



## TEEN CHALLENGE CAMBODIA



# Srey Meas's Next Step

Reintegration into society is a key step in a client's long-term well being, and the Women's Center staff are doing all that they can to ensure that Srey Meas's next step is on solid ground.

Srey Meas entered the Women's Center in February 2015. She was 18 years old and pregnant, and she came with her mother Sokleang who had been using drugs and working as a prostitute. As we shared in a previous newsletter, Srey Meas had a healthy baby girl in June 2015, and the three generations were living together at the center.

Sokleang's health though was a concern. She was recovering from her addiction and gaining strength, but her overall health was still poor. Then, on January 29, 2016, she had a heart attack. The staff rushed her to the

hospital, and she died in the hospital that night.

Srey Meas was filled with grief. Srey Meas's former husband had been abusive and left her, and now she had lost her mother as well. The staff surrounded her with love and support during this period. In time, they began trying to help Srey Meas find her next step after living in the center.

Srey Meas had studied in the vocational training programs at the center.\* However, what she was really interested in was cooking. She learned some of the basics of cooking from one of the staff members, and when it was her turn to cook, Srey Meas did not want other people to help her. She was quite particular about the food, and she worried that they might not do it to her standards.

Knowing Srey Meas's interest in cooking, the staff connected her to Jars of Clay, a coffee shop and restaurant near the center which is run by Cambodian women and employs women who come from difficult backgrounds. Srey Meas got a job as an assistant in the kitchen, and she washes dishes as well as assists the main cook in preparing the food. The job matches her gifts, and she loves it.

Srey Meas has been working since May 1, and for now, she is still staying at the center. While she works, the staff watch her child. The staff have agreed to do this for three months in order to help ease Srey Meas's transition out of the center. In a few months, the staff will help Srey Meas transition from living in the center to living on her own.

## WAYS TO GIVE

### SMALL

#### BUYING ENTRY SUPPLIES

for new clients and children which may include but is not limited to...

Clothes, Bedding, Mosquito Net and Toiletries.  
\$120 per year

### MEDIUM

#### OUTREACH MINISTRY

\$3,600 per year

#### HOUSING AND EDUCATION

for clients's children  
\$1,500 per year

#### FAITH BASED INTEGRATION

\$1,000 per year

### LARGE

#### FOOD SUPPLIES

Men's Center: \$9,900 per year  
Women's Center: \$4,500 per year

#### TRAINING / REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Men's Center: \$8,000 per year  
Women's Center: \$4,000 per year

## GIVE NOW

**Under:** Would you like this gift to be designated?

**Choose:** [Specific Projects](#)

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## CHILDREN'S DAY OUTING

June 1 is International Children's Day, and Cambodia observes this day as a national holiday. The Women's Center is currently home to six kids ranging in ages from one year old to twelve years old. These kids came to the center when their mothers entered the recovery program.

The staff at the center wanted to do something special with the kids and their mothers for Children's Day, and so they organized an outing for the afternoon and evening. First they went to the large open space park in front of the Royal Palace. The women enjoyed taking pictures in the park and having a snack together while the children especially enjoyed chasing the pigeons.

The second stop was at the Children's Park in Phnom Penh, and the children loved the slides and the swings. The current Women's Center does not have a lot of free space for the children to play, so they really enjoyed running around and playing together. The outing finished with a picnic dinner at Diamond Island, an island in the Mekong River.

The staff and clients enjoyed the time outside the center together, and the clients were particularly happy to see their children having a good time together. The outing served as a way to strengthen relationships and was a refreshing break from the normal daily routine.





Thanks to GDG for their support of our development activities!

\* indicated sections are part of Teen Challenge Cambodia's development activity (J628) with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993), for which gifts over \$2 to GDG are tax deductible. Any excess funding may support other approved activities. Any gifts or costs mentioned are representative only, and no non-development activities (welfare, evangelism or political) are a part of or funded by GDG. For more info: [www.gdg.org.au/InfoJ628](http://www.gdg.org.au/InfoJ628) Australian donors can support this project (J628) directly through GDG's website: [www.gdg.org.au/GiveToJ628](http://www.gdg.org.au/GiveToJ628)



## SEEDONE'S SERVANT HEARTS

Teen Challenge is thankful for the financial support that SeedOne Foundation has given for the construction of our new Women's Center. However, the folks at SeedOne were not content just to give their money; they also wanted to sacrifice their time and energy to come and physically be part of the construction.

From May 4 to May 13, Teen Challenge hosted a team of 15 volunteers from SeedOne under the veteran leadership of David Wagner who has overseen hundreds of building

projects in dozens of different countries. The team was a variety of ages, and many of them were in their 50s and 60s. They helped with compacting dirt, laying bricks and pipes, and also pouring foundations.

May was an incredibly hot month in Cambodia, and in an effort to beat the heat, the team would leave their hotel at 5am. After a quick stop for breakfast and devotions, they would arrive at the job site and spend the morning working. They usually decided to rest for the afternoons when the tem-

peratures would reach their peak.

The work that the team did was difficult work, the kind of work that most people in the world would avoid. However, these volunteers came with servant hearts and with a genuine passion to be part of Teen Challenge's mission in Cambodia. We are so thankful you came to serve with us. It's a reminder to us that we do not work alone, but we cooperate with partners around the world who support us. Thank you for coming to work with us!