

What's Happening

at the Sonja Kill Memorial Hospital – July 2017

SONJA KILL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL CELEBRATES 5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Sonja Kill Memorial Hospital, managed by HOPE *worldwide*, Ltd., opened in April 2012 with the mission to meet the needs of poor women and children of Southern Cambodia. Since its opening, more than 50,000 patients have been touched by the SKMH team. On May 26, 2017 the hospital honored 31 employees who have served since the hospital's opening day. Through the dedication of its staff and supporters, SKMH has seen tremendous growth.

SKMH has been blessed with international support from medical and administrative partners as well as volunteers from around the world to serve and teach. The local Cambodian staff continues to grow and serves as the primary patient care providers.

The SKMH team is grateful for all the support that has been given over the past five years; however, there remains more to do. Future development includes the addition of a CT scan, upgraded X-ray diagnostic equipment, continued development of staff training programs and pursuit of international accreditations. Please consider how you can make a difference at the Sonja Kill Memorial Hospital. Go to <https://www.hopeww.org/donate>. Use the drop down box and select Sonja Kill Memorial Hospital. If you wish to learn more about the Sonja Kill Memorial Hospital, please visit www.skmh.org.



DEADLY SURPRISE



Farmers are the most common people in Cambodia to be bitten by snakes due to the high grass and wet land they both occupy. The living conditions of the countryside Khmer are not airtight spaces. On the contrary, farmers may have woven doors, thatched roofs, and even the walls of their bungalow are vulnerable to intruders.

Ros Chroeb is a farmer and was bitten by a deadly, highly neurotoxic snake at 4am as she slept in her hammock. Her family took her to a traditional healer in a hopeful attempt to save her. She only grew worse, then was brought to the SKMH over two hours away. At this point, she was unconscious and her respiratory muscles were paralyzed. The doctors consider the bite from a Krait. Without anti-venom no one can survive this kind of bite. Once the venom courses through the victim's veins, facial paralysis is the first symptom followed by severe abdominal cramps, and eventual respiratory failure. Dr. Sar Thona intubated the patient immediately, opening her lungs to fresh air, and administered four vials of anti-venom to counteract the neurological effects already running its course. The patient was transferred to Phnom Penh where she lay with a ventilator attached for three days, leading to a successful recovery.

Anti-venom costs around \$120 per vial; in Cambodia you are more likely to be bitten by a poisonous snake than to be able to afford four vials of anti-venom. The total bill for the patient at SKMH was \$814. However, she did not pay anything since the family is very poor. Without SKMH, who knows what would have happened to this woman. Now she is healthy to take care of her 3-year old son.

A NEW SMILE

Having a baby is one of the most beautiful and profound aspects of the human experience. Here at the SKMH, babies are delivered daily. This beautiful experience almost turned into a nightmare for Tun Theavy.

Tun Theavy lives in a farming community, Tani commune, Angkor Chey district, which is about 70km (40 miles) from Kampot. She has four children, three sons and one daughter, three of whom are enrolled in school.

On the 8th of May of this year, at 29 weeks pregnant, Theavy began to experience bleeding. Her husband brought her to a local clinic for an ultrasound. The doctors there told her that something was wrong with the baby and she might lose the baby, and possibly her life if she didn't get to a hospital soon. Theavy had never even been to Kampot, but she had heard SKMH provides quality maternity care at a reasonable cost. Fortunately, Theavy's father is a police officer, so they were able to use the squad car to take her to the SKMH. All she had to do was put \$20.00 in the tank to get her there.

When she arrived at the hospital, she was rushed through the emergency room for another ultrasound



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The doctors decided that an immediate C-section was necessary in order to save the baby's life. When newly born Prueng David arrived, he weighed only 1.3kg (2.8 pounds), which is 2.2 kg below the average weight. The doctors placed him in the NICU (neonatal intensive care unit). The NICU has only recently gained a fully functional status due to a new medical gas system that provides oxygen and air to patients. He stayed in the NICU for five weeks, slowly gaining the weight needed to go home.

Tun expressed her gratitude to the hospital staff for saving Prueng David's life and told one of the doctors, "If I did not get the discounted price, I would not get to see my baby's face." At the SKMH, the maternity department averages 35 deliveries a month.

The stability that the SKMH brings to this region of the country is invaluable. Only a healthy population will sustain the rapid social-economic progress Cambodia has seen since the 1990's.

HE WHO HAS HEALTH

Net Sorn is 27 years old and resides in Toeuk Chhou District, Kampot Province. He lives with his wife, Vet Sokhea, and his two daughters who are ages 5 and 2. Sorn works on a mango farm in Phnom Vor earning \$5 per day from the landowner spraying pesticides on the mango trees.

