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... il y a peu d'endroits au monde où l'on assiste aussi brillamment à la transformation de petits chiffonniers en écoliers ... pour une vie meilleure et féconde ...
(M. James Morris, Directeur Mondial du Programme Alimentaire de l'Onu, après son passage à PSE).



Editorial

Ghislaine Dufour,
President

"Les Pépites", the incredible film by Xavier de Lauzanne that tells the extraordinary story of PSE, awarded the title of best documentary in the last ten years by Allocine. The DVD is still available. And if we offered it to our friends, or invited them over to watch it with us... This could prompt them to come and meet Marie-France during her 24th fundraising tour.

Regular sponsorships, which are non-nominative, cover a large part of the budget for the programmes that directly benefit our children in Cambodia. Regular Sponsorship is the most sustainable way to help as it gives us the assurance that we will be able to help our children until they graduate. Is not the objective of PSE to help children escape destitution and to accompany them to a career? If they fall behind along the way, we do everything we can to help them to get back on track, with the FLIP program, for example. It is above all during the annual fundraising tour that many of our new sponsors discover PSE's actions and decide to join us. That explains why it is so important for us to fill the rooms! We are counting on you to help us do so, by talking about our events in your communities and communicating the dates on the calendar at the back of this newsletter. Thank you!

Throughout the year, hundreds of volunteers, from PSE's 18 branches in France, and the 8 branches abroad, come up with new ideas and invest themselves thoroughly in order to plan events and raise funds. These those who volunteer to organize a Tour event, each year for over 20 years, and allow Marie-France to return to Cambodia with new sponsors without whom we could not be able to continue taking care of the children in our programmes, and welcome so many more.

Thank you for your loyal support.

Already the 24th tour.



This time, I am coming with a young girl called Karuna. Long-time PSE supporters already know her as she came and danced during the fundraising tour in 2012.

She is not a complete PSE alumnus yet, but she is about to be, as she is doing her Vocational Training right now. Practically an orphan, a boarder since she was 8 years old, she obtained her baccalaureate last August and began training in the School of Management and Sales on the Administration and Human

Resources course. Often 1st in her class, she is also talented at drawing, music and all sorts of dances and sports... and she speaks French. You will be enchanted to meet her, with her finesse and wonderful smile. She will bring a laptop with her, in order to follow her classes online during the down moments of the tour - a challenging feat, but she has successfully overcome other challenges that she has faced...

Therefore, I won't have a young man with me who is a technical expert... so I will be relying on those of you who have such a talent, to help me, as it is something I struggle with!

Little Gems, n°1 by Bérengère Dommaigné (Aleteia magazine, 31st Dec. 2019)

Allocine has classified the 15 best documentaries of the last 10 years according to ratings given by the audiences. The results paint a hopeful and inspiring picture.

"The bell has rung to take stock of the rankings of all kinds! And it is a ranking that is based purely on audience ratings. Within the best 15 documentaries most enjoyed in the last 10 years, we find, in the top 5, three "coups de coeur" of the Aleteia editors. Films full of humanity, which have touched the greatest number.

N°1 in the rankings: Little Gems, by Xavier de Lauzanne, released in October 2016. "Little Gems" tells the story of the crazy bet of a French couple: to save the children from the Phnom-Penh dumpsite, in Cambodia. Within 20 years, Christian and Marie-France des Pallières realized not the impossible, but the secret of what man is capable of. At the beginning, a simple hut, to welcome the children of the dumpsite so that they can eat some food. However, very quickly, those called Papy and Mamie think bigger, and above all, want the best for these children. They decide to build a school, an infirmary and finally a training center of excellence for the poorest, so that each of them can learn a trade and succeed in life. After seeing this film, the journalist Serge Moati exclaimed: "It's a gem, a masterpiece!" - an opinion visibly shared by the audiences!"



Yes, it's true that our friend Xavier achieved a wonderful film!... I dream of seeing all those (very, very many...) who have been touched by this fascinating adventure, think that they can participate, each in their own way, so this adventure can continue thanks to them too! For the adventure to continue, we need an immense chain of solidarity. That is what, at this beginning of the year 2020, I wish for all the children who are still waiting by the side of the road!

Know your children



Both parents work. The father is a porter, a day labourer, without qualifications and no guarantee of work the next day and the mother is a factory worker. But their wages aren't enough to support their 4 children. At \$1.3 per person per day, they are in our category 1, the lowest! ... The youngest is still a baby and the 3 others, educated by PSE at State schools, benefit, in addition, from one meal per day, 42 kg of rice per month, as well as a health card for the whole family. We have just offered the father a short training course, at FLIP, so that he can get a real job and take care of his family.

