



## >> TOP STORIES

### EJAF Board & Staff Help Build a Home for Special Needs Family

HFHC recently celebrated the completion of a special house for home partner Ms Pang and her four children (highlighted in last months newsletter), providing them with a new life in a rural community north of the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh.

The Pangs' house was one of the first homes to be built with support of the Elton John AIDS Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Sir Elton John. EJAF trustees and staff, all first-time Habitat volunteers, worked alongside Ms Pang to complete the house in Trapeangangchagn community. British singer, actress and TV celebrity Lulu also joined in to lend support.

EJAF is providing a US\$900,000 grant through HFH Great Britain which played a key role in securing the partnership. Habitat for Humanity International and HFH Great Britain will provide the remaining funds for the US\$1.2 million project

Under the partnership with EJAF, HFH Cambodia has already completed five houses with another six under construction in Phnom Penh. Future construction is expected to take place in Russeykeo district, Phnom Penh and in Prey Veng province.

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Visit our website <http://www.habitatcambodia.org>

## TCF Visits Cambodia and Strengthens Partnership

At the end of February, HFH Cambodia hosted Director of Operations, Peder Pedersen from The Charitable Foundation (TCF). During his weeklong stay Peder was able to visit the HFHC project site in Oudong that are funded by TCF funds.

On the final day of his visit Peder visited the New Holistic of Hope Community in Oudong to participate in a special dedication ceremony for a home built with TCF funds. The ceremony was attended by Sen Sophal, Phnom Bat Commune Council Chief and H.E Mann Chheun, Deputy of National Committee for Population and Development, local community members and Habitat staff. Speeches were given by all the special guests and the housing partners and were followed up by a moving ribbon cutting ceremony and releasing of birds to bring the family good fortune in their new home.

The Charitable Fund, established in 2001, is an Australian Ancillary Fund that helps improve the lives of the poor throughout the world through the delivery of developmental assistance and by helping make the world a more peaceful place. TCF supports projects in the following areas: water and sanitation; health and disability; education; housing; agriculture and livelihoods; emergency aid and peace. Most of the projects that are funded by TCF are located in Africa and South East Asia.

HFHC and TCF have had a strong partnership since 2004 with TCF funding 3 Habitat programs. Currently, TCF helps support the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion project in Siem Reap; they are helping build 25 houses in Oudong for the BHSCP project and are supporting the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the Phnom Penh Housing and Community Development Project. During the visit TCF pledged an additional \$50,000 towards funding for the Khmer Harvest Build, occurring in November 2011.

### The Dedication Ceremony



Chum Soeun & Sok Sopheap Homeowners



Peder and H.E Mann Chheun cutting red ribbon



Posing in front of new house

### Habitat Community Association Member Trained in Development Concepts



MIT volunteers in Siem Reap

With a strong effort to bring experience and more knowledge on how to improve the communities, Habitat Community Organizers conducted a two-day training on 16-17 March, at Sen Sok village, where twenty Local Association members from Sen Sok, Andong and Kork Kleang communities took part. The training was about “Development Concepts”, which focused on various issues such as planning, health, education, food security, infrastructures, managing violence, and how to set the priority tasks.

The essential points of this training were: sharing knowledge and experience related to development; how to set strategies to deal with struggles and understanding the development progress; and for the leaders to bring knowledge and experience, which they got from the session to put into practice in their communities. Tech Theavy, Habitat Community Organizer said “After this training, we are optimistic that the trained Local Association members will be ready to practice their knowledge, as well as produce a positive result.”

### Volunteer Group Helps Teach About Healthy Habits

At the beginning of March, a volunteer team from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) traveled to Siem Reap for three days and assisted with construction and implementation of a hand-washing training. Additionally, the group of volunteers helped build 3 communal wells (2 in Kok village, 1 in Kar Trakiet village). Along with constructing wells, the team also aided in building a toilet for the Kar Trakiet Primary School.

On the second day of their visit, the Kar Trakiet Primary School put on a special “Hand Washing Event”. 153 students, 6 teachers, 17 volunteers and Habitat for Humanity staff all participated in the event. The Hand Washing Event covered issues, such as, daily hygiene practices (finger nail cutting, hand washing, and mouth washing); cleaning of the school latrine and yard; the bad effects of hygiene on students; and the advantages of good hygiene. At the end of the event students were able to partake in a question and answer session and

The German volunteer group finished their stay in Siem Reap with a dedication ceremony for the wells and toilet built during their stay. This volunteer group has been volunteering with various agencies in Cambodia for the past 6 months and will continue to volunteer in Cambodia for another 6 months before they return to Germany.



Hand Washing in Siem Reap

### Cambodia Celebrates Khmer New Year



One of the Khmer Traditional Game “Break the Jar”



Happy Khmer New Year with Blessing Dance

HFHC is set to celebrate on the 14-16 of April, which marks the Khmer New Year next month. The Khmer New Year is a very important holiday in Cambodia and special events take place on each of the three days of the New Year. On the first day food is brought to monks at the monastery and sand is gathered to build a sandal mountain around the monastery and invite the monks to bany. On the second day of the festival children usually will give new clothes and money to their parents, grandparents and to the poor.

The final day of Khmer New Year, people will bathe monks and statues of Buddha. Games are also played on the third day including: a hand-scarf-throwing game; trot dancing (Battambang and Siem Reap); a nut-kicking game; a tug-a-war game; and traditional dancing is also done on the final day of festivities.



