



Fall 2025 Newsletter

News from Trailblazer Foundation—

Giving Season Joy: Your warm support brings smiles



Every smile tells a story of hope—and it starts with clean, safe water.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Note from the Co-Founder and Executive Director, Chris Coats	Page 2 - 3
Health Program: Better Overall Health	Page 4 - 5
Food Security Program: Sustainable Farming	Page 5 - 6
Economic Development Program: Real and Lasting Benefits	Page 7 - 8
Education Program: Breaking the Cycle	Page 9
You May Wonder: How can I help?	Page 10
Maximize Your Impact: The Year-End Giving Campaign!	Page 11

Delivering health, education, and prosperity to rural Cambodia...

PO Box 271767 * FORT COLLINS * COLORADO * 80527

INFO@THETRAILBLAZERFOUNDATION.ORG * (307) 399-2192 * WWW.THETRAILBLAZERFOUNDATION.ORG

A Note From Trailblazer's Executive Director

Hello Trailblazers!

I trust you have enjoyed a wonderful summer and beautiful autumn. The leaves have turned amazing and brilliant hues of yellow, orange, gold, and red here in Colorado. It warms my heart to watch the transformation of nature and the cycle of life it takes from a colorful spring, through summer, to an autumnal paintbrush of color, signifying a respite is coming.

Although deciduous trees may be barren and stark, life remains safely inside their trunks to wait for the dawn of the next season. As nature can show us, we too can take a respite from the busyness of our lives and find joy in the warmth of the sun or the quiet change taking place around us, and prepare ourselves for a fresh start in the new year.

In this newsletter I have shared testimonials from some of our beneficiaries about how Trailblazer's efforts have impacted their lives. I thought you might enjoy reading their stories. Your warm support brought smiles to their faces and cultivated confidence in having a better life.

As we move into winter we are wrapping up the goals we made for 2025. Those goals were to:

- *distribute 300 of water filters, but our team actually installed 400*
- *drill 70 wells, but due to the heavy flooding this fall, the team was able to drill only 58*
- *construct 50 latrines, however we did not receive enough donations to make that happen. We managed to get 32 latrines constructed*



Since 2004, Trailblazer has partnered with **over 300 villages** in Siem Reap—about 20 new villages each year.

Help us continue transforming lives in rural Cambodia. **Donate Today!**

A Note (continued)

The agriculture team met their goals and conducted:

- 16 integrated farming system trainings with a total of 236 participants
- 14 homestead garden trainings with a total of 236 participants
- 12 fertilizer and pesticide application techniques trainings with a total of 226 participants
- one compost training with a total of 18 participants
- one chicken raising course with a total of 18 participants, and
- visited 48 farmers to monitor their economic progress

The team provided 28 Village Fund refresher courses, and made Village Fund introductions with 8 villages.

In 2026 you can continue to make a significant impact and transform lives. Your support means the world to us and to the recipients. We deeply thank you for your ongoing interest to improve health and reduce poverty in the lives of villagers in rural Cambodia. Our work is only possible because of your compassion and giving. Let's continue expanding our efforts together and reach more villagers in the coming year!

Warm wishes always,



Chris Coats
Executive Director



Do you have a passion for helping others and a network that can make a difference?

Join our Board and help drive sustainable change in rural Cambodia. Trailblazer Foundation is searching for incredible, connected leaders to join our Board of Directors and help transform lives in rural Cambodia. Your skills will be instrumental in propelling our mission forward and creating lasting change. This is your chance to be an active ambassador! The Nominating Committee is accepting applications until **November 30, 2025.**

Apply here:
BOD Application Form.



Health Program

Better Overall Health



In 2024, Trailblazer installed latrines in Stueng Village, Bakong Commune, Prasat Bakong District, Siem Reap Province. The beneficiary families, identified as poor by the government and selected by the village committee, received support through this initiative. To ensure proper use and hygiene, our Health Program team conducted ‘Hygiene and Latrine Use Training’ for the recipients. Among those who benefited was Ms. Kimhouy and her family.

