



Summer 2021 Newsletter

*News from Trailblazer Foundation—
Your Gifts Make a Significant Difference....*



Kok Dong Chas Primary School construction is complete.
Read more on page 5

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| A Note from the Executive Director | Page 2 |
| Health Program – Sanitation for a School | Page 3 |
| Food Security Program – Farmers Continue Trainings | Page 4 |
| Education Program – A New School & A New Library | Page 5-6 |
| Economic Development Program – Empowering Self-Sustaining Economic Independence | Page 7-8 |
| Other Activities – Covid-19 Protection with Delivery of Masks | 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!

It is amazing to realize we are over halfway through 2021 already. We have a lot of exciting things to share about our projects. Three major projects occurred this year, in addition to business as usual. First, the construction of another primary school building, Trailblazer's ninth. Second, the construction of another library, Trailblazer's third. And third, the installation of a filtration/hand washing station at a primary school. We are grateful to the donors who made these large projects possible.

Sadly, Covid, and now the Delta variant, has continued to plague Cambodia, as with other countries. A report dated July 18, 2021 showed a total of 67,181 Covid-19 cases, 58,930 recoveries and 1,106 fatalities. The staff of Trailblazer is diligently following safety and health precautions. We are happy to report that all the Trailblazer staff have been vaccinated. In order to keep social distance and encourage mask wearing, we have had to reduce the number of attendees at our agricultural trainings.

The Cambodian government is striving to curb the spread. As of July 10, the country reported 4.8 million, aged 18 and over, had been vaccinated out of the targeted population of 10 million people. The government has placed travel bans across provinces, districts and communes, which at times caused Trailblazer to shift some of our work. In villages that experienced numerous positive Covid cases, the entire village was closed for quarantine purposes.

As we move into the third quarter of the year, it is our hope that you can continue your current level of giving. If you feel you can increase your giving, your generosity will have an even larger impact! Our work can only continue with the ongoing investments from our donors. You are the backbone of our organization and vital to making a difference in the lives of rural Cambodian people. It's not the size of the gift, it's knowing it comes from the heart and that it does make a difference. We deeply thank you for your continued interest and support.

Warm wishes,



Chris Coats

Co-Founder and Executive Director



**MAKE AN IMPACT
TODAY**

Health Program

Sanitation for a School

A \$7,000 donation, made by Dale Jankovitz, supported the construction of a filtration/hand washing station that was installed to service the 272 students at the new primary school: Kok Dong Primary School. This new school is discussed in our Education Program section of this newsletter.

Sanitation is always important, but is even more critical because of the virus. We are so excited that as a result of this project these students will experience the benefits of improved health and hygiene now and into the future.



Construction of the filtration/hand washing station



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

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

Food Security Program

Farmers Continue Trainings

During the last three months, Agriculture Supervisor Chanto has remained busy! He has conducted 21 soil management training sessions for 210 farmers, 9 homestead garden training sessions for 87 participants, and three chicken raising training sessions for 30 farmer participants. These trainings impacted a minimum of 585 villagers - the farmers and their families [based on an average family size of 5]. With these trainings, these families have gained knowledge and techniques that give them better skills to improve their food security and nutrition.

Mr. Chanto has also continued to work with the chicken farm established last year, and has started a second chicken farm. There is a third chicken farm in the works that you will read about in next quarter's newsletter. These farms are discussed further in the Economic Development Program section.



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



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

Education Program

A New School

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

In our spring newsletter you learned about the Kok Dong Chas Primary School construction, made possible by the donor Team Martin, who came to Trailblazer through our good partner Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy. The total project includes toilets, flagpole, signage and solar lights along the road leading into the school property. Below are photos of the progress of the construction so you can see how it's done. The contract was for a six month period and completion was the end of July.

Discussions with government officials are underway regarding the inauguration ceremony, and whether or not a ceremony will be possible due to the spread of Covid-19. Protocol requires a recognition and blessing, and the "hand-over" of the project. But this year the event will have only the few critical members in attendance.



^ Field Director, Ratanak, meeting with government officials at Kok Dong Chas Primary School
School Toilets >



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

Education Program (continued)

A New Library

The Water Movement, formerly Four Girls For Families, approached Trailblazer wishing to support another education project. This group of motivated young women contributed funds three years ago to help with the construction of the Beng Primary School.

The Water Movement had \$7,500 to contribute toward the construction of a one room library at Beng Primary School. Donor, Dale Jankovitz, partnered with The Water Movement and supplied the balance of \$7,500 needed to complete the project in honor of his parents.

Due to these donors' continued interest and funding, Trailblazer's local director, Ratanak, met with the Beng Primary School committee, as well as, the commune councilor on April 17th to talk about the library project. The school principal and commune officials showed Ratanak the proposed library location, which has been on the wish list for a few years. The contractor was also invited to see the school and the library site. As per protocol, the school principal and the commune officers provided the new library proposal letter to Trailblazer, which Ratanak submitted to the education district office for approval before construction could begin. The library is now complete!



