



# Spring 2020 Newsletter

*News from Trailblazer Foundation—*

*An impact that will last well into the future...*



Well in Romchek village, Banteay Srey district

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*Developing Ripples of Sustainability through Community Water Projects*

## A Note From Trailblazer's Executive Director

Hello Trailblazers,

I hope you experienced a wonderful, happy and blessed holiday season, and that your new year had a great start.

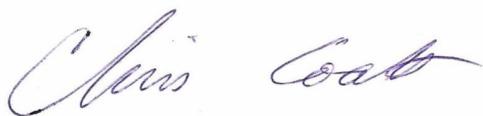
With that said, the year started around the world with an unexpected concern: coronavirus. There is just cause for concern, and all of us here at Trailblazer wish our staff, volunteers and visitors to remain safe and healthy. Although we have stepped up hygiene efforts to keep our staff safe at the work site, we want all of you to know that Trailblazer is following the advice of the Ministry of Health, and therefore, we are asking people to postpone any plans to volunteer or visit the Trailblazer office in Siem Reap until further notice.

For those concerned about traveling to Cambodia, or for those who may already be in Cambodia, we want you to know that Cambodia has stepped up precautions, increased security and closed border crossings. Of course, we advise taking the usual safety measures - washing hands frequently, using antibacterial sanitizers, eating foods that are well cooked, wearing face masks not recommended by CDC unless you are sick or a health worker, and avoiding contact with people suffering flu-like symptoms.

On a more positive note, for Trailblazer 2019 closed with a great number of accomplishments that raised more rural Cambodian families out of poverty and into more sustainable livelihoods. We anticipate and look forward to 2020 reaping similar results. In this spring newsletter, you will learn how your generous gifts played a direct and vital role in empowering us to improve the lives of thousands of rural villagers. Don't underestimate the impact you can make through your support, an impact that will last well into the future, and which could not happen without your generosity.

We trust you will consider making a gift. We would be happy to have you donate in honor or memory of someone special. You can make your donation by using the enclosed envelope, or the DONATE button on our website. Thank you so much for your continued interest and support.

With deepest gratitude,



Chris Coats  
Co-Founder and Executive Director



# Health Program

## *The Impact of Clean Water*

In Cambodia, 60,000 children die each year, many before the age of five, from preventable diseases such as typhoid, malnutrition, malaria/dengue, and pneumonia. The common denominator of many of these is waterborne illness. With no water mains, like those in the developed world, most villagers rely on pit wells, ponds or rivers as their source of water. Trailblazer is working to provide wells for a more convenient and better source of water, and we drilled 264 wells in 2019. However, well water still needs to be filtered to be safe for drinking.



Bio-sand water filters offer a simple low-tech method of breaking the cycle of disease. One filter can purify 20 liters [5 gallons] of water in about 30 minutes, and is designed to service 15 people. Five gallons per day is enough to supply up to three families [3 x 5 people per family] with clean safe drinking water.

Trailblazer installed 574 water filters in 2019, which supplied potentially 8,610 people [574 x 15] with clean water, and helped reduce disease and give those families hope of a better life.

With just \$80 USD, you can provide up to three families with clean water to use for drinking and cooking. Children, and their parents, will have better health and ultimately improved livelihoods because of safe clean water.

**DONATE NOW**

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

# Food Security Program

## *Agriculture Training Interests Expand*

Trailblazer's Food Security program's overall goal is to enhance rural farmers' skills to improve the food security of their families, which ultimately leads to better health for their entire rural community. We accomplish this goal by providing the mechanics and trainings wanted in order for these rural farmers to be successful in growing higher quality and larger amounts of produce to better feed their families. The trainings cover composting/organic fertilizers and pesticides [shown here in these photos] and horticulture/soil management, and this year we have added livestock theory and practice.



Compost training

In 2019, Trailblazer staff conducted 38 courses of horticulture and soil management, 23 courses in composting and organic fertilizers/pesticides, and 8 courses in homestead gardening. You can support rural farmers expanding their agricultural pursuits with a \$50 donation to cover the costs of Trailblazer staff pay, transportation to the villages, training materials, and the snacks and drinks Trailblazer provides the farmers during the training courses.

[DONATE NOW](#)



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

# Education Program

## *More Students are Waiting to Receive Bicycles*

To date, we feel fortunate to have the funds on account for 20 bicycles. To make the best use of our staff time and minimize transportation expense, we make a bicycle delivery when we have enough bicycles to fill a truck and serve as many students as possible at one time, which is at least 30 bicycles.

There are hundreds of rural students who are wishing and still waiting for their own bicycle. This desire speaks to the understanding these students, and that of their parents, of the importance of continuing their education. They take their education seriously and see education as a privilege. We have all probably heard the phrase: children are the future – in any country. You can help promote and protect the continued education of a rural Cambodian student with a \$55 donation to provide a deserving child with a bicycle.



