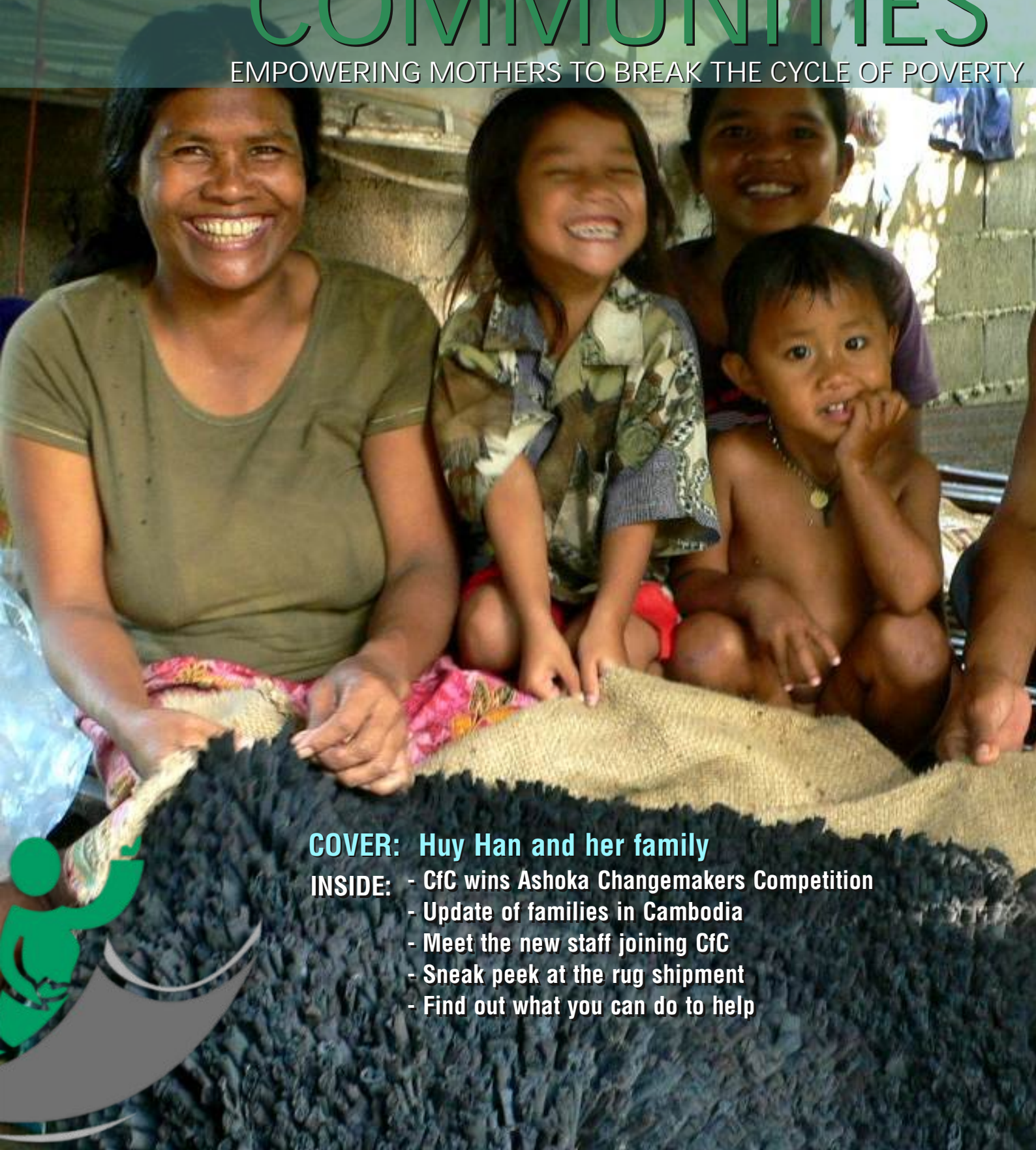


SUMMER 2008

CARPETS FOR COMMUNITIES

EMPOWERING MOTHERS TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF POVERTY



COVER: Huy Han and her family

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FREE ONLINE EDITION
WWW.CARPETSFORCOMMUNITIES.ORG



“The founding purpose for CfC is to create the ultimate social enterprise model that empowers children, families and communities to lift themselves out of poverty and create true freedom for their future.”

Our core work is to offer immediate intervention to give at risk children an education through empowering their mothers to produce eco-fair trade products, which sell globally.

