



Build Your Future Today Newsletter January - December 2023

1.

Message From Mr. Sedtha Long

Dear Friends and Supporters of BFT Locally and Around the Globe,

While the world has been plagued by a number of major events in 2023 bringing trauma to many people, I pray and hope that you have all stayed safe and healthy through the year.

For BFT, the generosity we have seen from our many supporters has allowed to the BFT Team to accomplish much which will improve the lives of many poor Cambodians, particularly in rural villages.

This newsletter provides information on a range of the projects carried out by the Team in 2023 with the generous support of Bob and Indu Shah with Polio Children in Need (UK), Michael Couch (US), Bill Taylor, the SE Asia Foundation (US), our friends at P.O.E.M. (France) and Friends of BFT in Hong Kong, Germany and Australia, Rotary Australia and International, Bikes4Life, and others. In addition, support from Gillian Cappelletto, Dr. Michael John, Sue & John Ferguson, Gillian and Ben Gray, Sharon Pearce & Pete Ridley, Katrina & John Hayward and others have helped pay staff salaries and fund university studies. Friends of BFT Australia continued to provide invaluable support as individuals and through their efforts to coordinate the sourcing of funds from many sources including Rotary Clubs in Australia and Rotary International. We have also enjoyed the continued support from Lion Clubs and friends in Singapore and Trees of Love along with our many volunteers who have given so generously of their time.



Our donors, volunteers and supporters have allowed us to undertake many major projects such as building new primary and secondary and high schools, expanding existing schools, adding libraries and teacher and students accommodation facilities, increasing the supply of clean reliable water and improving sanitation through the building of many toilets as well as continuing our ongoing core activities of providing health and nutrition education, learning center of English and computer literacy, peace building and skills development to allow villagers to earn a sustainable living. Villagers have also benefited from feeding programs and other forms of food supply.

Supporters have helped introduce new initiatives with the potential to provide better futures for many poor Cambodians. Cooperative duck farms (the Gray family), a responsible cow bank and vegetable especially mushroom farms by Tawingo Funds are all introducing new skills to villagers.

The team here at BFT has continued to do great work throughout the year. They have persevered tirelessly throughout the year to better the lives of poor Cambodians. In this, they have been helped by numerous volunteers, including Threads of Red (US) on a return visit, the Singaporean Medical Team Mission and the Australian Volunteer Program. The team has also successfully renewed MoUs with Cambodian Government Ministries which provide the basis for working cooperatively with the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education Youth and Sports, Ministry of Health, Cambodian Development Council and others.

Many others have also provided support to BFT and I want to personally thank all of our compassionate supporters, donors and friends from around the world.

May you have Happiness, Health, Prosperity and Peace in 2024 and always! Please visit us in Cambodia soon to witness some of our accomplishments first-hand!

Founder & Director, Prof. Long Sedtha

Message from Mr Bill Taylor, the Founder of SE Asia Foundation

On behalf of our SE Asia Foundation, I send our heartfelt feelings of goodwill and appreciation for a wonderful year of partnership during 2023 – all the while looking forward to an even better year serving those marginalized Cambodians most in need during 2024. As the founder of our SE Asia Foundation, and an active and involved Rotarian, I count Sedtha Long and his wonderful BFT team as both dear friends and wonderful partners. With love, affection, and commitment as we move ahead into another year of life-changing service.

The founder of SE Asia Foundation, Mr. Bill Taylor



Knowledge is Hope & Peace is Development.

The second high school building, dormitories, kitchen for students and teachers funded by The DEVCHANDBHAI & KANKUBEN Foundation & Polio Children in Needs

Bob and Indu Shah have been kindly working very effectively in supporting in the area of education development particular in school building libraries, dormitories, kitchen and toilets projects for Otakok High School in Kontout Commune, Svay Lue District of Siem Reap Provinces.



At the end of November Bob and Indu Shah along with their friends returned to Otakok to attend the grand opening of the new high school building, Library, teachers and students dormitories where they funded. These building facilities will help ensure the students from secondary able to go to higher education level and which in the future these people will come to help develop their own community as well as their own future.



Clean Water System in Dang Rek—Banteay Meanchey Province donated by The DEVCHANDBHAI & KANKUBEN Foundation:

The clean water system also installed successfully and already began providing its services to the whole community and all villages surrounding Dang Rek. This clean water system will provide safe drinking water to all villages, all primary, secondary and high schools students.

Marty Hasting and Summit Jewelers Supporting School in Cambodia

Marty Hasting a dedicated individual, has been making a significant impact on education in Cambodia. Through Summit Jewelers of St. Louis, Missouri, Marty has been instrumental in supporting schools in the region.