It is really the lack of training that prevents it from getting out!...



The parents, drug addicts, divorced and took off separately, leaving their 2 daughters with the grandmother who tries to get by selling vegetables, what brings in \$1.25 per person per day. Not enough to eat... PSE provides them with 5 kg of rice per week, the health card, caring for the oldest (4 years old) in one of our day-care centres and the youngest (not even 3 years old) with a childminder.

A chance, that these children abandoned by parents, still young, who headed towards a dead-end, have a grandmother who can take care of them! But she can't make it on her own and needs PSE's help!



A catastrophic situation! A drug-addicted father who has just left the family. A 32-year-old mother, often sick with a heart condition, and 4 months pregnant. She keeps watch over parked motorcycles near her home, earning \$3 a day - irregularly - to feed her 4 boys... Sometimes the family lives with the grandparents, who are scavengers, in a very small hut. At other times, the mother sleeps with her children in a nearby park.

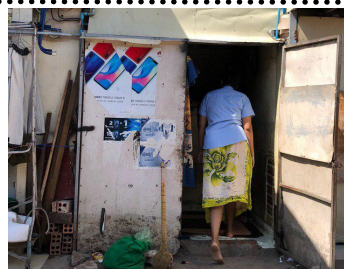
The priority was to feed them (we provide dinner for 5 persons as well as 10kgs of rice per week); to give the mother a chance to earn more (we hired her to do social work and give her, in addition, a financial support for 3 months); and to take care of the children during the day (for the 6-year-old one, who is 6, the State school and one meal a day; for the two others, 5- and 4-years-old, a day-care with 2 meals a day and for the youngest, who is 2½ years old, a day-care mother).

An abandoned mother who has no way out but doesn't want to separate from her children. PSE is there for her.



For 4 persons, they rent a small room, 1.5m by 2m, that is dirty and not well maintained in an environment of small thugs. The mother is a waitress but with low wages. The father is a drug addict and is violent with his wife and children who he often takes with him when he goes out to beg because he is too lazy to work. We had to negotiate with him before he finally agreed to let their 9-year-old daughter come to school. But as she had never been to school, and was already 3 years behind, we took her in our Remedial School. And, for her protection, we had to decide and take her in to the boarding school. Her 7-year-old younger brother, less at risk, is on our waiting list.

Unfortunately, history repeats itself... And I am delighted that we are here to continue avoiding disasters!



The family is very poor. The father is a porter at the market with, obviously, a not only very low but also very irregular income. The mother, who washes dishes for a few hundred riels, is 9 months pregnant. The two daughters, 15 and 10, live with

their grandmother who sees to their schooling. Only the 6-year-old boy lives with his parents who cannot afford school. We therefore care for him to go at a State school with one meal a day and extracurricular activities half day, since the family lives along a canal and the risks are great for this child to stay alone when the parents are not there, especially as they live in an area overrun by drugs, small banditry, insecurity ... *I always find it hard to bear that parents have to separate from their children, just because they can't afford to raise themselves...*

What has become of them?



Khun Sokhen, 16. You may remember him ... He is this little stonebreaker who was interviewed by TV channel TF1 four years ago for the show "Sept à Huit" ("Seven to Eight") and who has, since, come to study at PSE. Today, he is in the Preparatory class since the last 7 months and would like to join the Sales and Administration course in our School of Management and Sales. Khun is still staying in the boarding school because his family lives too far away in the mountains near Oudong.

Following an accident, his father lost 3 fingers and, unable to work, started to drink; his aging mother no longer has the strength to break stones. She hunts for scrap metal to sell, to earn some small income, as do his already married brothers and sisters who have not had the opportunity to go to school.

If TF1 had not crossed Khun Sokhen's path, he would be in the same situation as the rest of his family ... Before long, he will be able to help them. Still, it's painful to realise that there is not much we can do for the rest of the family just because we got to know them too late and because they live too far away... And how many others are there?! ... One more reason, if it would be needed, not to give up and to continue helping as many as we can!

Le FLIP programme



A few days ago, in our large multipurpose room, 95 diplomas have been officially awarded to those who have just completed their training. FLIP (Family Livelihood Improvement Programme). It is, in a way, a 2nd remedial programme. Originally, these short training courses of 3 or 6 months, were created for the parents of our children. Indeed, after having educated the children, we quickly realized that their parents, often illiterate, were unable to assume family life, simply because they had learned nothing. At the very beginning, we started offering to some of them social jobs in the Centre. But their number quickly reached its limits and, luckily, another association offered to help finance short training courses for adults. When this funding stopped, in light of the results, we decided to continue the operation by making it a programme funded by us.

