



TEEN CHALLENGE CAMBODIA

NEW EXPERIENCES

The clients at the Women's Center have been broadening their horizons and gaining confidence through some new opportunities. This is thanks in part to the skills of one of the former clients, Saray.

While Saray was a client in the one-year rehabilitation program, she had the chance to learn how to sew. At that time, Teen Challenge had a sewing teacher who came to the center regularly. However, that teacher quit and Teen Challenge was not able to readily find a replacement.

After finishing her program, Saray wanted to continue at the center as an in-training staff member, and she is filling in as the sewing instructor. This arrangement is a blessing for both Saray and Teen Challenge. Saray was not sure what to do after finishing the program since she has 3 kids and her husband has passed away, and Teen Challenge was in need of a new instructor.

Currently 4 clients are learning from Saray. They are learning how to use the machines and various sewing techniques. This new skill is an important part of the program because



it provides a real possibility for future employment after leaving the program.

In addition to sewing, 12 of the clients are also learning how to weave rugs. Cambodia is home to many garment factories, and the Women's Center staff are able to collect scraps of cloth from these factories. These scraps can then be cut into strips and turned into beautiful rugs.

The director of the Women's Center had some experience making these rugs in the past, and she has acted as the instructor and overseer of the project. The weaving itself is not difficult work, but it is a chance for the women to use their time productively and experience the joy and dignity of producing a beautiful

product. The rugs are then sold locally.

While these 2 programs have been great new experiences for the clients, the women have also had a chance to get away for a day. Thanks to the generosity of the Riverview Children's Foundation, the clients and staff of the Women's Center recently spent a day at Silk Island, an island in the Mekong River on the north side of Phnom Penh. For a day, the clients and their children were able to enjoy the water and good food and escape some of the stress that builds up after living in the center

All these new experiences—sewing, weaving, and visiting Silk Island—have been life-giving for the clients as they progress in their recovery program.



MOTHERS' DAY BLESSING



Life in the centers can at times be lonely for our clients. However, recently gifts from the Riverview Children's Foundation reminded the Women's Center clients that people beyond the walls of the center care for them.

Before Mothers' Day, the Women's Center staff surveyed the clients and the children to see what kind of gifts

they would like. The answers were not extraordinary requests: shoes, backpacks, new clothes, baby items for an expectant mother. Even these simple things are treasured possessions.

After the staff gathered all the clients' requests, they went to buy gifts for the clients and their children. The staff found the right sizes and wrapped the gifts neatly for the clients to open.

When the clients and their children received their gifts, they were overjoyed. The children eagerly opened the packages and showed their mom's their new treasures. Then it was time for a fashion show. The women and children put on their new clothes and new shoes and



proudly displayed them for everyone to see.

We want to thank Riverview Children's Foundation again for their sponsorship of this special day. Even small things like a new pair of shoes can revive our clients hope, brighten their day, and encourage them as they seek to live a new life.



A GRATEFUL RETURN

Our Vision

Facilitate life-transformation for people with life-controlling problems, one person at a time, by the power of God.

Our Mission

Develop quality programs to help youth, adults and families with life-controlling problems to become established in society through faith-based solutions

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The clients and staff at the Men's Center had a special treat recently: Nyra came back to say thank you.

Before he entered the center, Nyra had been a drug user for three years. His life had nearly been destroyed by crystal meth abuse. However, his family knew about Teen Challenge's Men's Center, and they convinced him to give it a chance.

Nyra's life has not been the same since. While the transition to the center was not an easy one, Nyra began to learn about God and put his faith in God. His life subsequently began to change through the new things he was learning and the care and counseling he received from the staff.

Nyra left the program earlier than normal, after only 8 months, because he decided he wanted to study again. He was 20 years old, and he wanted to enroll in Grade 9 and complete his high school education. However, he knew he would not be strong enough to return to Phnom Penh and withstand the temptations of his old life. Therefore, he decided to live with his grandmother in Takeo Province.

Six months after he left the center, Nyra wanted to come back to thank the staff for their care and to encourage the other clients' in their recoveries. The change in Nyra's life, and his gratitude was an encouragement to our staff in their work.