EDITORS: Lucy Chan
Natalie Lim
PROJECT COORDINATOR: David Bacon
GRAPHICS: Kevin Chan

BREAKING NEWS: Ending Global Slavery: Competition Winners!!!

Carpets for Communities has been formally recognised as a project demonstrating outstanding innovation, social impact, and sustainability by being announced as one of three winners in the Ashoka's Changemakers competition: Ending Global Slavery. Ashoka is the leading global association of the world's social entrepreneurs; awarding grants and giving support to men and women who develop system-changing solutions for the world's most urgent social problems.

CfC was asked to enter this prestigious competition by sector insiders who knew that the project fulfilled all the criteria and therefore had a genuine chance of winning. Out of 236 entries from 48 countries, CfC was selected as one of the twelve finalists by a panel of judges.

Once CfC was chosen as a finalist, the process of enrolling people to vote online began. For this purpose a new website was developed from scratch, and votechildren.org was registered. Over the two week voting period there were up to 300 hits a days on the vote page. We received 730 individual votes to secure CfC's position as one of the three winners in the competition.

Ashoka's Changemakers awarded a grant of to each of the three winners. Congratulations to the CfC team who put in an extraordinary amount of effort to spread the word about the great achievements of the project. And thank you to everyone who voted for Carpets for Communities! This money will help us in our expansion plans to help more families.

BREAKING NEWS: GIVLE.COM GIVES

One of our major supporters, Givle.com, handed over a cheque for \$1300 at an AIESEC event for young social entrepreneurs. The search engine offers the same web results as Google but money raised from advertising is held for worthy charities. We thank Givle.com for all their hard work and support. Change your search engine today to givle.com and support those that support us.

OUR FAMILIES



Huy Han and her family in front of the start of their new house

Expanding to New Families

Carpets for Communities would like to officially welcome 6 new Cambodian families into the project. CfC now supports a total number of 20 families that were previously living beneath the poverty line and had children that were working instead of attending school. These families have a total of 63 children enrolled in school and receiving an education. Not only will these children be less vulnerable to human trafficking and sexual exploitation, but these children are improving their long-term livelihoods and that of their future families.

CfC is dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty through the empowerment of women and education of children. Our plans is to support at least 500 families by the year 2012.

Family Profile

Huy Han and her family have been working with Carpets for Communities since November 2006. In a trip to Cambodia in December 2007, David Bacon paid a visit to Han to see how she and her family were progressing. Han reported that she had been enjoying making the carpets as the work allowed her to support her family. Having no education or other training, she had limited opportunities to find work. Being able to support her family making carpets

was even more vital as Han's husband was unable to work due to a gastrointestinal illness. By working with CfC, not only was Han supporting her entire family, she was also able to enrol her three young children into school. Han reported that none of her kids had been to the border to work or beg since she had started making carpets.

However, the most striking thing that we noticed when we visited Han in her home was that she was living in a makeshift house. Why were Han and her family living in such conditions? We were shocked to discover that Han's house had collapsed the fortnight prior to David's visit. Disaster had struck at around 3 or 4am in the morning; in the unrelenting wind and rain, the whole family could only stand and watch as their home fell to the ground. Already living from day to day, Han and her husband were understandably worried about how they would re-build with no money to buy new materials. They had only just recently sold half of their land to pay for medicine and to pay off old debts. Thankfully, they were able to take out a loan with another NGO and someone was hired to start building the roof, walls and the skeleton of the house.

Involvement in Carpets for Communities allowed Han to continue working, spending about 8 hours a day hand hooking the carpets, earning enough to pay the new loan and also to save a little. She now has a roof over their heads and the children still remain

in school.

Welcome and Goodbyes to Staff in Cambodia

We would like to welcome and introduce Mr Seng Mongheng as our new National Program Manager in Cambodia. Mongheng comes to us with a wealth of knowledge having already worked with CfC in the past, as well as the Friends International Organisation.

Mongheng will be opening our new office in Siem Reap and starting up operations there. We have great confidence in Mongheng's capabilities to lead the staff in Cambodia and move production full steam ahead.

We would also like to welcome Mr Chhut Naren as our new Poipet Office Manager. Naren has worked with in the past, several non-governmental organisations including ZOA Refugee Care and Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre. Naren can look forward to operating from a bigger office, conveniently located where the staff will no longer become bogged in mud come the rainy season!

We also thank and farewell two staff members from the CfC team. Yun Sambo joined us in August this year to manage the transition of CfC from a partnership with the Cambodian Hope Organisation to a fully independent entity Sambo leaves us in November but we wish him the best of luck in his future endeavours.

