



TEEN CHALLENGE CAMBODIA

Serving the people of Cambodia

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

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

Our Prayer Concerns

- Let God open the hearts of people who are addicted to receive our help, especially through our Street Outreach and invitations to visit our center.
- Pray for good relationships among all of our staff members so they work well together.

Praise God

- We were able to complete the land filling project.
- A healthy baby girl was born in our center.
- Cheng, one of our female clients, found a great job after finishing the program.

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STREET OUTREACH

Sreysah (not her real name) often meets the Teen Challenge staff on Thursday nights. She laughs and talks with Vuth, our director, as he asks how she is doing. However, it wasn't always like this.

Sreysah is one of many women caught in a vicious cycle of drug addiction and prostitution. Her situation is particularly desperate as she usually brings her one-year-old daughter with her when she goes to meet her clients at night.

The first time Sreysah met Vuth and the Teen Challenge staff, she was skeptical. She rejected the small package of noodles and bottled water that they wanted to share with her. In the past, she had heard of organizations that took advantage of people in her situation. She wasn't ready to trust anyone.

However, Sreysah has been opening up. Now, she comes to talk with the Teen Challenge staff nearly every Thursday night. With her daughter in her hands, she comes to talk and even smiles. She's still trapped in her situation, but we hope through our relationship she will respond to our invitation to join our recovery program.



INVITATION

Want more information
or to make a donation?

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Every week, five to ten women respond to our invitation to visit the Women's Center and share a meal and fellowship together.

A free meal in a safe place might not seem like a lot on the surface, but for these women, this small invitation is a huge blessing. They face enormous challenges in their lives as many struggle to raise children while addicted to drugs and working in prostitution.

During these Wednesday lunches, Vuth, our director, shares with the women about our program, and they have a chance to see our center and to imagine what it might look like to take a step towards a new life. Our staff welcomes them, and the guests also have a chance to talk with our clients, some of whom these women already know. The clients share with them about their experience of joining the recovery program.

In the past three months, we have seen two more women follow the advice of our clients and accept our director's invitation. They have left their lives of drug addiction and prostitution, and they have begun a long but worthwhile journey to freedom from addiction.

At Teen Challenge, we are so grateful to walk with them and we're thankful for our many donors who support these women in their journey too!



NEW LIFE AT THE WOMEN'S CENTER

The staff and clients of Teen Challenge welcomed Rachel, the newest resident of the Women's Center, on April 18, 2015. One of our clients, Tuch, gave birth to a baby girl via C-section at a local hospital.

While we rejoice that the C-section went smoothly, Rachel was born with a slight skin problem on her head. We're continuing to monitor her health, and she's due for a medical check up in a few weeks. Tuch is recovering well.

Tuch entered the center in January in part because she realized that on her own, she could not raise a child. Her husband is in prison, and Tuch was seeking to provide for herself through prostitution which was fueled by drug use. However, after becoming pregnant, she knew she was at her limit, and she wasn't sure where to turn.

Then, one day she met Teen Challenge staff through our Street Outreach. Knowing that she did not have many options, she decided to try our program, and now she's grateful for taking that chance. She's very thankful the care she is receiving from the staff at the women's center. As she recovers from her addiction and learns to be a mom, she's also participating in our skills program—studying English, Khmer, and learning hairdressing skills. She thought hairdressing might be a good fit for her because she already had some experience doing nails.

Tuch still has a long ways to go before she's ready to be on her own, but with the help and care of Teen Challenge's staff, she's taking steps in a good direction for her own future and now for Rachel's too.



A CHANGED LIFE

When Cheng was at the Teen Challenge Women's Center, she was always eager to help the other women when it was their turn to cook. This turned out to be a good sign for her future.