One of their most recent construction projects involved building a new school facility for the children of Cambodia. Not only did Summit Jewelers construct the school building, but they also generously provided funds for hundreds of textbooks, shoes for the children, and various other educational tools. This unwavering support from Marty and Summit Jewelers has made a positive difference in the lives of many young learners.



We express our deepest gratitude to Marty Hasting for his commitment to education and humanitarian efforts in Cambodia. His dedication is truly commendable, and we look forward to seeing more positive changes brought about by his initiatives.

Michael Couch's Aid in Kontout and Ta Siem Project in Svay Lue District

Early January 2023, Bill Taylors, the founder of SE Asia Foundation introduced Michael Couch from the USA, Michael landed Siem Reap and was brought to visit BFT projects in Svay Lue and Chi Kreang Districts. Michael started his partnership with BFT and started funding our four years village sustainable project for Prey Lngeang to address the challenges in the 3 areas of Education Development, Health and Nutrition, and Capacity building & Livelihood Improvement. Since the mid of February,



Michael had funded the first five classrooms building for Prey Lngeang, and then another building with multiple use as teacher office, computer labs, library, Khmer traditional dancing class, dining and meeting hall and safe drinking water system and tool shed.



In addition to these Michael also support many hundreds of school uniforms, bicycles, fruit and flower trees, girls feminine pads, school supplies, buying fans, setup playground, football, volley ball and basket ball fields, building toilets, buying teachers and students desks for other nine schools in the same region



Learning Center, Peace Building, Family Adoption Support and Nutrition funded by Friends of BFT Germany

English and Computer Program

Our English and Computer programs have continued to operate as normal with larger groups of children at BFT. There are 100 students attending the evening classes from 5pm to 7pm at the evening through Monday—Friday. Around 20 computers learners attending the computer classes different hours from the morning to the evening.



Family Adoption Support

With the funding we received from FoBFT Germany we managed to provide adoption support to help some families in Sre Robong and in Kromom Bol. These families were trained on proper animal and

agricultural techniques and were then provided with some seed money to start their businesses at their own houses. Thanks to the help of FoBFT Germany.

Peace Building



Aim and Ven. Veasna have continued working to provide more consoling support to 30 families from three villages in the districts of Svay Lue and Chi Kreang. The follow up visits have been carried out by the peace building team.

Child Support



Over 20 children at communities and Learning Center have received supports to access public school and learning various skill of English and Computer literacy daily. A big thank you to our donors in Germany for their continued support in

providing these children's education, family adoption, and community life skills training. The children and adopted families are so grateful for their compassionate commitment and contributions to making significant changes in their lives.



Mobile Library

Our Mobile Library project has reached 17 schools in the remote rural areas of Siem Reap. We are happy to report that 2025 children and adults participated in our program. They had the opportunity to read, research, and play with the guidance of our librarian and social worker.



In addition, the team also taught hygiene to children and basic health education to all the students from the schools we visited.



The 3rd Rotary Global Grant Project Plan and preparation of washroom in Tapour Village

We would like to let you know that our friends and supporters at Friends of BFT Australia and USA have been working closely with the Rotary Club of Chadstone East Malvern and the Rotary World of Difference foundation on another major project - this time for the installation of community washrooms to provide improved hygiene, reduced water contamination, and also safety and privacy, especially for young women. Siem Reap province.



Currently, our well trained local constructors have been building more than 80 washroom toilets already in Tapour village.



Threds of Red from the USA & UK Hi everyone!

Our group of volunteers from Threds of Red, a wonderful organization from the UK and USA, joined us in conducting health education sessions on menstrual health and hygiene for older girls and boys in school. We also talked to adults and parents about sexual health, sexually-



transmitted diseases and family planning. These are very important topics that are often neglected or misunderstood in these communities. We visited 7 villages and reached out to more than 1000 children of different ages. We also provided health sessions to 516 adults, glasses to 627 people, and support to 12 teachers. We estimate that we interacted with over 1700 people in total, providing education, advice, support and glasses. We were amazed by the enthusiasm and curiosity of the villagers, especially the children, who asked many questions and learned a lot from us.



We are so grateful to our volunteers from Threds of Red for their commitment and contributions. They showed loving care and sympathy to the villagers, especially the children, who face many challenges and difficulties in their lives. They made a huge difference with their generosity and kindness.



BFT Friends of Hong Kong

We are so grateful to BFT Friends of Hong Kong, Melissa, Patrick and their awesome kids for their kindness and generosity in 2023. They brought us a lot of educational stuff for our kids, teachers and Mobile Library. And they also got their friends in Hong Kong to chip in more money to buy books for our libraries. These materials are super helpful and valuable for our kids' learning.



The Tawingo Funds and SE Asia Foundation for donations to support projects—*Responsible Cow bank in Oroong Village*

We are happy to announce that our cow-raising workshop in Oroong was a success! eighteen families participated in the two-day training and learned how to care for and breed cows. As a reward, we gave them 20 cows to start their own livestock



business. Each family received two cows and will share the offspring with other families in the community.

