

PARK HYATTSIEM REAP & LHA SEWING SCHOOL GRADUATION THE 17TH PROMOTION

Newsletter

2024

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Life and Hope Association

Brining HOPE into LIFE through Compassionate care and EDUCATION

2024 has been an incredibly challenging year due to the ongoing global crisis, which continues to severely impact many parts of the world. LHA, a small local NGO in Cambodia, has been deeply affected, as 99% of our operational costs rely on the generosity of individual donors from outside Cambodia. Many of our existing donors, as well as supporting foundations such as Give2Asia, Go Campaign, SE Asia, and Omprakash, have faced financial difficulties due to the crisis, affecting their ability to contribute as they once did.

Without the generous support of our donors, our work would not be possible. In response to this harsh reality, and in an effort to find a way forward, we made the difficult decision to reduce staff and the number of beneficiaries we support. Additionally, we have cut certain expenditures to ensure that students currently in our programs can successfully complete their education. Despite these challenges, our existing donors remain strongly committed to helping the last generation of students in our program finish high school.

Although we have faced countless difficulties, we continue to move forward step by step, making critical decisions and implementing changes that are gradually transforming many lives. With our adapted plans, we have achieved incredible and meaningful progress. We are delighted, proud, and grateful for these remarkable successes and are excited to share them with all of you.

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Sustainable Community Projects (SCP)

Mr. Lorm Lon, Project Coordinator



The **Sustainable Communities Project (SCP)** was launched in 2008 with the goal of empowering the most disadvantaged members of the community to improve their lives. We achieve this through a series of community-based social programs.

Many social issues plague our society. Families already struggling with poverty often experience feelings of hopelessness and can become vulnerable to alcohol abuse, drug addiction, domestic violence, and gambling. Helping people overcome these challenges and supporting them on their path to financial independence has been the foundation of our Sustainable Communities Project.

Over the years, we have learned that continuously providing charity does not empower people to help themselves. Instead, it can create dependency, reducing their motivation to become self-sufficient. Our approach focuses on working with families to help them generate income by encouraging them to start small businesses and providing them with low-interest microloans. In extreme cases, we offer food support and safe housing to families in urgent

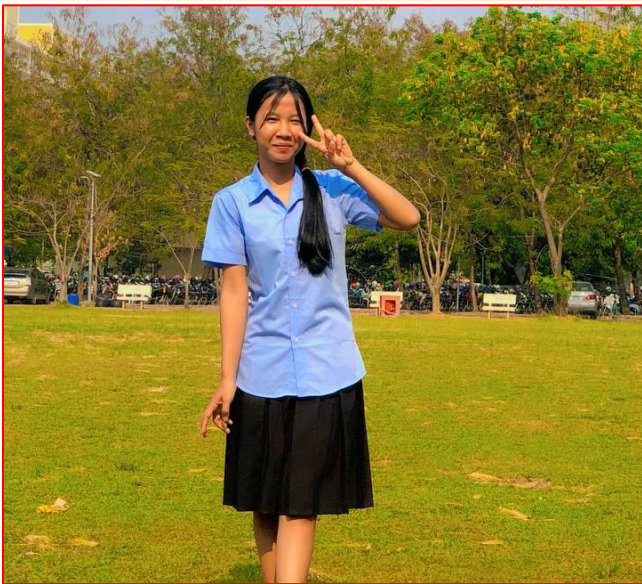
need. In return, families commit to striving for self-sufficiency, addressing their social challenges (with our support), and ensuring their children attend school regularly.

We are incredibly grateful to our valued donors at **Rice for Cambodia**, based in Australia, for their commitment to funding SCP in 2024. Their support ensures that children and families in our program continue to receive welfare assistance and quality education.

In our efforts to contribute to environmental sustainability and combat climate change, we have changed the way we distribute food parcels. Instead of using plastic bags, we now use **handmade baskets crafted by local artisans** from vines found on farms. This initiative not only significantly reduces plastic waste each year but also creates job opportunities for local families, helping them generate income and improve their living conditions.

We are thrilled with the positive impact of this change and are committed to continuing this initiative as part of our long-term vision for a more sustainable future.

Children Development Village (CDV)



Although **CDV officially closed its doors in 2019**, its commitment to education remains unwavering. Support continues for all children pursuing their studies in both high school and university.

As a result of this ongoing support, three **CDV students—Sreyleak, Reaksmey, and Kunthear—have successfully graduated with Bachelor's Degrees in Khmer and English Literature from Preah Sihanouk Raja Buddhist University of Battambang (SBUBB)**. Additionally, two students, **Sanet and Nha**, are currently studying at the **Royal University of Phnom Penh**, while **Reaksa**, who is also at SBUBB majoring in Khmer Literature, has completed her thesis writing and defense, marking the final step toward earning her degree.

This is a truly **remarkable and inspiring achievement**—what once seemed impossible has now become a reality. These young women, who come from vulnerable and dysfunctional families, have overcome immense challenges and now stand confidently as university graduates.