He developed a rash on his hand. After three days his wife brought him to the local traditional healers, where he received a blurry mix of spiritual and medicinal healing. When the rash began to spread to his back and his leg, they decided to try to a local health clinic and received medication. They were understaffed, like many hospitals in Cambodia, so they transferred him to the SKMH. Initially it looked like exposure to pesticides had caused his illness.



NET SORN AND HIS WIFE, SOKHEA

After one week of admission, he had multiple skin necrosis that got infected. The doctors at SKMH performed three surgeries on Sorn, saving his life and stopping the spread of infection. Sorn said, "I would have died if I did not come to get treatment here. The doctors and nurses take very good care of me." He can now sit up and talk with his wife Vet, who visits him all the time. His road to recovery is still long, as skin transplants need to cover the defects. Since Sorn earns \$5 per day, he cannot afford modern healthcare and feed his family. He had to borrow from a relative to pay for the local clinic and traditional healer. Without discounted prices at SKMH, Sorn and so many others in southern Cambodia would die from treatable illnesses.

Welcome Kenny and Patty Schuster



Kenny and Patty Schuster in front of SKMH

The SKMH is pleased to announce the arrival of Kenny Schuster as the Chief Operations Officer. Kenny has served as a healthcare manager and leader for the last 14 years in Dallas, Texas. He received his undergraduate degree from San Francisco State University and an MBA from Texas Woman's University. When asked about his thoughts regarding Sonja Kill Memorial Hospital, Kenny stated that he is thrilled and humbled to serve at such a great hospital. He noted that he has been impressed by the dedication and skills of the SKMH team. He looks forward to adding to the work already begun and increasing the hospital's positive impact in Southern Cambodia. Kenny is joined by his wife of 33 years, Patty. Patty will be volunteering in various capacities. Together they have 4 children who reside in the United States. Prior to moving to Cambodia, they had lived in Dallas for 26 years.

**ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE; TOGETHER
WE CAN DO SO MUCH. -Helen Keller**

Developments and Accomplishments at SKMH since opening in 2012

- 2012-Hospital opened with outpatient department
- 2013-Emergency department opened
Two inpatient departments open
24 hour care introduced
- 2014-Maternity building opened
- 2015-Surgical department opened
Neonatal ICU operational
- 2016-Official opening of the Neonatal ICU
Centralized medical gas system
Blood bank opened
- June 2017-Be Smart Learning Center Opened

As of June 2017:

- 144,000 patient consultations, with nearly 51,000 new patients.
- 71% of visits for women and children, meeting our core mission.
- Nearly 840 children born since opening the maternity building.
- 7 Cambodian doctors have graduated from SKMH Post Graduate General Medicine Education Program.
- Over 180 people employed
- The Neonatal ICU has served 53 children since opening.
- The surgical team has performed over 360 surgeries in 2016. Of these, 86 have been for children.
- 117 units of blood donated in the Blood Bank since January 2017

Sok Maly's Dreams Become Reality

When someone visits SKMH for the first time, two remarks are generally said, "This is beautiful and it's so clean." There is one person who tirelessly works behind the scenes to ensure that the hospital remains beautiful and clean. She is Sok Maly. Maly came to SKMH over eight years ago prior to the SKMH opening providing housekeeping direction at that time. Since opening, she serves as the Executive Housekeeper, overseeing a dedicated team of housekeepers and kitchen staff. Her staff is responsible for all housekeeping and food services. Many people here at SKMH affectionately call her Madam Maly.

When she was young, Maly dreamed of being a doctor. However, the death of her father required her to work to help support her family. Years later, she learned of the hospital while visiting her nearby farm. When she saw the announcement for a housekeeper position at the hospital, she knew this would be her chance to work in a hospital. Though she wouldn't be a doctor, working SKMH would in a small way, fulfill her dream.

When asked what she wants people to know about SKMH, she stated, "It is the best hospital to treat people, it is clean and SKMH does not care if you are rich or poor. You will get great treatment." Maly also noted that it is great to work with the Kill family, HOPE worldwide and the hospital's donors.

Maly is typical of so many of the SKMH staff. They strive to make the hospital a truly special place to work and receive medical care. Ironically, though Sok Maly didn't become a doctor, three of her children are now physicians.



Maly in front of one of the guest bungalows.
She is smiling as usual.



Treating others with fairness, dignity and compassion is the "rain" that helps them grow and be fruitful.

