



# Spring 2026 Newsletter

*News from Trailblazer Foundation—*

*Giving vulnerable families a higher quality of life, dignity & hope*



## From training to table: Homestead Gardens

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

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**A single drop can change a lake --  
and because of you,  
those ripples are reaching  
entire communities.**



## A Note From Trailblazer's Executive Director

*Hello Trailblazers!*

*They say a single drop of water can change the geometry of a lake. At Trailblazer, we see this every day. As we step into 2026, we welcome you into another year with us. We are filled with gratitude and commitment to continuing our work that is giving vulnerable families a higher quality of life, dignity, and hope. Our year started out with a bang, and our teams are busy with a myriad of projects that address our mission.*



*However you've shown up this past year, whether it be through giving, sharing our story with others, volunteering, or simply believing in our work, please know that it matters and the ripple effect you have created has reached farther than imagined.*

*Because of your support, families have experienced better health instead of disease, food security instead of the uncertainty of what they will eat tomorrow, and economic opportunities to grow income, creating a sustainable future for their entire family.*

*Trailblazer has a history of showing up for the rural communities where we work, whether that's advancing children's education, providing essential products and services or delivering hope and opportunity through the critical resource of clean water.*

*Trailblazer partners with and promotes inclusivity within the communities we serve, ensuring long-term sustainability and locally-rooted ownership of projects. The results of our work are quietly profound. The impact of this work is reflected in lives touched and means provided that have been making a positive difference for children and families around rural Cambodia for over 20 years.*

*In 2026 we invite you to continue this journey with us. Together we can reach more villages, drill more wells, provide more clean water, teach effective agriculture methods, and ensure children have the chance to thrive. You can be part of making even larger ripples of change!*

*Best wishes always,*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Coats".

Chris Coats

Executive Director

A square QR code with a red border. In the center of the QR code is a small globe icon. Below the QR code is a black rectangular button with the text "APPLY HERE" in white capital letters.

***Your Network,  
Their Future.***

***Scan here to apply for  
our Board and help us  
transform lives.***

# Health Program

## *How do rural Cambodians obtain Health with Hygiene and Wells with Water?*

The Health Program, our flagship community impact program in Cambodia, is celebrating over 20 years of development. Launched in 2006 with a vision to construct and install bio-sand water filters to provide safe drinking water for underserved children and families, the Health Program has since grown its focus on reducing water-borne disease, enhancing household-level hygiene by developing essential tools: wells, bio-sand filters, and latrines.



Alongside these essential tools, the local people are trained on effective use and maintenance of these systems, creating long-term success.

Partnership is central to the Health Program's impact. By working alongside trusted organizations like Rotary International and collaborating with organizations such as GlobalGiving and Buy1Give1 - to name a few, the program can reach and impact more children.

This year, the Rotary clubs: Fort Collins - Breakfast ISC, Denver Southeast, and the Highlands Ranch have joined us in supporting additional WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) projects providing latrines, wells and bio-sand water filters to over 30 rural families - a "Trifecta of Health"!



Please visit our website for more information about our Health Program:  
<https://thetrailblazerfoundation.org/health-program>

# Food Security Program

## *What Does our "Homestead Garden Training" Mean for Communities in Rural Cambodia?*

Food security has the power to grow resilience and transform lives, enabling better nutrition, strengthening well-being and unlocking agricultural productivity. Trailblazer's "Homestead Garden Training" teaches comprehensive agricultural techniques, including crop cultivation and animal raising to Cambodian families.

At the core of the program is the provision of a vital resource - food, which fosters self-sufficiency, breaks cycles of poverty and prevents malnutrition. This provision of food security helps reduce food-related illnesses and low agricultural productivity barriers that families face while growing their own crops — keeping children healthy to support their education and futures. With greater access to healthy food, communities can pursue more income-generating opportunities, building the foundations for generations to come.



*Training - Chicken Raising*



Please visit our website for more information about our Food Security Program:  
<https://thetrailblazerfoundation.org/food-security-program>

# Economic Development Program

## *How do Community-Owned Funds manage microfinance for Villagers?*

With over 26% of people in Siem Reap province living below the international poverty line, and many earning far less, rural villagers endure severe economic hardship. In a rising trend in rural Cambodia, many families are choosing to remain on their ancestral land, actively working to improve their skills and expand their agricultural ventures.

To combat extreme poverty, Trailblazer empowers rural communities to establish and manage their own community-owned Village Funds, micro-finance programs. Alongside these micro-finance programs, we provide essential guidance, enabling villagers to access small amounts of capital crucial for starting and expanding businesses, investing in vital needs like livestock and healthcare.

By promoting these self-sustaining, Village Funds, Trailblazer helps unlock economic opportunities and creates a path toward long-term independence. Since our beginning, we have successfully launched hundreds of self-managed Village Funds, which provide essential loans to individuals within their communities.



**New VF at Chrey**



Please visit our website for more information about our Food Security Program:  
<https://thetrailblazerfoundation.org/economic-development-prog>

# Education Program

## *What Does our “Bridging the Distance” mean for Children in Rural Cambodia?*

Believing a strong infrastructure creates a more favorable learning environment, we undertake educational interventions—such as building government schools and libraries in rural Cambodian communities, directly impacting thousands of underserved children. This helps improve the learning environment for children and teachers alike, yielding measurable results: increased enrollment, higher attendance, reduced dropout rates, enhanced classroom efficiency, and improved learning outcomes.

