

Sangkheum News



"Hearts intertwined
A family defined
SangkheumCenter
is where we shine..."



The Sangkheum Center for Children Newsletter

Dear friends, this is the first, long awaited, official newsletter of the Sangkheum Center for Children. Every sixth months we will put together fresh news about what is happening at the centre and with our kids. We hope you will enjoy and don't forget to drop by our new and re-designed website at www.sangkheum.org

Bringing hope to more children

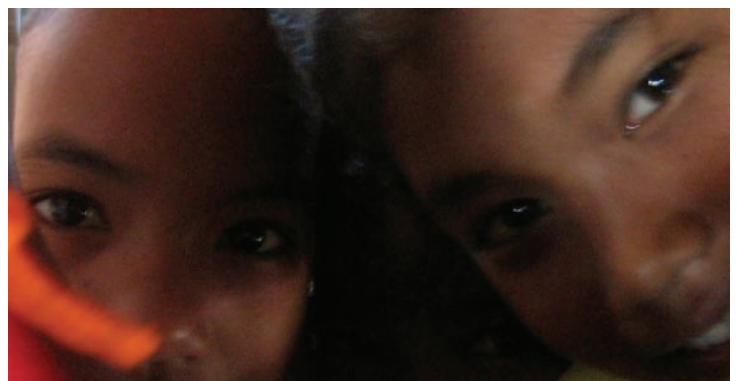
Since September 2008 not less then 13 new children between the ages of 2-12 have joined our big Sangkheum family.



The backgrounds of these children very much reflect the reality of the issues children face in Cambo-

dia. They have lived on the streets of Siem Reap, been abandoned in hospitals, or parents have passed away with illnesses such as malaria and tuberculosis.

These children have now found a new home in Sangkheum Center for Children and have slowly but steadily started to once again have a childhood. Now their days are filled with caring people around them and activities to stimulate their beautiful and active minds.



A big smile and one pair of strong legs



Little Samnang was born with a major cleft lip, separating his lip in two places and splitting his tooth row in the middle. The first surgery has been done and the lip has healed well. Two more operations are coming up to finalize the surgery which will enable Samnang to both speak and eat properly. When asked what he thought about his before and after appearance, the five year old Samnang, born with the self confidence of a giant said, with a smile on his face, that he liked the old look

better but the new one was ok.

Five year old Braney was brought to our attention by an organization working with street children. He had been staying in their centre while they had been searching for any existing parents or relatives. When none could be found we were asked to become the caregivers of the boy. Braney was born with crooked shins which would in a couple of years have been at risk of breaking from his weight. A special-

ist re-adjusted the legs and after they were put in a cast. Within a short time Braney will be able to run and play together with all his other friends in the centre.

Without the support of the amazing Angkor Hospital for Children, who have supported us in all medical needs of the children for over 7 years, this would not have been possible.



New English Teachers

The last months has seen a major restructuring of our English program. We have expanded our force of caring staff with three great English teachers. Our last term faced an increase of almost 100 students and the total of children in the program is now close to 250 in 12 daily classes. With the new structure we are not only able to provide the children with a more consistent Eng-

lish language education, covering from absolute beginners to elementary, but also a better monitoring of our children through our permanent teachers. The teachers are able to build a trust which can help us to spot domestic problems and investigate drop out of the program.

With great support from our teacher trainer volunteer, Kyla, all the teachers have enjoyed a 6

months teacher training covering everything from planning to fun and games in the classroom.

In addition the group of teachers participated in Camp Tesol Weekend training in Phnom Penh, sharing their experience with other teachers and getting even more ideas for their teaching.



Kicking it!

Following a 5-day training of trainers workshop in Battambang we are now happy to announce that our Team leader, Chomreun, and three young adults, two boys and a girl, were awarded a FIFA Trainer D-license.

They are well needed since our football program continues to develop at a fast pace. In December we launched our girl's football program. This added another 25 eager players to our

growing group of boy teams. The teams train three days per week and are being coached by our newly trainer-graduated young adults.

Two of these teams, girls and boys under age 14, will this month be heading off to face the challenges of a one day tournament in the capital, Phnom Penh. They will be playing teams from other organizations from around the country. To be added is that the kids were

literally jumping from excitement when the tournament was announced.

We would like to thank Salt Academy and Indochina Starfish Foundation for supporting us with the training of trainers and arranging the tournaments which our kids look forward to with excitement.



If the kids can't come to play, we bring the play to the kids

Many of our 58 non-resident children live far out in the country side in poverty-stricken areas. Since it is not possible for many of them to come to Sangkheum Center for Children for activities we decided to expand our program and bring the fun to them instead.

The rural areas of Siem Reap, which you will find not much further than 10-15 km outside of the Siem Reap town, has not seen much of the financial increase

through tourism that has benefited the more urban areas. The poverty is harsh and most of the children we support live with only their mother since the fathers have abandoned the families or passed away. There are no activities arranged for children when they are not in school in these areas. We decided to address this issue in small scale, starting with the children already supported in our program.

Our social worker,

Sierey, not only monitors the schooling and social situation of these non-resident children, she also now runs recreational activities in three different children's groups per week. As expected there are already plenty of other kids curiously monitoring what we are doing. Before long they will be playing and painting away like only kids can.



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And more!

We have celebrated our yearly Christmas party with close to 500 children joining this day of fun with games, performances and of course Santa Clause who dropped by to bring gifts to all the kids.



The students from Republic Polytechnic Singapore has helped us make our centre beautiful by painting murals in our young adults house and on our big wall behind our playground. In addition they helped us make the centre a little bit safer by completing our fence.



Eli and her friends have been standing

out in the cold thinking about the children in Cambodia selling cookies, angels and doing advocacy in order to support the children of Cambodia. A warm thank you to them.

The children have made one of their best performances ever when performing in one of the ancient ruins of the temple Prasat Kravan.

We have extended our work with the non-resident children families by supporting them with first aid kits and training in how to use them.

We have made our yearly trip, this time visiting Koh Kong, giving all the children the opportunity to expand their knowledge about Cambodia.

Our friends and long term supporters, Tanya and Jo, have launched their charity 'Hope for Cambodia', the first goal being to help support our Young Adults program. To do this Tanya started off with the effort of doing a tough charity bike ride from London to Paris. Big thanks to them for their efforts.





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Sponsor a Child...



.....and take part in changing the future of the Cambodian children.

For only USD 40\$/month you can support a child in our program with food, clothes and school material.

Would you rather sponsor a Young Adult on the way to independence?

For only USD 80\$/month you can support a young adult with living expenses and training opportunities which will provide them with all the necessary skills to become independent.

As a sponsor you will be provided with regular update reports of the sponsored

child 's development.

In addition you will receive regular updates on our program, giving you the opportunity to follow the process of our work and how your support enables us to create opportunities for even more children.

Thank you!

To all the private people, companies, schools and organizations that support our work. Sangkheum Center for Children would not be what it is today without the support from all of you.



Visit our new website for more updates!

www.sangkheum.org

