

# THE RICE LIST

*Our cause... "to restore hope, dignity and promise...."*



*Kerry*

*Kemsour*

New Hope Cambodia is able to operate because of the support of so many wonderful volunteers, friends and donors from around the world.

**Jillian Boardman and Sarah Blondell**, two current volunteers have spent many hours in preparing this month's informative newsletter.

*Thankyou Jillian and Sarah*



We would like to thank **Aussies for Orphans, Australia** for their ongoing support of our Holistic Kinder Programme for young Underprivileged Children.

In September 2011, **New Hope Cambodia** relocated from our old rented premises to our newly constructed purpose built School building, and Health & Outreach building. Not only have Aussies for Orphans played the major role in establishing our essential Kinder programme, but also played a big part in the construction of our school, with the sponsorship of one Kinder classroom, now known as Aussies for Orphans Classroom.

## Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking

In 2011, modern day slavery (MDS) has been receiving the increased attention that it deserves. CNN, a large American based media outlet, has made MDS a hot topic by broadcasting documentaries and news articles on the plight of the victims of this barbaric practice.

MDS is the umbrella term used to describe practices such as debt bondage, bonded labor, attached labor, forced labour and indentured servitude. Human trafficking refers to the recruitment, transport, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a person by such means as threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, or fraud or deception for the sole purpose of exploitation. Victims of trafficking often end up working in a sweatshop factory or as a sex slave in a brothel.

This inhumane treatment of people, referred to as MDS, is a \$32 billion USD business and globally is said to rank 3<sup>rd</sup>, behind illegal drug and arms trafficking, in terms of international crime. MDS and human trafficking is able to persist due to a climate of poverty. Therefore it is not surprising, that Cambodia is a prime target for victims of MDS and human trafficking.

**December 12<sup>th</sup>** is recognized nationally in **Cambodia as Anti-Human Trafficking Day**. On this day New Hope has chosen to contribute by raising awareness and focusing this newsletter specifically on human trafficking and MDS. We hope you find the following articles both informative and eye-opening, as New Hope fights a continual battle against the ills of human trafficking and MDS.

## MDS and Human Trafficking in Mondul Bai

While poverty remains a constant in Mondul Bai, the stability of a family is unpredictable. Family situations change rapidly, and often times there is no warning when a family's situation goes from "surviving" to "desperate". The potential for people to be trafficked and forced into MDS usually results from a family being in a state of desperation.

### The Story of Somnang:



Somnang, the daughter of a Karaoke worker, was left on the street most days to fend for herself while her mother was trying to make money as a sex worker. At 4 years old, Somnang was malnourished; suffering severe skin and health problems, and suffering leg problems from lack of movement and development.

She was quiet and withdrawn, as no village children were allowed to play with her; parents were frightened she too would have HIV like her mother. Her mother then moved to Thailand to work, leaving Somnang with her weak and overworked Grandmother.

After many months of New Hope working with the family, Somnang's situation did not change. Her grandmother again begged us to take Somnang and care for her.

As Somnang was then only known as Baldy, we eventually named her 'Somnang' which means lucky. Her story is a common one but the outcome is rare and not always as positive. Children like Somnang are easy prey for traffickers, and more than likely she too would have fallen victim to MDS, the same as her mother.

## KNOW THE FACTS ON TRAFFICKING:

- An estimated 2.5 million people are in forced labour (including sexual exploitation) at any given time as a result of trafficking
- 1.4 million (or 56%) are in Asia and the Pacific
- The slave trade is an elusive business, as evidenced by varying statistics; many NGOs report up to as many as 27 million people toiling as modern day slaves around the globe
- In Cambodia, at least 30,000 children are enslaved in the sex trade
- 46% of Cambodian kids trafficked into Thailand when interviewed said that the key figure who facilitated their trafficking was ... their mother!!"
- 95% of victims experienced physical or sexual violence during trafficking
- The majority of suspects involved in the trafficking process are nationals of the country where the trafficking process is occurring
- In 2006 there were only 3,160 convictions throughout the world. This means that for every 800 people trafficked, only one person was convicted in 2006.

Information acquired through: UN.GIFT (United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking), Somaly Mam Foundation, The Grey Man Organisation.

