

November 1, 2010

Dear Friend,

If I were granted only *one* sentence to recognize those rising to the challenge posed by the pressing needs around our globe, I would focus on the dedication page of HALF THE SKY by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn:

“For all those on the front lines around the globe, saving the world, one woman at a time.”

As we move into our tenth year of putting poor, at-risk girls into schools and universities in Cambodia, I am humbled by our quiet success. On the week before September 11, 2001, the IRS granted our foundation 501 (c) (3) non-profit status. In the following week, we began supporting the education of two girls with \$200 in the donations received. By the end of the year, thanks to support from friends around the world, CASF was committed to helping fourteen young women and had raised \$15,000.

Ten years later, as a result of your generosity, we are more dedicated than ever in our mission to “change the world one girl at a time.” We are now able to support 120 students including the 32 young women now pursuing a degree while living in our university women’s support center in Phnom Penh. Our yearly budget is currently \$153,000. This covers scholarships, bicycles for transportation to school, medical care along with housing and nourishing meals for our university students.

Beyond these tangible gifts, the Foundation allows girls to dream. When our students envision their newly hopeful futures, their wish *is* to empower others in their community. In this way, a gift to CASF will continue to improve the living conditions of those in dire poverty long after our students graduate.

Upon graduation from university, 98% of our students secure a job and many of them begin working for non-profits that give back to their country and villages.

Parents and students trust our organization because we pay careful attention to the personal stories and wishes that shape each young woman -- a tradition that grew from the very beginnings of CASF.

In March 2001, I bought a live bird from a street vender in Phnom Penh where the custom is to release the bird and make a wish. For twenty-five cents, I set the caged bird free and made this wish: “Fly little one with wishes on your wings that an American based foundation will free

Cambodian girls from dropping out from school, sex trafficking, early marriages and a life of quiet desperation.”

There is no final word to be written as dreams are coming true every day through the dedicated work of contributors and those on the front lines bravely standing up for the education of young women in Cambodia. For example, here is Sarom’s story:

When I was in grade 7, I travelled seven miles to school by bike along difficult roads. The bike was often broken. Because my living standard was so very low, I worked helping a neighbor in the rice fields and was allowed to pick a few vegetables to sell along the road so I could afford to study. I didn’t have so much free time like other students but with hope in my heart I continued to attend school.

I sometimes hid and cried alone. I felt sorry for myself especially when I looked at other students who had a nice dress to wear, and even without working they still had enough money to go to school. Most of my classmates laughed at me, but I tried hard not to care. I tried to think maybe they never faced hardships like me and didn’t really understand what it’s like.

By chance, I learned about CASF through my neighbor who has family in Phnom Penh. They recommended that I apply, and as a result my life has changed. After CASF support through high school, I am now attending university and living in CASF’s Women’s Educational Support Center in Phnom Penh. I promise when I am a success, I will try to help poor people and also work very hard to develop my country. Finally, on behalf of one poor student of CASF, I would like to say thanks to CASF for supporting me and encouraging me to study hard. I wish everyone had such good luck.

Please help Sarom and all concerned by your generous contribution to CASF’s 2011 Annual Fund. Allow the courageous dreams of our 120 students to *soar*.

With care and good wishes,

Frederick Lipp, President/Founder CASF