

Greetings to all of our friends and supporters. It has been some time since our last newsletter and we have a great deal of news to bring you all up to date on.....

Caulfield Grammar School – Pichey Rangsey School Alliance

We are very pleased to let our friends and supporters know that Caulfield Grammar Junior School, Malvern Campus, has formed a strategic alliance with the Pichey Rangsey School near Phnom Penh. Last year the students at the Malvern Campus raised money through a casual clothes day for the Bright Children Organisation's Mkak Primary School near Siem Reap. This money helped supply a water tank and purifier for the students and local community. After meeting with Mrs Jill Bosanquet, the Head of CGS, Malvern Campus and Ms Fiorella Soci the Social Services Coordinator, a possible link with one of our schools was discussed. The aim was to involve the students in a learning process that would broaden their thinking in how others of their age cope in a vastly different learning situation to their own. The outcome was the setting up of a sustainable link with the Pichey Rangsey School. The students at the Malvern Campus, through the efforts of their Social Committee guided by Ms Soci, have been creating ways to link with the children in Cambodia. Classes have been involved in introducing themselves through photos and letters which in due course will be forwarded to the Pichey Rangsey students. In turn the Cambodian students sent an introduction video of themselves singing, in English, the Abba song, 'I have a Dream'.

On Tuesday 6th September the Humanitus team represented by Jeffrey Richards and Sally Cordner were invited to assembly at the Malvern Campus to receive funds raised by the Year 3 to 6 students. They asked family and friends to sponsor them in a House General Knowledge Competition. The money collected from their sponsors will be donated to their new friends in Cambodia. Humanitus are extremely grateful for the extraordinary effort by students and staff, as is Denzil Sprague, founder of Pichey Rangsey School. Initially these funds will help to purchase bicycles for students who need to travel great distances to their school and also some much needed safe playground equipment.

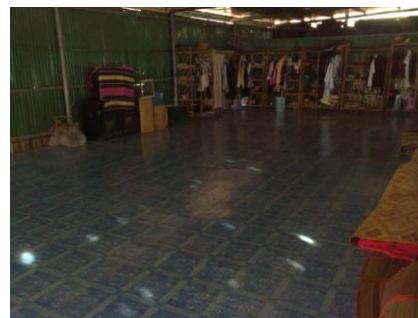
We look forward to keeping you informed of the student driven learning that is happening from two very different and unique schools.



SFODA Orphanage – January visit

Simon Cowell (Humanitus board member) visited SFODA in January 2011. Here is an account of his third visit to this very special place

"On my January trip to Cambodia I was fortunate to be able to spend two days at SFODA with a volunteer. As always the children were very excited to see me and the volunteer. It was pleasing to see some familiar faces and even a couple of the children remembered my name. The orphanage had gone through a lot of hardship over December 2010 due to the government widening the road alongside SFODA. This greatly encroached on the orphanage, forcing them to alter the set up of their sleeping and kitchen areas. The funds which I was responsible for dispersing for reading materials, needed to be reallocated for some much needed new flooring in the sleeping area. As the orphanage was in a bit of a state the English work I had prepared went out the door so to speak.... We decided to assemble beds and generally help clean up. This was greatly appreciated by all and an eye opener for the volunteer who had expected to assist with English and art classes. After yet another humbling time we sadly bid our farewells until the next visit"



Cambodia visit July 2011

Humanitus Directors, Jeffrey Richards and Angus Carnegie, accompanied by two volunteers, travelled to Cambodia in July to visit the schools and orphanage that Humanitus assist. The trip was, as always, a humbling experience for them. Every moment was a highlight and it was especially exciting to finally meet, in person, Denzil Sprague (Pichey Rangsey Primary School) and Piseth Luon (Mkak Primary School). It was amazing to see the changes and progress in both schools and to witness the difference Humanitus contributions have made. At the same time though they saw just how needy both the schools and children still are. Listed below is a brief account of their visits.

