

Trailblazer Foundation's 2007 Community Development Projects



Having witnessed the difficulty people in many developing countries have just getting by, and believing in the ability for each of us to make a difference, Chris and Scott Coats from Jackson Hole, Wyoming established the Trailblazer Foundation in 2004. The group's motto is *helping the world, one step at a time*. Chris and Scott have spent the last three years living in Cambodia, learning directly from the rural villagers about what their needs are. This due diligence on the part of the Scotts has resulted in a clear understanding of where to focus Trailblazer Foundation's efforts to have the greatest impact. Their conclusion is simple but profound: focus on water — healthy water, in ample amounts — to meet the needs of Cambodians. From there, everything else flows. As Chris Coats has said:

“We began with a school project, but quickly learned that *water* needs to be the first priority. One must have access to clean potable water to improve health and sanitation. People must also have a water resource for growing their crops, livestock and fish — for their food and their commerce.”

Providing vaccinations, mosquito nets, and the like only treats the symptoms that are caused by a lack of healthy water. Bad water is the cause of illness, malnutrition and poverty. When there is good water, associated developments can occur to improve livelihoods and establish a sustainable commerce.”

In its short history, Trailblazer Foundation has established itself as a largely volunteer organization committed to *developing ripples of sustainability through community water projects*. In 2007, Trailblazer Foundation will focus on three projects — on the ground, in the villages, where it is most beneficial, where it will make the most difference, now and well into the future.



Floating Village Water Filter Expansion:

This project addresses human health and sanitation. Water filters will be constructed and placed on centrally located floating water stations. The cost is much greater than a more simple stationary water filter or well, but provides potable water for a larger number of individuals who are living in a floating village (not unlike what was depicted in the Hollywood film “Water World”). Trailblazer Foundation has committed to building this water filter for a village of 2,000 people, for a total cost of \$100,000. **Think about it; for a contribution of as little as \$50, you can provide a person with healthy water!**



Rural Village Water Filter/ Wells Expansion:

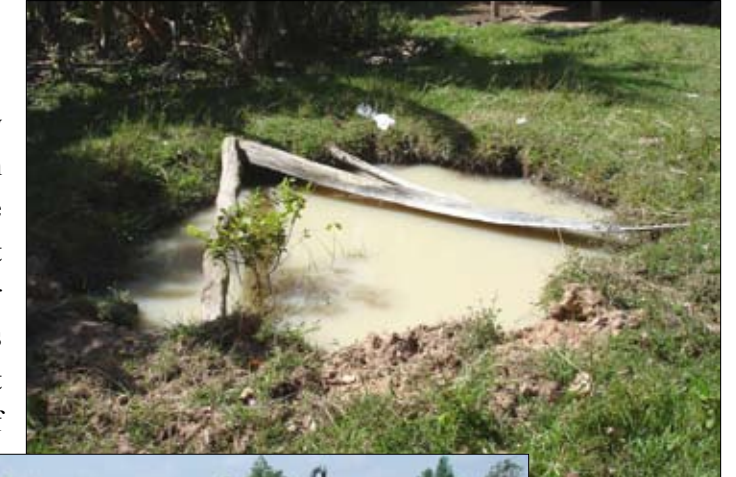
This project will provide a village of 1,200 people with healthy water, as well as an educational program about sanitation and good health. The cost of this project is \$36,000 — or the equivalent of \$30 per person. Trailblazer Foundation thinks it is far better to spend \$30 to provide people with healthy water than it is to use that same money to deal with the consequences of getting sick from one glass of bad water — which can cost local villagers in terms of medical care and medicine, loss of income, and the like. **Your contribution of \$30 or more will provide one or more people in Cambodia with water that helps them prosper instead of making them sick.**

Sustainable Rural Village Development:

This project will provide the education [we will build a school] and vocational training [regarding well drilling, sewing, etc.] needed to establish a community infrastructure, which in turn will

enable a rural village to develop sustainable commerce and micro-businesses. The World Bank describes three levels of poverty: poorest of poor; medium poor; and poor. This project will advance Trailblazer Foundation's model village, known as Sras Village, two levels up — from the “poorest of the poor” to

simply “poor.” This two-year project will cost \$180,000, or \$150 per person for a community of 1,200 people. **Please consider making a substantial difference in the life of a poorest of the poor Cambodian with a substantial contribution of \$150 or more.**



