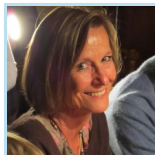




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... there are few areas of the world where one witnesses so brilliantly the transformation from little ragamuffins into schoolchildren ... for a better, more fruitful life ... (Mr James Morris, Executive Director of the UN World Food Programme, after his visit to PSE),



Editorial

Ghislaine Dufour,
President

As the festive season approaches us, Cambodia celebrated, in November, the end of the rainy season with the Water Festival. In this region, the effects of climate change combine with other factors to push many people into destitution. Every day, new families come knocking at PSE's door.

As happens every year in September, many of our volunteers came to Paris, from across France and beyond, to exchange ideas for fund-raising activities, how to attract new supports and collect new sponsorships. Amongst other things, our volunteers make many presentations in schools to share our news and propose sharing actions. To mark the 30th anniversary of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, an initiative: "Smiles in Choirs", is organising children's concerts in eight regions of France, to show their solidarity to the youngsters of PSE.

With this newsletter, you will find the first issue of a supplement aimed at 8-12 year olds, a tool for exchanging on solidarity within the family and also in schools.

Young and older engage in sporting challenges, collecting funds for the benefit of the NGO. After the "4L Trophy" last winter, it was the ascent of Kilimanjaro and participation in the "Morocco Swim Trek" this autumn. PSE survives by private donations only and each initiative allows a few more small Cambodians to escape destitution, go to school and learn a trade.

Do not hesitate to circulate this newsletter during the holiday season, so that it is Christmas, too, for many children in Cambodia.

Thank you for your loyal support.

Branch Network Day

On 28th September, we held one of the two annual meetings of our volunteer teams. A wonderful moment of reunion and sharing, during which our General Secretary (and great movie lover!), Thomas Valleteau, welcomed us with a brilliant introduction:

"Today is **The Longest Day** of the year for PSE: the Branch Network Day, an opportunity to share our dreams and plans for the coming year.

This year, for Mamie, the tour will be **The Stagecoach (La Chevauchée Fantastique)**!

There have been **The Godfather** 1, 2, 3 ... Well, at PSE, it will be **The Godfather** (s) 10, 100, 1000!

This year there will also be **The Sound of Music**, thanks to concerts, organised in several regions, by young **Choristers**.

And without forgetting: you do not have to be **The Chariots of Fire** to participate in the Race of Heroes - as I did last year, like many others, with my 6 years old son; it is not **Mission Impossible**!

More and more present on **Social Network**, no doubt that, this year, PSE will also be **The Lord of the Newsletters**.

And thank you all for your unfailing commitment. PSE is **The City of Joy, A Family Affair**, whose **Mission** is to **Serve** the children in Cambodia.

Of course, we are aware that the general mood in France and elsewhere, such as in Hong Kong, is sometimes difficult. In the streets, it is rather more the atmosphere of **Monsieur Gangster (Les Tontons Flingueurs)**. We would prefer that **Life** be a **Long Quiet River**. We sometimes might be tempted to think, **Gone with the Wind**. But it is not **Apocalypse Now** either. And we are even very confident because we know that from up above where he watches over us, **Papy is in the Resistance!** (**Papy fait de la Résistance**)

Three years ago, indeed, Christian said **Au Revoir les Enfants**. So, it is up to all of us, together, to continue. For the kids. More than ever **On the Way to School**. We are all, and for a long time to come, committed with all our energy around our **Little Gems**. Motivated and mobilised, like Mamie has been for over 20 years, so that we can continue to say to each child: "**Go, Live and Become**".



Message to sponsors who have a direct debit from their bank account or credit card: your tax receipt for the year 2019 will be sent in March 2020. Would you like to receive the tax receipt by email? Please send your agreement to secretariat@pse.org confirming the email address with which you would like to receive it.

Know your children



A family of 4 boys aged 14, 9, 7 and 1. The father is a construction worker and the mother looks after the youngest son. They have their own small house in the countryside, but the

\$170 earned by the father is not even enough to buy the daily rice and they often borrow from their neighbors to eat. **\$0.95** per person per day! ... So we have to take on the costs of the local school for the 3 eldest as well as one meal a day.



A young girl of 15 and her 11-year-old brother, live with their two very old grandparents. The grandmother, when she has the strength, sometimes goes to scavenge trash. The children are also scavengers after they get out of school. Totally, they get

\$0.35 per person, per day! ...

How did they survive before our social workers found them? ... We provide them with rice, all the costs of school for both children, and one meal a day.



This family lives in the Siem Reap province. 4 children + one niece and one nephew whose parents are divorced, and one grandmother. These 9 people have only \$1.13 per person per day to live on. The father and the oldest boy (18 years old) are both construction workers. The oldest boy gives \$100 to his family out of the \$150 he earns. The mother is at home to take care of the very old grandmother and of the youngest 2-year-old child. The 4 children who are at school, 2 girls of 10 and 8 years, their 13-year-old cousin and his 11-year-old brother, are provided, thanks to PSE, with all school expenses and one meal a day.