Moun Sao Him, has been a field and social worker with CfC in Poipet since February 2006. She was responsible for 7 families in the An Dong Tamar Commune, often having to balance heavy loads of material and carpets on a motorbike through Poipet's infamously muddy roads. Quite a feat for a lady of small stature! Thank you Sao Him for all your hard work and the difference you have made to all the families in CfC.



Ministry of Women's Affairs

In a recent trip to Cambodia, CfC founder David Bacon was privileged with an invitation to meet with Chum Teav Oeng Kantha Phavy, Minister of Women's Affairs Cambodia.

The Minister was impressed by the genuine employment opportunities given to Cambodian women by CfC, and opened the discussion to the possibility of CfC working together with the Ministry of Women's Affairs. With potential funding by the Asian Development Bank, these talks could have incredible implications for the future expansion of CfC and the number of families involved.

Cambodian Hope Organisation

Since its beginning, Carpets for Communities has run in partnership with the Cambodian Hope Organisation (CHO). In this time CHO have provided the necessary structure to get our grass-roots project off the ground. Over the past three years, they have contributed to managing our staff and bank accounts, provided office space, resources and computers. The help that CHO has provided has been immeasurable. Carpets for Communities has now come to the stage where it can operate as an independent organisation, and no longer require the help of a more established NGO. Carpets for Communities would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Cambodian Hope Organisation for their role in the growth of our project.



FUNDRAISER

ACROSS THE COUNTRY ON HORSEBACK

Long time CfC supporters Sharyn and Graham Bacon recently returned from a 1,165km Horseback ride across Australia and raised over a thousand dollars which they generously donated to Carpets for Communities. Starting in July, they rode and camped from Birdsville to Karumba (on the Gulf of Carpentaria) over three months across the most isolated tracks in Australia.

The journey of course was not without drama. A random 4.30am wakeup call by passing pig shooters startled the horses so much one of them went through two barbwire fences. Bambi the horse, fortunately, was reported to have acted as if nothing hurt despite having 3 square inches of skin off her knee exposing the muscle, plus numerous small deep cuts on her legs and 3 wire marks across her neck.

...a random 4.30am
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barbwire fences...

But perhaps the most dramatic of episodes was not until the very end of the three months, when in a series of misfortunate events Sharyn was unexpectedly unseated from her horse, landing on her wrist and badly breaking her arm. Graham came to the rescue, driving Sharyn 900km to Mt Isa for X-rays. Discovering that her distal radius had been shattered, Sharyn heeded medical advice and flew to Adelaide for surgery.

While it was an unscripted end to an ambitious journey across the dusty plains of Australia, Sharyn and Graham still completed the entire 1190km on horseback that they had set on.

Congratulations, welcome home and thank you for your unyielding dedication to the project!

Also a warm thank you to all the individuals who Sharyn and Graham met on the road, who kindly gave donations of fresh water, food, fresh meat and money in support of the Carpets for Communities project.



CARPETS FOR COMMUNITIES

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

NATAJSHIA RIMINGTON



Tash, Market Stall Manager,
South Australia

Tash is one of the latest members to join the Australian Carpets for Communities family and is doing an amazing job of managing the market stalls in South Australia.

Inspired by the enthusiasm and passion of members David and Richie, who presented the project at a World Youth International event, she wanted to be a part of 'this amazing project'. 'The guys gave each other the biggest high five and they were really stoked that they had actually sold that many. It was really inspiring they were so passionate!'

Tash has a never ending supply of enthusiasm and energy when it comes to selling carpets. Not only does she get up bright and early to be at the stall by 8am on a Sunday but is there even when battered and bruised. Coming off her bike only days earlier, Tash begged David to allow her to still manage the stall that weekend, even after requiring caps from

chipping her teeth. Soon the aches and pains set in and she had to admit defeat! Her motivation comes from the women in Cambodia, 'making carpets is their livelihood, selling them and spreading the word is the least i can do for these amazing mothers!'

Her generosity not only extends to CfC. Earlier in the year she travelled to Nepal with nine other Australians helping to construct a classroom and later teaching english and spending time with children at the Buddhist Child Home Jorpati. Not only does she volunteer with both CfC and World Youth International, she is also kept busy by her full time job and helping out her Nana in her Post Office on Saturdays.

We thank Tash for her energy and enthusiasm and the great job she does at the Rundle St stall.

