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Children's Surgical Centre

Newsletter Issue 23

Letter from the CEO

CSC is off to a running start after last week's water festival holiday: the traditional Cambodian celebration of the change of the flow of Tonle Sap River. The festival brings usually brings about 2 million people to Phnom Penh to celebrate with a street festival and boat races, but this year the city wasn't as full as previously with the boat races canceled due to upcountry flooding and the memories of the stampede deaths. However, now that the festival is over, our waiting rooms, wards, and operation theaters are fast approaching maximum capacity.

Since the last newsletter, CSC has had the honor of hosting an array of specialists from around the world, who helped us to develop our medical skills. We would like to give a special thanks to these specialists: Drs Judith Newman, Brian Moore, Sohrab Gollogly, Dragan Dimitrov, Jim Arid, Keith Willet, Henk Giele, Dick Lanning, Angela Keen and Chris Lyon, as well as Lindsay Cheers. We would also like to recognize the fundraisers and donors who are helping us at this time of year.



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Interesting Facts

- CSC has seen over 101,000 patients for consultations.
- CSC has performed over 40,000 surgeries.
- Every surgery we perform is either life saving or life changing.
- The patients we have seen could not afford treatment if we were not here. Their condition would be left untreated.



*Biomed Donated over 150
multi-axial screws*



Our New Xray Machine



Photos from Vanda's the last bout



Chris visiting CSC



Neal Gemasser

Letter from the CEO continued

Jeff Rashe from Biomed visited CSC in October and made a Big Donation this year of a large number of screws, hooks, and rods vital to our spinal surgeries. Thank you Jeff and Biomed for helping CSC to continue to provide free surgery for poor Cambodians.

In the last newsletter we asked you for help raising funds for a new X-ray machine, which we now have, and it is working fine. On behalf of myself and CSC I would like to say thank you all for your help.

Vanda Promotions had another White Collar Boxing event in Singapore on Saturday Oct 22, continuing their long history of supporting Children's Surgical Centre. If you would like to know more about this or their upcoming bouts visit:

www.vandapromotions.com

Chris Snell raced across the Sahara for 6 days, in the Racing the Planet series. He has finished that race but still is committed to another, to raising USD \$50,000 for CSC. He is at \$24,000 now, please help show your support for those who support CSC and make a donation toward his goal. All donations go entirely to CSC.

<http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/chris-snell/sahararace2011>

Neal Gemassmer is doing the same 250km trek, but across Nepal! This ultra-marathon (run, walk, crawl) takes place over six days from November 20-26, right at Thanksgiving time. Neal is trying to raise \$10,000 for CSC. To read his blog or make a donation please visit:

<http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/nealgemassmer/racingtheplanetnepal250km>

Many thanks to these, and to all of you, our supporters, without whom we could not continue. Dr Jim

Ret Vuth's Story

Vuth (Ret 22566) is a 7 year old boy who lives in a village that is situated deep in a forest. One day last April he was playing in his house when a snake came into the house and bit him. Vuth did not die but the wound the snake left became infected. The injury festered for 10 weeks until he finally came to CSC to seek treatment.

The infection spread through a large portion of his arm and hand. By the time we saw him, it had healed with a keloid scar, causing severe contractures that locked up his wrist and elbow and took away the mobility in his arm.

At CSC Vuth had his contractures released to free-up the scars that had fused his joints incorrectly. He had to have a skin flap moved from his groin to his wrist to cover the exposed tendons, and he had to keep the flap attached for 3 weeks to his hip, so that it could develop a new blood supply from his hand. He easily tolerated the external fixator that helped to hold his hand in the correct position, and when the flap was released, he was very happy.



Vuth when he came to CSC



Vuth after his releases and skin graft.

Today Vuth's arm is better. Before it had no use, now he uses it to play with his friends, to help his father farm rice and to write his school reports. "Thank you for fixing my arm" Vuth said when we talked to him last.

Every donation counts.



A new "spring" jacket will help to keep her warm during the somewhat chilly nights ahead.



A new start on life along with new cloths makes a difference.



Saying thank you has never been so adorable.

CSC is always in need of more donations, from surgical equipment and tools to money to cover the cost of electricity and patient meals. These donations are all critical to our efforts to provide free surgery to poor Cambodians and to train our Cambodian doctors to improve their ability to perform new and difficult surgeries.

