

OUR PROJECTS IN CAMBODIA

by
Patti Lee & Barbara Seagram

Water



Schools



Chan Teap School - Takeo



Battambang - Phnom Sampov



Taprom Village - Kampot



Homestay School - Ang Ta Som

In 2011, Barbara Seagram, Patti Lee, and a group of 50, docked in Phnom Penh. We were armed with clothing, pens, notebooks, rulers, sharpeners, toys, pencils, stickers, and other school supplies. We had heard about an Ontario volunteer, who had dedicated the last few years to working in Cambodia for several months per year. Working alongside her was a fabulous lady, Australian Pauline Johns. Pauline has lived in Cambodia for up to 6 months per year and helped to shape the Cambodian organization 'Banyan Tree Organization', which manages all of our projects in Cambodia. Pauline, Barbara, & Patti volunteer all of their time and pay for all of their travel and living expenses.

In 2011, our group and other friends from the Toronto area donated 40 bicycles to a school outside of Phnom Penh. We went there in a small tuk-tuk along the dusty roads through Phnom Penh and out into the countryside to find that the school was a one-room shack with a cement floor and no desks or chairs. The bikes were given to children, mainly children of landmine victims. It was all very uplifting but Patti and Barbara looked at each other and wondered how long this shack would remain standing.

We inquired how much it would cost to build a permanent school and found that it would cost \$24,000.00. We returned to Toronto determined to build a school. We raised \$40,000.00 that year, so we also furnished two other schools and built a library at one of the schools. We now have four schools, 525 students, and sixteen teachers and librarians. We remain committed to sustaining all four of our schools at a cost of \$72,000 CAD per year. This pays for the salaries of the teachers and librarians, all of the supplies for the teachers and students, lease payments, electricity, maintenance etc. You can see that money goes a long way in this country.

Over the years, many outreach programs have been undertaken to help these landmine-affected families to become self-sufficient: a bike repair business, sewing lessons with a sewing machine, crafts, and a technology centre. We also support a nearby weaving centre, by purchasing their scarves and re-selling them here. This ensures jobs for those women.

There are many who do not have a safe, private toilet. The absence of a safe, private toilet leads to serious health issues, as well as sexual abuse of women and girls. Our schools all have toilets, but many of the government schools do not. We are building toilets and hand washing stations for the government schools, thus ensuring that the girls can attend school even during their menstrual period. Without toilets at the schools, the girls would miss 4-5 days per month. After a number of months, they fall so far behind in their studies that they quit school altogether.

Our focus is to ensure that our students and other villagers have good hygiene and sanitation practices. This has included installing toilets, wells, handwashing stations, teaching hygiene and distributing Days for Girls kits.

Current and Planned Projects:

- We were sponsoring 3 students at university (tuition and books), who have now graduated. We started 2 new scholarship students early in 2025 and have started 3 more for early 2026. Besides tuition and books, we are also buying them each a computer. (Wonderful donors in France are separately paying for two of the scholarship students.) We are also financially assisting our Director to get his Masters' Degree.
- We have now installed 64 toilets for 64 families in the villages near our schools. TEN more toilets will be installed over the next few months for TEN more families.
- We have installed toilets, wells, & handwashing stations at all of our schools, and we are now installing toilets and handwashing stations at a number of nearby government schools. To date, we have assisted 34 schools, by digging 15 wells and by building 25 banks of toilets, 20 handwashing stations, and 2 water towers. 3 more schools will receive toilets this year.
- We have taught good hygiene and sanitation practices to all of the young girls in our schools and have distributed Days for Girls kits to each of them. We are extending this initiative to government schools near our schools. This ensures that the young girls can stay in school, every day of the month. To date, we have distributed over 2000 Days for Girls kits.
- We have assisted 27 Health Centres to get clean water by digging wells and building water towers for them. And we built a toilet for another Health Centre. 7 more Health Centres will get clean water in 1Q/2Q 2026
- Our goal is to raise the health and education of the children that attend our schools and to ensure a healthy environment for them and their families.

Patti and Barbara are excited and optimistic about all of these projects and the fundraisers that we do every year. If you are unable to attend one of our fundraisers, but still wish to make a donation, we would be so grateful. Barbara and Patti are an Agency of a charity in Canada; as well, they have formed an alliance with a charity in the USA. As a result, all Canadian and USA donors can receive tax receipts, valid for their own country.

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Thank you for caring!!

Patti Lee & Barbara Seagram

Websites:

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To make a donation, please send a cheque made payable to:

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or to

**Barbara Seagram
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*You will receive a tax-deductible receipt
for any donation of \$25 or more.*

**Please include BOTH your postal and
email address with your donation.**



Our NGO in Cambodia has been in operation for 15 years
due to the support of many wonderful people.
We now have 4 schools in Cambodia.

