



Summer-Fall 2023 Newsletter

News from Trailblazer Foundation—

Promoting Community and Independent Growth



Conducted Latrine Using Training in Bangkong, Ampil commune, Prasat Bakong province

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Note from the Executive Director	Page 2-3
Health Program: Providing Clean Water Access to Hundreds of Families	Page 3-4
Food Security Program: Becoming the Chick Supplier	Page 5
Economic Development Program: Agriculture Integrated with Livestock	Page 6-7
Meet Our New Staff	Page 7
Education Program: Continued Investments in Education	Page 8
Partner Highlight: Partnering with Rotary Clubs Across the Globe	Page 8-9
Volunteers and Visitors: Come Help Us Meet Our Mission	Page 10
Ways You Can Support: Helping Many	Page 11

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

A Note From Trailblazer's Executive Director

Hello Trailblazer Friends,

It has been a hot or rainy summer, or both, depending on where you are located. I hope you have fared well and remain safe.

In this edition I'm going to discuss how Trailblazer goes about its work in the field.

*Trailblazer's vision is to empower **self-sustaining economic independence**. Our goal is to provide the villagers with tools and information so that they can rely on their own local talents and skills rather than being dependent on international aid.*



*We build upon programs which **promote community and individual growth**. Our community-based development method is an **effective long-term solution to alleviating poverty and increasing the quality of life** in a sustainable manner. Our projects teach them to use appropriate technologies, emphasize basic needs, health and sanitation, and education.*

Trailblazer provides our constituents with the products they need, and the skills development they want to establish sustainable livelihoods. Trailblazer does not give products or services away for free. Recipients must make a contribution in order to receive our help. This approach allows the beneficiaries to participate and have buy-in on the project, resulting in a higher rate of success.

Trailblazer's commitment to expanding the focus and impact of our work is born out of two factors: our solid and long-standing working relationship with community leaders at the village, commune and district level; and our desire to scale up our work so we can reach and support more villages.

*We have a **long history of working within the government structure** to identify, assist and monitor marginalized families and communities in improving access to water, food security and income generation beyond subsistence. The government is fully informed about Trailblazer's projects, what is being done, and what has been completed, which gives us a **solid relationship and reputation that aids our efforts**.*

***Trailblazer strives to preserve the cultural integrity** of the villages where we work by using a bottom up approach and participatory model of community-based development. We choose projects based on a local government assessment of villagers needs, called the District Integrated Workshop. This process occurs each fall, when chiefs from the province's many communes come together to pitch the infrastructure needs of the villagers within their commune. This needs assessment starts at the villager level, and works its way through the process to where Trailblazer signs agreements to work with certain villages to complete certain projects in the coming year. This sets our goals for the next year. We place priority on supporting these villages with the goal of providing as many of our products and services as they desire.*

***Trailblazer is honored to be one of only a handful of NGOs invited** to these annual meetings. We commit to assisting with the identified needs that fit into the context of our four programs, which we established because they fulfill our field-tested understanding of what constitutes a successful rural community development strategy.*

Together, with your ongoing investments, we are making a real difference in the lives of thousands of poor rural families every year. We can't express our deep gratitude enough. Donors like you are vital to the continuation of our work and are the backbone of a small organization like Trailblazer. Thank you.

Best wishes always,



Chris Coats

Executive Director

MONTHLY Giving

Acts multiplied and seized upon by others results in change.

Health Program

Providing Clean Water Access to Hundreds of Families

Trailblazer has worked in Svay Chek and Kok Kak villages, Angkor Thom district **since 2012, providing clean water access to hundreds of families** in these villages.

There are areas in these villages where the iron content in the source water is very high and over time causes the filtration media to solidify, regardless of proper maintenance of the filtration media. **After several years of use** many of the BSFs are aging, broken or rotten, and the filtration media needs to be reinstalled. In the cases, however, the BSFs cannot be reinstalled, they will **need to be totally replaced**.



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

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

Health Program (continued)

Providing Clean Water Access to Hundreds of Families

As part of its evaluation and monitoring, Trailblazer conducted research in 2022 on the status and function of BSFs that have been in the field for four to nine years in these two villages and listed those in need of attention. In concert with villagers and village chiefs, a list was compiled of **identified families who requested a new or reinstalled BSF**. Due to time and uncontrollable environmental conditions 261 BSFs were found to have become inoperable. It was determined there are 171 BSFs that need to be reinstalled, and 90 that need to be replaced in these two villages.

In keeping with providing potable water to our beneficiaries, we wish to ensure that access to clean water and good health to these families is maintained. A reinstall involves emptying the water filter of the sand and gravels [half inch and quarter inch sized gravels that prevent the sand from washing through the filter], washing out the cavity of the water filter of any remaining media residue, and putting in clean, fresh gravels and sand.