Indeed, even though we don't have a 100% success rate, as some of the parents are too "broken" by their sufferings, there is still a good number who regain their dignity, together with the ability to take care of their children by themselves. Cooking, Hairdressing, Aesthetics, Sewing, Housekeeping, Phone repairing ... are the courses currently offered.

But since a few months, this programme has started helping also youngsters who failed at school, youngsters who had dropped out of school, because they no longer a willing to study, because they wanted to earn money faster, because they wanted to get married, etc... and because the Foundation Year, followed by the 2 or 3 years of our skill trainings, seemed too long to them. By the way, the testimony of a young 19-year-old graduate speaks better than speeches: he told us about the child he had had and, then about his drop out of school in order to work so as to be able to raise his child, the slave wages because he had no diploma, and his decision to return to PSE for a cook training at our FLIP programme... Today, he works in two restaurants, manages supporting his small family and tells us of his joy, with thanks!

How can we ask children to study with peace of mind when life at home is so difficult and when parents, without work, sink into drugs and violence? This programme, originally intended for adults, now allows us to "recover" some of our youngsters, too overwhelmed by life to complete their studies, so that they can leave with the minimum of training needed to get a job.

If school is vital, the "recoveries" facilitated by FLIP are just as important!

Some "little flowers"

Christmas is not really a Cambodian holiday, but streams of children and staff have paraded through my office for the past few weeks with touching gifts and wishes. Disabled children (special classes and the "Source de Vie" home), those of "Mother and Infant Protection", the General Education team, students and teachers, the Vocational Training Institute team, etc. Just happiness, all this kindness!

Another day, a young girl in Year 9, who is attending Samaki High School and who comes to follow the support classes at PSE, came to bring me a crochet scarf made by her mother. She amazed me with her level of English!

And, these words (in English) from a young student, Socheata, with a drawing she had done of Papy: "I want to say thank you Mamie, that you give me a new life. I love you so much, Mamie".

Not long ago, I enjoyed an evening spent with some of our volunteers, who had kindly invited me to dine in one of their houses (formerly student houses). A good friendly moment, which allowed me to get to know and appreciate them better, and to see that they are delighted with their facilities. They come from everywhere, for at least 6 months, to lend a helping hand wherever there is a need: some help in our School of Business, others in Communication or in our School of Hospitality and Tourism, still others, assist our English and French teachers, or work in the "Foyer Source de Vie" with our children with disability, but also in our Pedagogical Team, etc... Carefully selected, at headquarters, by Véronique, a volunteer who has come here for several months and who knows the living conditions perfectly, they are a friendly, enthusiastic, efficient team, which brings its know-how to complement the skills of our collaborators.

There are also some experienced volunteers who come for one to three years on average, to bring their skills in areas where we cannot yet find qualified people in Cambodia. With, as far as possible, the goal of training a Cambodian successor to follow on after them.

To find out about open vacancies, go to our website: www.pse.ngo/jobs-internships-volunteering-our-vacancies-france-and-cambodia

That is PSE: children who had nothing, or almost nothing, recover their right to life thanks to this large family where they find attention, kindness, love, which, they all say, allows them to consider a future they never would have dared to dream of before. Their smiles and gratitude bear witness to this better than words. And all those who work daily on these rebirths, whether Cambodian or from elsewhere, are very touched by this atmosphere that some call "the PSE spirit", which motivates them and makes them give the best of themselves.

You can imagine why it is a daily happiness for me to live here...

