



GATE Siem Reap Receives \$60,000 in Funding from The Material World Charitable Foundation and The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation!

Lotus Outreach is excited to announce that The Material World Charitable Foundation and The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation have granted \$60,000 (\$50,000 and \$10,000 respectively) in continued support of our Girls' Access to Education (GATE) scholarship program in rural Siem Reap, Cambodia. The GATE Siem Reap program continues to provide educational scholarships to 180 at-risk and exploited girls in rural Siem Reap so they can continue their studies in public school. These scholarships cover the costs of education such as tuition fees, books, supplies, clothing, transportation, food and boarding.

Lotus Outreach believes that basic education is not only a fundamental right, but is one of the most powerful catalysts for human development. On a global scale, even the most basic levels of education for girls have the power to ripple throughout future generations—transforming families, communities and even nations. Statistically speaking, children of educated women have improved survival rates, nutritional status and school attendance. Here are just a few examples of why basic education for girls matters so much:

- Children born to mothers with primary school education are only half as likely to die before the age of 5.



- Mothers without primary school education are twice as likely to have children who will not attend primary school.
- Women without basic education are five times more likely to lack even the most fundamental knowledge about HIV/AIDs and its transmission.

Though we will continue to work vigorously to see each and every one of the scholarship recipients' hopes and dreams fulfilled, we consider each additional year they spend in public school a tremendous success. Please join us in thanking The Material World Charitable Foundation and The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation for their ongoing, generous support. To learn more about these excellent organizations, please visit www.georgeharrison.com/mwf and www.sdrubin.org.

LEARN Publishes Handbook on Education Rights to Mobilize Rural Indian Communities

हर बच्चा स्कूल जाए, पढ़े, आगे बढ़े

हमारे स्कूल में ठीक पढ़ाई हो, माता-पिता और शिक्षकों की यह जिम्मेदारी है



व्हाइट लोटस

31, डी डी ए फ्लैट, पंचशील पार्क,
शिवालिक मेन रोड, नई दिल्ली - 110017

The Lotus Education as a Right Network (LEARN) recently published a booklet designed to equip rural villagers in Haryana with the knowledge and resources required to improve the quality of government schools. The booklet informs villagers of their children's constitutional right to education; reviews the function and necessity of community structures required to monitor and support the proper management and development of government schools; describes the minimum infrastructure and teaching atmosphere the education department is obligated to provide; outlines government-mandated incentive programs for economically weak sectors; explains how parents and communities can work together to monitor schools and ensure they are working properly; and informs villagers how and with whom to file complaints when their children's right to education is violated.

This booklet fills a huge gap in community resources required to educate, inform and mobilize rural villagers to demand the fundamental right to education for their children. Our focus on community mobilization is a part of our three-pronged approach—including legal advocacy and independent monitoring—to improving quality and access to education for marginalized children in India.

To learn more about the LEARN program or make a contribution to support this important work, please visit us on the web at www.lotusoutreach.org.



Networking the SMART Way to End Human Trafficking in Rural Cambodia



Our Safe Migration and Reduction of Trafficking (SMART) program—a mobile vehicle and advocacy team which moves from point-to-point along the porous Thai-Cambodian border to educate at-risk migrant laborers and street children on the dangers of human trafficking—continues to receive widespread recognition as one of the premier counter-trafficking initiatives operating in Cambodia

today. The SMART program, delivered in partnership with the Cambodian Women's Crisis Center (CWCC), has been increasingly engaged in counter-trafficking networking and inter-organizational cooperation at the local, national and international level.

Our SMART program officers continue to host members of the UN Interagency Program on Human Trafficking during their fact finding missions to help them learn more about SMART activities and provide assistance in gathering and analyzing data for the agency's efforts. Such efforts include the Strategic Information Response Network (SIREN), which delivers high quality, responsive, and up-to-date data and analysis on cutting edge issues within the human trafficking sector, primarily in the Greater Mekong Sub-region. The U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh also paid two visits to the SMART target areas in early 2009 to demonstrate their support for the Cambodian government's Anti-Trafficking Task Force. The embassy representatives were accompanied by SMART program manager, Mr. Som Arth, during their visits to crossing points along the Thai-Cambodian border. Mr. Som facilitated meetings between the representatives and immigration officers, border police and other local authorities and provided an in-depth explanation of the SMART program's activities and how it is working to ensure the safe migration of Cambodian laborers crossing into Thailand.

Apart from these two important visitors, two local NGOs, Khmer Kampuchea Krom Human Rights Organization (KKKHRO) and Legal Support for Children and Women (LSCW), traveled to the various border crossing points to visit individuals in migrant labor communities in order to better understand their problems and vulnerabilities and see how the SMART program serves them.



Following their visit, CWCC's Provincial Coordinator from Poipet was invited to participate in a National Consultation Workshop on *The Rights of Women Migrants and Domestic Workers*, organized by LSCW and supported by Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA). The SMART program also began collaborating more deeply with the Border Issue Group for Children—a network of NGOs and government agencies running complimentary programs to SMART—to monitor the situation of Cambodian migrant laborers—particularly children—in Thailand's Rongkleur Market.

Lotus Outreach Selected as Charitable Beneficiary for San Diego's 2009 Taste of Asia Event!

"Taste of Asia" is an annual charity program hosted by diverse Asian community organizations collaborating to present an entertaining public event to benefit various charitable organizations assisting the less fortunate. This is a fully volunteer-based program and 100% of all proceeds are donated to various needy programs in Asia. The event will include food tasting, cultural activities, ethnic entertainment and more!

This year, Taste of Asia has chosen to raise funds for Lotus Outreach and The International Humanity Foundation. We encourage you to show your support by joining us in Balboa Park on September 26th for this exciting annual event:

- What:** Taste of Asia Charity Event
- When:** Saturday September 26, 2009
11:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- Where:** Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
International Cottages
- Who:** Anyone with a good appetite and an appetite for good!

For information on ticket sales and vendor, sponsorship and advertising opportunities, please contact us at info@lotusoutreach.org. We also urge you to visit the Taste of Asia website at <http://tasteofasiasd.com>.

Our Team



Patrick Gauthier
President



Glenn Fawcett
Executive Director,
Field Operations



Erika Keaveney
Executive Director



Raksmei Var
Project Manager,
Cambodia



Suraj Kumar
Project Manager,
India