## MONDUL BAI COMMUNITY

- girls are being forced to leave school at the age of 15, to work in the Khmer Karaoke Bars to provide for their sick parent and siblings.
- in a short period of time, their virginity is sold for a few hundred dollars
- babies and children are being sold because of dire family situations in order to provide food for the rest of the family
- young teenagers are being forced to marry wealthy old men looking for second wives, in return for financial favours for their family
- many boys who flee to neighbouring countries for work on fishing boats are thrown overboard and left to drown when the fishing season ends.
- large number of Khmer workers who seek work in neighbouring countries never return home, falling victim to the escalating and lucrative trade of human body parts

### The Story of Theara and Vatey:



In our latest Crisis Care update we reported on two 16 year old girls from Mondul Bai who had recently been rescued after being trafficked to Phnom Penh.

To recap their harrowing tale: When Theara's Mother Ek Nom passed away suddenly; she left her 16 year old daughter Theara, with the responsibility of repaying an exorbitant debt and caring for her younger siblings.

A Vietnamese couple that had known Theara and her friend Vatey for two years, found Theara's new precarious situation as the perfect opportunity to strike. The couple talked the two girls into travelling with them to Phnom Penh, with the offer of a well paid job, so they could forward earnings back to their families. However, when they arrived, the girls were given blood tests and told they would then be sent to Thailand for work.

The reality being that the girls would inevitably end up in the sex slave trade or have their body parts sold on the black market.

Thanks to the swift efforts of New Hope and Phnom Penh police, Theara and Vatey were rescued in Phnom Penh and are now back in Mondul Bai.

## What is being done?

The Cambodian government, in partnership with Save the Children, is doing their part to prevent MDS and human trafficking practices through their implementation of the 'kid safe' campaign. All throughout Siem Reap, posters can be found bringing awareness to unacceptable practices relating to children.

Tuk tuks and hotels brandish a list of acts that should not be undertaken and should be reported, such as taking a minor into a hotel room. By actively policing inappropriate underage interactions it is hoped the market will dry up.



At the grass roots level, New Hope Cambodia is playing its role in attempting to curb MDS and human trafficking, and is working directly with local police and authorities.

However, New Hope believes prevention is the key, and through donors and sponsors support those most vulnerable in the community, with food provisions and small amounts of money, so that they can make ends meet and, therefore, don't become victims of MDS and human trafficking.

New Hope is also spreading awareness of MDS and human trafficking, in the view that knowledge is power. Traffickers prey on the desperate and the naïve, through New Hope's programs it is hoped that MDS and human trafficking will be stamped out in Mondul Bai.

## Human Trafficking Education at Rice Drop

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November we had our monthly rice drop. With the majority of sponsored families gathered at New Hope it was another opportune time to readdress the community on the issue of human trafficking.

Two of the outreach volunteers collaborated with the Khmer social workers to create a speech and flyers on the topic. The flyers featured pictures (depicting who traffickers are, what they will offer, what one must do to take up the offer and then possible outcomes) with short captions over each.



Flyers were handed out upon arrival and were met with great curiosity and interest. Srey Na, our resident human trafficking guru, delivered the speech and furthered it with her own talk, complete with a range of posters, which had the audience captivated. The whole experience was very positive and people were very open to education on social issues.

**NIRAS** in Sweden, is one of the Nordic regions most prominent, independent consultancy companies in the area of climate and the environment. New Hope Cambodia thanks NIRAS for their recent generous donation to aid community programmes such as these.

[www.niras.se](http://www.niras.se)

## “The Village Tea”



22 women listened with intense interest and curiosity as Srey Na discusses birth control options. Many women have received tubal ligations, IUDs, and other contraceptives through New Hope in order to assist the family planning goal of smaller family size.

Another program which New Hope enacted with Srey Na (our sexual health worker), Pheaktra (an outreach social worker), and the help of volunteers is “The Village Tea Program.” Much like other educational programs New Hope has put on in the past; this one focused on the importance of family planning and contraceptive use, but this time we went into a neighbouring village to teach the program.

The thought process behind this was to reach an audience of women that generally would not have the ability to go to New Hope to partake in the class. Through educating women on the importance of a small family and the use of contraceptives, the goal is to change the perception on the current trends of a large family unit. We aim to teach women that a small family can help stem poverty and surrounding issues.

Less mouths to feed means more money that can be spent in other areas, there will be more funds for medical needs and school. This also helps to stem the possibility of human trafficking occurring, as fewer children means less economic strain on a family and less likelihood the family will come into a desperate situation.

# The New Hope School

Illiteracy and lack of an education is one of the major underlying issues associated with poverty. Those who are unable to read or write are at an immediate disadvantage to generate income, subsequently increasing the vulnerability of a family and therefore increasing the likelihood of being trafficked.

The goal of the New Hope School is to provide children and adults with an education in order to ensure a successful future. Most of the adult population in the Mondul Bai community remains illiterate, in large part due to the Khmer Rouge regime which destroyed Cambodia's entire educational system during the 1970s and 80s, leaving fewer than 200 teachers in the entire country.