>> VOLUNTEER HAPPENINGS

"... we should be the ones who say thank you to homeowners for giving us a chance to come and help and build a decent house for them." Global Village Volunteer Sandra Moore, Northern Ireland

**Global Village Wrap Up**

13-26 February, a Global Village team of 16 volunteers from the United States, led by Steve Acton, joined HFH Cambodia to work on two homes in Phnom Penh. After a week and a half of building the team was able to complete one house and get the other well under way to completion.

On their final day, the volunteers attended a lively dedication ceremony involving both traditional dancing by home partners and a dance skit put on by the volunteer team. The team also presented each family with a flowering plant and two bags of cement at the dedication ceremony to assist them in decorating and adding finishing touches to their homes.

Along with construction work the US team was also able to enjoy Phnom Penh with visits to Wat Phnom, the Russian Market and the Toul Sleng museum.

A 14 member team from Toronto, Canada joined Habitat from 14-20 March. The team hailed from Royal Saint Georges College and consisted of 12 students and 2 teachers. During their stay the team assisted with the construction of two fire brick homes in the Sen Sok Community, Phnom Penh.

**Global Village Teams in Pictures**



Brick laying competition



Bricklaying at its best!



Smile!



Riding bicycle during break time



Team work



Enjoy tying the steel bars



USA volunteer team visits The Cambodian Royal Palace



Thumbs up for hard work!



Digging foundation



Get ready to work



Japan Team Group Photo



Playing with kids a break time



Ashleigh working on foundation

This Canadian team held a dedication ceremony at the end of their visit for housing partners and also got to enjoy lunch with the families.

During their stay the Royal Saint Georges team visited tourist sites and also the Tropaing Krosaing School, where they donated study materials to the students.

From 14-23 March, a 14 member GV team from Northern Ireland volunteered in Phnom Penh. This team was able to spend their time in the Vimean Trong Community, assisting in the construction of two fire brick homes.

A dedication ceremony and lunch with housing partners was held at the end of their time. Along with volunteering, this team also got to visit Siem Reap and see the temples of Angkor Wat.

If you would like to make a difference and volunteer with Habitat for Humanity Cambodia as a Global Village volunteer, visit this site for more information: <http://www.habitat.org/gv/>



Visiting Tropaing Krosaing Primary School



Group photo at the house dedication ceremony



Northern Ireland team experience riding motor



Gregory showing off his skills



Maried, Sandra and Julie



Mixing concrete as a team



Volunteers and homeowners posing in front of new house

## >> Volunteer Close-Up



Steve Acton

**What is your favorite construction activity?** *Mixing the mortar and concrete and carrying sand have to be my favorite. I like to these jobs because it allows me to continually be moving and doing physical activity.*

**What is your favorite part about Cambodia?** *All of Phnom Penh is just wonderful. I enjoyed taking time to visit the Killing Fields and S-21, to understand the history. It is so sad what happened in Cambodia during this time, almost unreal.*

**Why did you choose to travel to Cambodia?** *I previously lead GV teams on trips to Malaysia and Thailand and decided that I needed to get the Cambodian experience.*



Alex Shum

**What kind of Khmer food/snack do you like most?** *I love the fresh fruit and the sticky rice with coconut that is served to us. They taste great!*

**Can you describe your feelings during the house dedication ceremony?** *It was amazing. The homeowners spoke about how much their new home means to them. We were also very excited and happy to be in Cambodia to help them build the house and to see it completed at the end. It was a wonderful moment.*

**What do you think about Cambodia and the people?** *All the people are very warm and friendly here. The kids always are smiling and are a lot of fun to be around and play with. The food is amazing too!*



Sandra Moore

**What do you feel about the build?** *It was very impressive at the build site put on by HFH Cambodia. The organization was excellent, and the Cambodian team had a strong commitment to work but also had a sense of humor.*

**How was your trip to Siem Reap?** *It was very enjoyable and we were surprised by the Angkor Wat. It was absolutely amazing and unbelievable.*

**How did you like working alongside of the homeowners?** *The homeowners are very kind, delightful, and humble. We can see how thankful they are for us coming to help build their home.*



A world where everyone has a decent place to live

## >> UPCOMING EVENTS

1 April	Community Organizing Workshop at Center on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE)
4 – 8 April	Follow-Up Monitoring for CLTS Program in Siem Reap
5 – 7 April	Housing and Human Settlement Course Workshop in Indonesia
12 April	Battambang Aerial Photo to be Completed
14 – 18 April	Khmer New Year Days
18 – 21 April	How Your National Organization can Respond Effectively and Raise Funds Quickly after a Natural Disaster training in Bangkok
21 – 26 April	PHAST Workshop in Siem Reap
25 – 27 April	Operational Manual Workshop in Battambang

## >> New Donations

On March 17, Habitat Southeast Program Coordinator, Iv Bonnakar, received additional funds from the Jo Brennan Team and Athol Prior to the amount of USD \$750. The funds were given to Mr. Chea Chandy, community leader and representative of the New Life Community. This donation will be used to help improve livelihood opportunities in the community.



# OR KUHN!

Habitat for Humanity Cambodia says thank you  
to our corporate and international partners and our affiliate tithe  
donors.

Together, we will continue improving lives and building communities in  
Cambodia.

## AFFILIATE DONORS

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The Charitable Foundation, Elton John AIDS Foundation, International  
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