

Community Links with Cambodia

Supporting the rights of children



in partnership with
Children and Life Association (Cambodia)

2008/09 Update

December 2008

Since its inception in 2001, Community Links with Cambodia (CLC Melbourne) has joined with the Children and Life Association (CLA Cambodia) to support the poorest people in Prey Veng Province, south east Cambodia. CLA Cambodia is a child rights non-government organisation with holistic programs that support the child, the family and the village.

CLC Melbourne is special in its *local-to-local* approach - local people in Melbourne helping local villagers in Cambodia. CLC Melbourne raises funds through networks of friends, colleagues and families. All funds go directly to programs delivered on the ground through CLA, a Cambodian NGO that empowers local staff and communities. There is no marketing or advertising expenditure.

CLC Melbourne thanks all supporters whose generosity is making a real difference through Education and Family Support programs. In 2007/2008 CLC Melbourne raised \$9,800. These funds have supported agriculture, livelihoods and microfinance programs which are helping people lift themselves out of poverty.

In addition, CLC Melbourne funds have enabled CLA Cambodia to initiate the Trorkeat School Program. CLC Melbourne funds are supporting 40 of the poorest children, their family and community in Trorkeat Village.

Focus on Trorkeat

Trorkeat Primary School is in Mesang District, Prey Veng Province, Cambodia – an area of extreme poverty and social isolation. Trorkeat Village was identified by CLA Cambodia as one of the poorest villages in the Province with a very low rate of school attendance.

During 2008, a baseline survey was undertaken in Trorkeat by CLA Cambodia. This established the extent and depth of poverty and vulnerability of children. The survey showed:

- Very poor children cannot attend school because their family's survival depends on the labour of both parents and children.
- A constant struggle to survive - the poorest families do not have enough food to eat for up to half a year.
- Many families are without knowledge and life skills to enable a safe and healthy life.
- Rates of sickness, malnutrition and illiteracy are very high.

In early 2008, six members of CLC Melbourne travelled on a self funded study tour to see CLA Cambodia projects in action and experience village life first-hand. CLC Melbourne members met with participants in child rights programs, youth training programs, microfinance and savings groups. The group also visited Trorkeat School with CLA Cambodia Director, Buth Saman, who was keen to develop programs to improve the situation in Trorkeat.

Poverty at Trorkeat and CLA Cambodia Needs Assessments are guiding CLC Melbourne in the Trorkeat Program which commenced in September 08.



This year CLC Melbourne support has enabled CLA Cambodia to implement the Trorkeat School Program

Contact us

CLC Melbourne is a volunteer group working at the local level in Melbourne supporting local people in Cambodia.

Website: www.clcmelbourne.org

Email: info@clcmelbourne.org

Barbara Jackson (Secretary)
barbarajackson@optusnet.com.au

Community Links with Cambodia

Supporting the rights of children



in partnership with
Children and Life Association (Cambodia)

Responding to needs - Supporting Trorkeat in 2009

Educating Primary School children

On an annual basis, CLC Melbourne supports very poor children in Trorkeat village to go to school. These education costs include school fees, books and school uniforms.

Supporting Trorkeat Primary School

Trorkeat School is extremely poor, with no sanitation or running water. Although the school building is reasonably new, it is little more than an empty shell. Apart from desks, the three school rooms are bare and the site is desolate.

Funds raised by CLC Melbourne have provided water filters and books to start a library.

Over time, further funds will provide resources and equipment to increase the quality of the school and promote better education.

Supporting children's families to increase livelihoods

All the families who join CLA Cambodia programs widen their agricultural skills to grow vegetables and raise fish, poultry and livestock. They also learn practical money management and business skills. To support families through this process, CLA Cambodia provides agricultural training and micro loans. Initiation of self help groups is underway. CLA Cambodia programs are sustainable and are proven to break the cycle of poverty.

How you can help

- **Purchasing a \$20, \$40 or \$60 Gift Card** to support the Trorkeat Primary School program. The ideal Christmas present.
- **A donation of your choice**
Cheques: Community Links with Cambodia, PO Box 516, Toorak 3142
or Bank Transfer:
Account name: Community Links with Cambodia
BSB 063 177 Account No. 1015 3031
Please email info@clcmelbourne.org to notify of bank transfer
- **Pledging a dollar a day** – deducted for your bank account monthly. Email info@clcmelbourne.org for details
- **Partnering your business, school, club or organisation** with Community Links with Cambodia. Together we can support the Trorkeat Primary School Program
- **Joining our volunteer organisation** - We are actively seeking new members for our volunteer group. Please get in touch.



CLC Melbourne now helps 40 of the poorest children to attend Trorkeat school



Completing primary school will improve capacity to break out of the poverty cycle



CLA programs are proven to help grow income, hope and self sufficiency

Join our email list at www.clcmelbourne.org