



Update: Integrated Rural Development Program in Pursat, Cambodia

Earlier this year, Lotus Outreach began partnering with the Cambodian Organization for Children and Development (COCD) to establish an exciting new mobile health, food security and education outreach program in the Phnom Kravanh district of Cambodia's Pursat Province. This integrated development program, entitled 'Rural and Marginalized Community Access to Education, Health and Food Security,' is working tirelessly to improve primary healthcare, increase food security and nutrition, and expand access to education for 5,167 rural villagers and ethnic minorities in Samroung, Phnom Kravanh.



Village Health Volunteers proudly display their certificates of achievement



Scholarship distribution ceremony

Here are just a few of the wonderful outcomes achieved by our team on the ground during the first six months of the program:

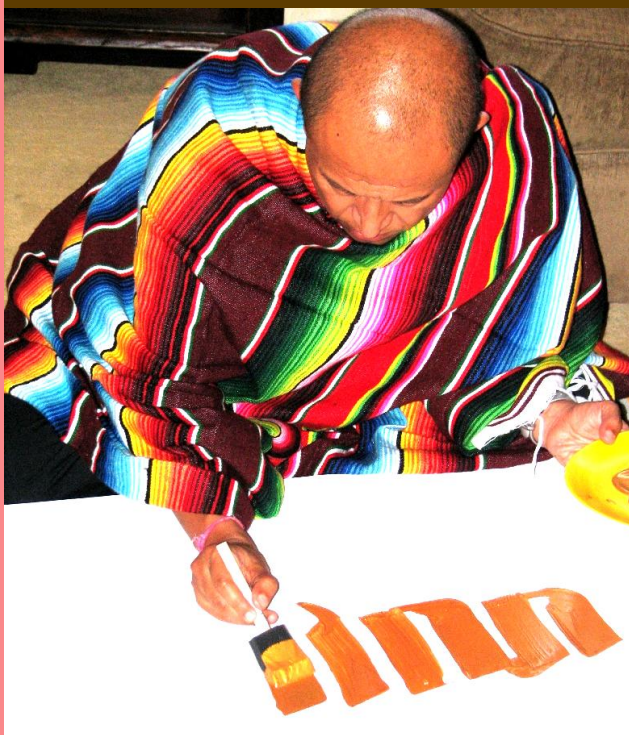
- Trained over 1,000 parents and children on basic healthcare, sanitation and hygiene; reproductive and

maternal health; children's health, nutrition and vaccinations; diarrhea prevention and treatment; and malaria, tuberculosis and dengue fever prevention and treatment.

- Provided 54 impoverished children in grades 4-9 with school uniforms, books/supplies, healthcare, school fees, bicycles and necessary food support so they can attend public school.
- Reached over 20,000 parents and children through a public campaign on the importance of education as a catalyst for human development.
- Provided 150 impoverished and malnourished families with vegetable seeds and farming tools, which will greatly improve their children's overall health and nutritional status.

Without your continued support, new initiatives such as the integrated rural development program would not be possible. We look forward to sharing many more successful updates from the field over the next three years.

Khyentse Norbu Exclusive Art Auction to Benefit Lotus Outreach



We are thrilled to share that our Chairman and Founder, Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche, has created seven beautiful pieces of original calligraphy for an exclusive auction to benefit Lotus Outreach. The auction will take place virtually over a seven-day period and 100% of proceeds will go toward supporting our charitable initiatives in Asia.

Khyentse Norbu is a Bhutanese lama, filmmaker, and writer. His two major films are *The Cup* (1999) and *Travellers and Magicians* (2003). He is the head of the renowned Dzongsar Monastery and Dzongsar College and is currently responsible for the care and education of approximately 1,600 monks distributed between six monasteries and institutes in Asia. Khyentse Norbu also oversees six branches of Siddhartha's Intent, contemporary teaching and practice centers distributed over several continents, as well as the non-profit organizations Khyentse Foundation and Lotus Outreach.

Stay tuned for a communication announcing the official launch of the online auction in the coming weeks!