Each BSF is designed to service 15 people [one to three families - at an average family size of five] depending on how families are clustered. These **261 BSFs could therefore service a minimum of 1,305 people and up to 3,915 persons**.

Staff found that the **people like to use the BSF** and are enjoying the clean taste of the water. Children are carrying a bottle of filtered water to school. Families are cooking with filtered water. Families are saving money by not having to buy bottled water, are experiencing better health and are saving money on medical care. They want to continue the ability to have access to clean water and maintain their health, thereby helping reduce poverty.

Our main goal is to maintain the good health that was started for our village beneficiaries by renewing and securing their access to potable water. We hope you will join us in the effort by donating either \$72 for a BSF reinstall, or \$100 for a BSF replacement.

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

Your \$100 donation
provides a bio-sand water filter

Your \$375 donation
provides a well

Your \$175 donation
provides a latrine

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

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

Food Security Program

Becoming the Chick Supplier

A long-time donor, Rhonda, has been supporting our chicken farms for several years. This year her investment is going to **help one of our farmers rebuild her chicken farm**. Due to rain and temperature changes many of her chickens died last year. Monypheap, Trailblazer's Agriculture Specialist, selected Chicken Farmer in Chansar village, Chansar commune, Soutr Nikum district for this project.

Rhonda's contribution will provide for:

- materials to rebuild the chicken house
- 500 chicks
- food for the project period of 12 months - 2 seasons of production
- feeding materials
- incubator box
- chicken medicines
- extra space to build a cage for feeding chicks
- cages to put the chicks in for delivery

Donate Now

At the end of this project this farmer will be able, and have enough capacity to **become the chick supplier in her community** and the region. We truly appreciate Rhonda's ongoing investments in **helping rural farmers increase their ability** to better feed their families, while also giving them a means to generate income and support their families.

**Trailblazer's
Cambodian staff**
conducts
agriculture
trainings with 10 to
15 participants for
each training
course teaching
them better
techniques.



**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

Agriculture Integrated with Livestock

Trailblazer's Agriculture Specialist, Monypheap, visited and monitored a number of farmers of the Preah Ang Trong village, Lvea commune, Puok district, Siem Reap province Farmer Community Group [FCG]. This FCG was established in 2022 after several agricultural training techniques were conducted, along with providing vegetable seeds and farming materials. It was determined they indeed had the **capacity for cultivating produce**. In a recent visit, Monypheap noticed that some members were adding fertilizer to replenish nutrients to the crops.



Crops were being harvested, and other crops were flowering making them ready to be harvested in the near future.

This FCG is using the farming techniques called “**Integrated Farming System**” [IFS] which combines crop production with livestock management. These techniques complement each other in ways that provide a symbiotic relationship that is **economically viable and profitable, environmentally friendly, and that benefits from the diversity of production**. In the IFS, agriculture is integrated with livestock [chickens and pigs] which are kept in one place to create **year-round employment and additional income**.

This IFS is very useful. Chickens are kept in the top layer where their excreta is used. Pigs live in the lower layer. Any remaining water and manure is used for agriculture and irrigation crops. Native chickens graze in the pastures, their emissions can be recycled as fertilizer for orchards, as well as fodder crops.

\$5,000 Will Help Rebuild a Chicken Farm and
Sustain it for One Year

Give a GIFT in
HONOR or MEMORY
of someone special.

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

Economic Development Program (continued)

Agriculture Integrated with Livestock

Ms. Leav, the FCG team leader, is **utilizing the cultivation techniques learned in Trailblazer's IFS training**: growing crops, and raising chickens and pigs. She has been harvesting watermelons weighing 20 to 30 kilograms every day which she sells for \$.18 per kilogram. That equates to \$3.60 to \$5.40 per day. In comparison to an average income for rural villagers at \$534.50 per year, \$1.46 per day.



In addition, the **IFS helps poor small farmers** who have very little land to grow crops and diversify their crop production, increase cash income, and improve the quality and quantity of productive food. It also helps in the exploitation of un-utilized resources.

Based on the above concepts, we want all farmers in the group to follow their leader (Ms. Leav) and cultivate their crops using the IFS because it is **really useful and helps in agricultural production**.

Meet our Newest Staff Member

Our Cambodia affiliate Trailblazer Angkor's (TA) mission and vision statement is: *"To empower self-sustaining economic independence that rely and depend upon local talent and skills, to reduce de-pendency on international aid."*

TA's staff implement Trailblazer's four programs.