PROGRAMME de la TOURNÉE 2020

MARS	Me. 18	20 h	92500	Rueil-Malmaison	Collège-Lycée de Passy Buzenval, 50 av. Otis Mygatt Pierre-Yves Rambaud - py.rambaud@pse.org	06 16 18 21 64
	Je. 19	20 h	59262	Sainghin-en-Mélantois (près Lille)	Salle des Fêtes - 6 rue du Stade Patrick Pouillet - nord@pse.org	06 08 57 46 14
	Ve. 20	19 h 30	59420	Mouvaux	Soirée spéciale. Sur réservation uniquement Contacter l'antenne : nord@pse.org	
	Ma. 24	20 h	14800	Deauville	Salle des Fêtes - 118 ter avenue de la République Marie-Britte Campion - mb.campion19@gmail.com	06 49 85 49 96
	Me. 25	20 h	50100	Cherbourg-en-Cotentin	Grand Salon de la Mairie - 2 place de la République, (accès par rue de la Paix) Marie Trifot - trifot.m@gmail.com	06 62 46 21 03
	Ma. 31	20 h	39570	Lons le Saunier	Jura Parc - rue du 19 Mars 1962 Gaëlle Blervaque - gaelle.blervaque@pse.org	06 63 61 88 74
AVRIL	Me 1 ^{er}	20 h	68000	Colmar	Auditorium du Collège Épiscopal Saint André - 19 rue Rapp Brigitte Lafond - alsacelorraine@pse.org	06 14 56 47 04
	Lu. 6	19 h	CH-1003	Lausanne (Suisse)	Hôtel Mirabeau (Best Western Plus) - Avenue de la Gare, 31 Fabien Dutasta - switzerland@pse.ngo	+41 79 831 44 25
	Ma. 7	19 h	CH-1207	Genève (Suisse)	Auditorium Indosuez Genève - 64 rue du Stand Fabien Dutasta - switzerland@pse.ngo	+41 79 831 44 25
	Me. 8	20 h	38330	Saint-Ismier (près Grenoble)	Espace Agora - Place de l'Agora Lionel Felgères - grenoble@pse.org	06 12 38 80 90
	Me. 15		69000	Lyon	Lieu et horaire seront indiqués sur notre site www.pse.org et Facebook "psefrance" Bruno Allenet - lyon@pse.org	06 07 26 88 33
	Je. 16	20 h	58000	Nevers	Salle Morvan - Maison Diocésaine - 21 rue Gustave Mathieu Rémi Morillon - remi.morillon@pse.org	06 83 83 44 43
	Ma. 21	20 h	92210	St Cloud	Le Carré - 3 bis rue d'Orléans Thierry Kuter - thierry.kuter@pse.org	06 12 12 51 39
	Me. 22	20 h	92700	Colombes	Salle Ste Marie des Vallées, 13 rue Pierre Virol Thomas Valleteau - thomas.valleteau@pse.org	06 32 57 22 62
	Je. 23	20 h	78112	Fourqueux (St. Germain-en-Laye)	Espace Pierre Delanoë - Salle Fulcosa - 2 place Victor Hugo Gabrielle Grieb - gabrielle.grieb@gmail.com	07 86 27 61 37
	Ve. 24	20 h	91190	Gif-sur-Yvette	Espace du Val de Gif - Place du Chapitre Martine Gonneau - martine.gonneau@gmail.com	06 67 46 06 86
	Lu. 27	20 h	77100	Meaux	Salle St. Faron - Collège Ste Marie - 40 r. Alfred Maury - par rue Tivoli Anne-France Bénard - antbenard@hotmail.com	06 87 09 41 58
	Je. 30	19 h	NW1 6AA	Londres (Royaume Uni)	Auditorium de BNP Paribas - 10 Harewood avenue - Marylebone Ghislaine Hannay - uk@pse.ngo	+44 7816 119 372
MAI	Ma. 5	19 h 30	06000	Nice	Pathé Gaumont - Gare du Sud - 9 allée Charles Pasqua - salle n° 4 Rosine Bazzini - paca@pse.org	06 15 08 04 36
	Me. 6	20 h	34000	Montpellier	Le lieu sera indiqué sur notre site www.pse.org et notre page Facebook "psefrance" Gérard Barbanel - languedoc@pse.org	06 79 11 34 09
	Lu. 11	20 h	31500	Toulouse	Amphithéâtre du Lycée Ste Marie des Champs - 169 av. Jean Rieux Philippe de Villèle - midipyrenees@pse.org	06 23 92 00 63
	Ma. 12	20 h	64122	Urrugne (près St Jean de Luz)	Cinéma Itsas Mendi - 29 rue Bernard de Coral Martin de Roquefeuil - aquitaine@pse.org	06 51 92 00 45
	Je. 14	20 h	79000	Niort	Amphithéâtre du Lycée St André - 14 rue de Souché Béatrice Demaegdt - bea.demaegdt@orange.fr	06 75 24 39 71

Nous vous attendons nombreux ! Mais ne venez pas seuls. Amenez vos amis qui ne nous connaissent pas encore !

Do something...

All actions are important to help us because, added together, like small streams, they come together to make big rivers. This is the case with the "Gift Wrapping" initiative by our Breton branch, which has become a tradition in December each year, as well as their theatrical performance in February! And this is just one example among many! ...

But, to enable these actions to survive, some of our volunteer teams need reinforcement! This is the case for our branches in Languedoc: languedoc@pse.org, Centre: regioncentre@pse.org, Lower Normandy: jacques.brochard61@gmail.com, Les 2 Savoie: les2savoie@pse.org. Do not hesitate to contact them if you can lend a helping hand!

When we discovered the situation in which many children were living in 1995, it was so unbearable that we decided to "do something" without knowing where it would take us. This is how PSE has worked ever since, with people who, one day, also decided to "do something". Thank you all, without you we would not be able to do anything!