This success has only been made possible through the generosity of our **kind-hearted donors**, especially **Rudolf Leidl, his family, and friends in Germany**. Their unwavering support has transformed lives, and for that, we are incredibly **grateful**. This is a **fabulous milestone** for everyone involved, and we deeply appreciate all those who have contributed to making these dreams come true.

Program Advancing Girls' Education (PAGE)

Mrs. Kao Pek, Project Coordinator



In 2024, our primary focus was on supporting the **14 current students** in our program. Due to **limited funding**, we were unable to recruit a new group into **PAGE** this year. Instead, we prioritized ensuring the well-being and academic success of our existing students while continuing to seek future opportunities for expansion.

Since all **PAGE students were in 11th grade** in 2024, none have yet completed high school, meaning there were no available spots to recruit new students. Meanwhile, schools implemented several changes aimed at **improving education quality**, including **revisions to the examination process for both monthly and semester exams** and **renovations to physical infrastructure** on school grounds.

Through these changes, we observed that some students struggled to keep up with the new academic structure. To support their progress, they attended **extra classes organized by the school**, rather than external tutoring. As a result, these students **improved their academic performance** and successfully advanced to **12th grade for the 2024-2025 academic year**. This progress brings them one step closer to completing high school by the end of the year.

Beyond academics, **PAGE students gain valuable experiences** through various **social engagement programs**. They participate in activities such as **camping, workshops, sports, community clean-ups, national writing events, food delivery to underprivileged families, and the distribution of school supplies to students in rural areas**. Additionally, they take part in **religious and cultural celebrations**, including **Vesak and Magha Puja**.

These diverse experiences **help students develop a deeper understanding of society, culture, and values** within the country, preparing them to **adapt, grow, and explore new opportunities for a bright future**.



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

Mrs. Chhea Saro, Project Coordinator



The Park Hyatt Siem Reap & LHA Sewing School was established in 2006 and has been generously sponsored by Park Hyatt Hotel in Siem Reap. The Sewing Training School (STS) continues to provide vocational training for young, disadvantaged Cambodian women from rural communities, empowering them to become independent.

In 2024, we were fortunate that Park Hyatt Siem Reap Hotel reopened its doors, generating profits and once again generously funding our sewing training program. This support enabled us to launch the 17th Promotion, welcoming eight eager women and girls into the Park Hyatt Siem Reap & LHA Sewing School training course.

The training program spanned eight months, running from February to October 2024, covering 25 lessons on sewing skills. Participants learned how to produce students' uniforms, men's and women's dresses, as well as modern and traditional clothing styles.

Beyond sewing skills, we also provided basic English lessons, taught by volunteers from GVI (Global Volunteering International), and moral awareness education, guided by monks. Additionally, students participated in social and cultural activities and received training on starting a home-based business, as some planned to launch their own tailoring shops in their hometowns. This training served as an essential starting point, equipping them with the knowledge and confidence to begin their journeys.

In November 2024, we celebrated their achievements with a graduation ceremony, which was honored by the presence of senior monks, the General Manager of Park Hyatt Siem Reap Hotel, parents, staff, volunteers, and friends. Each graduate received a sewing machine and a box of essential supplies to help them start their careers.

Following graduation, all but one of the students secured employment at sewing shops in Siem Reap City, earning good wages.



Seal of Love Charitable Foundation and Buddhism in Society Project

Ven. Voeurn Va, Project Coordinator



In 2024, six scholarship students celebrated their graduation with great excitement and joy, surrounded by their families and friends. Ven. Lach Chantha (MA), Ven. Bron Kosal, Mr. Heng Hun, Mr. Chan Vithoun, and Mr. Nol Nat earned their bachelor's degrees from Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia (PUC) in a ceremony held at Sofitel Angkor Hotel and from the University of South-East Asia (USEA) at Sokha Hotel in Siem Reap City. Ven. Sopheavann successfully obtained his bachelor's degree from Build Bright University (BBU).

Although Seal of Love was unable to provide additional funding, we were fortunate to receive support from Mr. Patrick Salmon of GVI, who generously raised funds to support Ven. Vat Sotheourng in pursuing higher education at Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia (PUC). In addition, he made a long-term commitment to continue fundraising for this program while also sending volunteers to support English teaching initiatives.



Others: Emergency Food & Study Supplies Offering

Thanks to the **continuous generosity of Andreas G. Flober, a German Buddhist fellow in the Zen tradition, his wife Beatrice Tischhauser, and their friends**, we were able to provide **food parcels to 545 families** across various communities in **Siem Reap Province**.

This initiative served as a **substitute action**, focusing primarily on those in **greatest need**. We carefully selected families from different locations in **Siem Reap Province** with the **support of local monks and authorities**. Although a small effort, it has made a **significant impact** on many lives.

Additionally, we provided **educational supplies** to two **primary schools**: One in **Sreysnom District** and One in **Varin District**. In total, we distributed: **2,847 writing books, 100 reading books, 1,200 pens, 812 pencils, 792 rulers, 20 boxes of colored pencils, and 920 pieces of bread** (for 792 students and 36 teachers).