We expect that in the next 18 months, there will be at least 15 new calves and more families will benefit from this project. This is a great way to improve their income and living standards.

We are very grateful to our generous partners at Tawingo Funds and SE Asia Foundation for their valuable contributions and support that make our mission possible.



Bike4life and Friends of BFT Australia donated 333 bicycles and many hundreds clothes, toys and book to students in Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey Provinces

We are so happy to share all of you that finally the container full of hundreds of bikes, clothes, toys, text books and many other materials has already distributed students in the remote rural areas from both Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey Provinces.



We are grateful for Bike4life and Friends of BFT Australia for your donation of bikes, clothes, books, and toys. Your contribution will help us make a positive impact on the lives of many children. Thank you for your kindness and support.



Friends of BFT France — POEM Foundation

We are delighted to share with you the wonderful news of our achievements in 2022, made possible by the generous support of our friends and donors from PEOM Foundation from France.

They have helped us to build a library, a teacher office, a kitchen and more facilities for Dang Rek and Prey Chka Secondary and High schools in Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey.

They have also provided us with funds to buy stationery, printers, projectors and some laptops for our students and teachers.

We are very grateful for their contribution and support.



Ongoing Cooperative Duck Farm by Gray's Family and FoBFT Aus

We have some great news to share with you. Our two ducks cooperatives in Kromom Bol and La'ak are doing very well. They are helping many families improve their lives and income. Our project manager of Community Development, Mr. Ly Sina, has been working hard to support them and monitor their progress.



We are so grateful to Gill and Benn for their generous donation and encouragement. Without them, this project would not be possible. They have made a huge difference for these communities. Thank you for reading and stay tuned for more updates!



Singaporean Medical Team - Project Songkeum



What a week it has been! We had the pleasure of hosting the amazing medical students from Project Songkeum Singapore, who came to join our medical team in providing health education and services to our community.



They were so enthusiastic, friendly and professional, and they made a huge difference in the lives of the children from Prey Lngeang, Tapour and Oroong. we are grateful for the memories and the partnership. Thank you, Project Songkeum Singapore, for your dedication and generosity.

Village Football Training by HFCA

The Village Cup was an awesome event for kids (both boys and girls) who love soccer. It was hosted by our awesome partner, Happy Football Cambodia Australia (HFCA) in Siem Reap last Sunday.



More than 200 kids from different village schools like Oroong, Chub Smach, Srah Srong and Siem Reap, Cambodia joined the fun with Ivanhoe Grammar School from Melbourne, Australia. They had a blast playing soccer with each other and making new friends. They also got to see the amazing Angkor Wat and learn more about the culture.



We are so grateful to HFCA and all the supporters who made this possible. They gave their time, energy and money to help these kids have a wonderful experience. They showed them so much love and care. We hope they all had a great time and got home safely and happily.



THANK YOU NOTES TO BFT FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS ABROAD

Thank you to Gillian and Michael Cappelletto, Sue Ferguson for their ongoing support in funding wages for team members.



We would also like to thank Friends of BFT HK for continued sponsoring our teacher from Chingha school to university,



to Sharon and Pete, friends in Australia for continued sponsoring our school teacher from Sre Robong to University, An Eng is now in year 2 in University.



and Katrina and John Hayward for sponsoring Nursing studies for one of our young women who has now successfully completed her third year of Nursing University.



We also want to acknowledge the ongoing support of Friends of BFT Australia, Friends of BFT Germany and their directors who individually and as a group do so much for BFT.



Tree planting by Trees of Love – Jo Reynolds

The Trees of Love initiative is a rewarding project that allows sponsors from different countries to purchase and plant fruit tree saplings in Cambodia. More than 300 saplings have been planted to date, for various reasons such as celebrating life, giving eco-friendly gifts, or remembering loved ones.

The saplings are distributed in many villages in the most disadvantaged areas of Cambodia, often in collaboration with schools that BFT supports. These saplings also have long-term benefits for the communities. They will provide fruit and wood for consumption and income, shade for comfort, and nutrients for the soil. These are truly Trees of Love.



Two Classrooms Building for Primary School in Tapour by SE Asia Foundation and Tawingo Fund

Congratulations to the villagers of Tapour on their new school Inauguration Ceremony! It is a very special day for the children, teachers and villagers of Tapour village in Svay Leu of having new building of two classrooms for their school. All of them including the local authorities are excited and would like to extend their deepest appreciation and gratitude to our compassionate partners, Mr. Bill Taylor and Mrs. Sophal at [SE Asia Foundation](#) and Tawingo Funds for kindly donating funds to build this school and support the children's nutritious breakfast.