Denzil Sprague Pichey Rangsey Primary School: The day that Jeffrey and Angus were scheduled to visit Pichey Rangsey Primary School with Denzil just happened to be in the first week of the school holidays. Denzil had mentioned to the school Director that people from Humanitus were visiting and asked about the possibility of arranging for some students and teachers to be present. Incredibly word spread swiftly throughout the community and when they arrived mid morning some 800 children and teachers were in attendance with classes in full swing. The children were dressed in their uniforms and wearing their precious shoes that a friend of Denzil's, Scott Neeson, had donated. The children had never had shoes before Scott made his kind donation and they keep them for special occasions due to their concerns about wearing them out. It was wonderful for Jeffrey and Angus to go from class to class, see lessons taking place and meet the children. The visits to the classrooms culminated in the children from the senior class (6th Grade) singing ABBA's "I Have a Dream". The children from other classes who couldn't fit into the classroom were all crowded outside enjoying the music. There was then time out in the playground to interact with the children and teachers whilst watching the more energetic ones playing with their new soccer balls. There was plenty of time on this day and two other occasions for Jeffrey and Angus to speak at length with Denzil about his future plans for the school. *"We were truly inspired by Denzil's commitment and dedication to the children and their education. To see how proud the children and teachers are of their new school and how eager they are to learn seemed to encapsulate and confirm the extraordinary ethos that Denzil has instilled in everyone" said Jeffrey.*

Mkak Primary School: The visit to Piseth Luon's Mkak Primary School near Siem Reap was especially timely as it coincided with the official opening ceremony for the school. It was a very proud moment for not only Piseth and his family, but for the school children, teachers and all who have helped the school over the years. Approximately 600 people, including children, their families, local and Government officials and invited guests attended this special event. The monsoonal rains held off helping to make the day a great success and moving celebration. Jeffrey and Angus were able to take time out after the celebrations to inspect the new toilets, water tank etc made possible through Humanitus contributions. A recently formed New Zealand charity had funded two new classrooms and their completion coincided with the opening ceremony. Though the new classrooms stood in stark contrast to the original school building they will definitely prove to be an ideal learning environment for the ever increasing enrolments. All of us at Humanitus congratulate Piseth on his achievements and hold in high esteem his work and vision for the future of the children in his region.

We have included in our newsletter the article from an interview Jeffrey gave to Charles Amery of the Phnom Penh Post.

SFODA Orphanage: Jeffrey and Angus were fortunate to visit SFODA twice during their time in Phnom Penh and also enjoyed an afternoon 'luncheon cruise' on the Mekong River with the children. The children live on the banks of the river but have never been on a boat let alone seen their city from that perspective. *"We wanted to do something special for the children, something they wouldn't normally do. To see the absolute joy on their faces and witness the fun they had on the boat cruise made us realise they would remember this special day for years to come" said Angus.*

"It was wonderful to see the children again. SFODA has always been a very special place for me and I was delighted to see some of the teenagers from my last trip are now studying and doing well and proving to be responsible young adults" said Jeffrey. "There were a lot of new faces amongst the younger ones but also many I recognised from my previous time there". The children have access to some great volunteers and their English has improved dramatically since he last visited. SFODA face many daily challenges however under the direction and guidance of the amazingly resilient and caring Mrs. Moninarom Ouk the children have a safe, loving and caring family like atmosphere at the orphanage.

SFODA's activities are not just limited to the orphanage care centre. They also play a major role in the local community working with and supporting people affected by, and infected with, HIV/AIDS. Alongside this programme they run effective education programs for drug users and Vietnamese bar girls (Smart Girl Programme). Whilst the orphanage is the main focus of the Humanitus Foundation's support of SFODA, Jeffrey, as a board member of SFODA, will be looking at ways to assist with these projects as well.

Salvation Centre Cambodia School: During their time in Phnom Penh Angus and Jeffrey were able to meet with the staff of SCC and revisit their little school in one of the slum areas. Little had changed since the last visit though they now have fewer children attending their classes due mainly to the eviction of many families to make way for new development in the area. Angus and Jeffrey were invited to visit a new centre for the children of families living in the forest near the Angkor Temples however due to time constraints they were unable to make that trip on this occasion.

