this for further actions.

Children Development Village (CDV)



Even CDV already closed in 2019 but the support was still covered for some University students and in the first semester of 2014 but 3 CDVs' girls were Sreyleak, Reaksmey, and Kunthear graduated Bachelor's Degree in Khmer and English Literatures at Preah Sihanuk Raja Buddhist University of Battambang (SBUBB) and 2 girls were Sanet and Nha have been learning at Royal University of Phnom Penh in Phnom Penh Capital and Reaksa who is at SBUBB in Khmer Literature upgrade to year IV now. This was such great achievement for them because it is unbelievable that the kids from very poor background but can stand on stage of graduation Bachelor's Degree. This possible by our warm hearted donors, especially Rudolf Leitl and his family and friends. It is very delighted and fabulous for all and we are so grateful for all who involved.

Program Advancing Girls' Education (PAGE)

Mrs. Kao Pek, Project Coordinator



2024, we particularly focused on the last 14 students because we could not be able to recruited new more students into PAGE due to the lack of funds, so we try to maintain this group first and then we will looking for further support. Nevertheless, there was only one student finished high school and left PAGE for University education. Hence, we could not choose any new to replace her. On the other hand, school made some changes in 2024 aim to improve the quality of education and it started with changing the way to take monthly and semester examinations including renovation some physical infrastructures in school areas as well. With this change, we found that a few students were slow, so they needed to join extra classes that organized by school not extra classes outside and after they joint for two months, we have seen that their education is much better

Social Engagement



Generally, all students who chosen into PAGE not only have a chance for general education but they also have many opportunities to connect themselves many important events such camping on "16 days Camping Against Violence on Women and Girls", attending workshop on various topics, spots, city cleaning, national writing event on "Angkor Writing", food delivery to poor families in communities, study supplies offering to students at rural areas, and religious celebrations such as Vesak and Magabuja Celebrations, and others. Joining these events they can learn about social, culture, value, way of life, and religion within their own country. It is very

important for them to realize and learn because for sure they are a future leaders of this society whatever and whenever.

Field Visit and Learn

In addition, to keep them healthy, enjoyed, and refresh in daily living life and education, we led them to visit some places such visit temples in Angkor Areas, Mountain site, Artificial Park named Angkor Botanical Garden, and Durian and Rambutan Fields at Battambang Province including watching the football match at Siem Reap Staduim. These actions were not only for relax and enjoy but to learn and experience new things such living styles, cultures, and communication of those wherever we gone. It is dramatically important to understand in order to live in this society precisely and meaningfully.



Guests Visit



There were several group of travelers from Italy, Australia, and the USA through tour agencies and companies such as VIVU Journeys and RAM Viggi Tour Operator, and Rotary Club Australia including Cambodian Give visited and learned about LHA and projects that we have been doing to serve our people, especially the women and children to improve the quality of life to more confident, independent, and empowered. During their trip here, they also made some contributions to support our work based on their willingness and generosity.

Park Hyatt Siem Reap & LHA Sewing Training School (STS)

Mrs. Chhea Saro, Project Coordinator



The LHA Sewing School started in 2006 and is sponsored by the Park Hyatt Hotel in Siem Reap. STS continues to provide vocational training to young, disadvantaged Cambodian women from rural communities to empower and be independent.

In the first semester of 2024, we fortunately met the target students to start the 17th Promotion after we did a second recruitment action, we received 8 women and girls who eagerly willing to take the training opportunity and Park Hyatt strongly committed to support for further training course. Since then, our training process has productively and smoothly gone through now. Most students were very talented and fast learners. In fact, they can produce several kinds of clothes, Uniforms, and dresses now. With this training course, they not only trained in sewing skills but also taught some basic English and moral concepts as well because be a good person is more importantly to live a life better in this world. In addition, they also had chance to join field visit to role model shop and workplace including field visit to some places to relax and relief uncomfortable feeling or stress that might happen sometimes during training periods. Lastly, the course will finished next few months.