GlobalGiving Campaign Update

As many of you know, Lotus Outreach recently participated in GlobalGiving's Global Open Challenge, a month-long initiative in which 167 organizations worked to raise funds for grassroots projects around the world while competing for up to \$6,000 in bonus funding from GlobalGiving.com.

In just 30 days, you helped us mobilize enough support to raise over \$28,000, earn a permanent spot on GlobalGiving.com and place **first** among 167 international organizations, earning us an additional \$3,000 bonus grant directly from GlobalGiving!

Child laborers in Mewat saying "thank you!" to our donors



When we originally set out to raise \$4,000 for 200 scholarships for child laborers in India, we didn't hold our breath. Times are tough all over the world -- people are losing their jobs and their homes, political crises are mounting in places such as Sri Lanka and Darfur, and natural disasters continue to strike East and Southeast Asia. But somehow a miracle happened: nearly every one of our supporters stepped up and spread the word, and we managed to not only secure enough funding for 700 scholarships, but we fully funded our LEARN program for the rest of the year!

Though we encountered slight program delays during the month

of October due to state elections and Diwali, we are excited to share that 248 of the roughly 700 child laborers in Mewat's brick kilns were given scholarship packages and successfully enrolled in school with the moral and financial support of our LEARN team. Our goal is to enroll all children in Mewat's 30 brick kilns by the end of January 2010, as migrant families continue their return to the district in search of seasonal work.

Our dedicated Program Manager, Suraj Kumar, described the general feeling in the brick kilns during the first rounds of the scholarship giveaway:

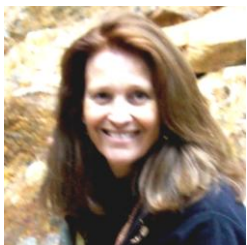
"Children and parents at the brick kilns are very happy with the program, thank the people who supported this program every day, and bless us whenever we visit the brick kilns to distribute school uniforms, shoes, and school bags. The parents always wanted to send their children to school but were not able to afford education supplies and expenses. Seeing so many children going to school and enjoying it, the parents who initially were reluctant to participate in the program have now started asking us to enroll their children too. One of the barriers to these children's education was that their parents were scared that the local people would harass their children as they are migrants from other states but we assured them that their children will be safe in school and we will help in any way we can. These people have grown to trust us and are now happily willing to send their children to school. Providing school uniform, shoes, socks, school bags, notebooks and pens is a very big motivator for these people as they are poor and already forced to live away from their families to earn livelihoods. They all look very thankful and obliged to get this support."

Thank you to everyone who helped make this campaign such an astonishing success. You can view our regular project updates at <http://www.globalgiving.com/projects/endchildlabor/>.

To view and support the first of many new projects to come on GlobalGiving, please visit <http://www.globalgiving.com/projects/lotuspedals/>.

Lotus Outreach Welcomes Two New Board Members

Please join Lotus Outreach International in welcoming Marlow Brooks and Cara Goldberg to our Board of Directors!



Marlow Brooks is currently an adjunct professor at Naropa University and served on the Board of Trustees for six years. She additionally served on the Educational Board of Advisors for Deer Park Institute; is a Senior Teacher and Director at Shambhala Training International; has a private Acupuncture and Healing practice; and is a renowned artist and Chinese calligrapher. Marlow is a long-term supporter of Lotus Outreach, both individually and through the Marbrook Foundation. As she wrote in our November 2008 donor spotlight, "Of all the brilliant projects initiated by Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche, Lotus Outreach is one of the closest to my heart. I've always loved children...for me, the youth of our world are our hope for a saner future and carry an enormous collective responsibility for all of us."



Cara Goldberg is a television producer based in Los Angeles that has been working in the industry for the last 16 years. Besides collaborating with prolific producers such as Mark Burnett, Bertram Van Munster and JD Roth, she works with all of the major networks. Cara has international experience, working with different governments to set up and run television shows, as well as hire local labor for the productions. After several years of developing and producing shows with Mark Burnett, Cara founded Persistent Productions to produce ideas she developed. Cara is a member of the Producers Guild and serves on the Membership Committee. As Cara puts it, "I know that I can bring my enthusiasm and dedication to help raise money and get more people involved with Lotus Outreach...I want to dedicate time towards helping others."