Following closely in the steps of Jeffrey and Angus' visit to Cambodia was Christine Gilliland, PYP Coordinator at Koska Hall, Xavier College in Melbourne. Christine is also a member of the Victorian Primary Years Programme Network, a loyal supporter of Humanitus. While in Phnom Penh she visited the Pichey Rangsey School and SFODA Orphanage to see firsthand the benefits of the PYP contributions. During her time there she interacted with both students and teachers and presented books made by Koska Hall students as well as other much needed resources. Singapore Airlines kindly allocated Christine a generous extra baggage allowance to enable transportation of these resources and for this support Humanitus are most grateful. In Christine's words, *"This visit was an extraordinary, life changing experience and I cannot wait to go back"*. On behalf of all of us at Humanitus we thank Christine and the Koska Hall students for their good will.



Phnom Penh Post - Tuesday 2 August, 2011

Earlier this year, Piseth Luon registered his Bright Children Organisation as an NGO in Cambodia. On July 21, another milestone in his continuing work to break the cycle of poverty through the medium of education was achieved with the official opening of the Mkak Village Primary School.

The school was in fact founded in 2004 by Luon Piseth, who was brought up in the village and whose family still lives there.

When the school opened its doors seven years ago, there were 100 students and two teachers. There are now 160 children and an additional teacher.

The official opening and ongoing success of the school was particularly poignant and uplifting for the Melbourne, Australia-based, not-for-profit charitable organisation Humanitus, whose aim is to empower indigenous communities and individuals through the development of educational opportunities.

Humanitus has been working with Piseth Luon and his school for the past three years, and has committed to continue helping and supporting them.

It has done much in that time to make a difference to the development of the school by funding the building of five toilets, a water tank, a tank tower and pump, as well as assisting with some of the costs involved in holding the opening ceremony.

Humanitus has many plans including, but not limited to, raising and accessing funds for a health and dental-care program, water filtration equipment and accommodation for volunteers.

Humanitus executive director and founder Jeffrey Richards, who is based in Melbourne, and Southeast Asia director of the foundation Angus Carnegie were among those at the opening ceremony during their 10-day journey to the Kingdom that included visiting other schools and an orphanage, delivering supplies, equipment and disbursing funds for them.

They were joined at the opening ceremony of the Mkak School, in Siem Reap province, by a list of dignitaries that included Siem Reap province Governor HE Sou Phirin; Leav Ora, director of the Siem Reap Provincial Teacher Training College; Piseth Luon, founder of the Bright Children Organisation; and Sandra Green, who founded the New Zealand charity Kids for Cambodia.

"I have always been inspired by Khmers making a difference to the lives of their fellow people, and it's great to see a local person like Piseth Luon making a difference through education," said Richards, who was also presented with a medal for service to the people of Cambodia (Gold Decoration of National Construction) at the opening ceremony.

"He is very passionate about helping his people break the cycle of poverty and have a brighter future. He's a refreshingly honest person, and we know the money we disburse goes to the areas that it should"

"This was witnessed and confirmed on our latest visit, and it was humbling to see the difference our contributions thus far have made. I am personally committed to raising the profile of his NGO and looking at ways of funding the school through international aid. Piseth Luon is a positive role model not only for the children of the area but for the adults as well."

Following closely on the steps of the two Humanitus international directors to Cambodia will be Christine Gilliland, a respected member of the staff at Melbourne's Xavier College and member of the Victorian Network of Primary Years Programme (PYP), which is a generous supporter of Humanitus.

While she is in Phnom Penh, Gilliland will visit Denzil Sprague's Pichey Rangsey School and SFODA Orphanage. Staff members and Year 3 students at Xavier College have been busy fundraising collecting resources for Gilliland to deliver while she is in Cambodia.

The Humanitus Foundation works alongside many agencies, NGOs, CBOs, Government ministries, education providers and industry experts, and its current focus is in the Southeast Asian region.



