



Summer 2022 Newsletter

*News from Trailblazer Foundation—
Expanding our Board of Directors...*



Our First Volunteer for 2022,
through our partner Globalteer.

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Developing Ripples of Sustainability through Community Water Projects

A Note From Trailblazer's Executive Director

Hello Trailblazers,

I hope you enjoyed your Spring! It sure went fast here in Colorado. In Cambodia, the rainy season is just around the corner. When the heavens open in Cambodia, serious flooding is no surprise, in the countryside or in town. Farmers will soon become busy planting rice that will need to sustain them as the coming year's supply, which will be harvested in November.



But, when the waters dry up Cambodia will suffer the usual six months of drought. That's when our wells become especially important to provide them a consistent supply of water for personal use and to irrigate their home garden in order to continue feeding their families.

Please visit our website for more information about Cambodia:
<https://thetrailblazerfoundation.org/why-cambodia>



President John F. Kennedy once wrote, "One person can make a difference, and everyone should try." Behind every donation a life is being changed because someone, you, cares. Your generous giving is making a real difference every day, every month, every year. Thank you.

To make an even greater impact you could set up monthly or quarterly recurring donations. Consistent giving makes implementing our projects easier because we know the funding will be there to support the work to be done. We are all experiencing higher prices across the globe, and Cambodia is not exempt. Because of border disputes supplies, materials and petrol - which come through Vietnam - are more expensive. Our operations costs have increased 30% to 50%, which at this point we have not passed on to our donors. General funds are making up the difference, but general funds won't last forever. Your support is more crucial than ever for our work to continue long term.

We are so grateful for you, and for all you do to help poor rural Cambodian families move from poverty into more healthy and sustainable livelihoods.

With deepest gratitude,

Co-Founder and Executive Director



Email Chris: chris@thetrailblazerfoundation.org

A Note From Trailblazer's Board President

Hello from the Trailblazer Foundation.

Thank you for your consistent commitment to our organization. It's in that spirit that I wanted to share with you that we are expanding our Board of Directors and are currently accepting applications for interested volunteers.



This is an opportunity to help guide an organization that makes a substantial, on-the-ground impact in Cambodia and to continue our mission of delivering health and prosperity to rural Cambodia. If you or someone you know is interested, you can learn more and apply on our website, <https://thetrailblazerfoundation.org/our-board>.

Thanks again for your continued support. Please reach out with any questions or feedback.

Nick Munro

Board President

Nick@thetrailblazerfoundation.org

Health Program

Water Filters are Life Saving

The clean water that our biosand filters supply is crucial to the health of nursing mothers and their babies. Breast milk is nearly 90% water, making hydration essential during pregnancy and after delivering the baby, especially if breastfeeding - which most women in rural Cambodia do.

At six months, breastfeeding mothers can produce around 750 milliliters of breast milk per day. Experts recommend mothers who are nursing drink about 2 to 2.5 liters of water per day, in order to keep up with meeting their own body's fluid needs and that of their baby.



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

Health Program (continued)

Water Filters are Life Saving



Being dehydrated for even a couple of days can risk breast milk production, as well as impact the quality and quantity of breast milk. Breast milk provides babies with the necessary nutrients and antibodies they need to grow and develop properly, along with the ability to fight infections.

Babies are most at risk when dehydrated because they have smaller bodies with small fluid reserves and higher metabolic rates, which means they need constant replenishment. Additionally, if they suffer from diarrhea or vomiting, babies can become severely dehydrated.

This fact makes our biosand water filters all the more life-saving to rural children, mothers and families. Your contribution of \$80 provides up to 15 people with 80 liters of clean drinking water per day. That amount of water is sufficient to supply nursing mothers with the water they need to stay properly hydrated and provide healthy milk and nutrition to their baby.



**Make an Impact
TODAY**

This is a photo taken several years ago of Executive Director, Chris Coats, with a malnourished girl who was supposedly two years old. The story is sadly still applicable for families who struggle to have enough clean drinking water and food to feed the entire family.

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

Food Security Program

To Better Feed Their Families

Monypheap, Trailblazer's Agriculture Supervisor, and Ampil commune's chief, Mr. Prop, distributed \$120 worth of vegetable seeds to four village chiefs, who came as representatives of 40 farmers [10 farmers per village]. The recipient farmers had received agriculture training by Trailblazer. Trailblazer provided these seeds in response to the request of government officials at last fall's integrated workshop to aid these farmers in home gardening pursuits in order to better feed 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>

Food Security Program (continued)

Chicken Farm V

Here's an update on chicken farm V! The chicken barn has been constructed, along with the pond which grows the Azolla the chickens are fed. Azolla is an organic fertilizer and a source of food for pigs and fowl. It can double its biomass every two to three days. Because it grows so rapidly, it is a sustainable, easy, inexpensive source of food to augment insects the chickens find around the farmland, and other feed the farmer might buy at the market.



