

Rosebud Dental Group

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Newsletter

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Welcome to our newsletter which I have hi-jacked from Hope our Practice Manager to write about something dear to my heart, Cambodia and the NGO I volunteer for when I travel there. I am hoping I can convince some of you to donate to a new fundraising initiative we have started to solve a problem.



Cambodia's one of the poorest countries in the world, it is still recovering from the horror that was the Pol Pot regime and its aftermath. It now has 15 million people which has doubled in the last 20 years. 30% of the population is under 15 years old, 50% under 25. One third of the population survives on less than a \$1 a day and it's also the third most land mined country on Earth, the victims of which can be seen everywhere.

The NGO we volunteer for is M'Lop Tapang, (MT) based in Sihanoukville. Prior to M'Lop Tapang it was the world's most notorious city for western paedophiles, the place where Gary Glitter lived prior to his arrest.

MT was founded in 2003 by NGO workers who feared for 6 small children living alone under a tree (M'Lop Tapang) and working on the beach. Since then it has grown amazingly under the guidance of its directors Eve Sao Sarin, a local Khmer man and Maggie Eno, a sin-

gle mum from England. Earlier in the year Maggie was awarded an MBE by the Queen. They are truly inspiring people to meet as are all the staff of M'Lop Tapang.

It's hard to describe all MT does in a few lines, but its core is looking after the needs of street children and children at risk, they work directly with 3500 children and 1200 families. It is estimated that 20,000 children are at risk in the Sihanoukville area. Their facilities now include a main center with school, medical clinic and nursery, 2 community shelters, an arts center, 2 vocational training centers, a drop-in center, 2 night shelters, a craft shop and a training restaurant.

The children have terrible dental health but are beautiful and happy despite the tragic circumstances they live under.

One tiny 7 year old girl came to the clinic alone this year with a dreadful dental abscess and swollen face. In Australia we would put her on antibiotics and she'd be treated by a specialist under general anaesthetic a week later. However there would be no dentist in a week so we had to treat her immediately, the infection was so severe it stopped the injec-



tions from working, which were in themselves excruciatingly painful due to the abscess. The little girl allowed us to treat her but screamed as we injected and extracted the tooth, it was agony for her. The next day I was surprised to find her back at the clinic. Feeling better she'd returned

to have the rest of her bad teeth out, a decision she made as a tiny 7 year old fending for herself. She came three days in a row.



MT employs 150 people, all but 8 are local Khmer and is funded from their own business endeavours and donations from large companies. All the money is spent where it is needed. However there is a shortfall in funds to buy petrol, food and incidentals.

To solve this problem we have started fuelling M'Lop Tapang with the help of the Bendigo Bank and Australia Cambodia Foundation. We are seeking 200 people to donate \$20/month (\$240/year) by setting up a monthly internet transfer to fuelling M'Lop Tapang BSB 633000 Acct 146576731 and emailing their details to fuellingmt@gmail.com. All donations are tax deductible.

Unlike most charities we can guarantee that every cent will arrive in Sihanoukville and not be diluted by administration costs in Australia. Donors will receive regular newsletters from MT. If you are looking for a worthy cause or have received discounted dental treatment and would like to pass on some of those savings to children in need please consider becoming a monthly donor.

Read more about MT on the posters in our waiting room or at www.mloptapang.org or ask me or email fuellingmt@gmail.com thank you Malcolm