

CAMBODIA & OUR PROJECTS

by

Barbara Seagram & Patti Lee

OUR SCHOOLS



Chan Teap School
Takeo



Brighter Beginnings & Calogero
and Luke Puma Library - Prokeab



Happy Gecko & Library - Bakot



Battambang - Phnom Sampov



Taprom Village - Kampot

Our Cambodia Projects

In 2011, Patti Lee, Barbara Seagram and a group of 50, docked in Phnom Penh. We were armed with clothing, pens, notebooks, rulers, sharpeners, toys, pencils, stickers, and other school supplies. We had heard about an Ontario resident, Lisa McCoy, who had dedicated the last few years to working in Cambodia for several months per year. Working alongside Lisa was a fabulous lady, Australian Pauline Johns. Currently, Pauline is living in Cambodia about 6 months per year and heads up the Cambodian organization 'Banyan Tree Organization', which manages all of our projects in Cambodia. Pauline volunteers all of her time and pays for all of her travel and living.

In 2011, our group and other friends from the Toronto area donated 40 bicycles to a school outside of Phnom Penh. We went there in a small tuk-tuk along the dusty roads through Phnom Penh and out into the countryside to find that the school was a one-room shack with a cement floor and no desks or chairs. The bikes were given to children, mainly children of landmine victims. It was all very uplifting but Patti and Barbara looked at each other and wondered how long this shack would remain standing.

We inquired how much it would cost to build a permanent school and found that it would cost \$24,000.00 We returned to Toronto determined to build a school. We raised \$40,000.00 that year, so we also furnished two other schools and built a library at one of the schools. Since then, two more schools have been added; we now have over 600 students in our schools—and we remain committed to sustaining all FIVE schools at a cost of \$40,000 CDN per year. This pays for the salaries of the teachers and librarians, all of the supplies for the teachers and students, lease payments, electricity, maintenance etc. You can see that money goes a long way in this country.



Over the years, many outreach programs have been undertaken to help these landmine affected families to become self-sufficient: a bike repair business, chicken farmer training, sewing lessons with a sewing machine, crafts, a technology centre, and a weaving centre.

There are many that do not have a safe, private toilet. The absence of a safe, private toilet leads to serious health issues, as well as sexual abuse of women and girls. Our schools all have toilets, thus ensuring that the girls can attend school even during their menstrual period. Without toilets at the schools the girls would miss many days a month of school and often do not return once this has happened a few times.

Our focus is to make sure that our students and villages have:

1. Access to safe water. This is a fundamental human need and a basic human right. In some cases, this may be as simple as teaching them the necessity of boiling water.
2. Good hygiene and sanitation practices. Handwashing stations / Toilets / Days for Girls kits.

Current and planned projects:

- We will be sponsoring a second student to start university in August, 2019. Both our first year and upcoming second year students are 3-year commitments, which include tuition, books, and living expenses.
- We have installed 10 toilets over the past year for 10 families in the villages near our schools. TEN more toilets will be installed over the next year for ten other families.
- We have installed handwashing stations at one school, and will be installing them in two more schools over the next year.
- We are looking at projects to capture rain water to be used as safe drinking water for the children while at school.

Patti and Barbara are excited and optimistic about all of these projects and the fundraisers that we do every year. If you are unable to attend one of our fundraisers, but still wish to make a donation, we would be so grateful. Barbara and Patti are an Agency of a charity in Canada; as well, they have formed an alliance with a charity in the USA. As a result, all Canadian and USA donors can receive tax receipts, valid for their own country.

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*Thank you for caring,
Barbara Seagram & Patti Lee*

To make a donation, please send a cheque made payable to:

**Barbara Seagram
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Toronto ON M4N 1T2
Canada**

or to

**Patti Lee
8 South Kingslea Drive
Toronto, ON M8Y 2A3
Canada**

You will receive a tax-deductible receipt for any donation of \$25 or more.

Please include your postal and your email addresses with your donation.



Our NGO in Cambodia has been in operation for 8 years due to the support of many wonderful people. We now have 5 schools in Cambodia