If you're in the city on a Sunday, head down to the Rundle St Markets and say hi to Tash, Tanya or one of our wonderful stall volunteers.



Rundle St Market Stall with helper Alex,
doing his bit to raise money for the
children in Cambodia

CARPETS FOR COMMUNITIES

STORE PROFILE

ecolateral

Carpets for Communities rugs hit the shelves of stores this year, expanding the number of carpets sold and lives touched by this project. This has been an exciting time for the Australian side of CfC, to see these beautiful rugs displayed in retail outlets.

Ecolateral, on Magill Rd, St Morris, South Australia, is one such store. As the name suggests, Ecolateral is committed to the environment and helping the community to make a positive difference by providing high quality products, services and information.

The owners were inspired by the words of a Kenyan proverb 'Treat the Earth well for it is not inherited from your parents, it is borrowed from your children' and felt the responsibility to help others to treat the earth well. They stock items from homewares (including our carpets) to items to help save and conserve water. They also offer an Environmental Home Assessment service, to assess your energy and water efficiency and advise on the best ways to improve your green status. Thinking of building your dream home? Ecolateral also offers a building design service, from designing and drawing up the plans to costing and liaising with specialist consultants.

Please support a local South Australian business who is supporting Carpets for Communities and visit Ecolateral this weekend!

Ecolateral

Shop 1/443 Magill Rd St Morris

Ph:08 83333478

Open Tuesday – Friday 9am-5pm (Thursday till 7pm) & Saturday 9am-4pm



Have you recently bought a Carpets for Communities rug?

Your rug represents a child's education in Cambodia. We would like to share stories and pictures of the rug's new found homes with the families in Cambodia. Visit the website www.carpetsforcommunitites.org and follow the links to 'My Carpet'.

New Shipment

The next shipment of rugs is arriving in Febuary to restock or retail outlets and market stalls. With amazingly vibrant colours to match everyone's personality, get in quick and grab them while you can!

CARPETS FOR COMMUNITIES

GET INVOLVED! HOW YOU CAN HELP

"We don't often get a chance to do something that will really change people's lives for the better. By supporting Carpets for Communities by purchasing a carpet you will have a beautiful work of art and have contributed to the protection of vulnerable children."

Indira Naidoo - Australian Consumer Advocate and former television presenter and journalist

Fundraising

By supporting our fundraising activities you can help us expand to more families, empowering more women and sending more children back to school. See our website for current activities you can support. We've also had a number of people organise their own fundraising activities, whether its a dinner, or a birthday with a request of donations in lieu of presents. You can register your fundraising activity on our website and we can support you with promoting your event. Visit our website for more ideas or to register www.carpetsforcommunities.org or contact David Bacon, President, davidbacon@carpetsforcommunities.org

Sales Outlet

The more sales outlets we have, the more families we can help. Do you work in or own a retail store? You could sell these beautiful rugs and make a difference.

Please contact Lucy Chan our Retail Manager lucychan@carpetsforcommunities.org or 0402 008 038.

Buy a carpet

By either visiting our market stall, our retail outlets, ordering online or making a special order, you will directly be supporting families in Cambodia. Below are outlets where you can view our new stock.

3rd Dimension 73 Main St Semaphore SA	Ecolateral 1/443 Magill Rd St Morris, SA	Funky Finds 30 High St Willunga SA	Natures Cradle 425 Brighton Road, Brighton SA	Storison 73 Main Street Hahndorf, SA	East End Markets Rundle St, Adelaide Sundays 9am – 4pm
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Green House Environment Shop 1/55 Spence St, Cairns QLD	Just Planet 37 O'Shanassy St Sunbury VIC	Friends of the Earth 312 Smith St Collingwood, VIC	Local & Global 1669 Burwood Hwy Belgrave VIC	Fairground Child 733 Nicholson St Nth Carlton, VIC
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Hart & Heim
Shp5004/ 480
Oxford St
Bondi Junction, NSW

Volunteer

Australia

*PR Manager

*State Market Stall Manager (SA Manager already selected)

*State Market Stall Assistant Manager (SA Ass. Mngr already selected)

Cambodia

*Expansion Manager (paid)

*Marketing and Product Development Manager (paid)

*Participatory Process Manager

*Childrens art class teacher

*Childrens non-formal education program designer

Online

*Research Assitant (help break into new markets)

*Campaign Manager

*Applications for funding

*Explore corporate partnerships

For information on how to apply:

Contact David Bacon, President,

davidbacon@carpetsforcommunities.org or

0424511155.