We also understand the local challenges facing students in Siem Reap province. Many families struggle to afford uniforms for their children, which can make attending school difficult. To bridge the distance we provide uniforms, school supplies and bicycles—making long commutes easier for students while supporting their physical and emotional well-being.



Please visit our website for more information about our Economic Development Program:  
<https://thetrailblazerfoundation.org/education-program>

# Voices of Gratitude

## Inspired by Your Support



We're kicking off 2026 with gratitude, and we're honored to share a few kind words from some of our donors, who received photos of the filter or well stenciled in their honor. Their messages inspire and encourage us as we continue over 20 years of community development—made possible by your generosity.

Thanks Chris, that looks great! Really appreciate you sending this over. So glad to be able to help out. Stephanie

Thanks, that's fun to see!

It was our pleasure!

Thanks for sending this along and thank you for all you do for the locals in Cambodia.

Thank you Chris for letting us know about it. We are happy to have made a small difference in some way. We appreciate the photos. Many thanks and kind regards, Maggi, Cycling Country

Thanks! It is so little to us and SO much to others! Barb and Steve

We're so honored Chris!



Oh, My!

I just now opened the attachment and see my name on a clean water station.

Goodness! I thank you, Chris .... not necessary, tho!!

Tho, I suppose it is good to let the folks know the station is because someone cared - and not that it jut appeared from Trailblazer - the Big Supporter in the Sky!

Thanks for all you do, Chris ... Blessings to all !! Elise

## Volunteers and Visitors



BLOG

< [Checkout our blog to read more stories from the field](#)

[Scan the code to learn more about visiting and volunteering](#) >



VOLUNTEER

# How You Can Help—Where It's Needed Most

Every day, families in rural Cambodia face challenges accessing clean water, education, food security, and basic sanitation. The most powerful way to help is by giving **where it's needed most**—allowing us to direct your support to the **areas of greatest need** across all of our programs. By covering transaction fees, you help ensure 100% of your gift supports our mission and essential operations.

**Your generosity makes a real difference:**

## Clean Water & Sanitation

\$100 – Can provide **clean water** for up to 15 people with a bio-sand water filter

\$200 – Can provide a latrine, improving **safety and dignity** for up to 5 people

\$375 – Can provide a well, offering **reliable access to water** for up to 15 people

## Education

\$20 – Can provide a **school uniform**, easing the financial burden on families

\$80 – Can provide a **bicycle**, removing a key barrier to attending school

## Agriculture

\$50 – Can provide **agriculture training** for up to 15 farmers helping families grow more nutritious food and improve food security

## Economic Development

\$5,000 – Can help start-up **chicken farms**

\$5,000 – Can strengthen a **village fund**, expanding access to loans across the community

## Community Development

General support gifts of any amount **support all programs**, expands long-term impact and allows us to direct funding **where it's needed most**—creating healthier families, stronger communities, and lasting change.

## Other Ways to Help

Give monthly • Employer match • Share our work • Fundraise

## Smart Ways to Give

Donate from your **Donor Advised Fund (DAF)**

Give stocks or securities to avoid capital gains tax

If 70-1/2+, give from your IRA

Include us in your will or estate plans

Name Trailblazer Foundation as a life insurance beneficiary

Your support creates healthier families and stronger communities



## **A Lasting Thank You**

With a gift of \$125+ to general support, we'll stencil your name (or a loved one's) on a water filter. With \$400+, your name will be placed on a well—providing a lasting symbol of clean water, access to water and opportunity.

Limited availability—please don't delay.

Give with confidence we are a 501(c)(3) charity that has earned [Candid's Platinum Transparency seal](#). EIN: 20-1063922

# Trailblazer Champions

*Consistent giving. Lasting impact. Stronger communities.*

"Sustainability isn't just about the projects we build; it's about the community of monthly donors who ensure the water keeps flowing, year after year."

I love it! Thank you!  
Louis



Wow this is so sweet thanks so much for sharing!! Aaron



Chris,  
Oh, my – that is WONDERFUL. I will share the photo with my group. Everyone loved learning about Trailblazer. We are grateful for Ratanak's and the staff's time and will remain in touch with Trailblazer.  
Fondly, Cristine



Chris-  
This is incredible! Your email (and photo) made my day. Thank you for this. I think about Trailblazer often, and I am grateful to remain connected to such a special organization!  
Sincerely, Alice



Hi Chris,  
Thank you :) We're proud to be a part of the great work that you and Trailblazer are doing. We love seeing the updates, and this one is very special to us. Thank you for all that you do for the people of Cambodia.  
Sincerely, Steve and Emily



Dear Chris,  
Thank you so much. 🙏 That is an honor... I so appreciate you and your organization...! I do believe in your work and cause!  
Thank you again  
Best Regards, Evangeline



USE YOUR PHONE CAMERA  
TO SCAN THE DONATION CODE

Your support has already changed lives through clean water, education, and sustainable farming. As a **Trailblazer Champion**, you take that impact one step further. **Monthly giving** allows us to dream bigger and plan further ahead, ensuring that our work in Cambodia is as resilient as the people we serve.

**Will you join this dedicated group of supporters today?**

**Imagine the difference we can make together in 2026.**

## Trailblazer Champions (continued)



As a Southeast Asian proverb reminds us, “Drop by drop, a river is made.” Together, we are building something enduring—one drop, one family, one community at a time.



### To Donate

By Mail: PO Box 271767, Fort Collins, CO 80527

Online: <https://thetrailblazerfoundation.org/donate>



**Trailblazer Foundation**

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