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Hello dear Helping Hands friend,

Welcome to our first PDF format newsletter! It's been a while since you've heard from us and, as usual, we have been very busy.....

DENTAL CLINIC

As an extension of the medical clinic conducted at our school earlier in the year we recently had a dental team visit our school and conduct a dental clinic (in conjunction with Life and Hope NGO). Many children had teeth removed and others were referred to the Angkor Children's Hospital to get cavities filled. The team also taught the children about dental hygiene and how to look after their teeth.



We have since given all of our students toothbrushes and have a designated tooth brushing area at the school. The students who come for breakfast brush their teeth at school.

EAR CLINIC

Also as an extension of our medical clinic we recently had a visit from All Ears Cambodia who conducted an ear clinic for both children and adults. Approximately 30 people were seen for a range of problems. Later in the year a couple of villagers will be fitted with hearing aids.



...villagers sometimes use twigs or chicken feathers to clean their ears.....

We discovered that quite a few of the problems the villagers were presenting with were caused by them cleaning their ears with unhygienic objects, such as twigs or chicken feathers. Other problems were caused by children having a cold or a flu for a long time and not getting treatment. Accordingly we've seen some opportunities for health care education that may help to prevent some of these problems in the future.

A NEW BRIDGE

Earlier this year we decided to build our second bridge. The bridge is located behind our school. Our school is situated on the main road that connects Prasat Char village (as well as many other villages) with Siem Reap. Before we built this bridge the only way to cross the body of water that it spans was via a narrow footbridge. The footbridge is only wide enough for a bicycle or a motorbike to cross. If the bike or motorbike happened to be loaded up with anything, which is usually the case, then the driver had to choose to either offload everything and carry it across the bridge, or, if the water wasn't too high, try and cross via a small concrete wall below the bridge (a rather precarious option). Anyone who had a vehicle larger than a bike had to take their chances going through the water. (Thanks to Matt and Judy from Australia's Sunshine Coast for their financial help for this project.)



Trying to get a loaded motorbike across the body of water used to be rather difficult.

We employed a couple of local "experts" to carry out the building of the bridge and the labour was supplied by the villagers.



Initially the villagers were all asked to donate a day's labour for free. After that, any subsequent work they did on the bridge was paid for in rice.



The opening ceremony for the new bridge. The bridge is called "Spein Samaki" which means Unity Bridge. The name was chosen by our students.

Happy villagers on the new bridge.



OUR DONORS

Helping Hands can only continue to help the poor because of our wonderful network of supporters around the globe. Here's some information about two of them.

IN IRELAND.....



***YOU ARE A LEGEND
BRIDIE!***

In July Eimear (Bridie) Browne rowed the length of the Shannon River (250 kms) in Ireland in honour of her dear friend, the late Eugene McGreevy. Helping Hands was lucky enough to be chosen as the beneficiary of the row and we are still shaking our heads in wonder (and delight) at how much money Eimear has raised for us.



HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

*For information about making a donation please go to the **“How to Donate”** page of our website or email Deborah for details.*

IN ENGLAND.....

Also in July we were the beneficiaries of a charity golf day and dinner organised by Michelle and Geoff Treloar in honour of Geoff's late brother, Dave. The golf day was held in Bournemouth in southern England. This was the second time we were the beneficiaries of this event and once again we were astounded by the generosity of everyone involved. **THANK YOU GEOFF AND MICHELLE AND EVERYONE ELSE THAT HELPED OUT AND PARTICIPATED!**



*We can do no great things
– only small things with
great love. Mother Teresa
(1910 – 1997)*

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