TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Note from the Executive Director .................................................. Page 2
Health Program – WASHing Out Disease Through Better Sanitation ...... Page 3
Food Security Program – Fish Farming Trainings ................................ Page 4
Education Program – Inauguration of New School Building ............... Page 5
Economic Development Program – Marketing Women’s Center Wares .... Page 6
Staff/Board Profile – Meet Board Member Sam Aun ................................ Page 7
Other News – Celebrate World Water Day With A Contribution ............ Page 7
The Final Word – More Photos of Inauguration of New School Building ... Page 8

(Cover Photo of Water Filters on Route to a Rural Family in Cambodia)
Hello Trailblazer Supporters,

Today, March 22nd, is World Water Day, officially designated in 1993 by the United Nations General Assembly, to place focus on the importance of clean, healthy water to all humans. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, launched in 2015, include a target to ensure everyone on the planet has access to safe water by 2030. This highlights how critical clean water is in our collective efforts to eradicate extreme poverty around the globe.

Stated more simply, it all starts with water.

For Trailblazer, and our focus on Cambodia's Siem Reap province, this truth is reflected in our organization tagline: *Developing ripples of sustainability through community water projects.*

Providing water filters and drilling wells are the first two services Trailblazer offers our rural village partners, in helping them move from survival to sustainability. This is why, in our mission statement, we listed health as the first of our four programs:

> To improve health, food security, education, and economic development in rural Cambodian ways that are self-sustaining by the individuals and communities we serve.

Most people are aware of the direct connection between good health and the ability for a person to prosper. In most developing countries, it is as simple as children being able to go to school when they are healthy, and parents having enough time and energy to work in the store, the home, or the fields. Water-borne diseases are the greatest threat to human health in Cambodia's Siem Reap province.

To that end, Trailblazer's Health program focuses on providing clean water to families and villages, and constructing latrines to help increase a family's, or village's, overall hygiene. The article below, under "Health", is about the latrines we build for rural Cambodian families each year.

In this newsletter, you can also learn more about our four agricultural trainings, read about the official inauguration of our 2016 school, and get the latest news on our efforts to help the local Women's Development Center their textiles and other products to new customers.

As for clean water, our present fundraising campaign is focused on providing water filters to seventy families in two villages. I hope you will support this fundraising effort (if you haven't already). It's Trailblazer's way of celebrating World Water Day and the importance of providing clean water to all people - including those who live in rural villages in Cambodia.

Cheers (with a glass of clean water).

Chris Coats  
Co-Founder and Executive Director
Health Program

Latrines - WASHing Out Disease Through Better Sanitation

While Trailblazer Foundation is best known for our work providing water filters and wells to rural Cambodian families, through our Health program we also provide the resources needed to build latrines. Latrines may be Trailblazer's least glorious project area, yet building latrines is another of our important services. This is especially true when it comes to advancing health in the rural communities where we work.

Clean water and latrines tie Trailblazer Foundation directly into a worldwide health strategy known as WASH. WASH stands for "Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene," a group of interrelated public health issues which are the focus of many international development organizations (especially in many Asian countries, like Cambodia). WASH programs are widely considered to hold great potential for improving health, life expectancy, student learning, gender equality, and other key benefits in developing countries. For Trailblazer, WASH is a complementary framework to our focus on using water projects to advance sustainable community development as a whole.

In Cambodia's Siem Reap Province, Trailblazer Foundation provides the basic set-up for new latrines (concrete septic tanks and latrine floor), and trains the villagers on the proper use and care of each latrine. Villagers invest in the project by providing dirt for the latrine's foundation, some of the labor to build the latrines, and by constructing the latrines' walls and roof structure.

In 2016, Trailblazer built just four latrines. This year, we have committed to increasing that number to fifty latrines. With typically one family using each latrine, and with an average family size of 5 people, in 2017 we expect to directly benefit 250 people with new latrines.