An 18 years old secondary school graduate from Takeo province. Her 15-year-old brother, in grade 10, and the parents, farmers, have just enough to eat and definitely

cannot afford higher education. Then we enrolled the daughter in PSE Vocational Training and boarding school.

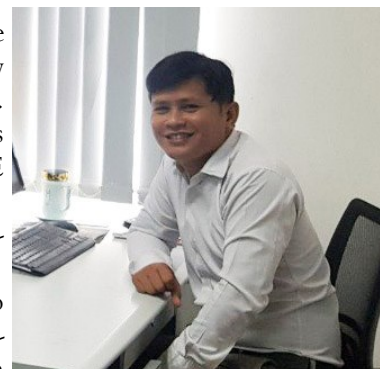
What has become of them ?

Nuon Sovann is 35 years old. He was born in the camps on the Thai border. Before coming to PSE, he lived with his old mother and his sister. They were very poor and did not always have enough to eat. By chance, one day, a retired PSE teacher, who lived next to them, talked to Sovann about the association. He therefore came to knock at PSE's door, and after a survey and a home visit to evaluate his family's situation, the Social Team selected him to come to PSE. This was in 2003. As well as education, PSE provided the family, every week, with rice so that they could, finally, eat properly.

After he completed secondary school, Sovann entered our School of Business and graduated in Administration and Accounting sill.

After his graduation period, he was immediately hired as an accountant and 5 years later, he returned to PSE as an instructor for accounting and finance for the next 5 years. He then worked at different companies. Married with another PSE graduate, he has 2 children. He is now considering creating his own consulting firm for accounting, to ensure his retirement. *"Thanks to PSE's help, he says, I have nearly everything, now. When I was small, I could never have imagined having the life I now have... I have a good salary and my family has come from the worst to the happiest... I would have nothing, today, if PSE were not here, and especially Papy and Mamie. My mother gave me life but PSE gave me my future. I will never forget, either, all the persons at PSE, who work so hard to rescue so many starving children."*

What more can I say? ... If we still had doubts, we understand why we work so hard...



Supporting PSE

Alyssa and Claire, daughters of our friend Celeste Messina, who is a member of the Board of Directors, have successfully climbed Mount Kilimanjaro while obtaining sponsorships for PSE!!! In addition, their parents pledged additional sponsorship for PSE! A huge congratulations and warm thank you! Of course, not everybody is able to undertake such an exploit but everything is valuable to help our children. I am sure that if you think about it a little, you will find many ideas of things to do for PSE, even less exceptional.

Your heart will guide you. I am counting on you!

Anthology Everyone knows that the School of Media was Papy's dream. A few days ago, students, with their teachers, all alumni of the school, went to shoot near the buildings of the Social Team, close to Papy's stupa. When they returned, they said: *"we are sure that Papy has been happy to see us!"*...

Start of school year 2019



On 9th September, after a month of summer camps, PSE became a school again. A ceremony marked the start of the school year, under the large hall known as "the Queen's", doubled by a large tent, which covered the entire courtyard. Welcome speeches by the management, some recommendations for a good start to the year and to keep in mind the importance of school, and then the "wish" dance, still as gracious as ever. And on 18th October, it was the traditional staff seminar with presentations by departments, certificates, and gifts to thank those who have worked at PSE for 5, 10, 15 years



Uniforms and materiel distribution

and a special thanks to 2 persons who have been with us for ... 20 years: Man Sokuntheary, one of the production managers of the sewing workshop and Dr. Sarath, director of the Health Department!

Still needs...

Some people think that our needs are not the same "now that the dumpsite has closed" ... Yes, the one in Stung Meanchey has closed ...

However, destitution has not disappeared with the closure of that dumpsite!

The needs have moved, but they are still just as critical.

Each newsletter tells you the story of one (or more) of our families. "**Know your children**" tells you about families destroyed by drink, violence, drugs ..., consequences of destitution, itself consequence of lack of work or insufficient work to support a family. This lack of work is itself a consequence of the lack of training of the parents, that stems directly from the tsunami of the Khmer Rouge period. Yes, the consequences of this terrible period are still there, unfortunately ... A vicious circle, impossible to break without training.



We still have scavenger families, most of them, on the streets - but nowadays they have become a small minority.

Others try to earn a few cents which, finally, do not allow them to feed their family either: construction workers are labourers, who are never sure of being taken on the next day, like this 70 year old grandfather carrying 50 kg cement bags on his back; those who work in factories, without qualifications, do not earn much; those who collect materials on the streets, at night, to resell them the next day, etc ... etc ... And all those who pick up potatoes, who sell along the streets, grilled bananas, shellfish, rice soup, flowers, coffee... depending on the goodwill of buyers...; those who pick up water greens, often submerged to the waist in brackish ponds; those who are farmers or fishermen...



All these makeshift means, that have no future and no guarantees for tomorrow ..., that is all they can have, and they do not get away with them!



