

Progress report on SOID and Veal Village School in Siem Reap, Cambodia



Dear all,

In this Newsletter we want to inform you briefly about a number of subjects concerning SOID. We have issued our previous newsletter earlier this year on May 12, 2015.

SOID

In 2006, Mr. Sok Vanna, a Cambodian, established a local Non-governmental Organization (NGO) in Siem Reap. The name of the organization is "Supporting orphans and indigent People of Cambodia For Development Organization (SOID)", which means "Organisation to support the development of orphans and the poor in Cambodia". SOID is a Cambodian government registered organization that focuses on education.

1. Foundation Global Exploration (SGE)

SGE has already been working with SOID for several years. Also in 2015 SGE has donated a significant amount to SOID for improvements and maintenance at the school. Specifically, the following was done in July 2015:

- They placed shutters in front of the (glassless) windows of the school to keep out the rain. See photo on page 1.
- The worn-out sunshade over the playground has been replaced. See picture below.
- The broken projector for the digital lessons has been replaced by another, second-hand projector. The broken electrical generator has been replaced by a new one. Two new laptops have been purchased for the computer class.
- Money has been made available for English classes for two teachers from SOID.
- In the office of the director they put floor covering on the concrete floor and they placed a desk and chair set.

A group of about 40 students and supervisors of the Graaf Huyn College, Geleen visited the school in July 2015. They have made a most useful contribution by painting school desks and interacting with the children. See pictures below.

SOID is very grateful for the support they received from the Foundation Global Exploration.



2. Good news about Srey Mom

In our previous newsletters we told you the story about Srey Mom, a child from our SOID school. In 2014 this girl has been run over by a bus and as a result of that she had her right leg amputated. We then approached the Dutch Foundation 'Liliane Fonds'. This foundation helps children with disabilities in developing countries. The foundation has commissioned a local partner organization to help Srey Mom with a prosthesis and rehabilitation program. In September 2015 she received it: Srey Mom got a prosthesis now! She is also working on her rehabilitation in a hospital in Siem Reap. We are very grateful for the help we received from the 'Liliane Fonds' .



Furthermore, we can report to our great joy that Srey Mom also passed her admission exam at the end of September 2015 for secondary education at a state school (see also § 6).

3. Visit of Martine and Jaak to SOID

In August 2015 Martine and Jaak, our Belgian board members, visited SOID for a number of weeks. They have had intensive consultations with director Vanna on a large number of subjects, they also have evaluated education in general and they also did fun things for the children of SOID.

They also talked to Chamrong, the child that was severely weakened by malnutrition in early 2014. Fortunately, they can confirm that although Chamrong is still very slim, he is very lively and cheerful. The help SOID gave to him and his grandmother had the desired result.

Chamrong



Martine and Jaak also visited Thay Thear in the capital of Cambodia; Phnom Penh. They visited the hairdresser's saloon where he works. SOID cared for this boy for several years, and SOID has created an opportunity for him to follow a hairdresser training. Everything goes well with Thay Thear. He can take care of himself and he is no longer dependent on SOID.



Jaak, Martine and Thay Thear

4. Providing for children at SOID

SOID provides shelter and care for five children whose parents are deceased or are missing. Mid 2015 the children had to leave the house where they lived since early 2009 because the owner had other plans for the house. After a long search and a much hassle, the children were eventually placed in another rental property. It is smaller and less convenient than the previous home, but for a reasonable rent, we couldn't find anything else. The children are happy with their new home.

5. Dining for charity

In recent years, Peter and Marlene, good friends of ours, raised money for SOID by giving dinners in their home. They have done it again in the summer of 2015. They have held five dinners for which they have done all the work themselves. A large number of their friends has participated, and donated in this way to SOID. Peter and Marlene donated the total amount of € 1200, - to SOID. We are very grateful for this great financial support!



6. Continuing Education

At the end of the school year October 2014 - September 2015, there were eight children for whom SOID pays for secondary education at a state school. These children are doing very well in school. In the performance ranking in their class at the end of the school year, they all finished at places between number 2 - 6, in classes of over 40 students.

End of September 2015 five students from SOID's school did an admission exam for secondary education in the state school. It was very exciting, especially of course for the candidates. By early October we had the outcome: the five candidates passed with good scores!

For three of the children SOID has got the money to cover the cost for three years (currently € 1900 per child). A Dutch couple who cares a lot about SOID will bear these costs. In addition, this couple has made a donation to strengthen the financial position of SOID. For the fourth child we have requested an American foundation for a scholarship. It is not certain that is going to succeed. For the fifth child we do not yet have a solution that covers

the costs (€ 1900). Nevertheless we decided to send all five kids now to secondary school, because we don't want to waste any talent.

In October 2015 Piseth, one of the orphans of SOID who has completed three years of secondary education will start ' High School' in the state school. This will be paid for by the American foundation we mentioned before.

If all goes according to plan, then at the end of 2015 a total of 13 children will receive continued education paid for by SOID. We are very happy that this is possible.

In January 2016 we will visit our organization in Cambodia again.

Wim en Gertie Dohmen



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Feel free to donate to our organization...

