



THE SANITATION PROJECTS FOR THE POOR RURAL FAMILIES IN CAMBODIA



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Cambodia is an ancient 3rd world country in Southeast Asia with a population of about 15 million people. It is a proud nation of people who honor their history and their people. The country is well known for ancient temples such as Angkor Wat and Phnom Chisor and thrives on the bounties of the Mekong and Tonle Sap rivers.

Cambodia's climate, like that of the rest of Southeast Asia is dominated by monsoons, which are known as both tropically wet and dry because of the distinctly marked seasonal differences. Still, the largest industry in Cambodia is subsistence farming with more than 50% relying on growing rice. Over 75% of the population of 15 million people reside in rural areas and lack in common infrastructure.

The country is still recovering from civil wars and the destruction brought about by the five-year reign of the Khmer Rouge which was removed from power in 1979. Today, the average household earnings in rural Cambodia remain less than \$100 per month...far less in some districts. Basic infrastructure is slow to evolve and nearly 80% of the people outside of the major cities suffer from lack of sanitation. Water for consumption and household use is primarily captured from roof runoff during the frequent monsoons and stored in large casks.

In 2014, humanitarian activists Niels Lund (Cardiff-by-the-Sea, CA) and his Class-ACT NGO along with Chhay Leang Suy (Phnom Penh) and his Solidarity Fund for Rural Development NGO collaborated to form Latrines for Life project. The mission of the project is to bring multi-faceted sanitation installations to rural Cambodians...one family and one village at a time.

In 2016, Trace Skeen (Logan, Utah) became involved along with his Family Cambodia Projects organization as he frequently travels to the impoverished country. The three non-profit groups under the guidance of Niels Lund and a small but focused board of directors have continued to evaluate and enhance the original latrine project by adding a water filtering system, hand-washing station, hygiene education, and dental hygiene components to each installation area.

We believe the importance of this project can best be appreciated by organizing site-visits for both individuals as well as families to the villages of Kandal Province. We encourage travelers to not only sponsor but to participate in the final completion of a Sanitation Installation whenever possible. Travelers are also encouraged to gather useful items that can be carried from their communities and distributed to the children of the villages. The interaction between the two cultures, especially youth, creates life-changing experiences for all parties.

We invite you to join with us in supporting these humble and grateful people of Cambodia by contributing to the Latrines for Life project. Of course, every dollar helps and we are grateful for even the small gifts. However, we also invite you to sponsor one or more Installations which requires a mere \$250.00. The gift will feature a placard at the site which identify the donor and acknowledges their support. Latrine for Life is also pleased to note that 100% of your donation goes directly toward the installation. Other administrative fees are borne by board members or other generous parties.

Each month we publish a report which interviews and highlights the families that have received installations for that month. In addition to photos of each installation, the recipient family is able to offer their words of gratitude for the efforts put forth on their behalf.

In calendar year 2018, Latrines for Life will have installed more than 50 Sanitation Projects for families and villages throughout the Kandal Province. Each installation supports 30-59 village members. Please join us in keeping the momentum going as we bring sanitation to the rural villages of Cambodia one family and one village at a time.

To make a charitable donation for one or more of these projects, or to obtain more information, please contact:

Niels Lund

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The following Sanitation Installations have been made possible in part by generous donation from:

Skeen Family Cambodia Project Fund

Cache Valley Utah Morning Rotary Club

Terry Meinzer Family Donor Fund

John and Adrienne Simonelli

Sanitation Installations bring hope to the poor families in rural Cambodia. Each month we generally select four families who need sanitation services and have raised \$12 amount to help with the construction.

The following is the report from Mr. Leang, the on-site Cambodian Project Manager along with photos and Brother Terry visited on –sit in rural area and comments of the recipients of the installations and who desire to express their gratitude:

1. Mr. Tim Kimseng and wife(5 Children): On May 13, 2019, the family was so happy to meet Jonh and Adreinne! We did inspect and turned-over the latrine project and distributed the ceramic water filter to the family. They now can get a good water to drink use it dailly. The family would like to say to you and thank you all very much for your kindness to donate to these gift for them and the family is grateful to have this latrine to use it on the daily basic! They are wishing you all have a good health and strong and more happiness in 2019!



2. Mr. Ny Sokva and wife(2 Children): We continued to visit and turned-over the project to this 2nd family ! The family was grateful to receive the donation from our project and received ceramic water filter so from now on, they can get pure drinking water each day. The family would like to say thank you all very much for your kindness to support them, without your help and support they can not have it. They are wishing you all have a good health and more joy and happiness in 2019!



3. Mr. Ath Ratha and Wife(3 children)): Our team continued to visit the 3rd family and we turned –over the latrine project and distributed the ceramic water filter to this family. The family was so happy so can get a good water to drink each day and they can use the latrine on a daily basic use! They would like to send the message and said to you all and thank you very much you all for this donation for them! The family is wishing you all to have a good health and more happiness in the year of 2019!



4. Mr. Chy Tayseng and Wife(3 Children): Our construction did visit and turned –over the project to the last family today to finish our work in this rural place. They were so happy to get the ceramic water filter so the family can get the pure drinking water to drink each day. The family was so excited and was very happy to get the donation from our program! The family would like to say thank you all thank you every much for this donation for his family! The family is wishing you all have a good health and more joy in 2019!



Extraction from the Journal Recorded from John Simonelli
May 13, 2019

We started our trip navigating through the crowded streets of Phnom Penh. Then we meandered in less crowded areas. Next we took a car ferry across a lily pad laden river to a narrow dock. After disembarking we drove through even more remote areas. This is when Leang stated " "now we are going to go off the beaten path" ". The narrower and less paved the streets got, the more the rain came and almost made the roads impassable. Finally, we got to the first of four house visits in the remote village. We were warmly greeted by three generations of family who thanked us for the latrine and newly delivered hand wash and filtered water stations. Family by family these items were dispensed. Adrienne and I were really not sure how we would communicate and be accepted. But each family showed heartfelt gratitude that we made the trip to visit them, thanking us several times. They didn't realize that we were as grateful as them to be there. Genuine gratitude is rare but you feel it when you experience it. Latrines for Life is a great non-profit organization where 100% of the money goes to funding a latrine and clean water system. At only \$250.00 per system, For those inclined to donate to a non-profit, I cannot think of a better way to spend this amount of money. Adrienne and I look forward to returning to Cambodia and go on another "off the grid" rewarding adventure."

May 30,, 2019