Ms. Kimhouy says that before having a latrine, her family lived in conditions where open defecation or shared, unhygienic facilities were the only options. She said:

My family was forced to dig holes in the fields to defecate, but during the rainy season it was very difficult. The lack of proper sanitation led to unpleasant odors, environmental pollution, and a lack of privacy. During the rainy season, the situation worsened, with waterborne diseases spreading easily. Women and children, in particular, faced safety concerns when relieving themselves at night or in remote areas. Without a proper latrine, my family suffered frequent health issues such as diarrhea, typhoid, and other sanitation-related illnesses. The medical expenses for treating these illnesses were a financial burden, reducing the family’s ability to save or invest in education and other needs. Children often missed school due to sickness, and adults lost workdays, further affecting their economic stability.

After receiving a latrine, there was a significant improvement in our hygiene and sanitation situation. My family had a clean and private space for sanitation, reducing the spread of diseases. Fewer medical expenses meant the family could allocate money to other important areas, such as education and nutrition. Personal dignity and comfort also improved, especially for women and girls.

Now, the family experiences better overall health, leading to improved productivity at work and school. The surroundings are cleaner, and there is a noticeable reduction in the presence

Health (continued)

of flies and bad odors. The family feels safer and more comfortable, and their quality of life has significantly improved. Additionally, there is a sense of pride in having a hygienic home environment, which positively impacts their social standing within the community.

Ms. Kimhouy expresses her deep gratitude to Trailblazer and its Health Project for providing her family with a latrine. This essential facility has significantly improved their health, hygiene, and overall comfort, making daily life much easier and safer.

Food Security Program

Sustainable Farming

(Trailblazer's Integrated Farming System)

A few years ago, Trailblazer organized an agricultural training course on the Integrated Farming System in Rom Deng Village. This training is aimed to help local farmers improve their livelihoods by using sustainable farming methods.

Mr. Chhon was one of the beneficiaries of this training. A recent interview was conducted with him and his family to understand how the training has impacted his family's life and farming practices.

Before receiving the agricultural training, Mr. Chhon worked as a construction worker. He did not have enough knowledge or skills in farming, and his family mostly depended on unstable daily wages. They faced difficulties in earning enough income and had limited access to homegrown food.

Mr. Chhon's family experienced both economic and health challenges. With little income, they could not afford to buy enough nutritious food or take care of health needs properly. Their living conditions were modest, and they often struggled to meet daily expenses.



Food Security (continued)

After completing the Integrated Farming System training, Mr. Chhon began applying what he learned. He started planting many types of vegetables and raising chickens and ducks around his house. These changes greatly improved his family's income and food security. Now, he can harvest and sell vegetables and poultry, earning around 2,000,000 Riel [\$500USD] per month. This is quite a substantial amount when you see that the average annual salary for a farmer in Cambodia is 13,079,500 Riel [\$3,270USD]. It is clear that Trailblazer's Integrated Farming System training is working and helping to reduce poverty and hunger.

Mr. Chhon proudly shared how his life has changed. His home garden is now filled with various crops and livestock, providing a stable source of food and income. His family eats more nutritious meals, and they are no longer dependent on outside work. He is also more confident and proud of being a farmer.

Thanks to the support and training from Trailblazer, Mr. Chhon's family now enjoys a better quality of life. The Integrated Farming System has not only increased their income but also strengthened their health and self-reliance. Mr. Chhon expressed deep gratitude for the opportunity to learn and grow through this meaningful agriculture project.

With your support you too can help other villagers escape hunger and poverty like Mr. Chhon.