What Others Say About Trailblazer Foundation

American anthropologist Margaret Mead once wrote, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world.” Trailblazer Foundation is that type of small group of thoughtful people. The Foundation’s mission and work is compelling enough that many Americans have offered to help as volunteers, traveling all the way to Cambodia to help change the world for some of that nation’s rural villagers. Meanwhile, others who either work with, or provide support to, Trailblazer Foundation are taking notice. Here is what a few of them have to say about Trailblazer Foundation’s work:

As someone who has spent four years working in Cambodia in the field of Community Development, and as Project Coordinator on a United Nations Refugee Care Programme, I am very much aware of the importance of involving the community in all aspects of the decision making process in all aid projects.

In my dealings with Trailblazer Foundation and my conversations with Scott and Chris, I am sure these issues are being addressed fully. I am aware of the enormous need for this type of work in Cambodia, and am sure the project will be a great success.

~ Roger Wilson, New Plymouth, New Zealand

Global Medic has worked in Cambodia since 1999. We were really pleased to be able to partner with the Trailblazer’s Foundation. They are a hands-on group that produces really effective results.

~ Rahul Singh, Director, Emergency Programs, Global Medics

When I hear of Trailblazer Foundation’s goals and their detailed plans to achieve them, I am certain that Chris and Scott will make the best use of any monies they receive. Their purpose of sustainability is one of the greatest goals for a project, and their enthusiasm is very contagious.

~ Andi Danner, Sunnyside Presbyterian Church,
South Bend, Indiana

Working in a collaboration project between Agder University College in Norway and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in Cambodia, I work with 7 schools in Cambodia. Some of these schools are situated in quite rural areas, where the situation of drinking water is especially poor. I will use an example from the Chong Khneas Primary School, which is a floating school at the Tonle Sap. Here we observed students drinking water from the lake during their school day, while everything from the nearby toilet went directly into the water. Knowing that stomach pain, diarrhea and thirst affects the students’ concentration, we were very happy to learn about the work of Trailblazer Foundation and the production of locally produced water-filters. Through funds from Norway, we have placed three filters at the Chong Khneas Primary School. Also, we are happy to see the children using the water-filters not only during their school-day, but also to bring to their homes.

~ Kamilla Solheim, Associate Professor, Agder University College, Oslo, Norway (presently in Siem Reap, Cambodia)



Developing Ripples of Sustainability Through Community Water Projects



Please help the Trailblazer Foundation make a difference for rural villagers in Cambodia

Your generous contribution will help rural villages in Cambodia develop water projects that improve their ability to raise healthy families, adequate food and a sustainable income.

As we all know, we cannot live without water. Along with air, earth and fire, water is one of the four elements of life. We need it to survive, for as the old adage says, “Water is Life.”

This truth is at its starkest for people living in developing counties. It is often the presence or absence of water, in quantity and quality, that makes the difference between life and death. Whether one is trying to grow food and feed their livestock, or trying to keep their children from getting water-borne diseases, access to healthy, abundant water is a basic need. Rural villagers in third world countries have the greatest difficulty meeting this basic need.

Understanding that water permeates everything in life, the **Trailblazer Foundation** is working with rural villages in northwestern Cambodia to develop community water projects that enhance the villagers’ health and sustainability. Specifically, **Trailblazer Foundation** volunteers provide the expertise, training, supplies and funding these Cambodians need to build water systems that will improve their ability to raise healthy families, successful crops and livestock, and

small business incomes. To make the most of its resources, **Trailblazer Foundation** leverages its contributions by networking and collaborating with international government and non-government community development and aid organizations.

In one of the poorest countries in the world, where drought conditions exist four-to-five months of each year, and where one out of every seven children dies before the age of seven, many from water-borne diseases, **Trailblazer Foundation** is making a difference — one step at a time, one village at a time.

Trailblazer Foundation’s work in Cambodia’s rural villages demonstrates how a small group of thoughtful and committed people can make a substantial difference in the lives of many others.

Your support of the **Trailblazer Foundation’s** 2007 community development priorities will add another ripple to the **Trailblazer Foundation’s** expanding and positive impact on these villagers’ lives.