Seal of Love Charitable Foundation and Buddhism in Society Project

Ven. Voeurn Va, Project Coordinator



The first semester of 2024, there were 2 scholarship monks (Ven. Team Soksyha and Ven. Sopheavann graduated and waiting for receiving the degrees whenever the graduation celebration will be organized. Ven. Syha studied at University of South-East Asia-USEA in Master IT major and Ven. Sopheavann studied at Build Bright University-BBU in BA Agricultural major. Actually, there was no further scholarship funds from Seal of Love Charitable Foundation due to inability of funds impacted by Covid-19 but very luckily Mr. Patrice, the Australian man who looking for working in Siem Reap generously raised some funds to support this scholarship fee, so we have offered one more scholarship to another Ven. Vat Sotheourng for his higher education at Panasastra University of Cambodian-PUC in Siem Reap City. Patrice has long term commitment to raise funds this program including sending volunteers to work with us as well.

Others: Emergency Food & Study Supplies Offering



Due to continuously funded by Andreas G Flober, a German Buddhist fellow in Zen sector, his beloved wife, Beatrice Tischhauser, and his friends, we were very capable to offered food parcels to 96 families in Chikreng District, Siem Reap Provinces. This action was substitute action that we mainly focused to those who are the most in needed as our priority so we always pick up the families in various locations in Siem Reap Province which helped by local monks and authorities. It is small but it can help a lot.

Moreover, we offered study supplies to 2 Primary schools. One school located in Sreysnom District and another located in Varin District. We offered totally 2,847 writing books, 100 reading books, 1200 pens, 812 pencils, 792 rulers, and 20 boxes of pencil colors plus 920 pieces of bread to 792 students and 36 teachers. This action is to help promote and motivate our young generations to love education and to keep them feel not lonely in education procedures. We do believe that education is the best way to make thing changed. The more we learn, the more we know and the more we improve.



Partnership Actions



One saying said "If we want to go slowly, go with so many people, if we want to go fast, go alone, if we want to achieve the goal, go together". In reflect to this saying, we have worked closely with NGO network Siem Reap and Cambodia as provincial, national, and regional including with Government to build up good partnership with each other to develop our country and society. We keep always joined meeting, workshop, training, and dialogue with NGOs, Sangkat, City Hall, Provincial Hall, and national level such as related Ministries to ensure that we are well understood from each other and be united to lead improve our social welfare and wellbeing for all.

Conclusion

Eventually, no matter how hard we gone through and no matter how many challenges we encountered but we never give up. We keep moving forward gradually day by day with clear commitment and effort. We have a heart of helping, sharing, and salvation those who are struggling and under privilege or in vulnerable situation. In fact, we can say that we are symbol of giving hope to those who are hopeless. The global crisis is extremely bad and hard for all, but we still stand to be warm shoulder for many poor families, women, children, and girls who are under LHA support that generously funded from many generous and warmhearted people both in and out of Cambodia, especially our respected and valuable donors. Consequently, they had good food, well access to education, finished high school, moved to University, graduated bachelor or master's degrees, employed, and made greater changes for their lives and families. Truly, funds have been used thoughtfully and transparently to base on the policies and moral practicing. We strongly and heartedly committed to continuing our work to serving our communities and we trust our amazing and venerated donors that you will keep strongly standing with us to achieve the mission pleurably and delightedly. You have already done very great and amazing job of dropping very single drop, even though it is less but unwavering drop will create unbelievable and incredible changes.

On behalf of LHA, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude and thankfulness to you all as the donors, friends, volunteers, and partners who continuously given such amazing and tremendous funds to ensure our work here to be able to continue to serving those most in needed to improve their lives. We wish you all to be well, happy, prosperous, joyfulness, peaceful in life and be the most profitable in business.

With peace and love,



Venerable Lorm Loeurm

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*Bringing hope
into life through
loving care and
education*



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we gladly welcome any questions or comments you may have about LHA. Please feel free to contact us at any point.

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Life + Hope + Education = Greater Change

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