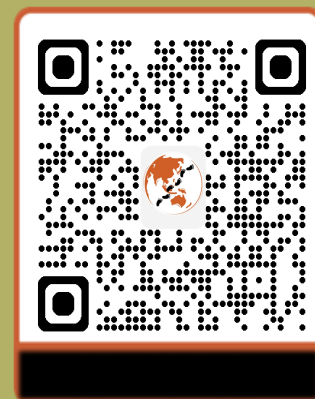
Quick Feedback Needed: Help Us Improve!

We're reaching out because your insights are invaluable!

Please take a moment to share your thoughts through this very brief survey. Your feedback directly helps us communicate better.

Thank you for taking a moment to share your thoughts!

Scan the QR code to take the Survey.



Economic Development Program

Real and Lasting Benefits

In 2022, the Trailblazer Foundation established the Village Fund project in Ta Koy Village. This community-led micro-finance initiative was created to provide low-interest loans to poor families, helping them improve their livelihoods and break the cycle of poverty.

Among the beneficiary families was Ms. Seuom's. Recently a Trailblazer team member had the opportunity to meet with her and conduct a short interview to better understand how the loan affected her family's daily life and economic situation.

Ms. Seuom reported:

Before receiving a loan, our family lived in very basic conditions. We didn't have enough income to meet our daily needs. I used to borrow money from neighbors or informal lenders, often at high interest rates. Sometimes we sold household items or small livestock just to buy food or pay for school fees.

Our financial situation was very unstable. We often didn't have enough food, and we couldn't afford to buy quality seeds or tools to grow crops. When someone got sick, we struggled to pay for treatment. My children missed school at times because we couldn't pay for their supplies or transport. It was a very hard time.



Economic Development (continued)

After receiving the loan, I used the money to invest in small-scale farming and raise chickens. We were able to grow more vegetables and earn extra income by selling the surplus at the market. I also used part of the money to support my children's schooling. Now, we have a more regular source of income and don't need to borrow from private lenders.

Life is much better now. We can afford daily food and school materials. My children go to school more regularly, and we worry less about emergencies. Our family feels more secure, and we have hope for the future. I am truly thankful to the Trailblazer Foundation and the village fund for giving us this opportunity to grow.

Ms. Seuom's story reflects the real and lasting benefits of the Village Fund project. Access to small, low-interest loans has enabled her family to improve their economic situation, support their children's education, and live with greater stability and dignity. The project demonstrates how local financial empowerment can transform lives in rural communities.



It all begins with water, but we need all four programs to ensure communities keep growing strong, long after we leave.

Wanna know how we make it all happen? Give that QR code a quick scan!

Volunteer in Rural Cambodia



Sign up for an opportunity:
thetrailblazerfoundation.org/volunteers-2



Ready for an unforgettable adventure? Come get your hands dirty in rural Cambodia! You'll work directly with our local team on our **Health Program**, helping to build and deliver vital **bio-sand water filters**. It's a chance to meet the amazing families you're helping and promote good health and prosperity firsthand! Your support makes all the difference.

Education Program

Breaking the Cycle



Trailblazer Foundation's educational projects aim to provide primary education as a foundation for higher education, a key strategy in breaking the cycle of generational poverty.

Educational Initiatives

Trailblazer's initial project in 2004 was building a government school. Since then, they've expanded their reach with the generous contributions of donors and have constructed a total of 12 government schools to date, and three libraries.

School Construction and Operation

Process: Each school is built in response to a request from the government's Integrated Workshop process

Ownership Transfer: Upon completion and during the inauguration ceremony, Trailblazer signs the school deed over to the appropriate government agency

Government Responsibility: The government then becomes responsible for providing the teaching staff and the Cambodian curriculum

Food Security Integration: Since each becomes a public school, it qualifies for food support through the United Nations World Food Program, helping to address the programmatic area of food security

Reducing Barriers to Access: To ensure students can reach schools that may be shared between villages, particularly at the Junior and Senior High School levels, Trailblazer provides bicycles to partner villages. This intervention directly addresses the barrier of distance, which would otherwise cause many students to drop out.