Cheng entered the center in March 2014. She came from a difficult family background. She had been rejected by her mother and was also separated from her husband. Additionally, Cheng had also given two of her children up for adoption. When Cheng arrived at the Women's Center, she was four months pregnant, and she brought her 3-year-old daughter as well. Cheng was also facing some psychological problems, and Mother's Heart, another NGO, referred her to Teen Challenge.

While she was at the center, Cheng benefited from the counseling from the staff. Without the support of her family or her husband, Cheng leaned heavily on Teen Challenge to help her through the pregnancy, childbirth, and early months of her second daughter's life. Cheng was also able to participate in the center's English and Khmer literacy classes, and she also learned how to sew.

However, her real interest was not in sewing but rather in cooking. The women in the center take turns to help prepare the meals for the clients and staff at the center, and an hour or two before meal time, Cheng was often right there in the kitchen whether her name was on the schedule or not. After completing the year-long recovery program in March, Cheng continued to stay at the center because she was not sure where to go.

Then, in April, Teen Challenge staff made a connection with another NGO that they have networked with. Generation Hope School in the province of Kampong Cham was looking for a cook, and this seemed like it would be a perfect fit for Cheng. Generation Hope School is a Christian school that serves elementary school students. Cheng has been able to move to their campus and work there as a cook, the same job she was always eager to do. Her now 4-year-old daughter is also able to participate in early education programs at the school too.

Over the past year, Cheng's life has totally changed. She came in desperation but she left with hope. She's very grateful that Teen Challenge was able not only to help her for one year but also able to connect her with employment so she can continue on the road to a better life.



PROGRESS ON THE NEW WOMEN'S CENTER

921 trucks. Over the course of two weeks, the Teen Challenge staff took turns sitting at the site of the future Women's Center and counting trucks. Everyone from the director to the accountant took their turn to count the trucks of dirt that we had purchased to fill the land for our new center.

Teen Challenge purchased this property on the outskirts of Phnom Penh in 2014. It measures 50m by 150m, and this land will be an excellent space for the Women's Center in the future. However, like most of Cambodia, the land used to be a rice field that floods easily. This is good for rice farming but bad for construction. Therefore, before we can build the new center, we had to raise the level of the land to prevent flooding during Cambodia's rainy season.

We're excited to have completed this stage in our building project. Our current Women's Center does not fully meet the needs of our program, and the price of leasing land is rising quickly in Phnom Penh. For now, we continue to rent property for our Women's Center, but we look forward to the day when our Women's Center is located on our own property. Then, we will have a facility that meets our needs and we will not have to worry about rising rental rates. Our next steps are to build a wall around the land and to continue raising money for the building project.

Right now, the picture above might not look like much to the casual observer, but to us, it's a huge step towards a sustainable future for the Women's Center. It is not just an empty plot of land; it is full of potential as a future site where we can see the lives of Cambodian women transformed.



SUSTAINABILITY

The Men's Center in rural Takeo province is making progress towards a sustainable future in more ways than one.

First, there are the 12 pigs, 5 cows, and 75 chickens that call the center home. These "residents" are a source of income as we raise and sell them for a profit and use that money to pay for the needs of our center. Also, we even capture the waste of the pigs in our biogas fuel system, and we use this for cooking at the center for our 30 residents plus our staff.

Secondly, while we're raising these animals, we're also providing opportunities for our clients to learn valuable animal husbandry skills. The physical labor is good for our clients as they regain strength during their recovery from addiction, and they learn important lessons about daily discipline and care.

A few of our clients who have completed our year-long recovery program have also requested to stay on as interns in the animal husbandry program. Some of these clients are orphans without a home to return to and some others just recognize that they are not yet strong enough to resist the temptations they will face if they meet their old friends. Those in the second group rightly realize that recovery takes a long time and that even after leaving the program, they will face temptations.

We have been able to accommodate their request because our center also needs well-trained staff to ensure that the animals receive good care. These young men then get to gain further work experience, and they also receive some management experience as they oversee some of the clients at the center. This will help them for their futures as they seek employment outside of the center.