Moreover, we **donated 10 bicycles** to **underprivileged students on Kulen Mountain** to help them access education more easily. This initiative aims to **encourage and motivate young generations to value education** and ensure they do not feel alone in their learning journey.

We firmly believe that **education is the key to change**—the more we learn, the more we grow, and the more we improve.



Partnership Actions

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

Reflecting on this wisdom, we have worked closely with the **NGO network in Siem Reap and Cambodia**, fostering **provincial, national, and regional partnerships**, including **collaborations with all levels of government**. Our shared goal is to build **strong partnerships** that contribute to the **development of our country and society**.

We actively participate in **meetings, workshops, and dialogues** with **NGOs, local Sangkats, City Hall, the Provincial Hall, and national-level institutions, including relevant ministries**. Through these engagements, we **strengthen mutual understanding and unity**, ensuring that we work **collectively to enhance social welfare and improve the well-being of all**.



Conclusion

No matter how many challenges we have faced or how difficult the journey has been, we have **never given up**. With **commitment and perseverance**, we continue moving forward **step by step, day by day**. Our mission is driven by a **heart of compassion**, dedicated to **helping, sharing, and supporting** those who are struggling, underprivileged, or in vulnerable situations.

We take pride in being a **beacon of hope**—transforming **hopelessness into hope** and empowering individuals to **fight for a better future**. Despite the **global crisis**, which has created immense hardships for all, we remain a **pillar of strength** for the **poor, women, children, and girls** under our care. This has only been possible through the **unwavering generosity** of our **respected and amazing donors**, both in Cambodia and abroad. As a result of this support: Many now have **food security and access to education**, students have **completed high school and pursued higher education** (university), some have **graduated with bachelor's or master's degrees**, Others have **found employment** or successfully **started their own businesses**, and some have even become **active contributors** to society, working in **NGOs and the private sector**.

Every donation has been **used thoughtfully and transparently**, following **our financial policies and ethical practices**. We remain deeply committed to **serving our communities**, and we trust that our **dedicated donors** will continue to stand with us in **creating even greater achievements** that align with our mission.

You have already done **something truly incredible**—even the smallest contributions, given with love and consistency, **create life-changing impacts** beyond imagination.

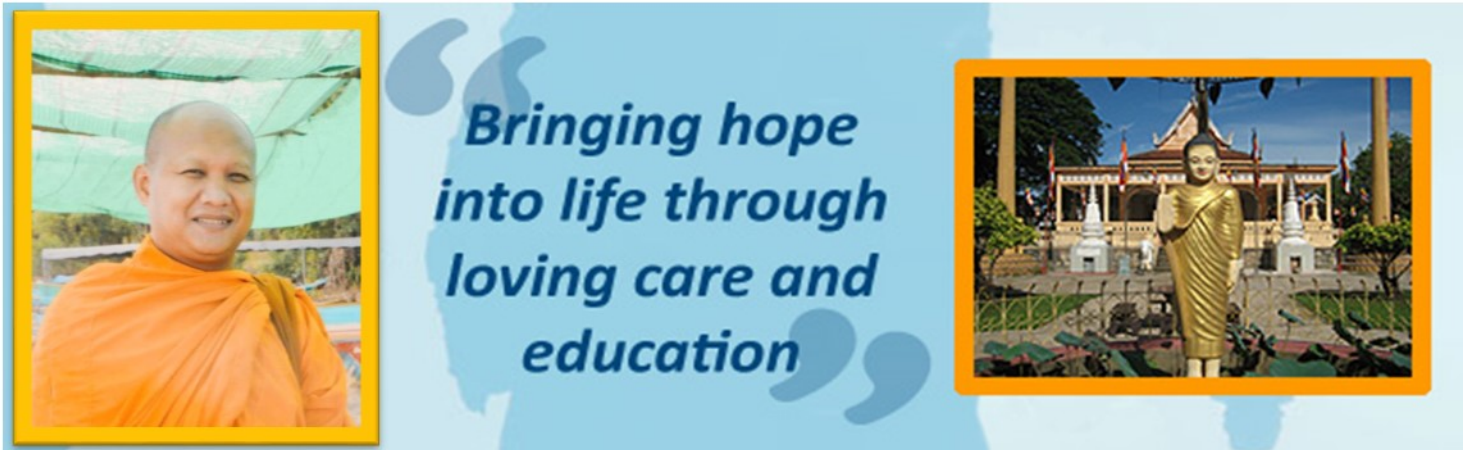
On behalf of **LHA**, we extend our **deepest gratitude** to all our **donors, friends, volunteers, and partners** who have generously provided **tremendous support**. Your kindness has allowed us to **continue serving those in greatest need**, giving them **a pathway to a brighter future**.

Finally, we wish you all **happiness, prosperity, joy, and peace in life**, along with **abundant success in your businesses**.

With peace and love,



Venerable Lorm Loeurm



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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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