



# Spring 2023 Newsletter

*News from Trailblazer Foundation—*

*Because of your generous gifts more villagers will be served*



## **Access to Water**

Using water projects to advance sustainable community development.

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

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# A Note From Trailblazer's Executive Director

*Hello Fellow Trailblazers,*

*I hope that the past months have treated you well, and you have stayed safe, healthy and warm. Spring has sprung, yay! Although we may still be in for some cool weather, tulips, daffodils, crocus, and a myriad of other beautiful flowers are rising from beneath winter's snow or exposed soil. These amazing flowers bring new life and hope that the days to come will be better.*

*Each year Trailblazer brings poor rural villagers clean drinking water, access to water, better sanitation and hygiene, improved food security, support for education, and economic opportunities. These program activities help these individuals and families move from mere survival to more sustainable livelihoods.*

*Sometimes you may wonder, how can I help? None of us want to simply throw our money at a problem. The reality is, though, giving money is an appropriate response and the best way to help. Because of your generous gifts more villagers can be served every year.*

*We trust you will continue to give the critical help needed to bring these families hope for a better life, like the new life that springs forth in the flowers. Without your investments, the poor rural communities we work with would not be able to grow and thrive, and Trailblazer would cease to exist to be able to help.*

*Together we are making a real difference in the lives of thousands, year after year, and we sincerely thank you.*

With deepest gratitude,



Chris Coats

Co-Founder and Executive Director



**Sometimes I forget how rich I am. My hot water works on a dime, my a/c works when I need it to. I can go to any grocery store & purchase what I please to eat, I have a clean kitchen to cook in, I have a clean shower to bathe in...sometimes I forget I'm beyond blessed.**

@Ashtaughtyou\_

# Health Program

## *Safe Water is Scarce*

Our bodies are over 50% water, which is literally half of who we are! Water cleanses, hydrates and provides much needed nourishment to our bodies, when it is clean, safe water. However, for our rural village partners, water is scarce and much of it is not potable. Instead of water being nourishing to their bodies, most of the water sources available cause disease, which leads to malnutrition and even death. These diseases can be prevented by simply having a bio-sand water filter that provides safe drinking water and a latrine for improved sanitation.

Water-borne diseases are the greatest health threat in Cambodia's Siem Reap province. In a country of seventeen million people there are more than nine million cases of diarrheal disease annually. As of 2018, diarrhea accounted for 11% of all deaths under 5 years old, translating into 760,000 childhood deaths annually.

The most telling indicator for a lack of development is water access, food security, nutrition, and health status of the people. One of the easiest ways to combat poverty and disease is to provide access to clean water sources, yet one in eight people in the world do not have access to it. Your support of a bio-sand water filter or a latrine helps WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) out disease and builds better health and sanitation conditions.

In the hierarchy order of needs, water must be met first before one can address the next level - food.



**MONTHLY Giving**



Please visit our website for more information about our Health Programs:

<https://thetrailblazerfoundation.org/health-program>



# Food Security Program

## *Growing Food to Feed Their Families*

Trailblazer is most well-known for helping villages secure clean, healthy and an ample water supply - water is life's basic need. Although we start by focusing on water projects, we also realize our partner villages also need ample food to feed their families.

Siem Reap province, where Trailblazer conducts its projects, is one of the three poorest provinces in the country. Without some sort of technical and financial support, these communities cannot develop beyond a level of subsistence, and remain in a state of poverty where they struggle to survive. Access to water and sanitation, an adequate food supply, education and economic opportunities are challenges millions of Cambodians face every day.

Our four programs Health, Food Security, Education and Economic Development represent a well-rounded strategy toward developing sustainable communities. We provide our constituents with the products they need (water filter, well, latrine), and skills development (agriculture training).

With your generosity you can impact a family's ability to have enough food to eat. Support of our Food Security program provides agriculture training to village farmers in order to be more successful at growing food to feed their family.

No one is neutral – every day we cast our vote by what we do or don't do.

### **Trailblazer's Cambodian staff**

conducts  
agriculture  
trainings with 10 to  
15 participants for  
each training  
course teaching  
them better  
techniques.



