



# Newsletter

*Clean water, a human right not a luxury*

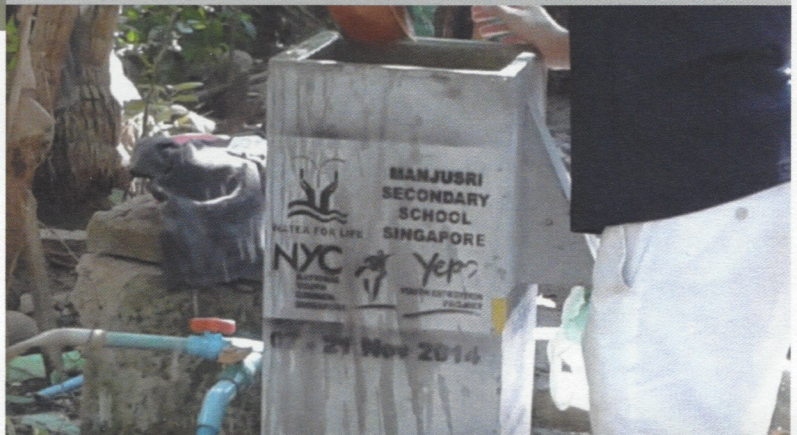
Volunteers are a much treasured and rewarding part of our experience in Cambodia. They both learn and teach our staff and the families they meet. Each leaves a legacy of caring and takes away a deeper understanding of Cambodia.

Water for Cambodia has hosted a wonderful array of volunteers since 2007. These young men and women have come to Cambodia from high schools in Singapore, Universities in the United States, companies and Rotary groups across Southeast Asia and as individuals traveling on their own. The common thread through this diverse group of people is an interest in getting to know the people of Cambodia, learning their needs and a willingness to donate their time and resources to make a small difference. Their value to the villagers we work with and to our staff has been extraordinary.

In this issue of The Water for Cambodia newsletter we will highlight some of these great volunteer groups along with a few of their observations.



Student volunteers Building filters to install for local village families



Each Volunteer team leaves their mark



Very happy beneficiaries!

Singapore high school students share their experiences and demonstrate to classmates at home what they have learned during a volunteer experience with WFC.



Partnering with Water for Cambodia, a local non-governmental organization, we helped to install a total of 100 bio-sand water filters in the villages of Siem Reap Province. Water for Cambodia allowed us to have a glimpse of life in a village where clean drinking water is not accessible. In a nutshell, we realized how little they survive on each day and how blessed and lucky we were to be living in Singapore and to have clear water back home. The installation process was an excellent opportunity for experiential learning through serving a community. Denise Tng, Whitley Secondary School – Singapore

We are fortunate to be part of this meaningful project where we were involved in bringing clean drinking water for the villagers in Cambodia. In this project we worked with Water for Cambodia. It is a non-government organization that aims to build and install water filters so that people have access to clean drinking water. In a developing country having clean drinking water is a luxury. – Elijah Leong, Whitley Secondary School – Singapore.

At Water for Cambodia centre, we all had the chance to get hands on experience to mould and de-mould the bio-sand filters. The workshop was indeed an eye opening experience for all of us as we learned how to prepare the sand mixture and also to deal with the nuts and bolts of the water filter. – Hannah Estelle Lao, Whitley Secondary School – Singapore

Bridgewater State University has sponsored student volunteers in partnership with WFC since 2009. They have built and installed more than 400 filters bringing clean water to hundreds of people.



Every January since 2009, a cadre of students from Bridgewater State University in Massachusetts travels to Cambodia. These volunteers devote their holidays to working with Water for Cambodia building and installing bio-sand filters as well as spending many hours getting acquainted with the villagers that they meet. Each year they are accompanied by several very dedicated staff who provide technical support and mentoring to the Water for Cambodia staff.

Students also utilize the Water for Cambodia Water Testing Lab to conduct experiments relevant to the work being done back at school thus contributing to their education as well as improving the local understanding of water conditions. They also serve as lab partners and mentors to the lab staff.



Many hands make the work of building bio-sand filters easy and fun!



Donor/volunteers visiting from Malaysia learn how bio-sand filters are able to provide clean, safe water to families. They also experienced first hand how our staff builds and installs them.

### My experience with Water For Cambodia

I volunteered for Water For Cambodia through their collaboration with MAD. When I first signed up for volunteering back in December 2014, I did not know what to expect from the experience. Little did I know that I was in for a life changing experience.

Building and installing bio-sand filters is hard work, but a very fulfilling one. I was blessed to be able to experience what I experienced with a vibrant and happening bunch of other volunteers. Not to mention all the Water For Cambodia staff who were very friendly, caring and dedicated to the cause.

The very essence of my experience which changed my life completely is the fact that many families in the rural areas do not have access to clean water and children suffer illnesses due to water borne diseases. Seeing their struggle in getting clean water daily made me realize the importance of the bio-sand filters. I am very thankful that I volunteered for Water For Cambodia, because I know that I made a difference to 5 families for at least 20 years to come. A hands-on experience that made me appreciate and conserve water. And, the genuine smiles on the faces of the family members receiving their bio-sand filters will always be etched in my memory.

Radika Murthy



*Our mission is to provide clean water, hygiene and literacy education to rural Cambodian families, improving their health and helping to break the cycle of poverty.*

Water for Cambodia a Middletown Rotary Charitable Trust is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization

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