

Hope Villages

Dec 2011



Wishing you a Fabulous New Year



Education Projects Cambodia 2011

This year, three new Friends of Hope Villages who are teachers, joined the team of ten, to Cambodia. It was their first visit to the village and they were overwhelmed with the experience of village life in Cambodia.

We set off to Phum Trea from Phnom Penh on the morning of 9th December 2011. Upon our arrival, two hundred students from Hope Centre lined up in their best to pleasantly greet us. The students sang *Singapura Oh Singapura; This Old Man; If You're Happy and You Know It* and *Bismillah I am a Muslim* with great enthusiasm and in good pronunciation to welcome their guests. "I am impressed and happy that the students are confident of their English and able to hold simple conversations with us," remarked Nurain, one of the teachers from Singapore.

After the performance, we proceeded with the graduation ceremony. Each student received a certificate to mark the completion of a standard. They also received a school bag (sewn by our cottage industry women group) filled with stationery, chocolates and balloons. Following that, the students were divided into groups for activities. Among the activities conducted were colouring, painting, card-making and origami prepared by the team from Singapore. "It was a pleasure spending time with such a group of eager learners and they are very polite and well-mannered," expressed Denny, an American lawyer practising in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam.





Resettlement Project Cambodia 2011

The next day, we went to a remote clearing area in Kampong Speu to meet 70 homeless families where Hope Villages is helping them to settle in this new land by providing them with shelter and livelihood. The people welcomed us warmly. As the adults received information of the project, the children were also given biscuits, crackers, lotus seeds and roasted bananas. Clothes and food were also distributed to each family. We had a tour of their temporary shelter which was built out of straw, a raised platform with a mat and a mosquito net for resting.

“It is evident that the families in Kampong Speu needs lots of help for shelter, water, food, education and a sustainable livelihood,” remarked the team.

Hope Villages will intensify its efforts in Kampong Speu to extend aid to these needy villagers.

We are seeking volunteers to provide medical, teaching and construction aid to support this Resettlement Project for the next 3-5 years. Our next trip to Phum Trea and Kampong Speu is from 6 to 9 December 2012.