Ms. Sou is their newest staff member, hired to manage a specific grant received to further economic opportunities by giving a financial influx into two Village Funds as part of our Economic Development Program activities.



Ms. Sou Sokcheat
Village Fund Program
Coordinator

\$5,000 Will Help Establish a Village Fund

Please visit our website for more information about our staff:

<https://thetrailblazerfoundation.org/our-staff>

Education Program

Continued Investments in Education

Dale Jankovitz, has been in our newsletters before about projects that have been accomplished due to his generous donation. Recently he sent **another generous donation** for the purchase of needed school supplies, toothbrushes, school bags, books for the library, and ceiling fans for the Beng School.

We are deeply grateful for Dale's continued investments in the education of students in rural Cambodia [*in honor of his parents*].



Your \$55 donation
provides a student a bicycle.

Your \$15 donation
provides a student uniform.

There are other opportunities to help students and teachers with supplies

Partner Highlight

Partnering with Rotary Clubs Across the Globe

Beginning in 2005, we have been honored to partner on projects with 18 Rotary club partners across the globe, totaling \$179,810. Also, we had received two International grants totaling \$51,720 in 2007 and 2009. **This year we are happy to report three Rotary clubs supporting Trailblazer again** for the following WASH [Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene] projects.

The Rotary Club of Zurich-Flughafen has supported Trailblazer since 2014 with 13 various grants that totaled \$64,188 and provided for a total of 564 water filters, four new filter molds, 18 wells, new well drilling equipment, and 31 latrines.



Give in Honor or Memory of someone Special

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

Partner Highlight (continued)

Partnering with Rotary Clubs Across the Globe

These products serviced a minimum of 3,000 individuals with clean drinking water, access to water, and better sanitation - at a cost of \$21.40 per person. **Quite the impact for less than the cost of a dinner out** for many of us. This spring the Rotary Club of Zurich-Flughafen granted Trailblazer with \$2,500 for another WASH project.



Earlier this year, the **Fort Collins Breakfast Rotary Club International Service Committee [ISC]** granted \$2,500 for 14 latrines. In early August, the Fort Collins Breakfast Rotary Club ISC approached us about an intriguing idea for another WASH project grant. The club has \$1,000 and a private donor has another \$1,000 to put toward this project. They tasked Trailblazer to source other funds that would be matched. **We need to raise \$2,000 to receive the matching funds.** We are currently reaching out to other Rotary clubs that have supported Trailblazer in the past. We are hopeful other clubs will participate, and would welcome private donors who are interested to make their contribution to this make this project a reality. When dollars can be matched it is a wonderful incentive to give and **double your impact.**

Trailblazer to submit a proposal for another grant. A proposal in the amount of \$2,000 for the replacement of 27 BSFs was sent for their consideration. As noted in the Health Program article in this edition, the need for BSF replacements is actually 171 BSFs. This grant from the Denver SE Rotary Club will give us a good start at meeting the need. **We encourage our donors who are so inclined to join in this effort to help meet this need.**

We are ever grateful to the wonderful support we have received from these Rotary clubs who are also dedicated to WASH projects to improve the health and sanitation of poor rural families.



Make it a Recurring Donation
Your support is crucial for our work to continue long term.

Please visit our website to see the other organization who collaborate with us:
<https://thetrailblazerfoundation.org/our-partners>

Volunteers and Visitors

We expect that your greatest satisfaction will come from knowing you helped many rural Cambodian families begin rising up out of subsistence living, toward a place of sustainable living.



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

We look forward to hearing from you, and finding a way you can help Trailblazer meet our mission while keeping our costs down. Thanks.

Check the box **'Please inform me of Volunteer Opportunities'** on the enclosed envelope to be contacted

You can also Email Us:
info@thetrailblazerfoundation.com



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

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT

Greatest Satisfaction will Come from Knowing You Helped Many

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 bio-sand 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!!**

*I resolved to stop accumulating and begin the infinitely more serious and difficult task of wise distribution. **Andrew Carnegie***

Fundraising Platforms where you can find Trailblazer Foundation and participate in Matching Campaigns throughout the year.

GlobalGiving—coming up in September “Little by Little”
www.globalgiving.org/donate/14968/trailblazer-foundation

CO Gives—matching begins November 1 / recurring donation matching begins November 20
<https://www.coloradogives.org/organization/Trailblazer-Foundation>

DonorSee - www.donorsee.com/trailblazerfoundation

Myte - you can now find *Trailblazer Foundation* on Myte!
Myte is a new all-in-one mobile giving app

Globalteer - UK Donor Gift Aide
www.globalteer.org/gift/trailblazer-foundation

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



Trailblazer Foundation

PO Box 271767
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527