Lotus Outreach Invites You to 'Save The Day' on November 15, 2009

November 15th will mark our third annual "Save The Day" Campaign. "Save The Day" is an opportunity for you to commit one day of your annual income to help support the children served by Lotus Outreach in Cambodia and India. Our goal is to raise \$25,000 to support our programs in Asia that aim to reduce trafficking, child labor and sexual exploitation of women and children.

This year, we will be offering gifts to the first people to make a donation at the \$500 level and above. The first 10 donors to contribute at the \$500 level will receive a Cambodian messenger bag hand-made by shelter victims at the Cambodian Women's Crisis Center. The first 3 donors to contribute at the \$1,000 level will receive a limited edition Lotus Outreach charm.

The energy you devote to your career in one full day has the power to transform another human being's life. To learn how or make your contribution, please visit www.lotusoutreach.org and click the 'Save The Day' banner on the left.

If you already contribute regularly, then please consider 'Saving The Day' again on November 15th and, more importantly, forward this announcement throughout your network of friends and family. Let them know what you care about and encourage their participation!

Staff Spotlight: Sokhorn, Program Manager for NFE



Sokhorn with one of her adopted children

For the past several year, Sokhorn has served as Program Manager and resident angel for Lotus Outreach's Non-Formal Education (NFE) program, which provides basic education, vocational training and life skills to roughly 100 women and girls living in Phnom Penh's notorious red light areas. While she admits having difficult days, she is always full of infectious energy and laughter and provides a source of inspiration for those around her. As Program Manager for NFE, Sokhorn devotes her time to providing

education, training and employment opportunities to women and girls who would otherwise be faced with a lifetime of violence, degradation and disease.

Every day, Sokhorn sets out to round up each and every participant in the NFE program to ensure they attend class. As much as the students enjoy the courses, there are always life pressures—including the harsh realities associated with sex work—that can easily cause them to stop coming to class and give up on pursuing a healthier way of life. Sokhorn works very hard to ensure that doesn't happen and her persistence has been incredibly effective: less than 4% of the program graduates have returned to sex work. As Sokhorn says, "Through my own life I show them that it's not always about having enough money...you can educate and improve yourself through struggle and effort." And it is through that enduring struggle and effort that Sokhorn is able to provide so much for so many women. The girls love her for the endless attention she gives, ensuring they complete their classes and find employment. In desperate circumstances, she has even lent them her own money—and always gets paid back.

Sokhorn's father died a month before she was born and by the age of 10, she found herself among millions of Pol Pot's forced laborers. Sokhorn was able to learn the Khmer alphabet and, despite being from a poor family, she somehow managed to finish secondary school which at times required her to travel up to 20 miles a day. Sokhorn's first job was with the police force, where she earned \$15 per month. She shortly thereafter began volunteering as a librarian for Khemara, our local partner and implementer of the NFE program. On her first day, she began teaching evening NFE classes and eventually took on the difficult role of becoming a teacher and mentor. When Lotus Outreach developed the NFE program for sex workers in 2005, Sokhorn's experience paid off and she was invited to serve as the Program Manager.

When asked how she manages to keep on top of her work and home life, Sokhorn tells us she sometimes thinks she's bitten off more than she can chew. She cares for her HIV+ husband and his two children. Her deep courage and commitment has led her to take charge of the education and development of another four children from her HIV+ niece! She is now caring for six children with one HIV+ parent—on top of the 100 highly vulnerable women and children served by the NFE program which requires her to travel from one side of the city to the other each day on her little motor-scooter.

"I'm delighted we've been able to change the lives of so many sex workers and their families," she says. "It has given me strength and encouragement. People always praise my efforts and tell others that I have done so much for others so I feel very good when I visit the red light areas for this work."

Our Team



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