**Donate Now**



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



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

# Economic Development Program

## *Moving Out of Poverty*

According to a UN declaration in 1995, absolute poverty is "a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information". It depends not only on income but also on access to services. In Cambodia, populations living under the poverty line of \$1.25USD per day is defined as poor. They essentially lack resources to meet their daily needs.

Within Siem Reap province, we serve the poorest villages in four districts. The communities we help are isolated, are least likely to get assistance because they are largely overlooked by other development groups, and simply cannot develop beyond a level of subsistence without help. Prior to Trailblazer's arrival many villages had little to no access to international aid. The lack of water, sanitation and food, resulted in the residents suffering a high rate of hunger, disease, and illiteracy.

Our Economic Development program works to develop ways villagers can earn a higher income and move out of poverty. With your support of this program our staff can continue conducting training courses and establish more village funds that offer villagers a way to get a micro-loan to improve their economic status.

"How wonderful it is that no one has to wait, but can start right now to gradually change the world."  
Anne Frank



\$5,000 Will Help Establish a Village Fund

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



# Education Program

## *Impact a Student's Life*

Most people are aware of the direct connection between good health and the ability for a person to prosper. This manifests itself with children being able to go to school, and parents having enough time and energy to work. Unfortunately, the Cambodian government does not provide enough of the needed support the population requires.

To help fill this void, Trailblazer works with the poorest communities in the province to improve health and sanitation, reduce poverty, and support education through deliveries of bicycles and uniforms. You can impact a student's life by providing a bicycle or uniform and give them the ability to continue their education.



**Your \$55 donation** will provide a student a bicycle.



**Your \$15 donation** will provide a student uniform.



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



## Partner Highlight

### *Park Hyatt Siem Reap Extending Our Reach*

Now and again, we like to highlight the partnerships we share with businesses and institutions that advance Trailblazer's awareness to new audiences. We greatly value these partnerships that extend our reach, and which results in new supporters participating and investing in our efforts. In this edition we wish to recognize and highlight Park Hyatt Siem Reap and what they say about our partnership.



*Trailblazer and Park Hyatt Siem Reap, Cambodia have recently joined in partnership and we would like to recognize them and their contribution to helping the people of Cambodia. We appreciate this partnership, and look forward to sharing the work that Trailblazer does and the experience of life in Cambodia with Park Hyatt Siem Reap guests.*

*Park Hyatt Siem Reap realizes that access to clean water is a major problem and is greatly essential, especially for Cambodians living in rural areas. Park Hyatt Siem Reap supports this community project with the objective of contributing to the community for better and healthier living conditions, where they expand their guests' experience of Cambodia with an opportunity to change a local villager's life by leaving a mark, and in return, giving them a lasting memory of their stay in Siem Reap.*

*To accomplish this goal, Park Hyatt Siem Reap offers to engage their guests and give them a way to contribute to the Cambodian community while on holiday. Park Hyatt Siem Reap is honored to partner with Trailblazer, an expert in the field on water projects that provide clean water through Bio-Sand Water Filters and access to water through PVC Pull Pump Wells in the Siem Reap province.*



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



## Volunteers and Visitors

*As a smaller organization that is committed to doing more with less, interns, volunteers and fundraisers are vital to Trailblazer Foundation's success.*



Please visit our website for more information about our Education Program:  
<https://thetrailblazerfoundation.org/volunteers-2>



# WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT

## *Helping the Poorest of the Poor*

Give a GIFT in  
HONOR or MEMORY  
of someone special.

Below is a list of how your gift(s) can change the life of a poor rural family:

- \$15 buys a school uniform
- \$50 supports a rural farmer's agriculture training course
- \$55 buys a bicycle to keep a student in school
- \$100 buys a biosand water filter for up to 3 families
- \$175 buys a latrine for a family
- \$375 buys a well for up to 3 families
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help out as much as possible where needed most

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

- donate from your Donor Advised Fund.
- donate old stock (with a low basis) that has appreciated in the market and avoid capital gains tax.
- if you are 70 ½ or older you can avoid extra income by making a gift from your IRA.
- eliminate an old or unneeded life insurance policy by gifting the cash balance.

**As always we are sincerely grateful for your attention and generosity.**

**Our work is only made possible because of people like you!!**





## **Trailblazer Foundation**

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