The reality today is that, out of our 3,500 families, 2,200 (62%) survive on **less than \$1.90** per person per day and 1,200 (34%) have **between \$1.90 and \$2.60!**

What makes things even more complicated is that the city is growing incredibly fast and that the zones of great poverty on the periphery are not only moving further away because families cannot keep up with the rising costs, but, at the same time, are much more scattered, which does not facilitate the work of our social team.

On the other hand, we clearly see that, when children, who started with nothing, have finished their schooling then their vocational training and finally have a decent job! It is the whole family, which is out of the woods. This is the story of our alumni who are happy and proud to tell their paths.

In short, 97% of our families do not get to live! ...

Scavengers or not, it is the same destitution we are confronted with. Hard to say that everything is fine ...

Yes, there are still a lot distress that you will not necessarily see, since they have moved away.

However, they are the families of our children. Can we abandon them? ...

Moreover, at the places where they find refuge, every day, our social team discovers others in equally catastrophic situations.

We have no choice, we must continue: today as yesterday, we must educate and feed the children, care for them, give them a skill, support their families...

And for all that, we need your support, without which we could not do anything!

(Their homes, illustrations of the problems! ...)





Feeding the children

Each day, 6,000 meals are prepared to feed - and delight - our children. How often do I hear, "I took three servings because it was really good!" Breakfast and lunch for everyone, plus dinners for boarders. We prepare here some of the meals that we serve in the day-care centres / nurseries and those we provide to the students in nearby State schools and for whom the Social Team determined they need them. For those who attend schools further away, we make



arrangements with local providers.

It is a huge organisation, directed by Chhoun Sinoun, a former scavenger and one of the very first students at PSE. After finishing her education and having worked for a long time as part of the Social Team, Sinoun, married to the Deputy Director of the Social Team and mother of two children, reigns today over the canteens at our Centre. The day starts early, at 3:00 a.m., so that meals are ready for the students when they arrive at 6:00 a.m.! It should be known that, here, breakfast is a meal like any other, which takes more time to prepare than our toast and jam or our bowl of cereals. However, meals on Sundays are prepared, alternately, by the boarders, who also serve the dinners.

Sinoun is also responsible for the ordering and the menus, that are nutritionally balanced - and good - from seasonal products. She and her team take delivery, check ingredients for quality and weigh everything to verify that there is exactly what has been ordered. Then comes all the peeling and cutting, cooking and distributing. You should see the size of the pots!



This service is made up of 6 men and 18 women and they would need 7 more ... Many of them, persons in difficulty, parents of our children, out of work, and who, thus, are able to regain dignity and the means to support their families, with a rotation system once they got started again. A virtuous circle, beneficial for everyone.

We do not see them much; nor do we talk about them enough, but they are absolutely an essential part of the life at PSE. It is thanks to them that our children enjoy a good health. They are humble, kind, courageous, grateful.

We'll never thank them enough!

The environment at PSE

PSE, also, is taking steps to ensure the children are aware of issues related to hygiene as well as to the protection of the planet, encouraging them to change their behaviour and to persuade the others ... Our Human Education sessions have an important Environment component with practical applications.

On 20th March, after cleaning their classrooms and the courtyards, the students took time to reflect on the topic. And, on 26th March, they set up some guidelines about cleanliness and the means to implement them.

From February to March, 18 students from Vocational Training took a specific course to implementing actions, before they were spread in the whole Institute. On 27th and 28th April, they travelled to Kep to a 100% without plastic 'resort', to participate in practical exercises. After the resort's director provided explanations, they started with a beach clean-up exercise, becoming aware of the enormous amount of plastic that pollutes the beach and the ocean. For their meals, they switched to reusable containers and flasks, rather than single-use plastic, and tossed their organic waste onto a compost heap, used for an organic garden.

Now they are able to encourage their friends and family to make things evolve.

We had 3 Environment Days on 29th, 30th and 31st May. The 1st 2 days, throughout PSE, all the courses have been replaced by awareness raising through quizzes, videos and debates ... On the 3rd day, students from the Vocational Training went to clean the streets of Stung Meanchey, with monks who had come to join them. At the same time, information kiosks were set up in the Centre by various departments, on plastic pollution, how to act to eliminate it, composting, gardening, etc... while, sketches, songs, poetry and drawings were on exhibit under the large hall.



An opportunity to build awareness about environmental problems among the children and staff and to teach them everyday tasks to start improving the situation in Cambodia.



Our scouts haven't been left out. On 8th June they participated in cleaning the Boeung Trabek canal at the city centre of Phnom-Penh. The water there is extremely polluted by all kinds of toxic substances, and plastic tossed by people. In addition to the pollution, the canal is also a source of a horrible smell throughout the area. For the past several weeks there have been efforts to remove rubbish regularly but the water still remains very dirty. More than 50 participants from different NGOs (PSE, Aspeca, JICA, Action Against Hunger, and Hope for Justice) met up on that day. Half cleaned the canal while the others group, among them, our scouts, planted flowers around. *A beautiful solidarity event!*

We are delighted that our children are becoming aware of these problems that are vital for the future...