Become a Trailblazer Champion!

Ready to make a **lasting impact**? Set up your **recurring monthly gift** through our webpage and become a Trailblazer Champion! This month, the **Colorado Gives Foundation** will **match your first month's online contribution up to \$100**, while funds last, doubling your initial support. As a 100% donor-supported nonprofit serving the poorest communities in Cambodia's Siem Reap province, your consistent support keeps all our vital clean water, health, and development efforts moving forward seamlessly.



“Doing good is like planting a tree—others may sit in its shade.”

Khmer: ការធ្វើល្អដូចដាំដើមឈើ អ្នកដទៃអាចអង្គុយនៅក្រោមស្រមោលវា។

Make Your Impact! How You Can Help

You don't need to wonder how to help—you can directly **change the life** of a poor rural family in Cambodia today! Here are immediate ways to partner with the Trailblazer Foundation, whether through a gift, your time, or your network:

Direct Giving: See Your Gift in Action

Your donation buys the tools families need for a sustainable future:

- **\$20:** Buys a **school uniform**.
- **\$75:** Buys a **bicycle** to keep a student in school.
- **\$100:** Buys a **bio-sand water filter** for up to 3 families.
- **\$375:** Buys a **well** for up to 3 families.
- Consider **adding 15%** to your contribution to cover essential administrative costs
- You can also **Donate to our general fund** to provide a solid financial base for *all* our programs.

More Ways to Partner

- **Double Your Impact:** Check if your employer has a **matching gift program**!
- **Join our Trailblazer Giving Circle** or start your own to amplify your collective contribution.
- **Become a Champion:** Set up **recurring donations** to sustain our work.
- **Spread the Word:** Like and follow us on **social media** and share our stories.
- **Join the Team:** We are seeking new members for our **Board of Directors**.
- **Alternative Giving:** Explore tax-advantaged options like **gifting from your IRA**, donating **stocks/securities**, or giving through your **Donor Advised Fund (DAF)**.
- **Planned Giving:** Ensure your impact continues for future generations by making a gift under your **Last Will and Testament** or designating Trailblazer Foundation as a beneficiary on a **life insurance policy**.



Ready to make a difference?

Maximize Your Impact: The Year-End Giving Campaign!

This holiday season, give a gift that truly lasts! Join the Trailblazer Foundation's Year-End Campaign and provide clean water, health, and prosperity to the poorest communities in Cambodia.

Your general support **powers our four vital programs**. To thank you, we're offering a special way to honor a loved one with a lasting memorial right in the field!

Boost Your Gift: Colorado Gives Day

Every online donation made between **November 1 and December 9** is maximized! Your gift is boosted by a **\$1 Million+ Incentive Fund** from Colorado Gives, making your generosity go even further!

Leave Your Mark: Stencil a Filter or Well

When you give this year-end, we will stencil your name—or in honor/memory of a loved one—connecting your gift directly to the field.

<u>Donor Category</u>	<u>Gift Amount</u>	<u>Recognition</u>
Existing Donors	\$100 or more	Stencil on a Bio-Sand Water Filter
	\$400 or more	Stencil on a Well
New Donors	\$5 - \$399	Stencil on a Bio-Sand Water Filter
	\$400 or more	Stencil on a Well

Special Bonus: Make a follow-up gift in the first quarter of 2026, and we'll stencil another filter in your name!

Become a Trailblazer Champion (Monthly Giver)

New Champions: Set up a recurring donation in November, and the Colorado Gives Foundation will match your first gift up to \$100! Plus, you get a stenciled filter and Champion recognition.

Existing Champions: We celebrate your commitment! Increase your monthly giving and receive an extra stenciled filter in your name.

Don't wait! Make your year-end gift during the Colorado Gives period to **maximize your impact and honor someone special.**





Trailblazer Foundation

PO Box 271767
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527