The initial supply of 500 chicks has been delivered. The project is really moving along. Now we wait for about four months for the chicks to grow to 1.2kg to 1.3kg in size which will make them marketable for sale. Chickens sell for about \$3.75 per chicken, so selling 300 chickens will bring an estimated income of \$1,125.00. This is a significant amount when compared to the average per capita annual income of \$920.99.

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

Give a GIFT in
HONOR or MEMORY
of someone special.

Education Program

Kind Contribution

Last summer you learned about the library that was built at Beng Primary school. You may recall reading about donor Dale Jankovitz in previous newsletters. In February, he visited Cambodia to see the projects he supported, the water filtration/handwashing station project at Kok Dong school and the library at Beng. While at the library, the school principal reported there is an English Class in the teaching program, in addition to the normal government's teaching curriculum. However, although the students have the English curriculum books they did not have English story books or dictionaries.



We subsequently received a list of the books wanted. We provided that list to Dale and he sent the funds to purchase the 450 story books in English, two dictionaries, white board markers, stamps, pencils, and other supplies. We are grateful for this kind contribution to assist the students at Beng Primary school with their education and learning English.



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

Economic Development Program

Ten Farmers Selected

Monypheap has been working with villages in Lvea commune, Pouk district about the establishment of a Farmer Community Group, Trailblazer's second FCG. Ten farmers have been selected for this project. The new FCG needs more experience and support of both technical and financial training. The next steps will also involve preparing the netting to surround the farm land. So, stay tuned as we will have more to report on this program in our next newsletter!

Sustainable MONTHLY Giving

Testimonials

Recurring Donors

We have a growing number of donors who are becoming recurring donors, which is greatly welcomed, and encouraging. Regular income assists Trailblazer by knowing there will be funds every month we can count on. There has been a 30-50% increase in materials and petrol, which impacts the "cost of doing business", in keeping operations running and paying staff, without any "hiccups". Below is a testimony from Elise about why she became a recurring donor. We hope you find it inspiring and that you join us as a recurring donor!

"I first began supporting Trailblazer when a fellow church member who was on the Board at the time, told me about the good work they were doing. As I continued occasional support, Chris Coats was in the area, and visited with me.

It was then I realized that I should be on a planned, monthly giving schedule. Budgets are hard to build if an organization has to depend upon occasional support. So, I now have a fixed amount charged to my credit card monthly, and I don't have to worry about occasionally remembering to write a check when the thought strikes me!!

For a carefully run and superb organization who helps people help themselves, as is Trailblazer, I am pleased to be able to help in a small - but scheduled - manner. They discern a need, set about formulating a plan, and... there they are, offering a hand up as needed."

To Donate

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

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

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

Volunteers

A Long Standing Dream!

We are happy to have our first volunteer for 2022! This volunteer, Christy, comes to us via our local partner Globalteer. Here are a few things she has shared with us about her experience. "I just wanted to drop you a line to let you know how great this experience has been, and continues to be, and how wonderful the Trailblazer crew is. They've made me feel right at home, and have been patient as I stumble through trying to find the right words in Khmer. Muoy, Pheap, Sokun, and Samnang took me out to Angkor Wat this last weekend, and we had a blast. Thank you again for allowing me to be a part of this! Coming from a background in water, being able to assist in more remote communities has been one of my long standing dreams, and this experience has been so wonderful. Am hoping to continue to stay involved with Trailblazer longer term." Christy has been capturing some great photos and videos of the staff while in the field.



If you are interested in helping our teams, please let us know. You can visit our website <https://thetrailblazerfoundation.org/volunteers-2> to sign up and find out more information.

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

You may wonder: How can I help?

Here are a lot of Ideas!

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

\$80 buys a biosand water filter for up to 3 families [15 people or more]

\$175 buys a latrine for a family [5 people on average]

\$320 buys a well for up to 3 families [15 people or more]

\$_____ donate to our general fund and help provide solid financial footing to our programs across the board.

\$_____ become a recurring donor weekly, monthly or quarterly to sustain the difference you are making.

Check with your employer about a matching gift program and double your impact. We have a growing number of donors who are taking advantage of these wonderful programs.

Like us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) to encourage your followers to like and follow us. Share your stories and posts describing your relationship with Trailblazer and why you support us.

Become a funder by conducting a DIY Peer-to-Peer campaign.

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

Donate from your Donor Advised Fund;

Donate stocks or securities to avoid capital gains tax and have a long-term impact;

For those 70.5 or older, avoid extra income by gifting 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.

DONATE NOW

**As always, we are ever grateful for your participation and generosity.
Our work is only made possible because of people like you who want to leave a legacy!**



Trailblazer Foundation

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