Every donation we receive counts, and makes a huge and lasting impact on the people we serve. Most recently we received a donation of 500 pieces of clothing from the clothing manufacturer H&M.

CSC treats the poorest of the poor, those who cannot afford to get the surgery they need elsewhere. These people, struggling on the edge of the economy, cannot afford new clothing. With H&M's donation we gave many of our patients new clothes and give some of the babies their first set of baby clothes.

Please take a look at all of these photos and see that when you make a donation to CSC your donation, no matter how small, will make a lasting and real impact in the lives of children.



Ri Chily's Story

Ri Chily, is an adorable 6 year old who came to CSC with her father to have her eye looked at. CSC eye doctors examined her and determined she had Ptosis, a drooping of her right eye's upper eyelid, and scheduled her for surgery later that day.

Chily's surgery went fine and even though the wound left by the surgery will take time to heal, she already has the complete use of her eyelid.



Ri Chily before her surgery, her upper right eye lid is drooping



Ri Chily After her surgery, she can see well and looks beautiful

Chily's surgery isn't as drastic or complex as some of the others that we do, but it is just as life changing. Chily's surgery will have three big effects. First she will be able to see better and for longer periods of time than before her operation. Second she will not be treated poorly by others because of a minor and easily treatable issue. Finally she will not be considered an unlucky child. The idea of an "Unlucky child" is a Cambodian cultural idea that labels children born with birth defects. Unlucky children are sometimes refused entry to school, ignored in everyway by the government, avoided by children their own age, and even considered as bad luck or a bad omen to their family. With her treatment she is no longer unlucky and can live a full fruitful life.

The Season for Giving

In western cultures, this time of the year is the season of giving: a time to help your fellow man with your hands and your heart. CSC needs your help. This year we will provide nearly 14,000 consultations and perform about 4,000 life changing and life saving surgeries. We perform these high quality surgeries for only about \$220 each, a figure we arrive at by dividing all money spent, by the total number of operations performed.

Every day CSC is filled with dozens of young Cambodians who need surgery to change their lives. For some, like those with meningoencephalocele (MEC), if they don't get surgery, it is unlikely they will live past their 25th birthday. Others, like those with cleft lips, don't suffer a life threatening condition, but the quality of their life will improve with treatment. A person with a cleft palate may have a speech

defect which could cause them to be not understood well in their community and in school, which can lead to fewer good Job Opportunities later in life.



Please don't tell yourself you don't need to give because someone else will give enough for us to cover our costs. That's never the case. CSC provides all consultations and surgeries 100% free of charge and is funded by donations by people like you. Because poor Cambodians have nowhere else to turn, they come to CSC every day seeking life saving and life changing operations. There will always be more surgery that needs to be done than we can provide. We simply don't have enough surgeons, staff, space in our operation theater, and supplies, to meet the overwhelming need.



How to make a Donation

How to make a donation to Children's Surgical Centre:

1. PayPal : To make a donation through PayPal simply visit <http://csc.org/donate.php> . You may make a one time donation or a regular monthly subscription donation through PayPal.
2. Credit Card : If you do not have a PayPal account, you may use your credit card through the PayPal website to place your donation. This process is both safe and easy. Alternatively you may wish to email your card details to Eric, our Stakeholder Relations Officer, at info@csc.org or call Jim Carmichael, CSCs Secretary of the Board of Directors, in Alaska, USA at +1-206-321-6395.
3. Direct Deposit/Wire Transfer : If you wish to make a donation via direct deposit or wire transfer please contact Eric at info@csc.org to obtain account information and also a tax receipt. CSC has bank accounts in Cambodia, the United States and Hong Kong, and cooperates with other NGOs which allow donors to make donations which are tax deductible in UK and Australia.
4. Cheque : Cheques may be mailed to CSC board members in Hong Kong and the US, or directly to CSC in Cambodia.

Hong Kong
Mr. Dan Tagliere
MacauLand Developments Ltd
Suite 6802, 68th Floor
The Center
99 Queens Road, Central

USA
Mr. Jim Carmichael
P.O. Box 2545
Kodiak, AK 99615
USA

Cambodia
Children's Surgical Centre
P.O. Box 1060
Phnom Penh, Cambodia



Our Contact info

National Rehabilitation Centre Kien Khleang,
Route 6A, Chroy Changvar,
PObox 1060
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

International Phone: + 855 23 43 02 02
Local Phone: 023 43 02 02
Email: info@csc.org
Website: www.CSC.org