New Partner Volunteer Australia Program

Thank you so much to Susan Black from Australian Volunteer Program for conducting a workshop and sharing the BFT team of the concepts of Social Business Enterprise. Her kind commitment with this useful knowledge helped us to understand and get more ideas on how to take a better thinking and planning for the future movement to support the BFT to help communities with the approaches of self-reliance and sustainability manner.



A special thank you to Gill and Lill for kindly introducing us to new friends and partner especially the ones at Australian Volunteer Program (AVP) during your times with us.



Thomas Geier - Friends of BFT Germany Donated Funds to BFT

Firstly we would like to say CONGRATULATIONS TO YOUR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY, Thomas. We believed that all of you must have a very great celebrations with your dear friends and lovely families. On behalf of the children and the families we supported, we would like to extend our sincere admiration and deepest gratitude to your compassionate donations through raising funds on the special occasion of your silver wedding anniversary to support the BFT. Your generosity with caring support and sympathy are very important and will provide opportunities to help building hope,

peace and a better future for more disadvantaged children's education.



Celebration of International Children's Day at BFT

We are proud of our children at the BFT learning center. They all participated in the International Children's Day celebration, which was full of joy and laughter. It was a wonderful occasion to honor their rights and achievements.



Friends of BFT Singapore Donated Funds for Cycling Charity Event

On behalf of the FOBFT team, disadvantaged children and their families from 6 villages at the regional school of Dang Rek by the borders of Cambodia and Thailand we would like to extend our appreciation and gratitude to Anna Lau and friends of Singapore for collaborating and supporting our Cycling Charity on August 13th. All the best luck to all of you.



Golden Medals as a Reward to Five BFT Staff from the government

Congratulations to BFT team members received honor reward from government officials for their highly committed and contributed to the development works in Cambodia.



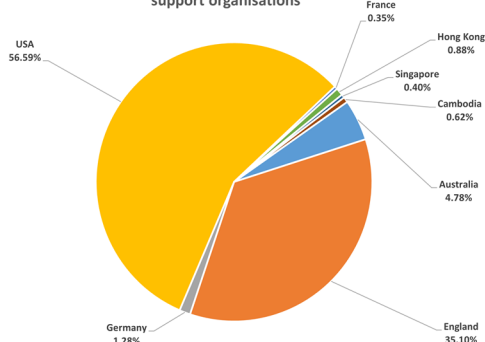


Financials and Recognition

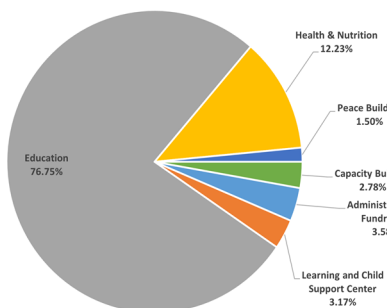
9.

BFT Donations
1 Jan - 31 December 2023
(Total US\$630,114.17)

Note: Amounts shown by country are from official support organisations



BFT Expenditure
1 Jan -31 December 2023
(Total US \$ 623,051.69)



BFT Center received donation income of \$630,114 for the year 2023. This represents a very pleasing recovery following the down-turn in income in the two years following the Covid-19 Pandemic, with income up by 188% from 2021.

The major contribution to the increase in funding comes from our very generous donors in the USA and England, while our continued support from Australia, Germany, France, Hong Kong and Singapore is also greatly appreciated. The increased funding has allowed us to further expand delivery of projects and services in our villages. \$170,000 in 2022 to \$470,000 in 2023), while maintaining or increasing investment of facilities and services in all of our other areas.

Importantly, the proportion of expenses relating to administration and fundraising has been kept low, at 3.6% , meaning that 96.4% of the money donated to BFT Center is committed to the delivery of services and projects in the villages.

In the village project, 96.4% of the budget is allocated as follows: 68.84% is dedicated to construction costs, which include the school, library, toilets, hand washing facilities, teacher accommodations, water filtration system, and water storage stands. The remaining 27.56% is used for other operational activities and projects such as training, meetings, travel, project staff, school supplies, feeding, and provision of hygiene supplies. .



International BFT Friends

BFT Friends from Australia, America, Germany, Singapore, Norway, England, France, & Hong Kong

Special thanks to our valued local private sector, local and International volunteers and individual supporters from around the globe.

THE DEVCHANDBHAI & KANKUBEN FOUNDATION



OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS



BFT would like to thank all our other friends who have donated over the last six months and all BFT Friends around the world who are working tirelessly to raise awareness and funds to support our valued mission. We are very grateful for all your support and passion. It is amazing to see so many people and organizations committed to the BFT cause. We are humbled and grateful to see—people from Cambodia and people from all over the world—engaging in a network to improve the quality of life and opportunities for the Cambodian people who need our help most.

THANK YOU!