Completed library >



**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

Empowering Self-Sustaining Economic Independence

We wrote about our first chicken farm project in the last newsletter edition, which was made possible with a \$3,000 grant from the Endowment Mission Project Fund through Christ Episcopal Church Mission Committee of Cody, WY.

The first Chicken Farm started January 21, 2021 with farmer Mr. Eng and is now considered a closed and successful project as of April 28, 2021, based on the following criteria:

- The farmer is experiencing and practicing the chicken raising and caring techniques learned, indicating he has become an independent farmer.
- The farmer can determine the retention of healthy hens to produce eggs, and cocks for breeding for next season productions: keeping 100 hens and 20 cocks.
- The farmer will give 500 chicks (about 100 chicks each breeding season) to the selected community members who wish to become a chicken farmer, and can provide the chicken raising knowledge to his neighbor farmers and community, thereby becoming a role model in the community and creating a future group of chicken farmers in the coming year.
- Next season productions, maintaining the egg hatching, chicks antiviral will be experienced based on the job-training provided by Trailblazer.
- This project created income for the farmer, a new business of supplying chicken meat and chicks to the local market and his community, and helped meet the demand for food. The project also secured the family's economic position without the need to rely on NGOs or government help.
- Trailblazer will continue to provide technical consultancy to the farmer(s) if needed.

After the farm was up and operating, it took four months for the chicks to grow to an adult weight of 1.2kg or 1.3kg, which is the sellable size for chickens in the market. Mr. Eng initially sold 50 chickens for an income of \$187.50 (about \$3.75 per chicken). The remaining 300 chickens will be sold for an estimated income of \$1,125.00 - a total earning of \$1,312.50.

After 6 months, the chickens will produce approximately 2,400 eggs, and 2,400 eggs will become 2,400 chicks. Five hundred of the 2,400 chicks will be given to 5 trained farmers in the community to start their own chicken farm. The remaining 1,900 chicks will be supplied to the local market at the price of 5,500riels per chick (about \$1.37 per chick). Meaning the farmer will make \$2,603.00 for the first year of operation.

These earnings are a significant amount when compared to the average per capita annual income of \$920.99.

It is clear that this project enhanced and increased the number of economic opportunities available to member farmers allowing them to earn a higher rate of income, and moving them from a high rate of poverty into more sustainable livelihoods.

In this edition we are excited to report that Chicken Farm II has begun! A \$3,000 donation made by donor, Dale Jankovitz, was used to establish a second chicken farm in Sanlong village, Soutr Nikum district. The selected farmers are Mrs. Prak and Mr. Chhin, who support a family of five. Chhin is a fisherman but is now working at home raising chickens. The Chicken Farm II project started May 1, 2021 and is moving into phase two toward completion, which will be determined in about five months - when they begin to sell adult chickens and make a profit - using the same criteria as with Chicken Farm I.

HELP SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

[Go to the next page for photos of the chicken farm >](#)

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

Economic Development Program

Empowering Self-Sustaining Economic Independence (continued)



^ Chicken Farm Photos ^

< Providing technical consultancy to the farmers >

Other Activities

Covid-19 Protection with Delivery of Masks

A \$2,500 donation made by Dale Jankovitz was used for the purchase of cloth masks to be distributed to students and teachers at two primary schools. Ratanak engaged interested ladies in the village to sew the cloth masks as a means of income and to be part of helping reduce the spread of Covid-19 in their community.

The initial intention was to get the masks to students at the primary schools, but the schools were closed for the summer break. Instead, the masks were provided to 10 to 15 representatives of each of the villages where Covid-19 is active. These representatives agreed to distribute two masks to each student and teacher of their village so they could wear one and wash one.

The delivery of 1,100 masks occurred on June 28, 2021 to Chhouk and Bos villages, Knarpo commune, Sotr Nikum district.

To Donate

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

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

Covid-19
Protection with
Delivery of Masks



DONATE NOW



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 directly impact children by providing a school uniform
- \$50 supports a rural farmer's agriculture training course
- \$55 keeps students in school by providing a bicycle
- \$80 provides clean drinking water for up to 3 families with a bio-sand water filter
- \$175 gives a family safety and dignity by constructing a latrine
- \$320 provides access to water for up to 3 families by drilling a well
- \$_____ to help out as much as possible where needed most

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.

Every dollar adds up and really does have a significant impact. You have probably heard the saying, "in giving we receive." It is so true. Giving brings joy knowing your compassion and generosity are making a difference.

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;
- Consider using direct deposit from your checking account to make your donation and recurring donations and save credit card fees.

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-ways-to-giving>



Trailblazer Foundation

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