So far this year, our team in Cambodia has built twenty-five latrines. They expect to complete another twenty-five by the end of June. This means that with adequate funding, we may be able to surpass our objective of building fifty new latrines for 2017. Either way, Trailblazer has significantly increased our commitment to WASHing out disease through better sanitation conditions!

Please visit our website for more information about our Health Program: www.thetrailblazerfoundation.org.
Food Security Program

Fish Farming - Expanding Our Agricultural Trainings To Include Aquaculture

For most, if not all, of us reading this article, “food security” is not something about which we have to worry. Most, if not all, of us reading this article have "reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food." Yet, this is not the case for many rural villagers in Cambodia, or other developing countries for that matter.

In fact, the second goal of the United Nations’ seventeen Sustainable Development Goals is to "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture." Given how high a priority this strategy is for rural community development, Trailblazer’s second program is titled just that - Food Security.

When most people think of improving a family's, or a community's, "food security," they think of agriculture - the ability for farmers to grow enough crops to feed their family. For many years, we at Trailblazer Foundation had this same focus, and historically most of our agricultural trainings were about horticulture and composting. In recent years, we have seen our partners villagers ask for more trainings in small-scale fish farming.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (of the United Nations), fish farming, or aquaculture as it is more formally referred to, can make an important contribution to poverty alleviation, food security and social well-being, and already does in many developing countries. In fact, fish is often the cheapest form of animal protein to acquire.

In 2017, we at Trailblazer are scheduled to host three trainings on fish farming, with 10 participants each. Trailblazer's Cambodian staff conducts these trainings, which take place in the villages where the participants live. At the conclusion of each training, graduates receive 500 fish fingerlings and some educational materials to help them start their new fish farm.

While we have a modest fish farm training objective for 2017, we will use these trainings as an opportunity to fine-tune our teaching model, with an eye toward increasing the number of people we train in fish farming next year, and beyond.

For more information about our Food Security program, please visit our website: www.thetrailblazerfoundation.org.
Education Program

**Trailblazer Holds Inauguration for New Secondary School Building**

Back in early November, Trailblazer Foundation joined with our local affiliate, Trailblazer Angkor, and a host of local, regional and national Cambodian government representatives, to officially inaugurate the new secondary school we constructed in Sret Village. This school is the seventh school building Trailblazer has constructed since 2005, and it has room enough to serve 480 students.

In the fall of 2015, our Board of Directors redoubled Trailblazer's commitment to constructing a new school building each year, and we are pleased to have secured the funding for such a project in 2016. We say "new school building" because sometimes we are asked to replace an existing structure which no longer meets the needs of that community. Such is the case with our 2016 school construction project.

This new school building in Sret Village replaced a structure that was built in 1965, and had only three classrooms. The new building has six classrooms, equipped with desks, chairs, and chalkboards. Sret Village showed its commitment to the $80,000 project by raising the first $3,000, a significant sum for a village of that size and economic capacity. At the time of the inauguration, the new school building was already being used.

Attending the school inauguration, along with Trailblazer's in-country Program Manager, and the manager of Trailblazer Angkor (our Cambodian affiliate), were the National Assembly Member for Siem Reap Province, the District governor, and the commune chief. During the ceremony, our Program Manager, the manager of Trailblazer Angkor, and the National Assembly Member for Siem Reap Province gave gifts of books, pens, pencils, and rulers to the students, and sarongs (skirts) to the attending villagers.

Trailblazer sends a very big thanks to The British Schools Foundation and Four Girls for Families for providing most of the funding for the construction of this new building - these students would not be enjoying their new school without these two donors.

You can see more photographs from the inauguration ceremony at the end of this newsletter.

