



Year End 2021 Newsletter

*News from Trailblazer Foundation—
Together we are helping....*



Schools are Re-opening

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Note from the Executive Director	Page 2
Health Program – Keeping Course	Page 3
Food Security Program – Helping Farmers Better Feed Their Families	Page 4
Education Program – Bicycles Await	Page 5
Economic Development Program – Another Chicken Farm!	Page 6
Other New – New Board Member & Donor Highlight	Page 7
Additional New – Emergency Food Distribution	Page 8
All the Ways You Can Help—Your Gifts Make a Significant Difference	Page 9

Developing Ripples of Sustainability through Community Water Projects

A Note From Trailblazer's Executive Director

Hello Trailblazers,

We wish to sincerely thank you for your ongoing interest and faithful support. Together we are helping rural Cambodian villagers move from survival to sustainability because of your generosity and participation.


Covid impacted some of our work activities with area lockdowns. Nevertheless, it has been a productive year for Trailblazer. Our supporters deserve recognition for what has been accomplished in 2021. You all made this success possible and we are grateful to you.

I am compelled to share with you that we have recently faced a major challenge. Sadly, two benefactors passed away this year who strongly believed in Trailblazer's work. These benefactors had supported Trailblazer's efforts since 2014 and provided funds that provided for a fourth of our annual funding needs. Their passing has resulted in a substantial financial loss to our budget.

Trailblazer's annual budget averages \$300,000. As you can imagine, this funding deficit leaves a huge hole to be filled. It's quite amazing what is accomplished and the thousands of lives that are helped each year with that amount of money. Based on your giving history, I am convinced that you believe in our mission and the impact being made to improve the health and livelihood of rural families. We humbly hope you will not only continue giving in 2022, but commit to increasing your level of giving, or set up monthly recurring donations. We need your help to maintain the financial stability of Trailblazer so we can continue to meet our program goals, and the commitments made to our village partners and you.

I believe that the way to measure success is if you have made a difference. You have made a difference. Knowing you have touched others and made the world a better place is priceless and rewarding. Every donation, no matter the amount, truly matters. Please do not underestimate the impact you can make, an impact that will last well into the future. Perhaps you will consider making monthly donations and commit to continually improving lives in rural Cambodia.

With deep gratitude,



Chris Coats

Co-Founder and Executive Director



Health Program

Keeping Course

At this point in the year our teams are close to reaching our annual goals. They have installed 428 bio-sand water filters, drilled 151 wells, and constructed 163 latrines. That means 742 families now have access to clean and abundant water, and a safe hygienic place to toilet. Using a typical family size of 5, approximately 3,710 people are experiencing improved health and sanitation.

Below is a story from one of Trailblazer's recipients.

In 2019, Trailblazer conducted Filter with Hygiene Introduction Training for Kbal Krapeu village, Reul commune, Puok district. After receiving a request from Mrs. Naing, who is 61 years old and lives with her son's family, Trailblazer drilled a well and delivered a water filter for Mrs. Naing and her family. Mrs. Naing's family has 4 bikes, 1 motorbike and 10 chickens. Mrs. Naing said, "before we received the well and bio-sand filter from Trailblazer, we had difficulty getting water to drink and cook. The well we used before was far away, about 100 meters from home, and we didn't have a filter to use. We used the water directly from the well without proper disinfection which made us sick and suffer diarrhea. Because of this problem, it had an impact on our family economy, especially the loss of time to earn a living." Naing continued, "after attending the Clean Water and Hygiene Training from Trailblazer, and receiving the well and water filter to use, we recognized that our health situation improved, we were less sick, no more diarrhea. And we have no more problems with getting clean and safe water. Lastly, I am very happy that Trailblazer came to my village and gave us access to clean water, and trained us with the knowledge of body hygiene and sanitation. We are healthier and happier thank you."



DONATE NOW

Mrs. Naing a well and bio-sand water recipient

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

Food Security Program

Helping Farmers Better Feed Their Families

Your \$50 donation supports the training of a farmer, which ultimately benefits the farmer's entire family & community.

Covid has had an unexpected effect on Trailblazer with our staffing. Our agriculture supervisor, Chanto, has decided to resign to stay home to care for his children so his wife can continue her work as a teacher.