**DONATE NOW**



Bicycle Delivery

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

# Economic Development Program

## *Farmer Community Group Success*

Trailblazer wishes to recognize and deeply thank the Christ Episcopal Church's Endowment Mission Project Fund International Projects [Cody, WY] that recently granted \$3,000 to support the Farmer Community Group [FCG] to ensure their success and continued growth. This grant provided for the purchase of a motorbike with cart to collect produce from the FCG members and deliver the produce to the local Roluos market. The grant also paid for the construction of their own market stall where the FCG produce is sold – complete with signage.



Mrs. Ki and her husband were chosen by the members of the FCG to be the owners of the new motorbike and cart. They agreed they will use this transportation to collect vegetables from the FCG members and deliver the produce to the FCG stall in the market. Additionally, Mrs. Ki agreed to share 1,000,000 Riels [\$250USD] into the FCG shared money fund for the benefit of all FCG members.

The FCG members benefit from this project because they have the ability for their produce to be collected and sold in the market. Also, they can make requests to borrow from the shared money fund in the pursuit of further interests, and pay back the loan within an agreed upon period of time. This loan process provides a convenient funding model for these farmers to continually progress in their economic pursuits and build a life of better security.

Mr. and Mrs. Ki, especially, benefit from this program because of the agreement signed giving them ownership of the motorbike and cart, and the ability to earn income from the stall proceeds in full once the 1,000,000 Riels is paid into the shared money fund, moving them to a greater level of sustainability.

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

# Economic Development Program

[DONATE NOW](#)

## Farmer Community Group Continued



The sign in the market stall, in English reads, "Meanchey Farmer Community Group, safe vegetable stall, Ki Roluos Market"

This project increases the economic status for all the FCG members and their families, and improves the food security and general health conditions of the community as a whole through consumption of the FCG's quality organic produce. Good health is fundamental to helping break the cycle of poverty and build more sustainable livelihoods. The Christ Episcopal Church's Endowment Mission Project Fund International Projects grant has made a significant impact toward this end goal. Thank you.

## Testimonial

We like to recognize Trailblazer supporters, be they donors, partners or volunteers, and thank them for their participation in helping make Trailblazer what it is today. This testimonial speaks to volunteers and the valuable component they play in getting the important work done that needs to be done, especially in our Health Program.



Wendy Golden, volunteer

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

## Testimonial

Below is a testament from a former volunteer [Scottie Thompson] about her experience with Trailblazer.

"I had such a wonderful experience volunteering at Trailblazer. Everyone who works there is so committed to helping the community, and it is clear in the work ethic at the center and out in the field. I had the opportunity to go out into the villages, and it was such a rewarding experience to be able to see the work building the filters come to life. I sincerely appreciate the model at Trailblazer that encourages community empowerment, so that the work they do is sustainable. I also enjoyed meeting the other volunteers, and having the chance to explore Siem Reap and the surrounding areas while there participating in such a meaningful cause."



Scottie, right, painting water filters.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE VITAL**

## Additional News

### *Solar Light Distribution*

Now and then, Trailblazer partners with other organization on projects. One of our long-standing partners is TAG Group out of Australia. Our relationship with TAG Group began several years ago when the Director, Tony, volunteered for Trailblazer. From that experience, Tony has been instrumental in working with Mr. Cooper of Pure Renewable Power Pty Ltd in Applecross W.A. to donate point-of-use solar lights. Over the past years we have made several deliveries.

Near the end of last year, Pure Renewable Power Pty Ltd sent a shipment of 100 solar lights to be distributed to rural communities. This batch of solar lights was delivered to families in Trapeang Thmor village, Khun Ream commune, Banteay Srey district. Trapeang Thmor village has 246 families comprising 188 households, with a total population of 1,100 people.

This village has no municipal supplied electricity. A few families have a solar panel they purchased from the local market. As you can imagine, the recipient families were very happy to receive "light". Children can read or study at night. Parents can work at home after dark. Light provides opportunities for so many activities, and are safer than candles.

We sincerely thank Tony, Mr. Cooper, and Renewable Power Pty Ltd for making this project possible and providing light to these families.

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



Solar Lights Distribution in Trapeang Thmor village



## How You Can Help

*365 Days a Year of Impact*

As we look forward to meeting the list of needs for 2020 in our four programs, here is a reminder of how your gift(s) can be part of changing a family's life. Every dollar really does help.

- ◆ \$50 supports a rural farmer's agriculture training course
- ◆ \$55 buys a bicycle to keep a student in school
- ◆ \$80 buys a bio-sand water filter for up to 3 families
- ◆ \$175 buys a latrine for a family
- ◆ \$320 buys a well for up to 3 families
- ◆ \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help out as much as possible where needed most

[DONATE ONLINE](#)

To Donate:

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

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



**Trailblazer Foundation**

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PO Box 271767  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527