For more information about our Education program, please visit our website: www.thettrailblazerfoundation.org.
Economic Development Program

*Marketing the Women’s Development Center’s Wares*

As we have mentioned in past newsletters, for several years, Trailblazer has been informally supporting the local Women's Development Center, by donating sewing machines to be used for training and equipping women to produce and sell textiles. Since 2010, Trailblazer has donated 50 sewing machines to the Center. Of those, 20 are still being used by the Center for its trainings. The remaining 30 machines were given to graduates of the Center's five-month sewing training program. The graduates use the machines to produce clothing and other products to sell.

Both Trailblazer and the Women's Development Center want to formalize and deepen our relationship. The Center receives some financial support from the Cambodian Ministry of Woman's Affairs. However, this support is not sufficient to meet the Center's needs related to growth and sustainability. Trailblazer Foundation would like to fill that gap, by providing the funding and technical assistance needed to address the Center's priority needs.

To that end, in 2017, Trailblazer is helping the Center meet two priority needs: [1] more sewing machines for its trainees and graduates (we plan to donate 20 machines this year); and [2] marketing the sale of textiles and other products, made by graduates of the Center's training programs, to tourists and local businesses.

Specific to increasing sales of the Center's products, Trailblazer and the Center have begun reaching out to tour companies and local retail shops to [1] promote the Center as a place for tour companies to visit, learn, and shop while on route to or from Angkor Wat, and [2] identify shops within Siem Reap City where the Center can sell its wares. Our goal is to establish ongoing partnerships with three-to-five tour companies, and three-to-five in-town businesses, by the end of 2017.

At present, we are working with one tour company to include a visit to the Center as part of its Angkor Wat tour. Also, we are already in the planning and negotiation stage with one in-town business. We look forward to reporting on these partnerships, and hopefully others, in our summer newsletter.

For more information about our Economic Development program, please visit our website: www.thetrailblazerfoundation.org.
Staff/Board Profile

Meet Sam Aun, Our Board Secretary

A Trailblazer board member since 2014, Sam was born and grew up in Cambodia. He has a degree in Business Management Administrative (2003) from The Business Institute of Cambodia, in Phnom Penh. While still in Cambodia, Sam worked in marketing research, and owned and operated a private school.

During his latter years in Cambodia, Sam was an active volunteer in his home country with United Methodist Mission. It was during one of these missions that he met his wife, a native of Fort Collins, Colorado. Sam moved to the United States in 2010 to join her there. They now have one son.

These days, Sam is Product Manager for Happy Lucky's Teahouse and Treasures, in Fort Collins. Passionate about wanting to continue helping his people, Sam continues to go on "Medical Mission Trips" to Cambodia with his local Christ United Methodist Church.

Being a native Cambodian, Sam understands the importance of clean water for the villagers of his home country, and is happy to be part of Trailblazer Foundation's efforts.

You can learn more about the rest of our Board of Directors on our website: www.thetrailblazerfoundation.org.

Other News

Celebrate World Water Day By Helping Deliver Seventy Water Filters

Trailblazer Foundation prides itself on helping Cambodian villagers, and more broadly entire villages, move from survival to sustainability.

From our thirteen years of experience, we know that providing a water filter to each family in a village that wants one is the first step toward sustainability for that family, its members, and the village as a whole.

If you haven't done so already, please consider making a financial contribution to help us complete this process for two rural villages in Cambodia - Kok Kak and Kbal Krapeu villages, both in Siem Reap province.

In each village, there are 35 families that want a water filter, but haven't received one yet. By making a financial contribution now, you will help Trailblazer provide these 70 families with clean water. Given an average family size of five, you would be helping improve the health, and thus the quality of living, for 350 people in Cambodia.

Thank you for whatever support you have provided, or can provide. We'll toast you with a glass of clean water.

You can read more about this funding campaign, and make a contribution, under the DONATE button on our website: www.thetrailblazerfoundation.org.
A Final Word....

This is the newest section of our quarterly newsletter, where we provide a small visual look into life in Cambodia's Siem Reap province. Typically, the photos will relate to Trailblazer's work. This issue, we offer additional images from the inauguration of our newest school building, from late last fall.