Chanto has worked with Trailblazer for five years and has done a fabulous job. In those five years he worked to establish two Farmer Community Groups, four chicken raising farms and conducted hundreds of our regular agriculture training courses. Despite limitations due to Covid protocols this year he conducted 84 agriculture training courses which included: homestead gardening, composting, organic fertilizer/pesticide, soil management, and chicken raising. These courses ultimately affect 893 families' lives, or 4,465 people with a typical family size of 5. Chanto will be sorely missed.

Our local director, Ratanak is actively sourcing a new Agriculture Specialist and intends to have someone hired before the year-end in order to keep our Food Security and Economic Program activities moving forward without skipping a beat.



^Chicken training and practices - Kanchor

> Chanto conducting agriculture training

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

Education Program

Bicycles Await

Schools are beginning to reopen in the rural areas, primary to high school levels, after having been locked down for months due to Covid. Students are, however, still studying their 2020-2021 year of curriculum. We currently have donations for 53 bicycles, and anticipate being able to make bicycle deliveries in the new year when students will have moved through their educational studies to the secondary level. Stay tuned for our spring newsletter reports!

To recap other accomplishments of the Education Program, which we highlighted in prior newsletters, we:

- ⇒ Distributed 509 school uniforms
- ⇒ Distributed 1,100 cloth masks
- ⇒ Built a new primary school
- ⇒ Built a new library
- ⇒ Installed a filtration/hand washing station

Bicycle Delivery



**DONATE TO
HELP PROVIDE
INVALUABLE
EDUCATIONAL
NEEDS**

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

Economic Development Program

Another Chicken Farm!

Chicken Farm I, located in Pouk district, is doing well. Chickens have grown and are laying eggs. Chicks have hatched and the farmer distributed chicks to other selected farmers, pursuant to the agreement. As a normal challenge to development, Mr. Eng recently reported that 30% of his chickens died due to inclement weather. But, he has gained experience in this first attempt at raising chickens, has learned, and is more confident in raising chickens as his farm continues.

In the last edition, we reported that Chicken Farm II had begun May 1, 2021 with Mrs. Prak in Sotr Nikum district. Sadly, the weather turned windy with cold rains and resulted in many chickens in the area suffering disease and dying. Taking this as a learning opportunity, she moved her chicken barn to a more protected area, purchased more chicks to replenish the losses with her own money, and is continuing on with the farm. This speaks to the motivation and dedication these chicken raising farmers have even in the face of setbacks.

Chicken Farm III officially started on October 21, 2021 in Prasat Bakong district with Mr. Ol and Mrs. Chon. The barn and fence are constructed, they are growing plants for feed, and the initial supply of 500 chicks have been delivered. Trailblazer will have more to report in the coming months.

We have received funding for Chicken Farm IV and Mrs. Chantrea of Romchek village, Romchek commune, Banteay Srey district has been selected to be the farmer for this project. She has already started to work on chicken house construction. We will report progress on this fourth chicken farm in our next newsletter.

HELP SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Chicken Farm IV
Underway

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

Other News

New Board Member



We are pleased and excited to introduce to you our most recent Board Member, Kevin Andrezejewski who joined our team this June. He brings great experience and skills to our team. Kevin Andrezejewski is Engineers Without Borders [EWB], USA Sr. Program Manager. He started his journey into International Development at a young age with a subscription to National Geographic. Fast forward a few years and career stops in the private sector in leadership positions in supply chain management, Kevin then moved closer to his career goals by completing an MBA in International Development at Colorado State University. After his MBA, Kevin consulted for social enterprises and iNGOs [international non-government organizations] focusing on Strategic Planning, Business Development and Leadership. In 2010 Kevin began managing supply chains for Posner Center Member, iDE. In 2016 he moved across the hall to EWB to manage programs for their Engineering Service Corps Initiative. In his career, Kevin has worked and traveled to over 25 Lower-Income Countries and is passionate about learning about different cultures and the unique aspects of the differences in people from around the globe.

Donor Highlight

It's been awhile since we highlighted and shared a testimonial from either a donor, former volunteer or visitor. Here is what one donor has to say about why she supports Trailblazer that we thought you would enjoy.