Progress on funds and resources dispersed this year to date

Denzil Sprague Pichey Rangsey School: Jan 2011 - Financial assistance with health programme, sealing and tiling of flooring .
July 2011 - Financial assistance for general running costs, purchase of bicycle for senior student, gift of soccer balls.
The CGS student donations will go towards purchasing approx 20 bicycles and playground equipment. Safe and durable playground equipment is currently being sourced and we will know soon if there will be additional funds left over for other important needs at the school.

Bright Children Organisation Mkak Primary School: Jan 2011 – Delivery of water tank and completion of tower, installation of pump and piping.

July 2011 - Funding for three new toilets, assistance with opening ceremony costs and NGO registration costs.

SFDA Orphanage: Jan 2011 - Financial assistance for new dormitory flooring.

July 2011 - Soccer and basketballs, 1000 vitamin C tablets, medical supplies, clothing, toys, learning resources, 200kg rice, food funding for approx 36 days, 4 hour recreational boat cruise and BBQ on Mekong River, English school sponsorship for Mony Ouk and Prak Sothy

Salvation Centre Cambodia: July 2011 - 2000 vitamin C tablets, basketballs, donation for assistance with meals

Lontung School (Sumatra): May 2011 - IBM laptop and printer

Sangkal School (Sumatra): May 2011 - IBM Laptop and printer

Humanitus would like to acknowledge and thank all those who have helped with our fundraising efforts. Funds were raised and goods donated throughout the past year not only from our Nov 2010 fundraising event at Xavier's Billilla Mansion along with private, corporate and board member donations, but also Caulfield Grammar School (Malvern Campus), National Australia Bank and the Victorian Primary Years Network (PYP) have been very generous in their support and for their contributions we are all extremely grateful. A special thank you goes out to CGS Years 3 – 6 students, their teachers and families.



From left to right – Second toilet block Mkak Primary School, SFODA resources, Pichey Rangsey school flooring, Laptop for Sangkal School



Left to right – SFODA boat cruise. Mkak Primary School water tank, pump and tower and new toilet block next to previously completed block



Latest news from Denzil Sprague: We have just received some very heartwarming news from Denzil regarding a young Grade 6 girl, Srey Shro, who was badly in need of dental reconstruction work. Her personality was clearly affected by the condition of her teeth, possibly reflected in her lack of confidence, low academic achievement and often poor health, all of which sometimes kept her away from school. Denzil was delighted to report that, thanks to the interest and generosity of Chou Nee, a Khmer Dentist in Phnom Penh, her front teeth have been reconstructed. We have included some photos on the next page though please go to our website www.humanitus.org and follow the link to Pichey Rangsey School news to learn more about the difference this has made to Srey Shro. You can also see photos and read about the delivery of Oun Tio and Srey Shro's new bikes on 13 September.

Humanitus Fundraising and assistance plans for 2011-2012

- Pre Christmas wine drive through www.fundraisingwines.com.au
- Sale of [SFODA orphanage paintings](#) through EBay and website
- Source new Australian schools for fundraising activities and strategic alliances
- Sponsorship of SFODA children
- Explore ways to capitalize on website hits – 200+ per day average
- Look at social networking tools available; Facebook, twitter etc
- Implement volunteer programme for education and health care professionals
- We welcome any input or ideas you may have for our future fundraising initiatives



Last minute news on SFODA: Since our recent visit to SFODA orphanage we have just received news that the road is yet again being widened causing further disruption and necessitating an urgent search for new premises. Humanitus are committed to assisting SFODA with this latest challenge and are endeavoring to source funding and sponsors to help them overcome this hurdle. With this second requisition of land the childrens dormitories are now approx 2/3 of their original size and what little garden space they had is now gone.



Srey Shro before and after her dental reconstruction and new bicycles for Oun Tio and Srey Shro



Once again we wish to extend to all of our friends our sincere thanks for your continued support, both financially and in kind. We have been able to see firsthand how this support is benefitting the children in Cambodia and Sumatra. Please go to our website www.humanitus.org for more photographs and information on our work that you are helping to support.