Today, parents are largely dependent upon their children to provide an income for their family, and children are sometimes unknowingly sold or coerced into practices of trafficking and slavery due to the parent's inability to support their families. The New Hope School provides easy accessibility to free education and reinforces the importance of an educated society, which in turn has helped to change perceptions within Mondul Bai as more and more children are attending the school.

New Hope has seen an increase from 486 students in July 2011 to 726 students in September 2011. As stated by The Asia Foundation, "Education empowers children to create positive opportunities for themselves and their families."



# Vocational Training



**New Hope Training restaurant staff**

New Hope also provides vocational training in sewing, computer technology, tourism, chef and hospitality services, for young adults and adults alike.

Education and learning skills and trades are a few of the key ways for people in the community to begin to generate incomes and avoid falling prey to traffickers and practices of MDS.

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New Hope Cambodia graciously thanks the 3 major Sponsors that have made our new **Training Restaurant** possible:

**Planeterra Foundation and G Adventures**

**Make My Day Better (the DialAFlight charity)**

**Jennifer Dreyer and Carmel Hayman**



## The New Hope

### 'Helen Bonner' Health Centre

One of the quickest ways a family goes from being stable to unstable is when a family member falls ill. There are a number of dangerous and potentially life-threatening diseases that plague Cambodia and are prominent in the village community of Mondul Bai such as dengue fever, tuberculosis, malaria, HIV, and hepatitis.

New Hope's easily accessible and free medical treatment not only saves lives, but indirectly contributes to the prevention of trafficking by keeping families healthy and free of medical costs, allowing adults to continue protecting and providing for their families by maintaining good health and consequently, maintaining the ability to work and make money so practices of trafficking and MDS lose relevance.



In August alone, 1,259 people came to the New Hope Clinic to receive medical treatment and medicine. Doctors and nurses assisting patients in triage



A long line of patients out the door at the clinic

## The Outreach Centre

New Hope's outreach centre is often viewed as the hub for community needs and the go-to place for families in crisis. While the New Hope School focuses on securing people's futures, outreach aims to address the immediate needs of the community, often dealing with urgent and dire situations.

By providing bikes, extra food and baby formula, and money for funerals and business ventures; outreach curbs the need for families to take up alternative money making options, such as migrating to other provinces or countries to seek out potential employment opportunities.

Populations that are heavily migratory are often noted as a higher risk to the susceptibility of being trafficked and becoming victims of MDS.



The outreach centre has undertaken the responsibility of checking on sponsored families in the village of Mondul Bai and making sure they have family books and birth certificates. New Hope has been allocating funds toward helping families acquire family books and birth certificates.

The goal is two-fold; first, Khmer public schools require children to have birth certificates to attend, children without birth certificates are denied entry. Second, written documentation of a person gives them a traceable identity and noted presence in society, making it more difficult for people to disappear and for trafficking to occur.





## **CAMBODIA'S MOST VALUABLE ASSETS**

**Please Help us Protect Them**

### **Cambodia**

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### **Australia**

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## **New Hope Volunteers and Sponsors**

It goes without saying that New Hope would not be where it is today without the support of its amazing volunteers and sponsors. Money is allocated to various departments and needs and through all of New Hope's various programs, funds received are directly and indirectly helping to stem the inhumane practices of human trafficking and MDS.

Recently there have been a couple of very exceptional volunteers that New Hope would like to recognize for their fundraising efforts. Adam, Farah, and Danial Smurthwaite set a high goal of raising \$5,000 in three months. With a tremendous amount of support from friends and family, the Smurthwaites exceeded their goal in half the time and have now reached the \$7,000 mark. This was all accomplished through small dollar donations – proving that a little amount from a lot of people can really go a long way.

Michelle Cox was yet another valuable volunteer, offering expertise and a conducting a very successful fundraiser. New Hope would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone that has donated money, time, and energy into helping the community of Mondul Bai overcome the adversity of poverty. There is much to be done, but your efforts continue to make the journey for these people a little bit easier.

You may not get to see their faces light up when they receive something as small as reading glasses, but they do – the people of Mondul Bai are forever appreciative of everything New Hope gives them, and it's thanks to you that we are able to give to these deserving people.

We hope this newsletter has helped to not only shed some light, but also to "put a face" on human trafficking and modern day slavery.

**THANKYOU** from Kemsour and Kerry and the  
**NEW HOPE CAMBODIA Team**

*by Jillian Boardman and Sarah Blondell*