

CAMBODIA PROJECTS: 2014 UPDATE & EXCITING NEWS

Do read about our new Family Health Clinic which we will build & do save Thu June 19th in your calendar!

In 2011, Patti Lee, Barbara Seagram and a group of 50 docked in Phnom Penh. We had sailed along the Mekong River and we were armed with clothing, pens, notebooks, rulers, sharpeners, toys, pencils, stickers and anything else you can dream of. The others in the group had generously agreed to each bring an extra suitcase and they either filled it or we filled it with donations from others in Toronto and surrounding areas. Thanks to a bridge friend in Gravenhurst, David Bryce, Patti found out about a local Gravenhurst resident, Lisa McCoy. Lisa was known to have dedicated the last few years to being on the ground in Cambodia (Phnom Penh and in remote villages in the provinces of Battambang and Takeo) six months per year. Working with Lisa and a fabulous Australian volunteer, Pauline Johns, other groups had built two schools in Takeo province. Pauline and Lisa pay their own air, accommodation and meals so that all funds raised go to the cause and every penny is accounted for carefully.

We had discovered that there was a programme whereby we could arrange to buy bicycles for the children of Cambodia. \$50.00 per bicycle allowed the parts to be purchased in China and put together by a local bike seller in Cambodia. The children signed a commitment that they would continue going to school if they were given a bicycle and there was also a provision for maintenance of the bicycle should it need repair. All part of the \$50.00.

Our group, along with other friends from Toronto, purchased 40 bicycles and we took them to a falling down shack ½ hour outside Phnom Penh, which was named Banyan Learning Tree School. Lisa met us and escorted us there in a small tuk-tuk along the dusty roads of Phnom Penh and beyond. It was quite a ceremony as we presented the bikes to mainly children of landmine victims. It was all very uplifting but Patti and Barbara looked at each other and wondered how long this shack would remain standing. We inquired how much it would cost to build a permanent school and found that it would be \$24,000.00. We returned to Toronto determined to build a school. We raised \$40,000.00 that year so we also furnished all three schools and built a library at one of the schools also. **Patti visited in 2014, Barbara will visit in 2015.**

Since then, we remain committed to sustaining **FOUR** schools...paying teachers, librarians, paying for costs of electricity etc: Costs per year for sustaining all these projects: \$10,000.00 total. You can see that money goes a long way in this country.

We now have 580 students in our schools. There is a huge need in the remote villages for medical help. Many never see a doctor. One 4 year old girl recently was deemed to need heart surgery. Pauline took her to Bangkok at her own personal expense. The doctors there said that the surgery would have had to be performed when the child was one year old. The family had never ever seen a doctor. They returned home. The child is very ill. It is all so sad. We have therefore decided to build a **FAMILY HEALTH CLINIC**. It would be the first line of medical support for local families who do not have a doctor and who cannot travel to one. Our first guesstimate for building this project is approximately \$50,000.00.

Patti and Barbara are excited and optimistic about all of these projects and are holding our annual fundraiser for Cambodia on Thursday June 19th at 5 Glen Park Ave (Habonim Synagogue).

9.30 am: Seminar with Barbara Seagram 11.30 am: Lunch

12 noon: Presentation by Patti Lee with lots of photos of her 2014 trip to Cambodia, where she stayed a few weeks.

12.45 pm – 3.30 pm: Bridge game with extra master points (sectionally rated)

We will also have a **silent auction**. We would be so grateful if you could all help us to solicit donations for our silent auction...dinner at restaurants are the most popular...vouchers for anything you think would be popular; we would so appreciate your help with this.

The cost for attending is a donation of minimum of \$40.00 per person. (Tax deductible receipts will be issued). At the door, there will be an additional fee of \$10.00 per person to cover costs for the event. *These have to be kept separate as there is no tax receipt for the \$10.00*. If you are unable to attend, we would still welcome your donation & of course the tax receipt will still be issued.

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Please give us your address, email address and tel no. so that we can process your tax receipt.

*Please make cheques out to **Canadian Landmine Foundation** as that is the organization that does receipts for us.*

Please mail this coupon with your cheque to: Barbara Seagram, 220 Lawrence Ave East, Toronto ON M4N 1T2

Please hold a space for me/us at Cambodia Fundraiser on Thursday June 19th. I enclose a cheque for a MINIMUM of \$40.00. (NO MAXIMUM!!) I understand I will receive a tax deductible receipt.

NAME: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

TEL NO: () _____

I PLAN TO PLAY IN THE GAME THAT AFTERNOON & MY PARTNER'S NAME IS _____