"I happened to be surfing the net on Cambodia and came across the Trailblazer Foundation. Being someone who has an interest in volunteer work and helping others whenever I am able, I was very impressed with the programs that are run by this organization. They were programs that helped the village people self-sustain and be vested in trying to make a better life for themselves with programs like the Village Fund. The education and the economic development program, to include the simple things in life like providing bicycles for students to get to school; make me feel confident about the great things that this organization is accomplishing.

The ability to pay for a well that would bring so much good and clean water to families and villages - touched me very differently. To be able to put my name on the well just made me feel even more special. I did purchase a well and wondered if I would ever see what it would look like. And eventually I received a picture with my name on a well. It just gave this organization so much more credibility and I continue to be further impressed with the work that Chris Coats is doing with this team. I hope to one day go to Cambodia and volunteer with this group to truly make a difference to what this organization is trying to do and wish Chris and her team only the absolute best. Donating my second well today." – Venencia

**MAKE AN IMPACT
TODAY**

Please visit our website for more information about our Economic Development Program:

<https://the-trailblazer-foundation.org/our-board>

Additional News

Emergency Food Distribution

Due to Covid-19, villages were locked down, markets were closed. Families had serious food shortages and could not support their family without income. Flooding had damaged their rice fields, and sickness plagued them due to the wet season.

Thanks to a longstanding donor, Christ Episcopal Church, we were able to deliver food to 100 poor families in 13 villages in Danrun commune Sotr Nikum district.

These 100 families were selected by village chiefs, the commune chief and commune councilors to receive this emergency food package. With this emergency package these families have a month's supply of food for their family. Now that they have a supply of food they can again work in their rice fields, spend time to earn income, and do what is necessary to ensure they can maintain their income and food supply when this food package is finished.

One beneficiary, Mrs. Choch, is 65 years old and lives with 6 family members, shared her story. She and her family had no income for about two months, and it was difficult to find food for her family. Her rice crop harvest date was delayed because of the flooding. No one could leave the village due to the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown. The other 99 families have a similar story as Mrs. Choch.

Think about what a one month supply of food looks like [and what that food is] for a rural Cambodian family, compared to food types and how much we consume in a one month period of time.

Each family received:

- ⇒- 25 kg of rice
- ⇒- 1 box of instant noodles
- ⇒- 20 eggs
- ⇒- 1 box of soy sauce
- ⇒- 1 box of fish sauce



This shows the impact \$3,000 does to help 100 families [average family size of 5] = 500 people. That's \$6 per person for two months! Wow

To Donate

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

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

Emergency Food Distribution



ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Your Gifts Make a Significant Difference

As a brief reminder of how your gift(s) can be life changing for a family, please see the list below.

- \$15 buys a school uniform
- \$50 supports a rural farmer's agriculture training course
- \$55 buys a bicycle to keep a student in school
- \$80 buys a biosand water filter for up to 3 families
- \$175 buys a latrine for a family
- \$320 buys a well for up to 3 families
- \$3,000 Chicken Farm and Training
- \$_____ to help out as much as possible where needed most

**GIVE A GIFT IN
HONOR OR MEMORY
OF SOMEONE SPECIAL**

Give one-time toward a project, or in general which makes the implementation of our projects more sustainable.

Give monthly, and join other donors dedicated to sustaining their impact. Consider using direct deposit from your checking account to make your donation and recurring donations, and save credit card fees.

In case you are seeking alternative ways to give and receive great tax benefits, you can:

- Donate from your Donor Advised Fund;
- Donate stock or securities (with a low basis) that has appreciated in the market and avoid capital gains tax and have a long-term impact;
- Those who are 70 1/2 or older you can avoid extra income by making a gift from your IRA;
- Gift under your Last Will and Testament to ensure your impact will continue for generations;
- Designate Trailblazer Foundation as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy;
- Check with your employer about a matching gift program and make your gift go further;

As always we are grateful for your attention and generosity.

Please visit our website for ways you can support Trailblazer Foundation:
<https://thetrailblazerfoundation.org/other-giving-options>



Trailblazer Foundation

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