-Anonymous

Be Smart Learning Center at Sonja Kill Memorial Hospital



Through the thoughtful preparation of Heather Wilson, Director of Be Smart Learning Center, Hun Somaly, Chhim Ka, the housekeeping staff, the men in the carpentry shop and a handful of volunteers, Be Smart Learning Center opened its doors on June 5, 2017. On opening day, there were 10 children enrolled and more children have enrolled in the weeks since opening day. Not only is this a daycare, but a facility that has trained teachers, both Khmer and English, to implement a set curriculum allowing the children to be academically nourished.

The children begin the day with the “laws of living,” which are rules that state they must be respectful of each other and the toys they play with. Once the rules are established, the teachers begin the lessons.

The Toddler’s lesson plans consist of learning through play, while the teachers narrate what the children are doing to increase their vocabulary and mutual respect. For the infants, classical music is played in the background, a proven to bolster the development of the brain.

SKMH has been the recipient of several key volunteers and donations that helped to prepare the learning center for the children. Leonie Haener, the niece of Cornelia Haener, CEO, spent two weeks designing and painting the alphabet with corresponding pictures through out the center. Our two teachers and other SKMH staff painted the Khmer consonants as well. Peace Corps volunteers from America, along with Mikah Barruets recently came to the hospital to teach the children Khmer sign language. Mikah is Cambodian and deaf and a great asset to our community. A Peace Corp volunteer, with the help of a hospital midwife, is making plans for a garden for the children. We have received donations from around the world. Recently, a family of a volunteer from Boston sent a large suitcase full of high quality toys. Currently, the Toddlers are learning their numbers and the color spectrum in both Khmer and English. The older children are quick to help others and show courtesy and share. The staff at the learning center love to see the children’s smiling faces and challenge young



Maly, Heather and Ka preparing for the center’s opening.

minds to grow. With the learning center on the SKMH campus, the hospital staff is able to share lunchtime with their children. They are welcome to drop in and check on their progress. We even have extended family volunteer and visit regularly.



Chhim Ka, Khet Naty, Iv Komsan and Hun Somaly with some of our students

“If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people.”
Chinese Proverb



Volunteers

We are grateful for following volunteers who have helped us in the last six months.

Dr. Maria Teresa Olivari	Internal Medicine	USA
Dr. Carrie Bagatell	Internal Medicine	USA
Dr. Walter Koller	Prof Doctor	Austria
Helmut Friza	Hygiene Expert	Austria
Dr. Christina Biller	Internal Medicine	USA
Dr. John Tak Woo	Physician	USA
Zachary Bitting	Learning Center	USA
Sara Bitting	Learning Center	USA
Harrison Low	Technician	Australia
Howe Yuan Zhu	Technician	Australia
Max Summers	Technician	Australia
Kathleen Trommer	Medical Student	Germany
Karla Hemperlein	Medical Student	Germany
Sarah Mayr	Medical Student	Austria
Leonie Haener	Student	Switzerland
Dr. Jobe Smith	OB/GYN	USA
Dr. Bridget Jane	OB/GYN	USA
Dr. Doug las Laube	OB/GYN	USA
Oi Lin Yip	Nurse	USA
Anita Engseth Jensen	Midwife	Norway
Dr. Margo Hudson	General Medicine	USA
Abigail Rugh	Student	USA
Stephanie Kim	Student	USA
Mellissa Piskozub	Anesthesia Nurse	USA
Matthew Thielker	Peace Corps	USA
Ian Cuming	Gardener	Australia
Mikah Barrueta	Khmer Sign Language Teacher	Cambodia
Alli Phillips	Peace Corps	USA
Teruyo Yamamoto-Avenmarg	Day Care	Japan
John Schuster	Student	USA
Heidi Stufflebeme	Student	USA

Statistics

50226

Patients treated April 2012–June 2017

4854

New patients treated
January 2017–June 2017

144550

Consultations
April 2012–June 2017

15905

Consultations
January 2017–June 2017

“A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such a gifted person does not think of themselves as a volunteer, but as citizen—a citizen in the fullest sense: partners in civilization.”

Anonymous

Needs Volunteers to develop the hospital in 2017 and 2018:

- Anesthesiologist/Anesthesia nurse
- Pediatrics, Neonatal ICU
- Trainee Doctors
- Gynecology/Obstetrics
- Laboratory Medicine, especially Hematology and blood bank
- General surgeon and pediatric surgeon

Opportunities to give

\$100 will sponsor

- A simple birth delivery free of charge.

\$250 will sponsor

- Pre-natal consultation with ultrasound for ten women free of charge
- A Caesarian section free of charge

\$500 will sponsor

- One emergency abdominal surgery free-of-charge

- \$1,000 will sponsor • One year of training for a young doctor



Information

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